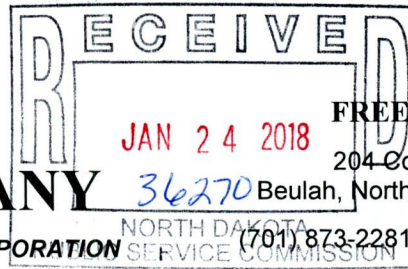


THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY

A SUBSIDIARY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COAL CORPORATION



FREEDOM MINE

204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota 58523-9475

(701) 873-2281 • Fax (701) 873-2226

January 19, 2018

Mr. Dean K. Moos
Director Reclamation Division
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Moos:

Enclosed are three sets of materials for Revision 33 to Permit NACT-8203. This revision updates the listing of surface owners of record within the permit area including Sections 1.2, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, and 1.2.4 of the original permit; legal and compliance information including the application form, introduction, and other licenses and permits; operations and reclamation including a current list of equipment, updated reclamation schedule and plans, the Pit Layout and Facilities Map, and the Extended Mining Plan Map; and post-mining land use including the post-mining land use narrative and the Post-Mining Land Use Map for Renewal 7 of this permit. Coal removal has been completed in this permit area, but the permit is being renewed because portions of the permit area are being used to support active mining operations occurring elsewhere.

Also enclosed is the original renewal application form and the original revision application form. Responses below refer to deficiencies in your letter dated December 22, 2017:

Permit NACT-8203 Index

1. Please review the Permit Revision Index to ensure it accurately identifies the revision number that contains the most current information. The Permit Index must be updated to include Revision 32 and the revision that will be submitted for this renewal. (GAW)

The permit index has been revised as requested.

Section 1.0 – Legal, Financial, Compliance and Related Information

2. Please update the listings of surface owners of record for the permit area in Section 1.2.2 as required by NDCC 38.14.1-1-14 (1)(c) and surface owners of record within ¼ mile of the permit in Section 1.2.3 as required by NDAC 69-05.2-06-01 (1)(a) if any changes have occurred since last updated with Revision No. 32. If any changes are made to either

listing, please make appropriate changes on the Surface and Coal Ownership Map, Section 1.2.4. (BEB)

Sections 1.2, 1.2.2, 1.2.3, and 1.2.4 have been revised. Instructions for inserting Identification of Interests and Rights of Entry Information into the original permit have been included.

Section 3.0 – Operations Plans

3. *As required by NDAC 69-05.2-09-01(1), please update the list of major equipment used at Freedom Mine as provided in Section B-1. (BEB)*

An updated List of Equipment has been provided as Section B-1 of this revision.

4. *If changes are required, please update the Reclamation Schedule and Plans in Section B-2. (BEB)*

Reclamation Schedule and Plans has been revised as Section B-2 of this revision.

5. *As required by NDAC 69-05.2-09-02(4), if there have been any changes, please update the Pit Layout and Facilities Map of Section B-3 to provide current information for the permit area. (BEB)*

The Pit Layout and Facilities Map has been revised as Section B-3 of this revision.

6. *Please replace the Extended Mining Plan Map, Section B-4, with the most current version. The map in the permit shows an outdated schedule of mining in several permit areas as well as outdated permit boundaries resulting from other revisions (Permits NACT-9001 and NACT-9101) and final bond release approval in Permit NACT-9101. (BEB)*

The Extended Mining Plan Map has been revised as Section B-4 of this revision.

Section 4.0 – Reclamation Plans

7. *Seasonal wetlands have formed within the permit on reclaimed native grassland in the SW1/4SW1/4 of Section 17 and the NE1/4SE1/4 of Section 17. Please revise the Post-Mining Land Use Acreage Comparison Table, Section D-1 of Revision 27, to account for this acreage and depict the acreage on the Post-Mining Land Use Map, Section B-2 of Revision No. 31. (GAW)*

Seasonal wetlands have been delineated using aerial photographs from the past several years and are shown on the Post-Mining Land Use Map, Section B-2. In addition, the acreage of these wetlands has been added to the Post-Mining Land Use Narrative, Section

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C-1; subsequently those acres were removed from the native grassland category in that table.

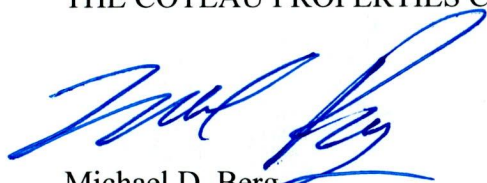
Mr. Chris Chastain, The North American Coal Corporation, provided Coteau's certificate of liability insurance, valid February 1, 2018 to February 1, 2019, to your office via email on January 12, 2018.

Section A-3, Other Licenses and Permits, the renewal newspaper publication notice, and renewal newspaper publication map, have also been included.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

THE COTEAU PROPERTIES COMPANY



Michael D. Berg
Mining Engineer

AJH
Enc.