

**NOTICE OF FILING FOR FINAL
RELEASE OF RECLAMATION BOND**

The Coteau Properties Company, as applicant, has filed an application for final bond release on approximately 343 acres of land located in Section 22, T146N, R88W, as indicated on the map. This land is included in Surface Coal Mining Permit NACT-9501, approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission on April 3, 1996. This permit area is covered under the Worst-Case Consolidated Bond for the Freedom Mine. The current bond amount is 186 million dollars. Upon approval of this bond release application, The Coteau Properties Company will be released from reclamation liability for all stages (backfilling and grading, soil respreading, vegetation establishment, and revegetation success) for the bond release area. The bond amount will not be reduced due to continued mining and reclamation operations within other permitted areas covered under the Worst-Case Consolidated Bond.

Following permit approval, initial mining disturbance commenced with sediment pond construction and soil stripping in 2004. Coal removal began in 2006 and continued through 2009. Reclamation began after coal removal and continued until 2014 when reclamation of the approximately 190.3 acres that were disturbed from mining or considered to be associated disturbance was complete. The bond release tract was granted a variance from the ten-year revegetation responsibility period on 19.7 acres on December 29, 2021. The entire bond release tract is owned by The Coteau Properties Company and has been successfully reclaimed according to the approved reclamation plan to native grassland, which includes three conservation tree plantings, and developed water resources. The bond release tract also includes undisturbed cropland as well as a Southwest Water tap, which was installed to enhance the agricultural value of the reclaimed land.

Written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference or public hearing on this bond release may be submitted by any person having a valid legal interest which is or may be adversely affected by this action, to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480, within 30 days after the last publication of this notice. Any request for an informal conference or hearing should be in writing to the Commission, and must state specifically the issues or objections that an affected party has regarding this bond release.

The Coteau Properties Company
204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota 58523

(9-8, 9-15, 9-22, 9-29)

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
COUNTY OF MERCER, ss.

I, Lori Cox, being first duly sworn, on oath says, that she is the bookkeeper of the THE BEACON, a weekly newspaper published in Beulah, County of Mercer, and has full and personal knowledge of all the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has a bona fide circulation of at least two hundred copies weekly, and has been published within said county for fifty-two successive weeks next prior to the publication of the notice herein mentioned; that the

Notice of Filing For Final Release #3

Coteau Properties

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which same was published, is attached to this sheet, and is made a part of this Affidavit, was published in said newspaper at least once each week for 4 successive week, on the day of each week on which said newspaper was regularly published to-wit:

**3 - Beacon: 9/8/2022, 9/15/2022, 9/22/2022,
9/29/2022**

That the full amount of the fees for
the publication of the annexed notice is: **\$ 651.00**

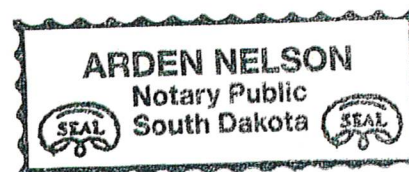
Lori Cox

Subscribed and sworn to before me this **12/20/2022**

Arden Nelson

Arden Nelson, Notary Public
State of South Dakota

My commission expires August 1, 2025



NEWSPAPER PUBLICATION
NOTICE MAP
FINAL BOND RELEASE NO. 3

T146N
R88W
16

T146N
R88W
15

NACT-9501

PERMIT NACT-9501

PROPOSED BOND
RELEASE AREA

T146N
R88W
21

T146N
R88W
22

C.N.

12 Miles To Beulah, ND

