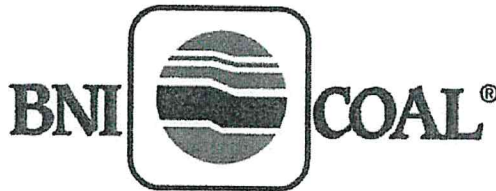


PHONE (701) 794-8734



FAX (701) 794-3125

AN ALLETE COMPANY

2360 35TH AVENUE SW CENTER, ND 58530-9499
MINING LIGNITE AT THE CENTER MINE SINCE 1970

December 26, 2013

Dave Berger
2531 37th Ave SW
Center, ND 58530

RE: Preblast Survey Notification

Dear Dave Berger,

BNI Coal, Ltd intends to conduct blasting in the West Half of Section 21, T141N, R84W within Permit BNCR 9702 starting with a blast in February 2014 and potentially blasting every 8-10 weeks throughout the next year and a half. The blast will be performed to fracture a rock lens in the upper part of the dragline overburden strata. Seismographic measurements will be taken to monitor ground movement and will be recorded for each blast in accordance with NDAC 69-05.2-17-06.

Pursuant to NDAC 69-05.2-17, BNI Coal must notify all residents and owners of man-made structures within one mile of the permit boundary about how to request a pre-blast survey. The purpose of the pre-blast survey is to determine the condition of your dwelling and/or any other structure, including water wells and water delivery systems, before blasting operations begin. You are receiving this letter because you are a resident or own a structure within one mile of Permit BNCR 9702.

You may request a pre-blast survey by contacting the Reclamation Division of the ND Public Service Commission (PSC) at 701-328-2400 during normal business hours or by mail at:

Reclamation Division, NDPSC
Department 408
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480
Mr. Jim Deutsch, Director

An independent contractor will be employed to determine and document the existing condition of your dwelling and other structures that could reasonably be affected by blasting operations at the Center Mine. Copies of the survey results will be provided to you, BNI Coal, and the PSC.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the Center office.

Sincerely,

Jay Volk
Environmental Manager
jvolk@bnicoal.com
Office: (701)794-8734
Direct: (701)355-5550

*Called PSC
1-2-14 11:30 hrs
John Reclam Division
Jim Deutsch*