

**MERCER COUNTY**

Planning Unit 061: AML Printout #616: T144N, R88W, Section 31

Additional Legal Location: T143N, R88W, Section 6; T144N, R88W, Sections 19, 20, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33; T144N, R89W, Sections 24, 25 and 36

Name:

Zap Colliery Company (aka Co.) (1922-1938)  
Dakota Collieries Company (aka Co.) (1938-1954)  
Indian Head (Dak. Collieries) (1955-1958)  
Dakota Collieries Co. (Indian Head) (1959)  
Indianhead (aka Indian Head Mine)  
(North American Coal Corp.) (1960-1964)  
North Am. Coal Corp. (Indianhead)  
(1965-1968, 1970)  
North American Coal Corp. (1969, 1971-1972)  
Indian Head (1973- )

Owner:

Republic Coal Co. (1922-1956) (possibly)  
North American Coal Company  
(1957- )

Category: Industrial/local and Commercial/regional and local

Type: Strip (surface)

		Thickness	
Overburden:	Coal Seam:	Mined:	Source:
30 ft.	11 ft.	No data	CMID:1926

Cultural Resource Site Number: 32ME502 (see Notes, below)

Basic Data (excerpted from primary sources):

The Republic Coal Co. of Minneapolis started developing the Zap Colliery Co. in 1922. The entire power and other mining equipment from Republic Coal Co.'s Midway Coal Co. (near Burlington, Ward County, North Dakota and situated at Planning Unit 100, AML location 296) were to be moved to the Zap Colliery Co, and both strip mining and underground mining were proposed. The Zap Colliery Mine Camp, developed to house miners and their families, was developed and opened in the same year.

The mine apparently began operations in T144N, R89W, Section 24, where the Zap Colliery Mine Camp and other mine-related structures were located. Information noted on WCB maps indicates that the stripping operations extended from T144N, R89W, Section 24 to T144N, R88W, Sections 30 and 31; then to T144N, R89W Sections 25 and 36; then to T144N, R88W, Sections 19, 20, 29, 32, and 33. However, this

order was not stated specifically, and the dates at which extensions were made are not known definitely.

The Zap Colliery Co. mine (later Dakota Collieries Co., Indian Head Mine, and North American Coal Company) has been operated from 1923 through the present. The company also operated an underground mine, known as the Dakota Mines Corp., from 1935 through 1938; production statistics for the Dakota Mines Corp. are provided on a separate table following production figures for the Zap Colliery Co. mine. The location at which the Dakota Mines Corp. mine was operated is not known; however, it is likely that it was situated within one or more of the sections listed above. The Zap Colliery Co. also leased the Lucky Strike Coal Co./Dakota Colliery Co. from about 1931 apparently until 1938, when the Lucky Strike Coal Co./Dakota Colliery Co. no longer was operating (the Lucky Strike Coal Co./Dakota Colliery Co. was situated at Planning Unit 061, AML location 118--T144N, R89W, Section 23, SW, SE--immediately west of the area in which the Zap Colliery Mine Camp was located). Coal from the Zap Colliery Co. mine was sold under the tradename "Indian Head," and the mine eventually became known as the Indian Head mine.

The Zap Colliery Mine Camp was used actively from 1922 through 1950, and housed a maximum of from 50 to 70 families. The mine company supplied water, sewage facilities, and electricity to the miners residing at the mine camp. The camp apparently was disbanded after miners joined the Progressive Miners' Union in about 1949 or 1950; however, the camp was used successfully for a longer number of years than any other similar facility known in the state of North Dakota.

At least portions of the coal used or sold locally by the Zap Colliery Co. was used to generate electric power. The year in which a power generation facility was developed at or near the mine is not known, but the 1926 CMID is the first report that indicates that part of the coal sold locally was "used at the plant," and electrically-powered equipment had been used at the mine for some number of years.

Descriptive information pertaining to this mine is included in:

[source:year(pages)]

CMID: 1926 (43)	WCB Map:1938-1944
Heinemeyer:1932	WCB Map:1938-1945
HASI:1981	WCB Map:1938-1946
HASI:1982	WCB Map:1938-1947
Oihus:1978(102, 115)	WCB Map:1938-1948
SHSND:NDCRS Site Files (32ME502)	WCB Map:1938-1950
WCB Map:1923	WCB Map:1938-1967
WCB Map:1938	WCB Map:1939-1941
WCB Map:1939	WCB Map:1939-1942
WCB Map:1940	WCB Map:1939-1949
WCB Map:1938-1942	WCB Map:1953
WCB Map:1938-1943	WCB Map:1954

Zap Colliery Co./Dakota Collieries/Indian Head Mine (continued)

WCB Map:1957	Zap Enterprise: 1922 (19 May)
WCB Map:1961	Zap Enterprise:1922 (6 June)
WCB Map:1966	Zap Enterprise: 1922 (6 Sept.)
WCB Map:1967	Zap Enterprise:1922 (22 Sept.)
WCB Map:1968	

Notes:

The resource recorded as site 32ME502 includes the area of the Zap Colliery Mine Camp, in T144N, R89W, Section 24, NE, NE, SW; NE, SE, SE; and NE, SE, W1/2. This location is not identified by any Planning Unit and AML location.

It should be noted that there is more than one copy of the majority of WCB maps listed above, and that the various copies delineate various portions of the area mined by the Zap Colliery Co./Dakota Collieries/Indian Head mine.

