

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The University of Kansas
1930 Constant Ave
Lawrence KS 66047-3726
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July 7, 2006

Mr. Murray J. Balk, Chief
Surface Mining Section
Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
4033 Parkview Drive
Frontenac, KS 66763

Re: Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
Sportsman's Pits Reclamation Project
Section 24, T. 32 S., R. 22 E., Cherokee Co., Kansas

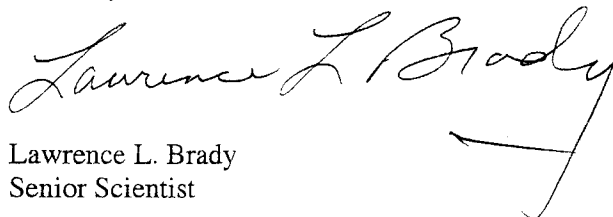
Dear Murray:

I have reviewed the information that you recently sent to the Kansas Geological Survey concerning the proposed reclamation site titled the "Sportsman's Pits Reclamation Project" (KS-0375 & KS-0555), located in northwest Cherokee County, Kansas. The proposed reclamation area is located in a large part of Section 24, T. 32 S., R. 22 E. Various reclamation efforts are planned within this area to alleviate hazards for persons using the area for fishing and hunting. These hazards are present as a result of past strip-mining of the coal. Location of the proposed project is on past strip-mine land disturbed by mining of the Mineral & Fleming coals, and where thick enough possibly some Croweburg coal. These coal beds are part of the Cabaniss Formation of the Cherokee Group of rocks in southeastern Kansas.

The proposed reclamation efforts would correct problems created by past strip-mining of the two and possibly three coals. The Mineral coal is the most important coal mined of the three, and it underlies the other two coal beds. Underlying the Mineral coal is the Scammon coal that is not mined in this area due to the thin coal bed and quality concerns of the coal. About 100 feet deeper than the Mineral coal is the Weir-Pittsburg coal bed, the most extensively mined coal in southeast Kansas. However, the Kansas Geological Survey has no records indicating that the Weir-Pittsburg coal was mined at this site by underground mining methods. This is probably due to the thin nature of that coal at this location, with the extensive mining of the Weir-Pittsburg coal several miles east of this location.

Therefore, the potential for additional strip-mining or possible deep mining of Weir-Pittsburg coal at this proposed reclamation site is not a factor of concern. Basically, future mining should not disturb the area outlined for your proposed reclamation effort and you should continue with your reclamation plans. Best wishes with corrections of the recognized hazards on this reclamation project.

Sincerely,


Lawrence L. Brady
Senior Scientist



K A N S A S

RODERICK L. BREMBY, SECRETARY

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

June 29, 2006

Mr. Lee Gerhard
Kansas Geological Survey
University of Kansas
1930 Constant Ave. - Campus West
Lawrence, Kansas 66047-3726

Re: Sportsman's Pits Reclamation Project
Cherokee County, Kansas

Dear Mr. Gerhard:

The Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Surface Mining Section, is currently performing design services for the Sportsman's Pits Reclamation Project (KS-0375 & KS-0555). The project consists of one area located in Section 24, Township 32 South, Range 24 East, in Cherokee County, Kansas. Please refer to the attached map for the site location(s). *22 E*

Reclamation of the site is being considered by the Surface Mining Section to minimize the hazards typically associated with abandoned mining operations. Attached is a project description that briefly discusses the area. We are requesting a letter from the Kansas Geological Survey stating whether or not it is considered likely that the area of this project will be mined in the future.

We would appreciate a reply at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (620) 231-8540.

