

NORTH DAKOTA'S BOND RELEASE VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS¹

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Abstract: North Dakota's Surface Coal Mining regulatory program has four phases or stages of bond release. Under Phase I, forty percent of the bond for an area may be released for the completion of backfilling, grading and drainage control. For Phase II an additional twenty percent of the bond may be released for completion of topsoil and subsoil respread. Under Phase III additional bond may be released for vegetation establishment but the Public Service Commission must retain sufficient funds to cover third-party revegetation and associated costs for managing the property for the 10-year revegetation responsibility period. Phase IV is final bond release where all reclamation responsibilities are relinquished and the bond is reduced accordingly. This presentation outlines the requirements for each of these four phases of bond release.

¹ Workshop Presentation **Challenges of Bond Release for Western U.S. Coal Mining Bond Release Panel Presentation** given at the 2011 National Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Bismarck, ND *Reclamation: Sciences Leading to Success* June 11 - 16, 2011. R.I. Barnhisel (Ed.) Published by ASMR, 3134 Montavesta Rd., Lexington, KY 40502.

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