

**Golder Associates Inc.**  
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December 12, 2007

Our Ref.: 063-2174

<Insert Name here>  
<Insert Street Address here>  
<Insert City, State Zip

Attention: Water Well/Spring Owner

**RE: SOUTH HEART PROJECT – WELL/SPRING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM**

Dear Water Well/Spring Owner,

Golder Associates Inc. (Golder), on behalf of South Heart Coal LLC (SHC), is writing this letter to request your assistance in completing a well/spring certification program in the South Heart area.

As you may know, SHC is working to develop a surface coal mine just west and south of South Heart (See Figure 1) as part of its South Heart Project (SHP). SHC is currently conducting extensive environmental baseline surveys in and around the proposed mine site and will use the results of that work in development of the mine plan and the corresponding mine permit application. The well/spring certification program is part of that effort.

**Purpose of the Well/Spring Certification Program**

All coal mines in North Dakota must complete a Well/Spring Certification Program. That program requires mine operators to provide notice to residents and property owners within one mile of the mine prior to operational activities. Upon notice, residents and/or well/spring owners may request a survey. The purpose of the survey is to determine the condition of wells and springs in the vicinity of the mine prior to mining activities. The completed survey data is provided to both the owner/resident and the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC).

The Well/Spring Certification Program is typically implemented after a mine receives its permit. However, the PSC has asked SHC to conduct the program in conjunction with other baseline environmental surveys. Toward that end, SHC is requesting your help to complete the Well/Spring Certification Program for the SHP.

Please note that this program will be implemented at no cost to you.

**Description of the SHP Well/Spring Certification Program and Requested Information**

Over the course of the next several months, personnel from Golder will be implementing the Well/Spring Certification Program. Our step-by-step approach to implementing the program is:

1. Identify well/spring owners within approximately one mile of the proposed mine permit boundary using available public records;
2. Notify identified well/spring owners of the Well/Spring Certification Program;
3. Complete the Well/Spring Questionnaire;
4. Schedule a site visit by Golder to conduct the well/spring survey;

5. Conduct the survey, which may include documenting the location and condition of the well/spring, well/spring construction, pump data, water quality, and pumping capability;
6. Prepare Certification Reports for owner/resident signature; and
7. Transmit the final Certification Report(s) to the owner/resident and to the PSC.

Step 1 has been completed and we have identified you as a potential well/spring owner within approximately one mile of the mine permit boundary. This letter is being transmitted to notify you of the program (Step 2) and to request your assistance in completing the Well/Spring Questionnaire (Step 3). You can help by completing as much of the enclosed questionnaire as you can and returning it to us in the enclosed prepaid envelope. We may have included the information about your well/spring that was available in the public records. Please be sure to review that information for accuracy and make corrections directly on the questionnaire.

If you would like assistance in completing the questionnaire, please contact us at (800) 235-7784 and ask to speak to one of the South Heart Well Certification Coordinators. The Coordinator will use the information provided by you over the phone and complete the questionnaire for you. You can also contact the Coordinator to schedule the Step 4 well /spring survey for your well/spring.

One of the Coordinators will contact you by phone to determine if you are currently using a well. In addition, we will be in South Heart after the beginning of the year to help you complete your questionnaire, if needed. The Step 6 Certification Report will be prepared for your signature at the completion of the site visit and a copy of the signed report will be mailed to you (Step 7) within 2 weeks of the site visit.

Please feel free to contact Golder at (800) 235-7784 and ask for a South Heart Well Certification Coordinator if you have questions regarding the questionnaire or the Well/Spring Certification Program. You can also contact the North Dakota Public Service Commission (701-328-4096) and ask to speak to a hydrogeologist in the Reclamation Division if you have any questions regarding the SHP Well/Spring Certification Program. In addition, the PSC web site (<http://www.psc.state.nd.us/jurisdiction/reclamation.html>), the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) 38-14.1-24-13e (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/cencode/t38c141.pdf>), and North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 69-05.2-17-02 (<http://www.legis.nd.gov/information/acdata/pdf/69-05.2-17.pdf>) contain information about the program and mine permitting in general.

Thank you very much for your help in this matter.

Sincerely,

**GOLDER ASSOCIATES INC.**



Ed Pottorff  
Senior Project Hydrogeologist



Jill Parisi  
Staff Engineer

Attached: Figure 1 South Heart Project Location Map

EJP/JMP/kag



## Water Well/Spring Questionnaire

Golder Associates Inc.  
44 Union Blvd, Suite 300  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
(303) 980-0540

Owner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Owner's Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Well No. 1

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Drilled: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Casing Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Pump Installed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Type of Pump: Submersible  
Well In-Service?: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Use: Household: \_\_\_ Irrigation: \_\_\_\_\_ Stock: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Quality Analyses Available: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### Well No. 2

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Drilled: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Casing Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Pump Installed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Type of Pump: Submersible  
Well In-Service?: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Use: Household: \_\_\_ Irrigation: \_\_\_\_\_ Stock: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Quality Analyses Available: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### Well No. 3

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Drilled: \_\_\_\_\_ Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ feet Casing Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
Pump Installed: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Type of Pump: Submersible  
Well In-Service?: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Use: Household: \_\_\_ Irrigation: \_\_\_\_\_ Stock: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: Please Specify \_\_\_\_\_  
Water Quality Analyses Available: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### Spring No. 1

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please describe improvements (e.g., spring box with valve) \_\_\_\_\_  
Average Flow Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ gpm Does spring flow all year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Water Quality Analyses Available: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### Spring No. 2

Location: Township: \_\_\_\_\_ Range: \_\_\_\_\_ Section: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please describe improvements (e.g., spring box with valve) \_\_\_\_\_  
Average Flow Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ gpm Does spring flow all year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Water Quality Analyses Available: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_