Sincerely,

Murray J. Balk, Chief
Surface Mining Section

Project file: B-6(1)

BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION
SURFACE MINING SECTION
4033 PARKVIEW DR., FRONTENAC, KS 66763

Voice 620-231-8540 Fax 620-231-0753 <http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us>

SPORTSMAN'S PITS RECLAMATION PROJECT
CHEROKEE COUNTY, KANSAS
PROJECT OVERVIEW/AGENCY REVIEW
JUNE 29, 2006

The Sportsman's Pits Reclamation Project is an Abandoned Mine Land Project located in Section 24, Township 32 South, Range 22 East, Cherokee County, Kansas, as shown on the accompanying location map. The land is owned by the Cherokee County Sportsmen's Fish and Game Association, Inc., a Kansas nonprofit organization. It is being utilized and maintained by the organization as a hunting, fishing and recreation area for the general public.

The reclamation project is being administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Surface Mining Section (SMS). It is being funded by the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) through grants to KDHE and was designed in cooperation with OSMRE.

The Sportsman's Pits are a recreation area which encompasses approximately one square mile. Located within this area are roads which give access to the pits and interior areas for hunting, fishing and other recreational pursuits. These roads are bounded by pits which vary from 3 to 20 feet from the road. The pits include Priority 2 dangerous highwalls, vary from 6 to 40 feet deep, and cumulatively are approximately 8,200 feet long. This area is open year round to the public, attracting a significant number of people during the warmer months. The traveling public is exposed to safety hazards along a network of internal roads within the site due to the relative proximity of abandoned strip pits and dangerous highwalls.

The goal of the reclamation is to address the safety hazards while minimizing the impacts to existing vegetation and wildlife and aquatic habitats. To accomplish this, about 1,800 feet of the east-west interior access road that is located on an undisturbed strip of highwall and bounded by pits on both sides, will be abandoned and replaced by 2,400 feet of access road located to the south where grading activities will create a safe travel corridor. A portion of the undisturbed highwall will then be lowered to provide safe access to the water for those fishing from the shoreline. Two new parking areas will service this section of the road. The abandoned stretch of road will cut in two places to form an island and provide boat access between the water bodies. From the newly relocated road, an entrance road of about 500 feet will be created to the north where an extensive rock fill will be installed to provide access to the site's picnic area. To provide a safe approach to the water supply used by the local fire departments, an existing dry hydrant will be relocated to a new site on the northern portion of the project.

Road improvements along the north-south interior access road include regrading portions of the area so the road can be reconstructed in a safe configuration. The typical interior road surface will be 18 feet wide and surfaced with roadstone for durability. At the south end of the road, another rock fill will be installed creating an endfill along the dangerous highwall portion of the pit.

