

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

The University of Kansas
1930 Constant Ave
Lawrence KS 66047-3726
phone 785-864-3965
fax 785-864-5317
www.kgs.ku.edu

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
Highway 400 Project, PAD KS-0408
N/2 NE/4 Sec. 20 and the S/2 SE/4 SE/4, Sec. 17, T. 31 S., R. 24 E.
Crawford and Cherokee Counties., Kansas

Dear Murray:

I have reviewed the information that you recently sent to the Kansas Geological Survey concerning the proposed reclamation site titled the "Highway 400 Project" (KS-0408), located on Crawford-Cherokee County line. This site location is approximately 1.5 miles east of the City of Cherokee, Kansas.

These strip-pit 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. This coal bed is 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 Mineral coal. The Mineral coal is the most important coal strip-mined in this general area. 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 80 feet deeper than the Mineral coal at the proposed site is the Weir-Pittsburg coal bed that was deep-mined below portions of this proposed reclamation site.

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,



Lawrence L. Brady
Senior Scientist



K A N S A S

RODERICK L. BREMBY, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR

February 12, 2007

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

FCFhwy400:C3

Re: Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
Highway 400 Project, PAD KS-0408
N2 NE Sec. 20 & S2 SE SE Sec. 17; T. 31 S.; R. 24 E.
Crawford and Cherokee Counties, Kansas

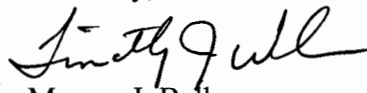
Dear Mr. Gerhard:

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 on the Crawford/Cherokee County line, east of Cherokee, Kansas. The area is outlined on the attached copy of a portion of the Cherokee, KS, USGS Quadrangle map. It is located along the north and south sides of U.S. Route 400, approximately one and one half miles east of Cherokee, Kansas.

The reclamation work being planned at the site by the Surface Mining Section consists of filling the ends of the pits along the north side of the road, and moving the pit along the south side of the road. 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.

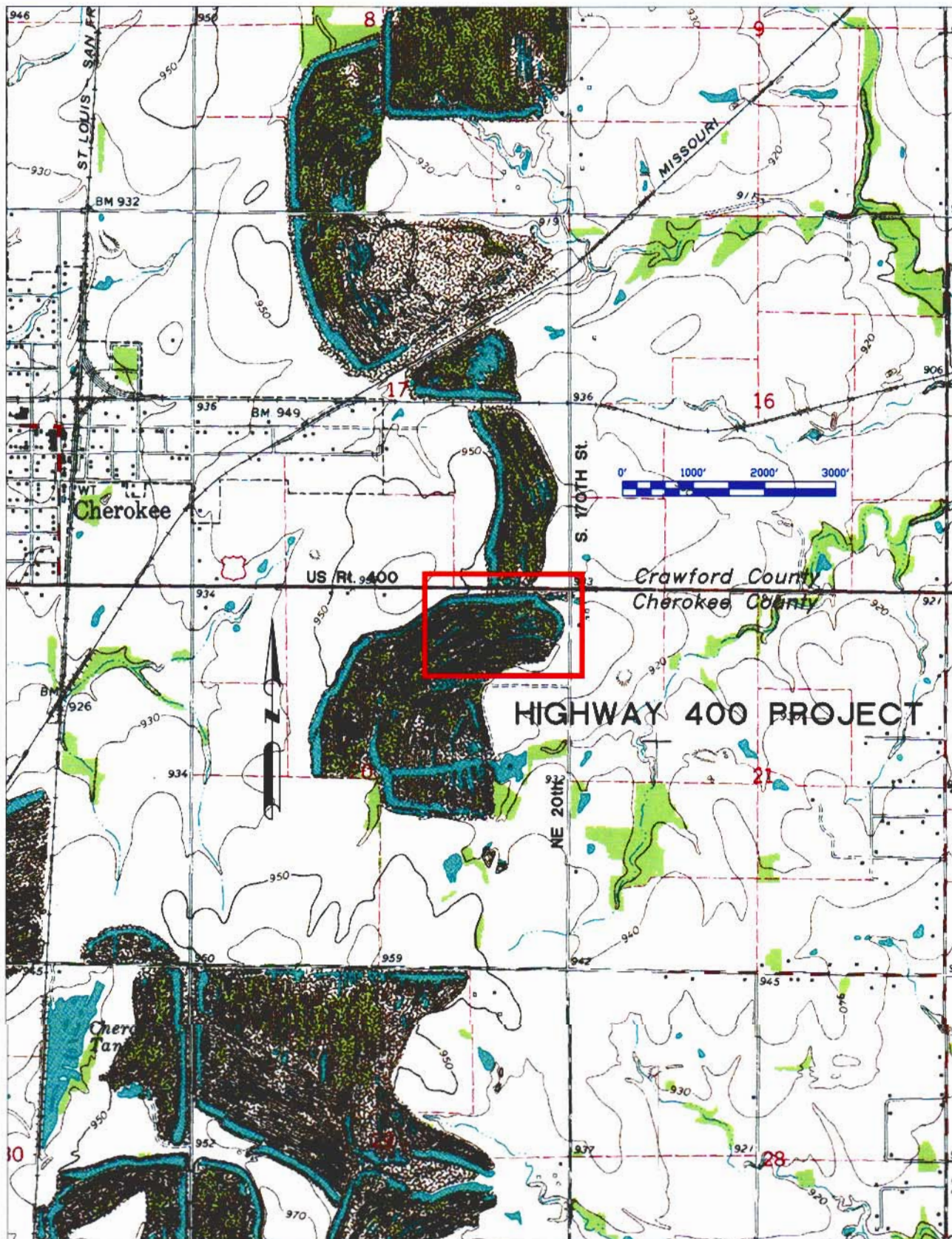
Sincerely,


for 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.kdheks.gov>



KDHE - Surface Mining Section, Engineering

For: NEPA Agency Review

Description: PROJECT LOCATION MAP

Location: N2 NE Sec.20 & S2 SE SE SEC.17; T. 31 S.; R. 24 E.; Cherokee, KS Quad.

Project: HIGHWAY 400 PROJECT (KS-0408)

Date: Feb. 12, 2007

By: FCF

Drawing: hwy400_map(cherokeeqd.dwg)