

**BURKE COUNTY**

Planning Unit 096: AML Printout #320: T162N, R93W, Section 24

Additional Legal Location: See Notes, below

Name:

Owner:

Truax Coal Co.

A.H. & E.M. Truax

Category: Commercial/regional and local

Type: Surface (strip)

Overburden:	Coal Seam:	Thickness Mined:	Source:
25 ft.	8 ft.	no data	CMID:1926

Cultural Resource Site Number: Not formally recorded

Basic Data (excerpted from primary sources):

This mine is not listed as a new mine in 1922; however, since the Truax brothers moved their operation from Divide County to Burke County in about 1918, and began developing this mine following that time, it is possible that the mine was not in active lignite production until 1922. A Great Northern Railroad map (1920) indicates that the Truax Coal Company maintained part of a railroad spur that lead from Kincaid (3.5 mi. from the mine); the Truax Coal Co. and the Whittier-Crockett Coal Co. maintained adjacent sections of this spur. According to a former employee of the Truax Coal Co., a mine camp was developed in the vicinity of the mine; this camp was comprised of from 30 to 40 dwellings and a complex that included a cook shack and bunkhouse with a capacity for about 50 persons. The 1926 CMID indicates that "This is amongst the largest stripping mines in the state. Overburden is stripped by modern steam shovels, three shovels are in use. One Bucyrus 3 1/2 yards, one Bucyrus 2 yards, and one Bucyrus 1 1/2 yards capacity. Coal is hauled to the tipple by narrow gauge engines, the company having five engines in use. The coal cars are substantially built having a side dumping arrangement... Mechanical loaders are used in the box cars." In 1927, the Truax brothers merged with Glen W. Traer (a pioneer in the fuel business from Chicago), and the Truax-Traer Coal Co. was developed. The last mine production listing for the Truax Coal Co. is in the 1927 CMID, which lists the mine's production separately, and lists only the Truax-Traer Coal Mines in the Summary of Inspection. The Whittier Coal Co. also merged with the Truax-Traer Coal Co. in 1927, and beginning in 1928 lignite production from the former two mines is included under Truax-Traer Coal Co. (see description of the Whittier Coal Co.--page 6a--and of the Truax-Traer Coal Co.--page 6g).

Descriptive information pertaining to this mine is included in:

Truax Coal Co. (continued)

[source:year(pages)]

CMID:1926(24)

DSKS:1984(Vol.II,112-114)

Notes:

Planning Unit 096, AML location 320 describes 162 93 24; however, the Priority Site correlated with AML #320 lists the legal description 162 93 19. Since it appears likely that AML 320 actually should describe 162 93 19 (Kjos and Schreiner 1984) and the Truax-Traer Coal Co. (and possibly the Truax Coal Co.) was situated at 162 93 19, information about this mine has been included here.

The Whitter-Crockett Coal Co. and the Truax-Traer Coal Co. also are located at 162 93 19 (Priority Site #4, and likely Planning Unit 096, AML location 320), and a Diamond Lignite Mine may have been located at Planning Unit 096, AML location 320 (162 93 24).

Sources (primary and secondary):

CMID:see table, next page, for appropriate years  
DSKS:1984(Volume II,112-114)  
Fargo Forum:1924(17 November), 1926(6 October)  
Great Northern Railroad Map:1920  
Lemmerman:1974(33)  
North Dakota History:1977(Vol.44, #4, 11, 13-14)  
School of Mines:1927

Mine: Truax Coal Co.

Planning Unit: 096  
AML Number: 320\*\*\*

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Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons		Owner or Superintendent*
					Local Trade	Tons Shipped	
1922	122	40	2.50	41,000	200	40,800	A.H. Truax**
1923	"steady"	55	2.75	109,800	none	109,800	E.M. Truax**
1924	365	60	2.10	135,060	none	136,060	A.H. Truax**
1925	300	60	1.81	195,271	500	194,771	E.M. Truax**
1926	310	75	1.90	171,804	200	171,604	A.H. Truax**
1927	60	no data	1.79	68,680	none	68,680	A.H. Truax**

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\*Unless otherwise indicated, name listed is that of owner.

\*\*Individual was superintendent of the mine; owner not listed.

\*\*\*See Notes included with description of Truax Coal Co.