

From: [Reinisch, Jerry D](#)
To: [Brinkman, Zanna A.](#)
Subject: Falkirk Mine Final Bond Release
Date: Thursday, November 17, 2022 3:05:58 PM
Attachments: [Falkirk Mine Stamped.pdf](#)

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Zanna

I appreciate reviewing these projects and being invited to the field reviews. Please see the attached letter for the above named project review. One suggestion from the Service would be to promote re-establishment of native prairie grasslands when it is disturbed in these lease areas. The mine staff do a great job of reclamation but this would augment efforts to conserve and recover ESA species and other that are being petitioned for possible future listings. Please call if you have additional questions.

Best regards

Jerry

Jerry D. Reinisch
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State of North Dakota

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October 18, 2022

Drew Becker
US Fish & Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501
drew_becker@fws.gov

Dear Mr. Becker:

The Reclamation Division has received a Final Bond Release Application No. 4 to Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-8405 at the Falkirk Mine. Falkirk is requesting final bond release for 286.9 acres of land located in the SW¼ of Section 22 and the NW¼ of Section 27, T146N, R82W in McLean County. The approved post-mining land use is cropland, two reclaimed seasonal wetlands, two-row conservation shelterbelt planting, portion of a county road and an industrial/commercial Basin Electric Cooperative tower. This tract was disturbed by mining activities. As a member of the Wetland Advisory Committee, you are provided a copy of the bond release application. Please review with regard to your agency's areas of responsibility and technical expertise, and more specifically the Wetland Section X.

Enclosed is a thumb drive of the bond release application for your agency's review. Please provide any written comments to us by **December 2, 2022**.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

Sincerely,

Zanna Brinkman
Director
Reclamation Division

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently has no comments or concerns regarding this project as described. If the project changes or new information becomes available, please contact this office again so potential impacts to federally listed species and other trust resources may be reevaluated.

DREW BECKER Digitally signed by DREW BECKER
Date: 2022.11.17 14:12:30 -06'00'

Supervisor, North Dakota Ecological Services Field Office Date

Enclosure

cc via email only w/ out enclosure: Jerry Reinisch (jerry_reinisch@fws.gov)

Falkirk Mine\Permits\NAFK - 8405\Bond Release\Bond Release 4\BR4_Advsry_rvw_rqst_ltr_10-18-22