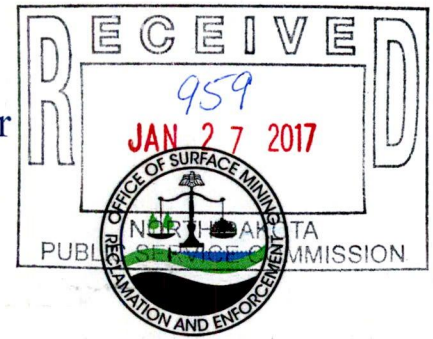




## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF SURFACE MINING  
RECLAMATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
Casper Area Office  
PO Box 11018  
150 East B Street, Room 1018  
Casper, WY 82602



January 26, 2017

Mr. Dean Moos, Director  
AML & Reclamation Divisions  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Moos:

This letter is to acknowledge our receipt of North Dakota's 2017 AML grant application for the grant period beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and ending February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Grant amounts announced by OSMRE represent 93.1 percent of AML grant funding that would normally be available, because remaining funds are being held back due to the President's sequestration order. Full 100 percent distribution of AML grant funds for FY2017 would have totaled \$3,000,000. Currently, \$2,793,000 in AML grant funding are being made available for the FY2017 grant period. This is equal to the exact amount requested. We have completed the programmatic review of your grant application and approve the grant in the amount of \$2,793,000.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John Sieving of my staff at (307) 261-6541.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fleischman, Chief  
Denver Field Division