

October 11, 2020

Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Dakota Westmoreland Corporation – Revision No 32, Permit KRSB-8603-Beulah Mine

Dear Commissioners,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced proposed Dakota Westmoreland Corporation application Revision No 32, Permit KRSB-8603 at the Beulah Mine, in Mercer County, North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties that are protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); and rare plants and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages.

The project does not appear to affect any properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has reviewed the project to determine if any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, we have no known rare species or significant ecological communities documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site. Because the Natural Heritage information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation to date. For additional information please contact NDPRD's Natural Resources Coordinator, Kathy Duttenhefner at (701-220-3377 or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

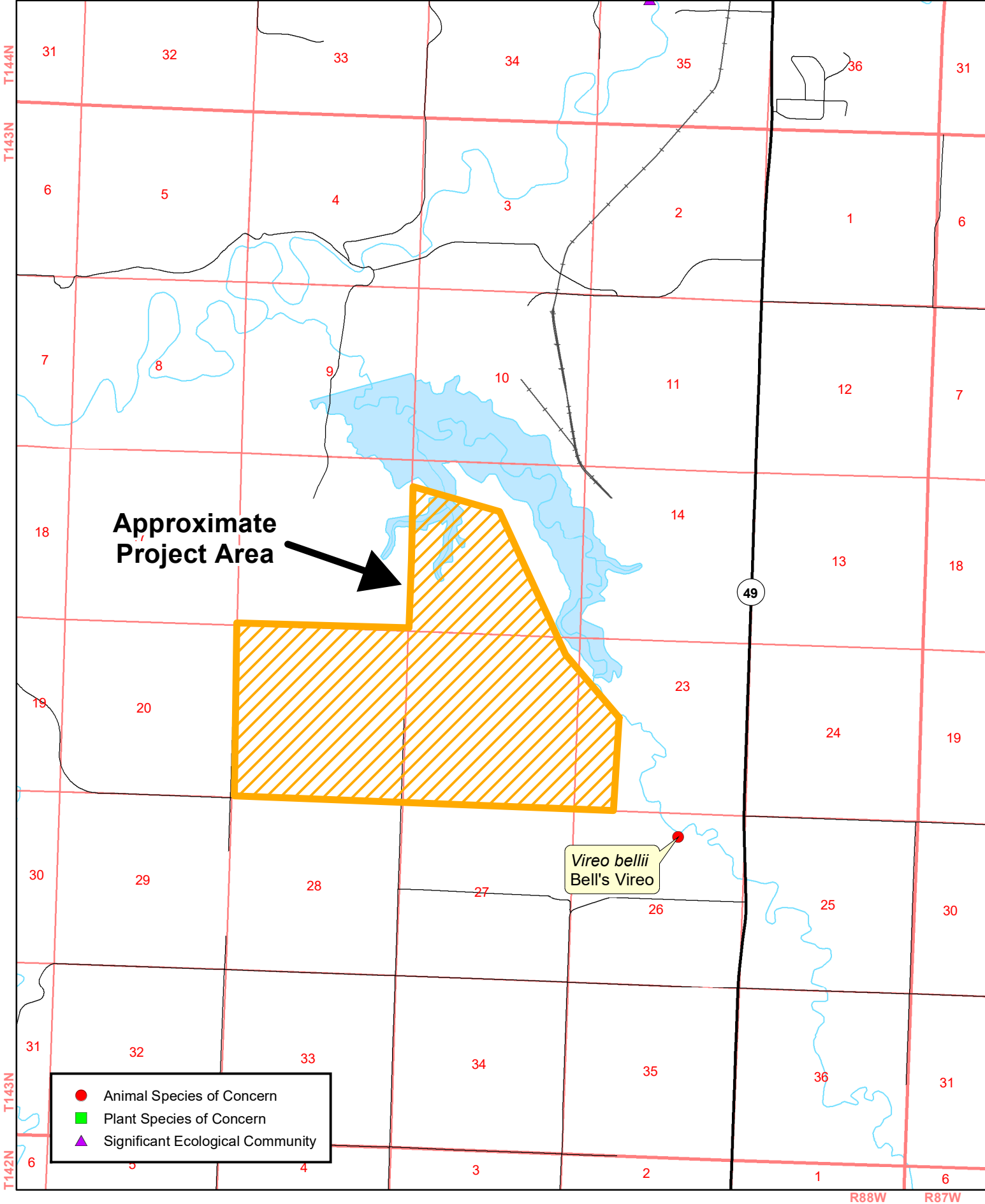
Sincerely,



Kathy Duttenhefner
Coordinator/Biologist II, Natural Resources Division

15 RC-18-431 Filed 10/06/2020 Pages: 3
ND P&R review letter
ND Parks and Rec

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory



North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory
Rare Animal and Plant Species and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Vireo bellii	Bell's Vireo	S3	G5	PS	143N088W - 26; 142N088W - 09; 142N088W - 08; 143N088W - 31; 143N088W - 21; 143N088W - 30; 142N087W - 06; 143N087W - 10; 143N087W - 21; 143N087W - 32; 143N088W - 10; 143N087W - 22; 143N089W - 24; 143N088W - 32; 143N088W - 22; 143N087W - 34; 142N088W - 07	Mercer, Oliver	1975		G