



# Public Service Commission

## State of North Dakota

### COMMISSIONERS

Randy Christmann  
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart  
Julie Fedorchak

*sent via email only*

December 4, 2023

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Mr. Karl Rockeman, P.E.,  
Director, Division of Water Quality  
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality  
4201 Normandy Street  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
[krockema@nd.gov](mailto:krockema@nd.gov)

Dear Mr. Rockeman:

The Public Service Commission is planning reclamation activities in 2024 at Abandoned Mine Land (AML) Sites near Beulah. The contractor selected through competitive bidding will conduct the project.

As part of the project approval process, our office requests concurrence that the following proposed reclamation work will not adversely affect any surface or groundwater resources. Please reply regarding these proposed projects by **January 4, 2023**.

The 2024 Dakota Collieries AML Project: The Dakota Collieries abandoned surface coal mine contains 915 feet of steep highwall that is approximately 50 feet high. The proposed work is planned in two phases: a tree removal phase between January 2024 and March 2024 and a construction phase between May and November 2024. The proposed reclamation work involves backsloping and backfilling the highwall with on-site mine spoil to reduce the hazard. The property owners support the proposed reclamation project. 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 on adjacent properties will include reclaiming subsidence and erosional features from abandoned underground and surface mines. The total area affected is around 25 acres. Work is expected to be conducted between June and October 2024. The estimated cost for this project is \$750,000.

We expect this project to be completed during the 2024 construction season. The attached map provides more information and shows proposed project locations.

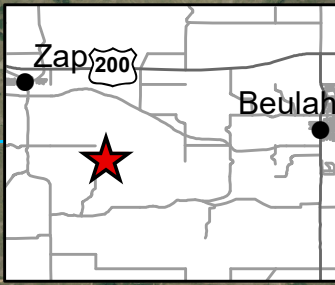
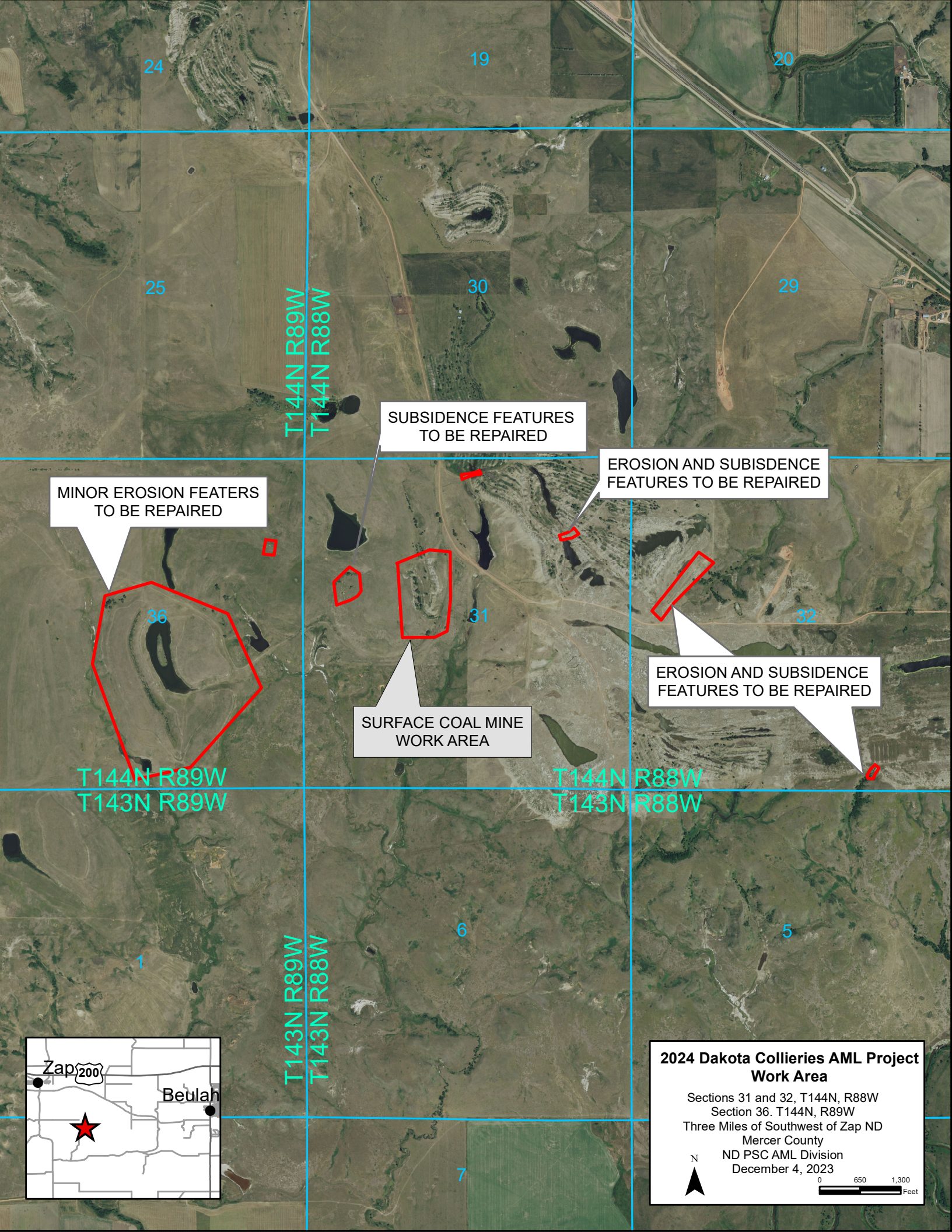
Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Matt Fischer at [mjfischer@nd.gov](mailto:mjfischer@nd.gov) or 701-328-4779.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Emmer  
Director  
Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Enclosure

AML\2024\2024 Dakota Collieries\ATP\Concurrence Letters\2024\_Advsry\_auth\_to\_proceed\_ltr\_12-4-23



**2024 Dakota Collieries AML Project Work Area**

Sections 31 and 32, T144N, R88W  
Section 36, T144N, R89W  
Three Miles of Southwest of Zap ND  
Mercer County  
ND PSC AML Division  
December 4, 2023

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