

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

TO: Steve Kahl, Executive Director
John Schuh, General Counsel
Jonathan Emmer, Director - Abandoned Mine Lands Division

From: ^{BS} Brett Job & ^{MP} Matt Fischer

Date: May 13, 2024

Subject: 2024 Exploratory Drilling AML Project, Case No. AM-23-358

On March 4, 2024, the AML Division issued a solicitation for drilling and casing of abandoned underground mines near New Salem, ND and Scranton, ND. The AML Division estimates the project will require 20,000 feet of drilling and 4,000 feet of casing.

Competitive sealed bidding procedures were used with notices issued to registered vendors through the State Procurement Office. The bid opening was held on April 9, 2024. The only bid was received from Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. of New Salem, ND for \$258,000.00.

The Notice of Intent to Award a contract to Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. was issued on April 10, 2024. No protests were received. On April 18, 2024, a contract was sent to Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. to execute. The signed contract has been returned. We have received performance and payment bonds, a certificate of liability insurance and other pertinent contractual documents. The contract is now ready for execution by the Commission. The AML Division has sufficient funds in the current OSM grants for this and other projects planned for 2024.

We recommend the Executive Director execute the contract with Earth Energy & Water Systems, Inc. for drilling at the 2024 Exploratory Drilling AML Project.

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