

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

TO: Commissioners Fedorchak and Christmann
Steve Kahl, Executive Director
John Schuh, General Counsel

From: Zanna Brinkman and Joan Breiner *ZAB jmb*

Date: January 13, 2022

Subject: Request to Initiate 2022 Morton County Phase 3 AML Project
PSC Case No. AM-22-25

On December 16, the AML Division met with Commissioner Christmann and other PSC staff to discuss the proposed projects for 2022.

The 2022 Morton County Phase 3 AML Project involves back sloping and back filling approximately 3,200 feet of steep highwalls that are 20 to 25 feet high at the Youngtown abandoned surface coal mine. On-site mine spoil will be used to reduce the steepness of the highwalls. Affected areas will be reseeded with locally adapted grass species native to western North Dakota. No off-site pit dewatering is planned, and erosion and sedimentation will be controlled. The total area affected is about 12.5 acres. Work is expected to be conducted between June and July 2022. The estimated cost for this project is \$233,000. A previous back sloping and back filling project was conducted at the Youngtown Mine in 1990; however, not all problems at the mine site were addressed because of limited program funding at that time.

This project has been approved by OSMRE and has received authorization to proceed. The AML Division has ample funds to complete this project as designed.

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