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Project Area Description

Sportsman's Pit Reclamation Project

June 29, 2006

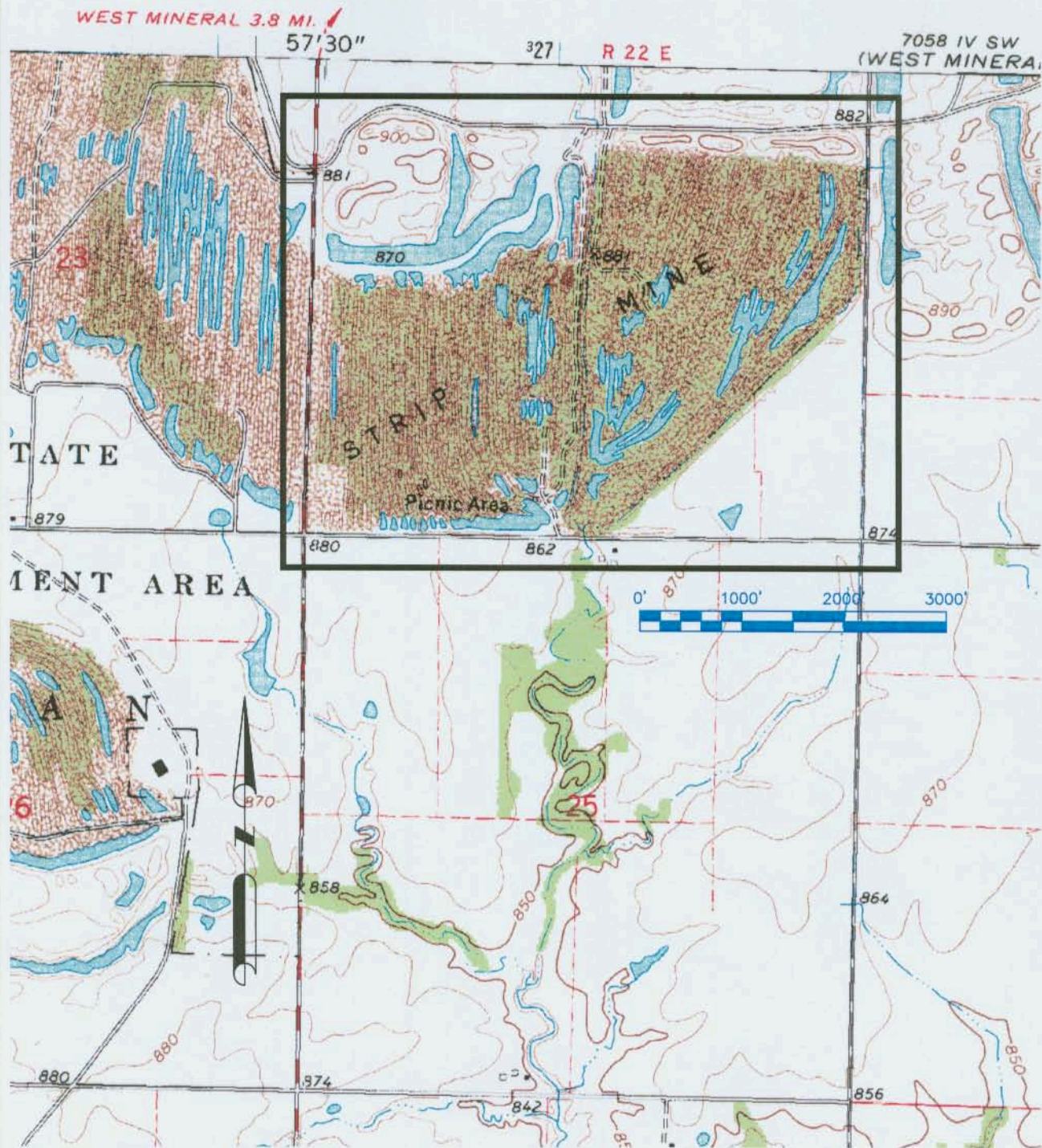
Throughout the interior road renovation, boulder barricades will be placed in strategic locations to prevent vehicular travel in restricted areas and to keep vehicles from entering any pits.

Spillways and culverts will be installed to control water elevations. A new, safely designed boat ramp will be installed to replace an existing hazardous ramp, and additional parking areas will be provided.

An area of dangerous highwall exists along the southern edge of the problem area along NW Bellevue Road, a well traveled county road. The dangerous highwall measures approximately 1,100 feet long and averages between 15-20 feet deep and 30-40 feet from the road. There is little or no protection to passing motorists, but the highwall is well concealed from observation from the road due to the dense underbrush. At this location, a safety berm will be installed to keep vehicles from leaving the road and entering the water filled pits.

Along Northwest 60th Street, deep erosional gullies, remnants of the mining in the area, will be filled for safety purposes and to provide improved drainage. Upon completion of the grading, all areas of the project will be limed, mulched and seeded to native grasses and forbs. In total, 34 acres are to be revegetated including road shoulders and other graded areas outside the road travel way.

STATE OF KANSAS



KDHE - Surface Mining Section, Engineering

Project: Sportsmans Pit Project

For: AGENCY REVIEW

Date: JUNE 20, 2006

Description: Project Location: PADS KS-0555 & KS-0375

By: FCF

Location: Section 24, T. 32 S., R. 22 E.; Hallowell, KS Quad.

Drawing: hwelquad.dwg/sports