

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

TO: Steve Kahl, Executive Director
John Schuh, General Counsel
Zana Brinkman, Director - Abandoned Mine Lands Division

From: Joan Breiner and Ross Edison *RWE*

Date: April 25, 2022

Subject: 2022 Exploratory Drilling AML Project, Case No. AM-22-24

On February 7th, 2022, the AML Division issued a solicitation for exploratory drilling of abandoned mines near Beulah, Dickinson, Garrison, Noonan, and Velva, ND. The AML Division estimates the project will require 65,000 feet of drilling, 9,500 feet of casing, 50 feet of split-barrel sampling and 50 feet of coring.

Competitive sealed bidding procedures were used with notices issued to registered vendors through the State Procurement Office. The bid opening was held on March 3, 2022. Bids were from DA Smith Drilling Company of Grand Junction, CO for \$1,564,800, S&S Drilling, Inc. of Williston, ND for \$999,875 and from Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. of New Salem, ND for \$904,060.

The Notice of Intent to Award a contract to Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. was issued to all bidders on March 8, 2022. No protests were received. On March 17, 2022, a contract was sent to Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. to execute. The signed contract has been returned. We have received performance and payment bonds, a certificate of liability insurance and other materials that were requested. The contract is now ready for execution by the Commission. The AML Division has sufficient funds in the current OSM grants for this and other projects planned for 2022.

We recommend the Executive Director execute the contract with Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. for drilling at the 2022 Exploratory Drilling AML Project.