

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Abandoned Mine Lands Division

Memorandum

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

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

Date: October 14, 2025

Subject: Request to Initiate 2026 Hettinger County Phase II AML Project
PSC Case No. AM-25-269

The 2026 Hettinger County Phase II AML Project involves backsloping and backfilling approximately 3,200 feet of dangerous highwall on six abandoned surface coal mines. These abandoned surface coal mines contain steep highwalls that are up to 30 feet high. The proposed construction work is planned between May and October 2026. The proposed reclamation work involves backsloping and backfilling the highwall with on-site mine spoil to reduce the hazard. Affected areas will be reseeded with locally adapted grass species native to western North Dakota. Erosion and sedimentation will be controlled. The total area affected is approximately 35 acres. The estimated cost for this project is \$500,000.

The AML Division anticipates receiving funds to complete this project as designed and recommends initiating the 2026 Hettinger County Phase II AML Project.

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