

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

TO: Commissioners Fedorchak, Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart
Steve Kahl, Executive Director
John Schuh, General Counsel

From: Zanna Brinkman, Joan Breiner, and Mike Howe
ZAB *JMB*

Date: November 30, 2022

Subject: Request to Initiate 2023 Buechler-Velva Phase 3 AML Project
PSC Case No. AM-22-412

The 2023 Buechler-Velva Phase 3 AML Project is a 70-acre project to eliminate approximately 3125 feet of dangerous highwall on an abandoned surface coal mine located approximately 9 miles southwest of Velva, ND in Ward County. This abandoned mine site is characterized by steep eroding highwalls 35 to 40 feet high that are within 100 feet of cultivated land. The proposed work is planned in two phases: a tree removal phase between November 2023 and March 2024 and a construction phase between May and November 2024. The proposed construction work involves backsloping and backfilling the highwalls with earthen material from adjacent spoil piles. The estimated cost for this project is \$2,000,000.

The AML Division anticipates receiving funds to complete this project as designed and recommends initiation of the 2023 Buechler-Velva Phase 3 AML Project.

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