

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Notice and Agenda**

**March 26, 2026**

**Time:** 01:00 p.m. – Conclusion

**Location:** Lignite Energy Council  
1016 E Owens Ave  
Bismarck, ND 58501

**Re:** Lignite Energy Council Quarterly Meeting

**Agenda:**

Discussion of status of current projects, permitting activities, etc. at mines and plants.

Permitting

Federal Coal Leasing/Mine Plan Approval

Pending Program Amendments Submitted to OSM (if applicable)

Miscellaneous

AML Activities

2026 AML Projects

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Date: 12 March 2026

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Items may be deleted from or added to the agenda at any time. The current agenda is available at: [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

Anyone requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, should contact the Executive Secretary, at least one full working day prior to the event.

# **Reclamation and AML Topics Lignite Energy Council Meeting March 26, 2026**

## **Permitting**

- We currently have five insignificant and seven significant permit revisions under review
- American Colloid is planning to add 1175 acres to its existing permit area near Reeder
- We have three pending bond release applications: one at the Center Mine for 197 acres; and one at the Beulah Mine for 3,268 acres; and one at the Falkirk Mine for 285 acres

## **Federal Coal Leasing/Mine Plan Approval**

- Falkirk submitted a revision to show mining of a quarter section of federal coal in Permit NAFK-9503. The application is still under review.

## **Program Amendments submitted to OSM in 2022**

- Program Amendment 42 proposed to change the reclamation rules to allow real property collateral bonding. This amendment was approved by OSMRE with an effective date of March 16, 2026. The Commission will need to adopt the rule change and then submit the changes to legislative council.

## **Miscellaneous**

- Our updated MOU with the Department of Water Resources is nearly complete. The MOU with our final edits was submitted to DWR on March 10<sup>th</sup> for their concurrence. Once DWR accepts our edits, it will be presented to the Commission.

## **AML Activities**

### **2026 AML Projects:**

- The 2026 Exploratory Drilling AML Project will locate and characterize underground mine workings beneath public roads and other infrastructure near Beulah, ND. The estimated cost for this project \$1,355,000.
- The 2026 Hettinger County Phase II AML Project involves backsloping and backfilling highwalls on six abandoned surface coal mines. The estimated cost for this project is \$500,000.
- The 2026 New Salem AML Project is a drilling and grouting project to locate and stabilize abandoned underground coal mine workings in New Salem, ND. The estimated cost for this project is \$970,000.
- The 2026 Sinkhole Filling and Maintenance AML Project will fill sinkholes caused by underground mine collapse in western North Dakota. Proposed sinkhole filling locations are near Center, Garrison, Washburn, Haynes, New Leipzig, Scranton, and Beulah. The estimated cost for this project is \$400,000.

- The 2026 and 2027 Cartwright AML Projects is an open mine entrance that will be sealed by pumping grout into the mine entrance. Exploratory drilling will locate potential abandoned underground coal mine workings near a rural residence. The mine entrance closure and exploratory drilling are expected to be conducted between August and November 2026. If mine voids are found during exploratory drilling, grout will be pumped to fill the mine voids during the 2027 construction season. The estimated cost for the project is \$71,000 in 2026 and \$100,000 in 2027.