


PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

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

From: ^{JE} Jonathan Emmer, ^{MF} Matt Fischer, and Mike Howe 

Date: October 15, 2024

Subject: Request to Initiate 2025 Buechler Velva Phase 3 AML Project
PSC Case No. AM-24-353

The 2025 Buechler Velva Phase 3 AML Project involves backsloping and backfilling approximately 2,900 feet of dangerous highwall on an abandoned surface coal mine. The site is approximately ten miles southwest of Velva, North Dakota, in Ward County. This 80-acre abandoned mine site is characterized by steep eroding highwalls approximately 35 feet high. The proposed work is planned in two phases: a tree removal phase between December 2024 and March 2025 and a construction phase between May and November 2025. 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. Erosion and sedimentation will be controlled. The estimated cost for this project is \$1,900,000.

The AML Division has funds to complete this project as designed and recommends initiating the 2025 Buechler Velva Phase 3 AML Project.