

AML EMERGENCY INVESTIGATION

Type of Problem: Subsidence
Reported by: Curtis Michaelson
Address: Beulah, ND 58523
Telephone: (701) 873-2569
Date Complaint Received: March 24, 2004
Person Notified of Complaint: Bill Dodd - AML Division
Address of Complaint: Same as above
City: Beulah
County: Mercer
State: North Dakota

SITE INVESTIGATION

Date: March 25 and 29, 2004
Time: 9:45 A.M on 25th, 11:00-2:00 on 29th.
Name of State Investigators: Bruce Beechie, Bill Dodd, AML Division
OSM Representative(s) Present: None
Others Present: None

Name of others contacted (Local, State, Federal, Insurance Agencies, Utilities, etc.):
Bill Powell - OSM, was contacted on March 29, 2004

LOCATION OF SITES

Directions of locations (Describe Route):

All locations are approximately 2-3 miles north of Beulah, ND. Sites 1 (Michaelson) and 3 (Eslinger) are located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 12, T144N, R88W. Site 2 (Sailer) is located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 7, T144N, R87W. Site 4 (NDG&F) is located in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 7 and the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 6, T144N, R87W.

USGS Quadrangle Name: Beulah, N. Dak
Coordinates: 47° 17' 30" N, 101° 45' 30" W.

MINE INFORMATION

Mined by: Knife River Coal Mining Company
Duration of Mining: **From** 1923 **Until:** 1953 (underground)
Type of Mining: Underground, room and pillar
Seam Name: Beulah/Zap **Thickness of Seam:** 12-22 feet

CONTINUING RECLAMATION RESPONSIBILITY

Permitted Operation: No **Permit Number(s):** N/A
Bond Status: Returned, Forfeited, Available N/A
Amount: N/A
Date: N/A

PRESENT OWNER(S)

Surface Owner's Name: Curtis Michaelson
Address: 731 60th Ave SW
City: Beulah
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58523
Telephone: (701) 873-2569

Surface Owner's Name: Garner Sailer
Address: 1133 59th Ave SW
City: Beulah
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58523
Telephone: (701) 873-2420

Surface Owner's Name: Michael Eslinger
Address: 615 60th Ave SW
City: Beulah
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58523
Telephone: (701) 873-5695

Surface Owner's Name: North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Address: 403 Dakota Avenue, PO Box 506
City: Riverdale
State: North Dakota
Zip Code: 58565
Telephone: (701) 654-7475

Were the Property Owners Involved in the Mining: No
If yes, explain: N/A

Date Property Acquired by Owner: varied
If Potential Subsidence, Do Owners Have Insurance: No
If yes,
Agency:
Agent:
Address:
Phone Number:

Mineral Owner's Name: Unknown

AFFECTED PARTIES

Same as present owners

SITE INFORMATION

Date that problem began or was first noticed:

The Michaelson Sinkhole was reported March 24, 2004. The Sailer, Eslinger and Game and Fish Sinkholes were noticed during the site inspection on March 29, 2004.

Is there any active mining or related activities in or around the area: YES

Several surface mines are located within 20 miles but have no effect on this site

Name of Operator(s):

Coteau Properties Co., Knife River Mining Co.

Nature of problem:

Source of problem:

Void, Shafts, Slope, Entries, etc.

Underground Mine

Potentially Affecting:

Persons
Housing
Building

Estimated Number 10+
1 (Michaelson Farmstead)
Several farm buildings on Michaelson farmstead

Estimated acres affected:

1

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION

Describe the problem (Detail: size, shape: Is problem spreading, expanding: first noticed, etc.

On March 24, 2004 Curt Michaelson reported a sinkhole in his yard approximately 200 feet from his house. On March 25, NDPSC personnel inspected the site. Dimensions of the sinkhole were 10 feet wide and 2-8 feet deep. In a subsequent inspection on March 30, 2004, other dangerous sinkholes were found on properties owned by Garner Sailer, Michael Eslinger and North Dakota Game and Fish Department. A total of eight especially dangerous sinkholes were identified near Beulah. Many other mine collapse features are present in the Beulah area and these will be repaired as needed with regular AML funds.

OTHER INFORMATION

Describe any other information available and its location (i.e., maps, inspections, reports, etc.)

Mine specific information and mine maps for the Knife River underground mine are available at the North Dakota State Historical Library and are on file with the AML Division. Several emergency and non emergency reclamation projects have been conducted previously at all these sites.

ELIGIBILITY

Declaration of eligibility from State:

Name: William W. Binek, Chief Counsel

Address: Public Service Commission, State Capitol

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip Code: 58505-0480

Telephone: (701) 328-2400

Oral Date Written Date March 31, 2000.

Eligible: YES (an eligible site must be mine related, abandoned with inadequate reclamation prior to August 3, 1977, and no continuing reclamation responsibility.)

REMARKS

The North Dakota SHPO has been contacted concerning potential cultural or historical resources.

ADDED VALUE

It is doubtful that reclamation of this sinkhole will add significant value to the property. However, remedial action to eliminate the hazards will be a help to the property owners. Eliminating the hazard will increase the safety to users of the properties as the sinkholes are located on residential, agricultural and wildlife areas.

Investigator: William E. Dodd **Signature:** _____

Address: State Capitol

City: Bismarck

State: North Dakota

Zip code: 58505-0480

Telephone (701) 328-4101

Project Title: 2004 Beulah Emergency

Number: AM-481-04

PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION:

- Remove all available topsoil from around the sinkholes
- Excavate the sinkholes with a backhoe
- Fill the excavated sinkholes with fill dirt and compact to the best extent possible
- Regrade the areas to re-establish drainage
- Respread topsoil over the areas
- Reseed the disturbed areas

ESTIMATED COST \$4000