

MERCER COUNTY

Planning Unit 064: AML Printout #150: T144N, R87W, Section 7
Planning Unit 064: AML Printout #582: T144N, R87W, Section 9
Planning Unit 064: AML Printout #149: T144N, R88W, Section 12

Additional Legal Location: T144N, R87W, Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 16,
17, 18, 20, 21, and 23
T144N, R88W, Sections 12, 13, and 25

Name:

Owner:

Black Diamond Coal Mine (1915)
Beulah Coal Mine (1917-1922)
Knife River Coal Mining Co. (aka Knife
River Mining Co., Knife River Coal Mine,
Knife River Coal Co.) (1923-1974)

Charles Semmler (1915)
M. M. Mounts (1916)
Beulah Coal & Mining Co.
(1917-1918)
Beulah Coal Mining Co.
(1918-1922)
Knife River Coal Mining Co.
(1922-1923)
United Public Utilities
(1923-1927)
United Public Service Com-
pany (1927-1929)
Insull Interests (1929-
unknown) possibly managed
by North Dakota Power &
Light & Company (1929-
1931); managed by North-
western Public Service
Company (1931-unknown)
Montana Dakota Utilities
Company (1945-unknown)

Category: Industrial/local and Commercial/regional

Type: Underground, shaft single entry (1915); Underground, shaft, double
entry (1917-1922); Underground, drift and slope, double entry, room and
pillar (1923-1953); Strip (surface) (1952-1974)

		Thickness	
Overburden:	Coal Seam:	Mined:	Source:
46-100 ft.	11 ft.	7 ft.	SEBR:1916
40-100 ft.	12-14 ft.	8 ft.	SEBR:1918
No data	No data	10 ft.	CMID:1926

Basic Data (excerpted from primary sources):

In 1915, Chas. Semmler began developing an underground shaft mine,
called the Black Diamond Coal Mine, in T144N, R88W, Section 25, NE,
SW (near, but not identified by Planning Unit 066, AML location
159--T144N, R88W, Section 25, SE, SW). M.M. Mounts purchased this

Knife River Coal Mining Co. (continued)

parcel of land in 1916, and in 1917 Mounts, Hughes, Pettibone and Little organized the Beulah Coal & Mining Company. This company became the Beulah Coal Mining Co. in 1918, and it apparently owned that portion of T144N, R88W, Section 25 on which the Beulah Coal Mine was situated from 1919 through 1922. The 1918 SEBR indicates that a "power house is situated at the mine and all main haulage ways are electric lighted," and two water pumps used in the mine were driven electrically. Additionally, the mine was entered by a two-compartment shaft--one compartment contained a stairway and the other a hoist--and a ladder was provided in the mine's air shaft. From 1918 through 1919, the mine produced coal from the upper vein of coal. In 1920 an attempt was begun to mine a lower vein of coal, because the upper vein was nearly exhausted and the mine was experiencing water problems at this level. From 1921 through 1922, the mine produced coal from the lower vein; however, in 1921 the mine was condemned, because of poor ventilation, inadequate timbering, and water problems. No listings were noted for the Beulah Coal Mine following 1922.

The Knife River Mining Company organized in 1922, taking over the Beulah Coal Mine buildings and apparently the power plant operated by the Beulah Coal Mine, and began operating a mine in T144N, R88W, Sections 12 and/or 13 in 1923. A WCB map indicates that the mine had extended into T144N, R88W, Sections 12 and 13, and T144N, R87W, Sections 7 and 18 by 1926. It is not known when or if the Beulah Coal Mine power plant ceased operations; however, the Hughes Electric Company built a power plant at Beulah in 1925, which was supplied coal by the Knife River Mining Company. Since electric equipment was used in the mine, it is possible that the Beulah Coal Mine power plant remained in operation to supply the mine's electricity. The Hughes power plant eventually supplied electricity to Beulah, Mandan, Bismarck, to communities from Beulah to Kildeer, and to communities from Beulah to Dickinson. Montana-Dakota Utilities purchased this plant in 1945, and constructed the Dakota Station under agreement with Dakota Electric Cooperative, Inc. (a group composed of 14 Rural Electric Association Cooperatives in North Dakota and South Dakota). At about this time, the power plant began to supply electricity to electric cooperatives as well as to communities.

