



Public Service Commission

NEWS RELEASE
Oct. 7, 2022

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PSC Presents the Coteau Properties Company with Award for Excellence in Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) recently announced that the Coteau Properties Company (Coteau) is the recipient of this year's Award for Excellence in Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation. The PSC's Reclamation Division recommended that Coteau be recognized for going above and beyond regulatory requirements by providing access to water at the Freedom Mine, which will allow the grasslands to be used for grazing in the future.

"The environmental value of maintaining grassland acreage is immense," said Commissioner Randy Christmann, who holds the coal reclamation portfolio. "Having this extraordinary livestock watering network significantly increases the likelihood that this land will be maintained as grassland for generations to come."

Coteau provided water taps into a pipeline crossing several reclaimed tracts of grassland at the Freedom mine. The land previously did not have adequate water supplies needed for cattle or other livestock. Coteau has funded miles of Southwest Water pipeline with plans for 21 pasture taps to improve grazing distribution on thousands of acres of reclaimed grassland. Twelve taps have been installed to date and are providing a dependable water supply.

The award was presented to the company during the Lignite Energy Council's Fall Conference that was held in late September.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at (701) 328-2400 or www.psc.nd.gov.

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