

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



June 28, 2021

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

RE: Bond Release No. 1 to Permit NAFK-9001: Coteau Properties Co, Freedom Mine T145N
R88W Sec. 1 & 2.

Dear Mr. Moos:

The Casper Area Office (CAO) has received and reviewed the application for Final Bond Release No. 1, Permit NAFK-9001 at the Freedom Mine. This application totals 811.8 acres and includes approximately 275.98 acres of federal coal that were leased and mined in a portion of Sec. 2.

This bond release application includes Federal lands, and therefore, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) concurrence is required. The Reclamation Division of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) inspected the requested bond release area on September 9, 2020. The OSMRE Casper Area Office (CAO) inspected the requested bond release area on September 16, 2020. NDPSC has completed its review of the application for bond release and has documented that all required items have been addressed.

The CAO has also reviewed the bond release application for compliance with all other non-SMCRA federal requirements. There are no unfulfilled requirements that would preclude the release of bond, and OSMRE concurs with the recommendation for approval of the application for Bond Release No. 1. If you have any questions, please contact John Sieving of the Casper Area Office at (307)261-6541 or jsieving@osmre.gov.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey Fleischman, Chief
Denver Field Division

cc: Bruce Beechie, NDPSC