Sources (primary and secondary):

Brant:1953(28)  
Carlson and Laird:1964(18)  
CMID:see table, next page, for appropriate years  
General County Highway Map, Mercer County:1975  
Heinemeyer:1932  
HASI:1982  
NDPSC:1973(46)  
Oihus:1978(102, 115)  
SHSND:NDCRS Site Files (32ME502)  
Wiebmer:1977(24-35)  
WCB:see appropriate years listed above  
Zap Enterprise:1922a, 1922b, 1922c, 1922d

Mine: Zap Colliery Company (aka Co.) (1922-1938)  
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 Dakota Collieries Co. (Indian Head) (1959)  
 Indianhead (aka Indian Head Mine) (North American Coal Corp.) (1960-1964)  
 North Am. Coal Corp. (Indianhead) (1965-1968, 1970)  
 North American Coal Corp. (1969, 1971-1972)  
 Indian Head (1973- )

Planning Unit: 061  
 AML Number: 616

Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons Local Trade	Tons Shipped	Owner or Superintendent*
1922	new mine						
1923	291	65	2.39	65,526.25	73	65,526.25	H.M. Graves**
1924	206	51	1.99	73,296	76	72,053	H.M. Graves**
1925	194	56	1.60	95,989	179	95,588	H.M. Graves**
1926	117	49	1.53	91,088	840	90,248	H.M. Graves**
1927	208	56	1.64	120,271	204	120,067	H.M. Graves**
1928	215	48	1.58	149,976	458	149,518	H.M. Graves**
1929	284	65	1.69	155,651	535	155,116	H.M. Graves**
1930	280	72	1.78	143,926	1,015	142,911	H.M. Graves**
1931	296	47	1.56	115,917	149	115,768	H.M. Graves**
1932	189	65	1.56	128,574	2,969	125,605	H.M. Graves**
1933	173	125	1.25	122,909	683	124,218	H.M. Graves**
1934	276	140	1.44	126,361	769	124,772	H.M. Graves**
1935	134	114	1.52	137,148	965	136,183	H.M. Graves**
1936	242	115	1.29	99,582	1,303	98,279	H.M. Graves**
1937	275	112	1.22+	159,777.65	7,170.1	152,607.55	H.M. Graves**
1938	266	103	1.32+	147,542+	5,530	142,012+	H.M. Graves**
1939	270	122	1.21+	217,219	3,142	214,077.	H.M. Graves**
1940	254	133	1.22+	235,225	2,602	232,623	H.M. Graves**
1941	294	133	1.21+	251,196	3,062	248,134	H.M. Graves**
1942	291	144	1.32+	275,561+	5,431+	270,130+	H.M. Graves**
1943	342	105	1.44+	284,070	9,354+	274,716	Ralph Richardson**
1944	257	76	1.48	258,461	12,240+	none	Ralph Richardson**
1945	275	66	1.50+	262,886+	16,135+	246,751+	Ralph Richardson**
1946	245	67	1.55+	242,681+	10,914+	231,766+	Ralph Richardson**
1947	310	60	1.66	261,203+	6,945+	254,412+	Ralph Richardson**
1948	282	60	1.97+	297,378	6,467+	289,590+	Ralph Richardson**
1949	308	42	2.46	311,122+	4,601	306,521+	Ralph Richardson**
1950	141	38	2.51+	191,143	3,013+	185,704+	Ralph Richardson**

## Zap Colliery/Dakota Collieries/Indian Head Mine (continued)

Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons		Owner or Superintendent*
					Local Trade	Tons Shipped	
1951	254	40	2.53+	257,635+	3,752+	252,933+	Ralph Richardson**
1952	254	46	2.50+	282,181+	5,535+	277,286+	Ralph Richardson**
1953	234	40	2.47	290,029+	7,225+	281,389+	Ralph Richardson**
1954	175	35	2.42	303,721+	8,314+	293,397+	Ralph Richardson**
1955	179	35	2.36	314,485+	8,682+	305,977+	Ralph Richardson**
1956	210	35	2.4	347,539+	11,997+	336,691+	Earl Kanthack **
1957	158	35	2.4	293,602+	11,194+	285,657+	Earl Kanthack**
1958	121	35	2.47+	216,028	12,481	200,504	Earl Kanthack**
1959	138	33	2.48	215,690	10,926	205,389	F.A. Kanthack**
1960	147	37	2.42+	226,354	16,919	207,514	E.A. Kanthack**
1961	124	31	2.36+	212,157	13,066	198,244	E.A. Kanthack**
1962	135	39	2.42	193,714	16,737	178,224	E.A. Kanthack**
1962/64	190	29	2.32	324,289	34,641	289,763	E.A. Kanthack**
1965	83.5	30	2.51	86,332	20,235	65,938	E.A. Kanthack**
1966	135.5	30	2.01	195,426	24,709	165,714	E.A. Kanthack**
1967	177	42	1.7	392,206	23,615	372,585	E.A. Kanthack**
1968	283	41	1.53	939,884	22,188	915,880	George Koppi**
1969	no data	38	no data	977,399	no data	no data	George Koppi**
1970	no data	38	no data	965,268	no data	no data	George Koppi**
1971	no data	37	no data	994,627	no data	no data	George Koppi**
1972	no data	39	no data	965,751	no data	no data	Joe Mitzel**
1973	no data	41	no data	1,049,416	no data	no data	Joe Mitzel**
1974	no data	49	no data	1,195,831	no data	no data	Joe Mitzel**
1975	no data	70	no data	882,203	no data	no data	Joe Mitzel**
1976	no data	no data	no data	1,065,021	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t
1977	no data	no data	no data	983,266	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t
1978	no data	no data	no data	844,731	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t
1979	no data	no data	no data	1,058,729	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t
1980	no data	no data	no data	1,209,359	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t
1981	no data	no data	no data	1,058,330	no data	no data	North American Coal Corp. t

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

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

t Organization was operator of the mine; owner not listed.