

News Release



Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement
A Bureau of the U. S. Department of the Interior

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Plan to Add Approximately 160 Acres of Federal Coal to Falkirk Mine Mining Plan Approved Following Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Action authorizes the mining of approximately 2.2 million tons and adds seven months to the life of the mine.

WASHINGTON – The Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals Management has issued an approved mining plan modification to add approximately 160 acres to the approved mining plan area of the Falkirk Mine in McLean County, ND.

The action would add approximately seven months to the life of the mine, authorizing the mining of approximately 2.2 million tons of Federal coal. The surface facility is located about four miles south of Underwood and 45 miles north of Bismarck, North Dakota and currently employs 530 people. The mine is projected to produce an average range is 3.4 to 4.2 million tons per year.

The U.S. Department of the Interior's [Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement \(OSMRE\)](#) prepared *The Falkirk Mining Company ½ Section 10 Federal Coal Mining Plan Serial Number: NDM 107039 Supplemental Environmental Assessment March 2018*. The ASLM mining plan approval, Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact are available at: <https://www.wrcc.osmre.gov/programs/federalLands/NEPA.shtm>.

The Falkirk permit provides for a post-mine land use of cropland, fish and wildlife habitat, and native grassland which will continue with this modification. The North Dakota Public Service Commission holds a reclamation performance bond in the amount of \$ 88,700,000 on the site. Reclamation performance bonds are held to ensure that post-mining reclamation of the site is carried out if a company cannot carry out its legally required reclamation obligations.

The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) carries out the requirements of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 in cooperation with states and tribes. OSMRE's objectives are to ensure that coal mining activities are conducted in a manner that protects citizens and the environment during mining, to ensure that the land is restored to beneficial use after mining, and to mitigate the effects of past mining by aggressively pursuing reclamation of abandoned coal mines.

