

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

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

From: Jonathan Emmer, Matt Fischer, and Mike Howe

Date: November 6, 2023

Subject: Request to Initiate 2024 Dakota Collieries AML Project
PSC Case No. AM-23-323

The 2024 Dakota Collieries AML Project involves backsloping and backfilling approximately 915 feet of dangerous highwall on an abandoned surface coal mine. The site is approximately 4 miles southeast of Zap, North Dakota, in Mercer County. This 20-acre abandoned mine site is characterized by steep eroding highwalls approximately 50 feet high. 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. 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. Additional work is being considered on adjacent properties that may include reclaiming subsidence and erosional features from abandoned underground and surface mines. The estimated cost for this project is \$750,000.

The AML Division anticipates receiving funds to complete this project as designed and recommends initiating the 2024 Dakota Collieries AML Project.

AML\2024\2024 Dakota Collieries\Administrative