

## AML EMERGENCY INVESTIGATION

**Type of Problem:** Coal Refuse Fire  
**Reported by:** Dan Halstead, North Dakota Game & Fish Dept.  
**Address:** Riverdale, ND  
**Telephone:** (701) 654-7475  
**Date Complaint Received:** October 4, 2005, 10:30 AM  
**Person Notified of Complaint:** Bill Dodd - AML Division  
**Address of Complaint:** North Beulah Mine Wildlife Management Area  
**City:** Beulah  
**County:** Mercer  
**State:** North Dakota

### SITE INVESTIGATION

**Date:** October 4, 2005  
**Time:** 12:00 noon.  
**Name of State Investigators:** Bruce Beechie, AML Division  
**OSM Representative(s) Present:** None  
**Others Present:** Dan Halstead

**Name of others contacted (Local, State, Federal, Insurance Agencies, Utilities, etc.):**  
Alan Boehms and Harv Gloe, OSM, were contacted on October 4, 2004

### LOCATION OF SITES

#### **Directions of locations (Describe Route):**

In the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 17, T144N, R87W on the North Beulah Mine Wildlife Management Area, in the spoils of the North Beulah Mine, approximately 2 miles east and slightly south of the junction of US Highway 200 and ND Highway 49

**USGS Quadrangle Name:** Hazen West, N. Dak

**GPS Coordinates (WGS84Lat/LongDEG.DDDDD):** 47.29775 N, 101.74343W.

### MINE INFORMATION

**Mined by:** Knife River Coal Mining Company  
**Duration of Mining:** **From** 1952 **Until:** 1974 (North Unit, Surface Mine)  
**Type of Mining:** Surface, strip  
**Seam Name:** Beulah/Zap **Thickness of Seam:** 12-22 feet



### **Potentially Affecting:**

<b>Persons</b>	Estimated Number 10+
<b>Housing</b>	2 nearby farms
<b>Public Roads</b>	2 – US 200 and Mercer County 19
<b>Utilities</b>	Several nearby power and telephone lines

**Estimated acres affected:** Presently less than 1 acre

### **PROBLEM DESCRIPTION**

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

Dan Halstead, North Dakota Game & Fish Wildlife Resources Management Supervisor, called Bill Dodd (NDPSC) on October 4, 2005 to report a coal refuse fire on the North Beulah Mine Wildlife Management Area near Beulah. According to Halstead the fire was reported to local Sheriff and Fire Departments by hunters on October 1, 2005. The fire had burned nearby pine trees and the sheriff had a local contractor remove vegetation from the immediate area around the coal fire in an attempt to prevent it from spreading.

Bruce Beechie and Dan Halstead inspected the area on October 4, 2005 and found the area of the coal fire to be approximately 30'X50' and about 4' deep. The coal refuse was burning extremely hot and, in windy conditions, could spread to adjacent trees and grasslands and become difficult to control. This could endanger nearby residents, hunters and the general public. This coal refuse fire is located within 1/8 mile of US Highway 200 and Mercer County Highway 19, and about 1 mile northeast of the City of Beulah.

### **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 **X** Date October 4, 2005.  
**Eligible: YES X (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 coal refuse fire will add significant value to the property. However, remedial action to eliminate the hazard will increase the safety to users of this property and adjacent areas..

**Investigator:**Bruce Beechie      **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Address:** State Capitol  
**City:** Bismarck  
**State:** North Dakota  
**Zip code:** 58505-0480  
**Telephone** (701) 328-41014

**Project Title:** 2005 Beulah Coal Fire Emergency  
**Number:** Contract number pending OSM concurrence

**PROPOSED REMEDIAL ACTION:**

- Construct a burial trench and emplace all burning coal materials and ash into it with a bulldozer or excavator. Intermix burning materials with clay overburden. Use water for quenching as needed.
- Cover buried material using clay overburden
- Grade area to blend with surrounding topography
- Respread the area with topsoil or other suitable strata
- Harrow and seed the area

**ESTIMATED COST**      \$1500

[Map](#) [Picture1](#), [Picture2](#), [Picture3](#), [Picture4](#), [Picture5](#)