

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Reclamation Division

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart, and Kringstad
Steven Kahl, Executive Director
Christopher Martens, General Counsel

FROM: ^{JE} Jonathan Emmer, ^{MT} Monty Johnson, and ^{AAC} Alexis Craig

DATE: October 10, 2025

SUBJECT: Approval for Renewal No. 4 to Permit No. GRGR-0501 held by Leonardite Products LLC, for the Stony Creek Mine, Case No. RC-25-170

On April 17, 2025, the Reclamation Division received Leonardite Products LLC's application for Renewal No. 4 to Permit No. GRGR-0501 to continue to conduct mining operations within the existing permit area until November 2, 2030. Permit No. GRGR-0501 covers portions of the S½NW¼ and the N½SW¼ of Section 8, T154N, R100W, Williams County, totaling approximately 67.1 acres. The Reclamation Division has completed its review of this five-year permit renewal and respectfully recommends that it be approved.

Leonardite Products has applied for this five-year renewal to continue commercial leonardite mining and reclamation operations in the permit area. Commerical leonardite removal is through 2031. At the time Leonardite Products LLC filed this permit renewal application, they also filed the application for Revision No. 12 to Permit No. GRGR-0501 to identify the next five-year commercial leonardite removal subarea and update the legal, environmental resources, operation, and reclamation permit sections for the next five-year permit term.

Renewal No. 4 was subject to the notice, hearing, and procedural requirements. Leonardite Products LLC has submitted the affidavits of publication for the newspaper notice indicating that it was published in the Williston Herald for four consecutive weeks. Surface owners within the permit area, appropriate governmental agencies, and the state's advisory committee members were notified of the renewal application and the opportunity to submit comments or objections, or to request an informal conference, on the application. No objections or requests for an informal conference were received on the renewal application.

Revision No. 12 included changes to the worst-case reclamation cost estimate for determining the minimum bond amount for Permit No. GRGR-0501 during the next five year permit term. These changes resulted in an increase in the required bond amount from \$427,029.00 to \$648,439.16. On October 3, 2025, the Reclamation Division determined that the minimum bond amount of \$648,439.16, which would occur during the 2nd quarter of 2027, to be adequate. Since mining is nearly complete for the year at the Stony Creek Mine and the current bond amount of \$427,029.00

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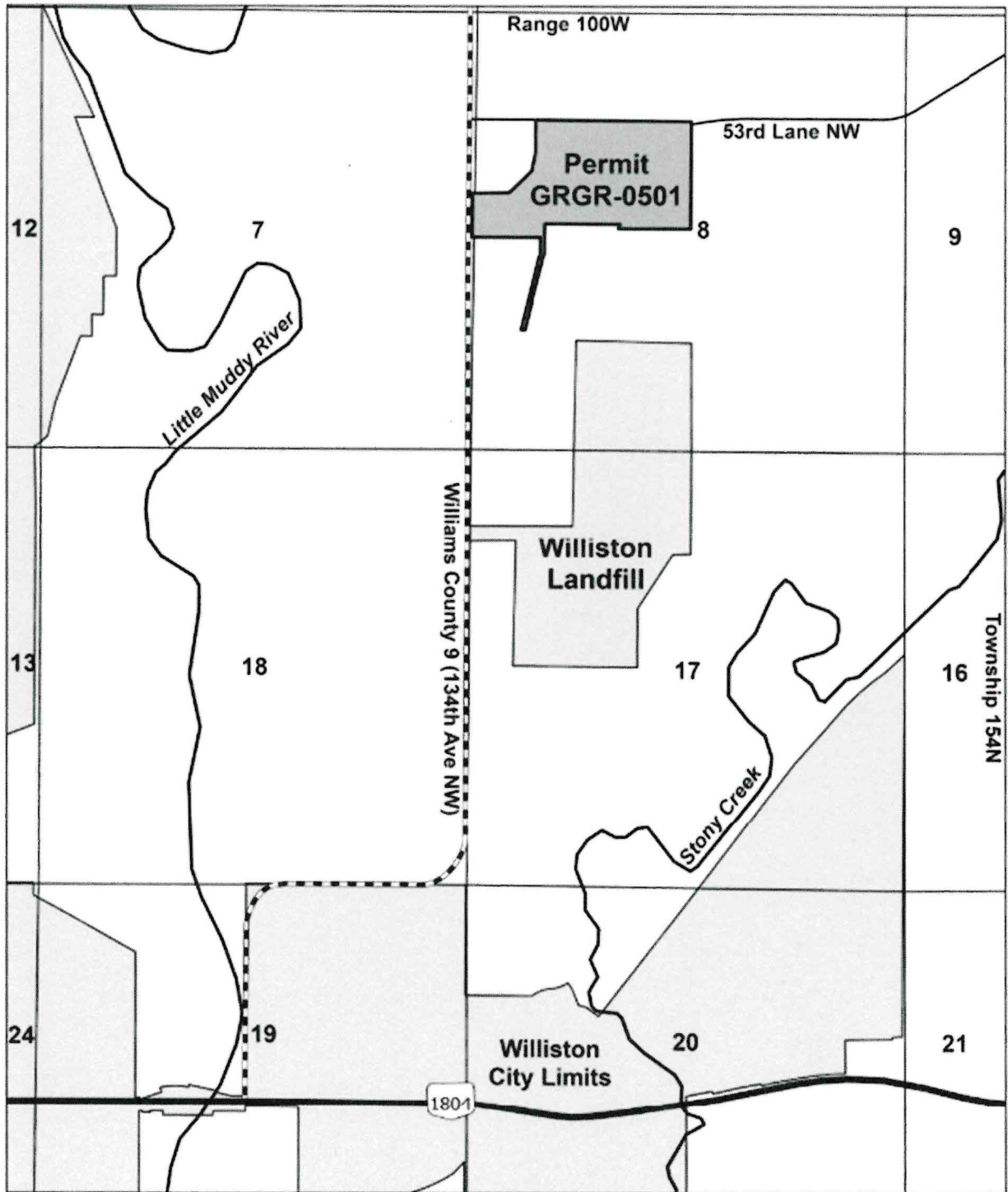
is adequate to cover the current reclamation condition, the Reclamation Division is proposing to add Special Condition No. 2 to the approval of Revision No. 12.

Special Condition No. 2 is being added to Permit GRGR-0501, which states: "Leonardite Products LLC shall submit the necessary bonding instruments to increase the bonding amount for Permit GRGR-0501 to at least \$648,439.16 by the end of the first quarter of 2026."

Attached for your consideration at the October 23, 2025, Commission meeting are the proposed motion and renewal approval form. Also attached is a map showing the location of the permit area.

Leonardite Products\Permits\0501\Revisions & Renewals\Rev12_Ren4\Ren4_apprvl_memo_10-10-25

General Location Map of Permit GRGR-0501



**Newspaper Publication Notice Map
Permit GRGR-0501
Revision 12 and Renewal 4**

