



April 22, 2025

Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Falkirk Mining Company – Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-9503

Dear Public Service Commission,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above-referenced Falkirk Mining Company – Surface Coal Mining Permit NAFK-9503 located in McLean County North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect the properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages positively.

The project does not appear to affect any properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines whether any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, we have no known plant and animal species of concern or significant ecological communities documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation. For additional information, please contact Kathy Duttenhefner at 701-328-5370, 701-220-3377 (cell), or [kgduttenhefner@nd.gov](mailto:kgduttenhefner@nd.gov).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kathy Duttenhefner".

Kathy Duttenhefner, Chief Natural Resources Division

9 RC-25-77 Filed 04/22/2025 Pages: 3  
Advisory Review Response Letter from North  
Dakota Parks and Recreation

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department  
Kathy Duttenhefner

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North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory  
Rare Animal and Plant Species and Significant Ecological Communities

State Scientific Name	State Common Name	State Rank	Global Rank	Federal Status	Township Range Section	County	Last Observation	Estimated Representation Accuracy	Precision
Fraxinus pennsylvanica - (ulmus americana)/prunus virginiana woodland	Green Ash Upland Woodland	S3	GNR		144N084W - 03; 144N084W - 12; 144N084W - 02; 144N084W - 11; 144N084W - 13; 144N083W - 19; 144N084W - 24; 144N084W - 14; 144N084W - 10	McLean	2007-07-12	Medium	
Stipa comata - bouteloua gracilis/carex filifolia prairie	Needle-and-thread Mixed Grass Prairie	S2	GNR		144N083W - 18; 144N084W - 02; 144N084W - 10; 144N084W - 11; 145N084W - 36; 144N084W - 24; 144N084W - 14; 144N084W - 04; 144N084W - 13; 144N084W - 12; 144N084W - 03; 144N083W - 19	McLean	2007-07-12	Low	

# North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department North Dakota Natural Heritage Inventory

