



NEWS RELEASE
June 17, 2015

For Immediate Release, Contact:
Randy Christmann, (701) 328-4091
Julie Fedorchak, (701) 391-1140
Brian Kalk, (701) 261-0373

Coyote Creek Mine Receives Approval to Add More Than 350 Acres to Their Mining Permit

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved a revision to the Coyote Creek mining permit allowing them to add a little more than 352 acres to the existing permit area in Mercer County. The additional acres will be used for a coal haul road that extends from the existing permit area to the Coyote Power Station and for coal handling facilities. Commission staff completed all required reviews to ensure that the required information was provided and the mining and reclamation plans meet all applicable requirements.

“This permit for the Coyote Creek Mine, along with the approval of Mercer County and land acquisition from landowners, opens the next chapter in lignite mining in western North Dakota,” said Commissioner Randy Christmann who holds the coal mining portfolio. “For consumers it means the long-term continuation of dependable and affordable power from the Coyote Power Plant.”

The Commission did receive requests for an informal conference on this application regarding concerns about air quality and dust emissions from the proposed haul road and coal handling facilities. The Hearing Officer ruled that the air quality issues raised during the informal conference are outside of the jurisdiction of the Commission and that the application for the permit revision satisfies all permit revision standards under the reclamation laws and rules.

No coal mining is proposed in the revision area and the planned haul road and other support facilities will be reclaimed when mining is completed. Coal removal and haul road use is expected to continue until 2040 with coal production projected to be 1.7 million tons in 2016 and 2.5 million tons per year going forward.

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, grain elevators, 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.

###

Find us on Twitter: twitter.com/ndpsc or @NDPSC