

## KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The University of Kansas  
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February 27, 2007

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  
7 Corners Project, PAD KS-0229  
W/2 SW/4 Sec. 32, 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 "7 Corners Project" (KS-0229), located in west-central Cherokee County, Kansas. Note that you discuss in your letter that the reclamation is filling the end of the pits on the east side of the road. This would be in the west part of the SW/4, not the east half of that quarter as described and shown on your site map. The proposed reclamation area is located in the west part of SW/4, of Sec. 32, T. 32 S., R. 22 E.

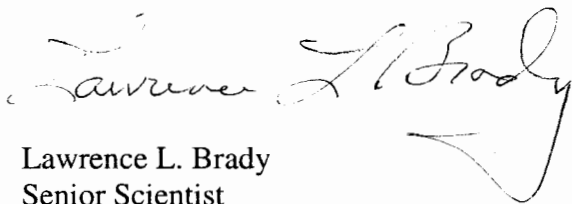
These hazards are present as a result of past strip-mining of the coal. Location of the proposed project is on past strip-mined land disturbed by mining of the Mineral coal and possibly some Fleming coal. These coal beds are part of the Cabaniss Formation of the Cherokee Group of rocks in southeastern Kansas.

The proposed reclamation efforts would correct physical problems created by past strip-mining of the two coals. The Mineral coal is the most important coal mined of the two, and it is the lowermost coal strip-mined at this location. 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 past mining of the Weir-Pittsburg coal present several miles northeast 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 concern. Basically, future mining should not disturb the area of your proposed reclamation effort and you should continue with your reclamation plans. Best wishes with correction of the recognized hazards on this proposed reclamation project.

The above discussion represents our best assessment based on the information that the Kansas Geological Survey has about this locality and/or proposed project at the time of this writing. Other geologic conditions, not discussed herein, or for which the Kansas Geological Survey has no knowledge, may affect the viability or safe operation of the reclamation of this property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lawrence L. Brady". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name and title.

Lawrence L. Brady  
Senior Scientist



K A N S A S

RODERICK L. BREMBY, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

February 9, 2007

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

FCF7corners:C3

Re: Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation  
7 Corners Project, PAD KS-0229  
E2 SW Section 32, T. 32 S., R. 22 E., Cherokee County, Kansas

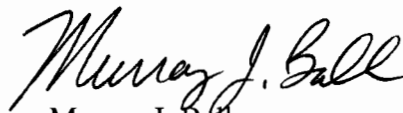
Dear Mr. Gerhard:

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Surface Mining Section (SMS) has selected a hazardous problem area to be reclaimed at an abandoned surface coal mine site located in Cherokee County, northwest of Hallowell, Kansas. The area is outlined on the attached copy of a portion of the Oswego, KS, USGS Quadrangle map. It is located along and east of the county road (NW 110<sup>th</sup>) in the East Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 32, Township 32 South, Range 22 East.

The reclamation work being planned at the site by the Surface Mining Section consists of filling the ends of the pits along the east side of the road to minimize the hazards typically associated with abandoned mine highwall. As such, the SMS is 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 or comments, please feel free to call Mr. Marvin Barnaby, me, at (620) 231-8450.

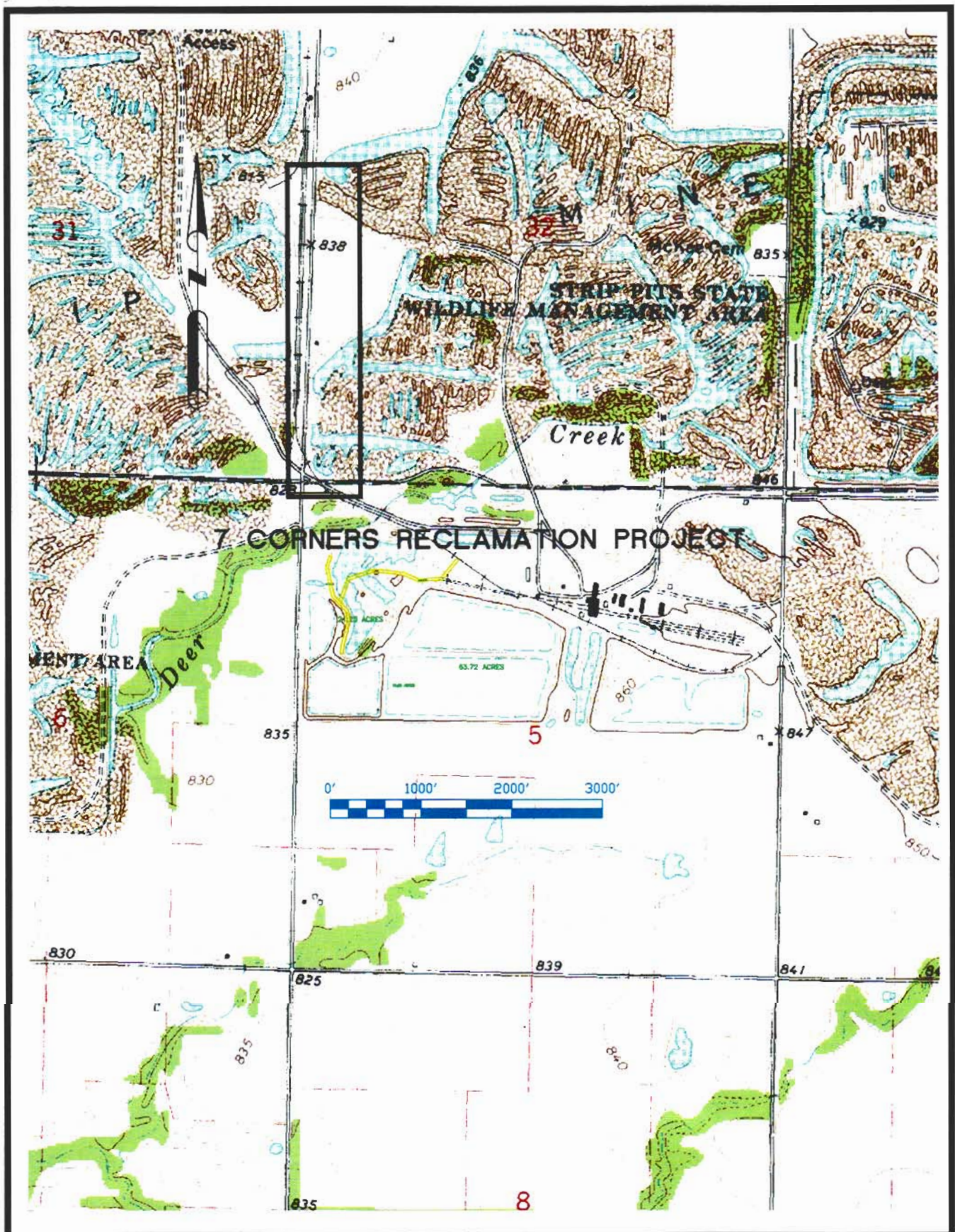
Sincerely,

  
Murray J. Balk,  
Section Chief

FCF/MJB:sjd  
Enclosure  
Cc: TW, MNS

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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>



KDHE - Surface Mining Section, Engineering

Project: 7 CORNERS PROJECT (KS-0229)

For: NEPA Agency Review

Date: Feb. 9, 2007

Description: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

By: FCF

Location: W2 SW Section 32-32-22 E; Oswego, KS Quad.

Drawing: 7Corners\_map(oswegoqud.dwg)