In 1952, the Knife River Mining Co. began a stripping operation, presumably in T144N, R88W, Sections 7 and 18; the company operated both the underground and the strip mines in 1952 and 1953, when the underground operation was closed. By 1954, the stripping operation included T144N, R87W, Sections 16, 17, 20 and 21, and by 1960 it extended into T144N, R87W, Sections 8 and 9. In about 1963, a new unit was developed south of the community of Beulah (presumably in T143N), which eventually extended into Oliver County--this unit apparently became known as the South Unit, while the areas-in T144N became known as the North Unit. CMID production figures from 1965 through 1974 include the combined production of both the North and South units of the mine. According to a 1965 WCB map, the North

Knife River Coal Mining Co. (continued)

unit of the mine had extended into T144N, R88W, Sections 5 and 6 by that time, and it is assumed that the mine extended into Section 4 at some point following 1965.

Descriptive information pertaining to this mine is included in:

[source:year(pages)]

CMID:1920(21)	WCB Map:1950
CMID:1921(23)	WCB Map:1951
CMID:1926(43-44)	WCB Map:1952
Dettman:1964	WCB Map:1953
Heinemeyer:1932	WCB Map:1954a,b
HASI:1983a(37-55, Plates 1-3)	WCB Map:1955a,b
Jacobs:1975	WCB Map:1956a,b
SEBR:1916(139)	WCB Map:1957
SEBR:1918(149)	WCB Map:1958a,b
SHSND:NDCRS Site Files (32ME574)	WCB Map:1959a,b
WCB Map:1926	WCB Map:1960a,b
WCB Map:1937	WCB Map:1961a,b
WCB Map:1939	WCB Map:1962a,b,c
WCB Map:1942	WCB Map:1963
WCB Map:1943	WCB Map:1964a,b
WCB Map:1944	WCB Map:1965a,b,c,d,e
WCB Map:1946	WCB Map:1966a,b,c
WCB Map:1947	WCB Map:1967a,b
WCB Map:1948a,b	WCB Map:1968

Notes:

The portion of the Knife River Mining Company mine included in that area recorded as cultural resource site 32ME574 includes T144N, R88W, Section 25; NE, SE, W1/2; NE, SW, E1/2; and SE, NE, NW. This area contains related mine and power plant structures, and at least portions of the abandoned underground Beulah Coal Mine; however, it is not identified by any Planning Unit or AML location.

The Kessler Coal Mine also is located at Planning Unit 064, AML location 149 (T144N, R88W, Section 12).

Sources (primary and secondary):

Brant:1953(28)
Carlson and Laird:1964(9)
CMID:see table, next page, for appropriate years
Dettman:1964
Gauger et al.:1928a(3), 1928b(4), 1930(3)
Groenewold et al.:1979
Harrington:1934a(11)
Harrington et al.:1931(3)
Heinemeyer:1932
HASI:1983a(37-55, Plates 1-3)

Knife River Coal Mining Co. (continued)

Jacobs:1975

NDPSC:1973 (46)

Oihus:1978(65-67, 121-124, 131-132)

School of Mines:1927, 1930, n.d.(4)

SEBR:see table, next page, for appropriate years

SHSND:NDCRS Site Files (32ME574)

Van Sant and Ellman:1959

Wiebmer:1977

WCB:see appropriate years above

Mine: Black Diamond Coal Mine (1915)
 Beulah. Coal Mine (1917-1922)
 Knife River Coal Mining Co.
 (aka Knife River Mining Co.,
 Knife River Coal Mine, Knife
 Knife River Coal Co.) (1923-1974)

Planning Unit: 064
 AML Number: 150
 Planning Unit: 064
 AML Number: 582
 Planning Unit: 064
 AML Number: 149

Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons Local Trade	Tons Shipped	Owner or Superintendent*
1915	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	no data	Chas. Semmler
1915	"new mine"						
1917	48	19	2.25	3,783	none	3,783	Beulah Coal & Mining Co.
1919	200	53	no data	52,121	no data	no data	A.G. Morton**
1920	194	52	no data	76,494	1,006	75,488	George Morton**
1921	275	145	2.79	66,618	6,611	60,007	C.T. Sponsel**
1921	"condemned"						
1922	262	167	3.40	64,933	361	54,470	C.E. Ryan**
1923	171	91	2.50	40,144	2,833	37,311	M.M. Mounts**
1923	"new mine"						
1924	229	87	1.99	94,618	4,638	89,980	M.M. Mounts**
1925	230	114	1.80	123,703	3,985	119,718	M.M. Mounts**
1926	187	149	1.83	203,053	5,240	197,813	M.M. Mounts**
1927	182	157	1.64	230,368	7,047	223,321	M.M. Mounts**
1928	230	190	1.53	284,185	19,441	264,744	M.M. Mounts**
1929	237	220	1.56	318,964	31,560	287,404	M.M. Mounts**
1930	239	220	1.55	315,956	37,712	278,244	M.M. Mounts**
1931	218	206	1.33	293,452	41,934	251,518	M.M. Mounts**
1932	219	206	1.23	317,836	47,678	270,158	M.M. Mounts**
1934	260	198	1.19	264,282	54,919	209,363	M.M. Mounts**
1933	219	197	1.12	311,287	53,075	258,212	M.M. Mounts**
1935	199	165	1.19	264,400	59,271	205,129	M.M. Mounts**
1936	158	102	1.09	219,437	35,955	183,482	M.M. Mounts**
1937	219	110	1.04+	278,582	65,163	213,419	M.M. Mounts**
1938	228	108	1.16+	301,165	72,882,	228,283	M.M. Mounts**
1939	224	108	1.17+	303,776	75,121	228,655	M.M. Mounts**
1940	219	108	1.16+	308,951	75,894	233,057	M.M. Mounts**
1941	234	108	1.15	324,916	74,218	250,698	M.M. Mounts**
1942	254	108	1.20+	362,306	82,388	279,918	M.M. Mounts**
1943	309	108	1.29+	379,880	83,430+	296,499+	M.M. Mounts**
1944	319	120	1.24+	305,074	84,284	220,790	M.M. Mounts**
1945	306	117	1.31+	335,843	88,997	246,846	M.M. Mounts**
1946	302	124	1.41+	283,110	83,566	199,544	M.M. Mounts**
1947	310	105	1.65+	341,593	89,181	252,412	M.M. Mounts**

Knife River Coal Mining Co. (continued)

Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons		Owner or Superintendent*
					Local Trade	Tons Shipped	
1948	272	128	1.89	384,272	90,195	294,077	M.M. Mounts**
1949	271	128	2.15+	387,093	86,048	301,045	M.M. Mounts**
1950	296	125	2.11+	418,295	100,935	317,360	M.M. Mounts**
1951	296	122	2.18	455,097	129,727	325,370	M.M. Mounts**
1952	233	102	2.29+	380,408	99,184	281,224	A.S. Kane**
1953	216	60	2.24	311,173	72,560	238,613	A.S. Kane**
1954	218	53	2.23+	333,832	67,019	240,764	R.W. Easton**
1955	245	53	2.08	379,986	58,661	317,437	R.W. Easton**
1956	228	44	2.16	387,837	51,415	336,422	R.W. Easton**
1957	215	43	2.10	387,523	70,312	317,211	R.W. Easton**
1958	213	45	2.07	383,737	84,174	299,627	R.W. Easton**
1959	192	45	2.09	386,740	51,869	330,749	R.W. Easton**
1960	213	47	2.04	561,472	65,984	495,488	R.W. Easton**
1961	266	46	2.01	627,807	66,659	550,055	R.W. Easton**
1962	257	47	1.99	687,411	90,467	599,188	R.W. Easton**
1962/64	462	56	1.95	1,454,850	170,529	1,280,420	R.W. Easton**
1965t	250	74	1.88	1,040,093	63,033	961,762	R.W. Easton**
1966t	239	64	1.86	1,070,987	54,987	1,027,305	R.W. Easton**
1967t	239	62	1.88	1,193,890	46,528	1,140,312	R.W. Easton**
1968t	250	67	1.82	1,258,831	63,420	1,191,850	R.W. Easton**
1969t	no data	71	no data	1,350,811	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1970t	no data	78	no data	1,483,025	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1971t	no data	70	no data	1,497,391	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1972t	no data	70	no data	1,473,096	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1973t	no data	72	no data	1,585,769	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1974t	no data	80	no data	1,800,709	no data	no data	H.H. Scherbinske**
1974	North Unit closed in 1974.						

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

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

t Production figures represent combined production from the North and South units of the mine.