

NORTH DAKOTA HAS A NEW LOOK ON THE INTERNET

By

Louis A. Ogaard, Ph.D.¹

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) has published a totally revised web page on the Internet devoted to the various programs regulated and administered by the agency. FrontPage 2000 was used to both develop and publish this page. The home page includes a picture that will periodically change to reflect activities of the Commission. Currently, a reclaimed wetland on an abandoned mine land site near the Canadian border is featured.

A series of "hover buttons" have been placed in a frame along the left edge of the home page. These allow one to rapidly access "division pages." A standard format has been used for all divisions to make navigation throughout the site intuitive.

The "Abandoned Coal Mines" button is the link to the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division (See AML homepage). An initial table has staff listed with each name hyperlinked to a biography that, in some cases, includes pictures. The Index is a second table that lists a series of options, all of which are hyperlinked. This is the first year we have posted our Information For Bidders (IFB) packages for both review and printing by interested parties. Hence, prospective contractors may both view and print these documents at no cost. A nominal charge is still applied for hardcopies.

The North Dakota AML Division has digital still and digital video cameras that allow field personnel to collect pictures and video, return to the office, off-load the camera contents onto our network, and post results to our web site all in the same day. As webmaster for the agency, I am able to facilitate this process and add appropriate text to describe the various AML problems encountered. Pictures are stored in jpeg format and reduced in size using Macromedia Fireworks, video is in mpg format, and large documents, such as our standard specifications are available as Acrobat files (pdf).

Bid bond, performance bond, and payment bond forms are also stored as Acrobat files under "Forms" along with every other form currently used by the agency. These may be printed and then submitted by mail to the Commission. The long term goal is to allow direct completion of forms, e.g., prequalification to bid, over the Internet.

¹ Lou Ogaard, Director, AML Division, ND Public Service Commission
Capitol Building
600 East Boulevard Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58505
Phone: 701-328-4096