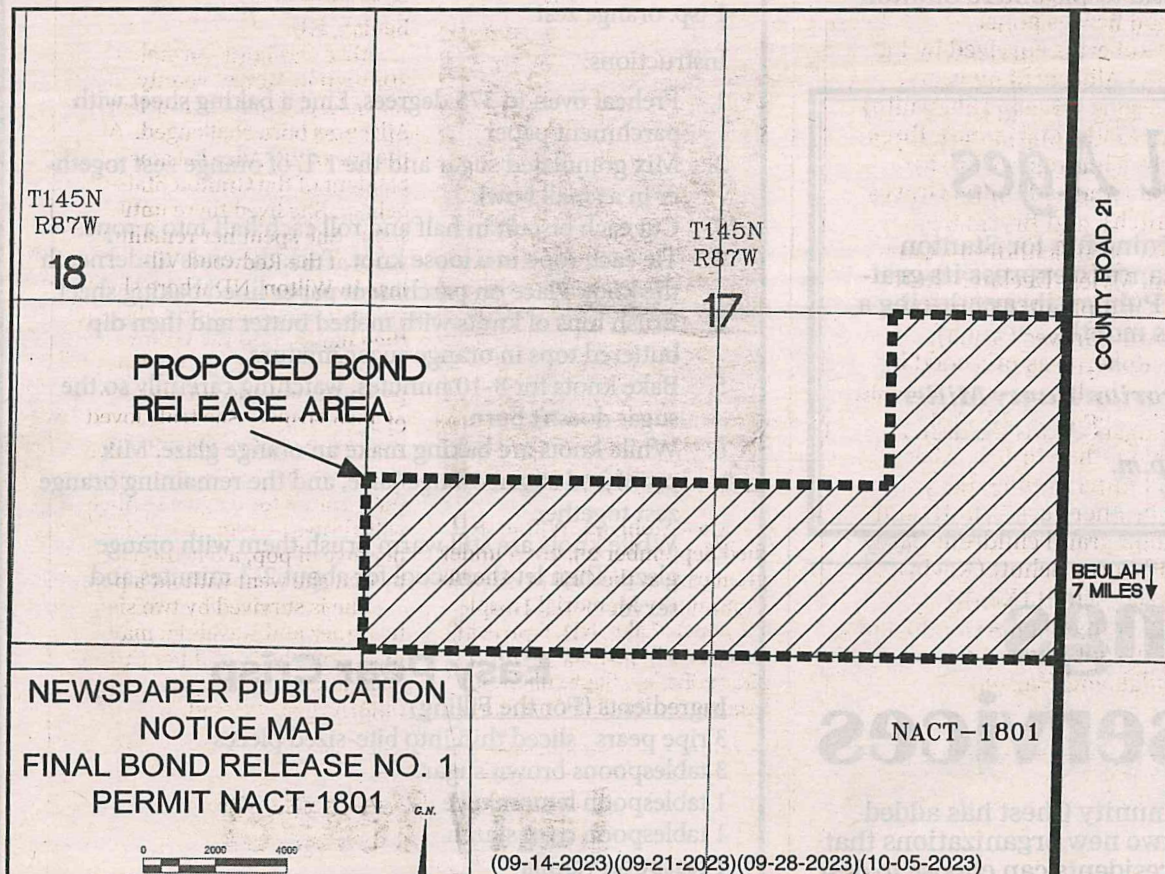


# NOTICE OF FILING FOR FINAL RELEASE OF RECLAMATION BOND

The Coteau Properties Company, as applicant, has filed an application for final bond release on approximately 198 acres of land located in the S ½ of the S ½ and NE ¼ of the SE ¼ of Section 17, T145N, R87W Mercer County, as indicated on the map. This land is included in Surface Coal Mining Permit NACT-1801, approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission on February 17, 2021. Prior to being included into Permit NACT - 1801, this tract was originally in Surface Coal Mine Permit NACT - 8203. 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 this permitted area covered under the Worst-Case Consolidated Bond. Following permit approval, initial mining disturbance commenced with soil stripping in 1983. Coal removal began in 1986 and continued through 1987. Reclamation began in 1988 after coal removal and continued until 2007 when reclamation of the approximately 138 acres that were disturbed from mining or considered to be associated disturbance was complete. The county roads that were disturbed by mining were re-established to meet the standards set forth by Mercer County. The entire bond release tract is owned by The Coteau Properties Company, and the area has been successfully reclaimed according to the approved reclamation plan to tame pastureland, developed water resources, a wetland, and two section line right-of-ways. A Southwest Water tap was installed as an enhancement to the reclaimed tame pastureland to help facilitate

proper grazing management practices. Within the tract, two pre-mining wells existed; neither of these wells were disturbed by mining. 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 (09-14-2023)(09-21-2023) (09-28-2023)(10-05-2023)



# 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 HAZEN STAR, a weekly newspaper published in Hazen, 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 Release of Reclamation Bond

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 - Hazen Star: 9/14/2023, 9/21/2023, 9/28/2023,  
10/5/2023

That the full amount of the fees for  
the publication of the annexed notice is: \$ 721.00

*Lori Cox*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 10/12/2023

*Arden Pahl*

Arden Pahl, Notary Public  
State of South Dakota

My commission expires August 1, 2025

