



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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Kathy Duttonhefner
Natural Resources Management Coordinator
ND Parks & Recreation Department
1600 East Century Ave. Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503
kgduttonhefner@nd.gov

Dear Ms. Duttonhefner:

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 proposed reclamation work, as described below, will not adversely affect any threatened, endangered, or rare plant species. 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.

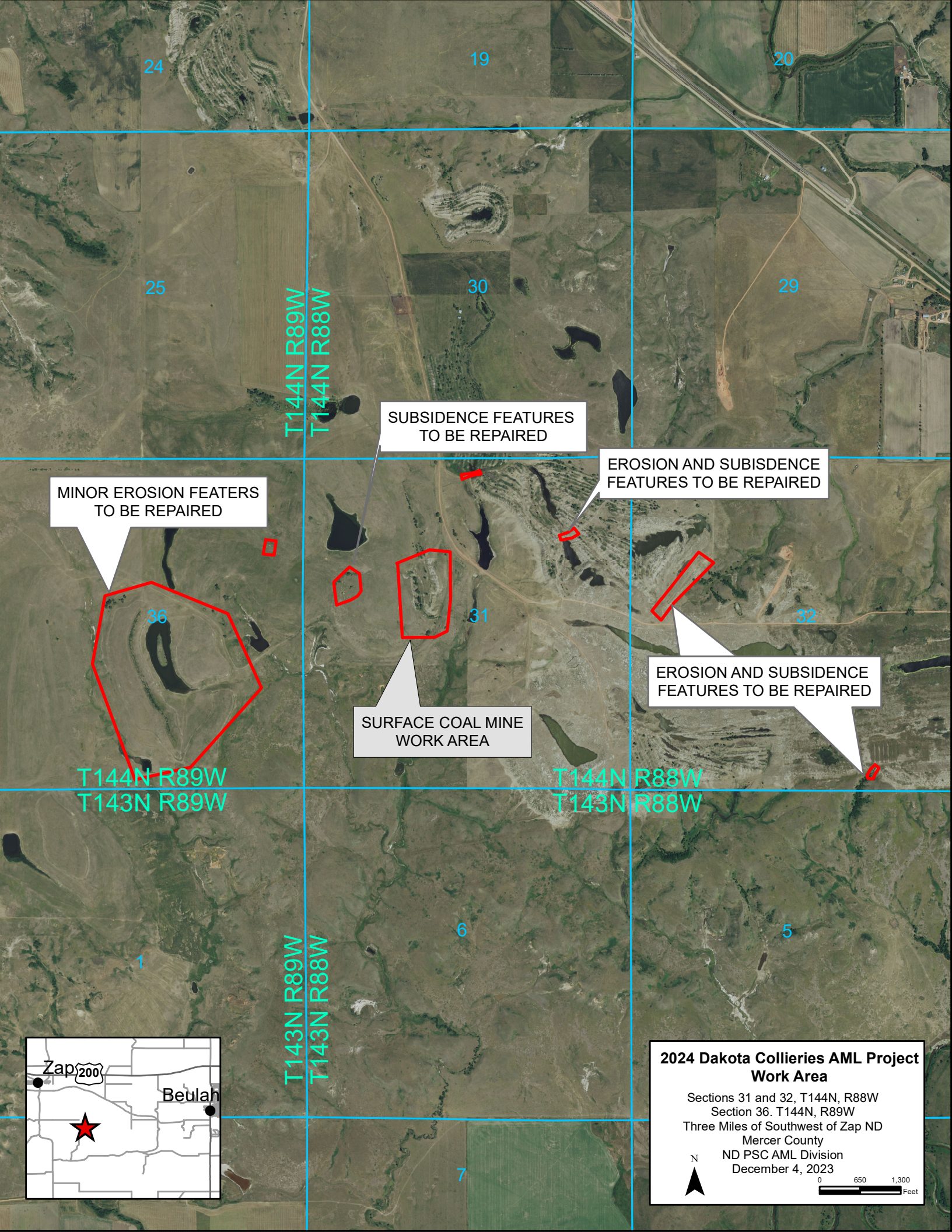
Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Matt Fischer at mjfischer@nd.gov or 701-328-4779.

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



24

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T144N R89W
T144N R88W

SUBSIDENCE FEATURES
TO BE REPAIRED

EROSION AND SUBSIDENCE
FEATURES TO BE REPAIRED

MINOR EROSION FEATERS
TO BE REPAIRED

EROSION AND SUBSIDENCE
FEATURES TO BE REPAIRED

SURFACE COAL MINE
WORK AREA

36

31

32

T144N R89W
T143N R89W

T144N R88W
T143N R88W

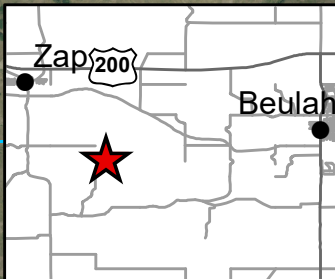
T143N R89W
T143N R88W

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**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

N

0 650 1,300
Feet