

March 24, 2022

RECEIVED

MAR 30 2022

Geri Schmaltz
Administrative Officer
ND Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Avenue Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Project Code: RC-21-447 & RC-21-448, Coteau Properties renew and revise Surface Coal Mining Permit in Mercer County

Dear Ms. Schmaltz:

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project received at the department on March 14, 2022 with respect to possible environmental impacts.

This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have no comments.

The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



L. David Glatt, P.E., Director
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

LDG:csc
Attach.

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Agency Correspondence
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
L. David Glatt, P.E., Director

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North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
L. David Glatt, P.E., Director

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Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements

The following are the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality for projects that involve construction and environmental disturbance in or near waters of the State of North Dakota. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect waters of the state. All projects must be constructed to minimize the loss of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

Soils

Prevent the erosion and sediment loss using erosion and sediment controls. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, and land resources must be prohibited against compaction, vegetation loss and unnecessary damage.

Surface Waters

All construction must be managed to minimize impacts to aquatic systems. Follow safe storage and handling procedures to prevent the contamination of water from fuel spills, lubricants, and chemicals. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances must be contained to minimize silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocations, and any physical chemicals, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near surface waters is allowed under the department's pesticide application permit with notification to the department.

Fill Material

Any fill material placed below the ordinary high-water mark must be free of topsoil, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds; including, but not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The department may require testing of fill material. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid waste must be properly disposed or recycled. Impacted areas must be restored to near original condition.