



Public Service Commission State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS

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October 18, 2022

Jerry D. Reinisch
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Reinisch:

The Public Service Commission has been notified of a coal fire at the City of New Leipzig landfill in W $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 26, T134N R90W in Grant County (Unique GIS ID 38037-16497300). The fire is burning on the surface of a trash-filled pit. The fire poses a threat of wildfire if not extinguished soon. The contractor for our sinkhole filling project will conduct the project.

As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that our proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any threatened, endangered or rare animal or plant species. Please reply as soon as possible.

We expect this project to be completed expeditiously by November 2022 at a cost of approximately \$6,400. The attached map provides additional information.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at jobreiner@nd.gov or 701.328.2412.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joan Breiner".

Joan Breiner, Ph.D.
Assistant Director
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosure

This Constitutes a report of the Department of the Interior prepared in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq). We have reviewed and have NO OBJECTION to this proposed project.

Field Supervisor

40 AM-21-143 Filed 10/20/2022 Pages: 3
Response to advisory letter regarding New Leipzig Coal Fire Project
United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Drew Becker

N



— Historical Mine Map

Section 26
T134 R90W



Location of Coal Fire



Location of Coal Fire



Banning Mine Area
 Northwest of New Leipzig
 Grant County
 ND PSC AML Division
 October 17, 2022

0 100 200
 Feet

New Leipzig Coal Fire

Biological Assessment

Prepared using IPaC Generated by Steele Mark (mrsteele@nd.gov) October 18, 2022

2 Species Effects Analysis

This section describes, species by species, the effects of the proposed action on listed, proposed, and candidate species, and the habitat on which they depend. In this document, effects are broken down as direct interactions (something happening directly to the species) or indirect interactions (something happening to the environment on which a species depends that could then result in effects to the species).

These interactions encompass effects that occur both during project construction and those which could be ongoing after the project is finished. All effects, however, should be considered, including effects from direct and indirect interactions and cumulative effects.

2.1 Monarch Butterfly

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

This species has not been observed in the proposed work location. The proposed work will have no effect on the species.

2.2 Northern Long-Eared Bat

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

This species has not been observed in the proposed work location. The proposed work will have no effect on the species.

2.3 Whooping Crane

This species has been excluded from analysis in this environmental review document.

Justification for exclusion

This species has not been observed in the proposed work location. The proposed work will have no effect on the species.