

**WILLIAMS COUNTY**

Planning Unit 092: AML Printout #491: T154N, R100W, Section 8, NW

Additional Legal Location: Section 7, NE, SE (SEBR reports)  
Section 7, NE and Section 8, NW (1923 WCB)  
See Notes, below

Name:	Owner:
Government Coal Mine (1909-1913)	U.S. Government (1909-1926)
Reclamation Service Coal Mine (1914-1920)	Montana-Dakota Power Co.
U.S. Reclamation Service Mine (1921-1923)	(1926-1931)
Bureau of Reclamation Mine (1921-1925)	
U.S. Reclamation Mine (1926)	
Montana-Dakota Power Co. (1926-1931)	

Category: Industrial/local

Type: Underground, drift, double entries

Overburden:	Coal Seam:	Thickness Mined:	Source:
100 ft.	9 ft.	6 ft.	SEBR:1910, 1912
150 ft.	10 ft.	6 ft.	SEBR:1914
90 ft.	8-9 ft.	7 ft.	SEBR:1916
92 ft.	10 1/2 ft.	7 ft.	SEBR:1918
No data	8 ft.	6 ft.	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 1909, and it may have been in operation prior to that time. According to the 1910 SEBR, "Government borings indicate that there are three distinct beds of coal, each thick enough to possess commercial value. The first vein is nine feet thick and found at a depth of forty-five feet. Fifty feet beneath this is another vein nine feet in depth, in which the mine is located, and ninety feet beneath this another bed of about equal thickness is found. The present intention of the government is to continue mining in the lower bed until the coal is recovered to a point beneath the outcrop of the upper bed, after which mining will be begun on the upper bed. All of the upper bed within the property limits will be mined, after which operations may be resumed on the lower bed." Further, it was "the policy of the engineers in charge to drive the entry work as far as it was desired towards the limits of the property, and to work on a retreating scheme, robbing the pillars and letting the roof fall." Also according to the 1910 SEBR, "Two systems of mining are being tried out, namely, the stub entry system and the cross entry system. The result of this will illustrate the system most advantageous for the conditions which exist at this mine, and as these conditions are common in the majority of mines of the state, the outcome will be of considerable

Government/Montana-Dakota Power Mine (continued)

interest and importance." According to the 1912 SEBR, "The Government mine was closed down at the time inspection was made, as the entire output is used for power purposes during the irrigation season, and all of the coal is mined during the summer months." By early 1914, the main entry of the mine extended 1,149 ft.; rooms were 150 ft. by 15 ft. The 1914 SEBR also indicates that this mine was operated solely for the purpose of supplying a "power house" with fuel for pumping and water. "No sale of coal is made except to employees, to whom it is sold at the cost of mining plus the haulage." According to the 1916 SEBR, electricity produced at the "power plant" at this mine provided light to the city of Williston as well as being used for irrigation purposes. Additionally, electric fans had been installed in the mine. By early 1918, the main entry of the mine had been extended to 2,900 ft., and rooms were 200 ft. by 14 ft. The 1918 SEBR also explains that coal was hauled from the mine by mule and dumped into a crusher where it was crushed and "carried to the boiler room in the power plant by means of an endless chain carrier." According to the 1917 (July 15) Non-Partisan Leader, this mine was the "Only government owned coal in the United States." The U.S. Reclamation Service continued to operate this mine until 1926, during which year Montana-Dakota Power Co. took over the mine. Montana-Dakota Power Co. also operated the mine specifically to supply the power plant, which apparently also was taken over by Montana-Dakota Power Co. in 1926. Montana-Dakota Power Co. continued to operate the mine from 1926 through 1930; the mine is listed closed in 1931. No listings were noted for the mine following 1931. Since the mine is listed closed in 1931 it is likely that the mine was not operated following 1931.

Descriptive information pertaining to this mine is included in:

[source:year(pages)]

CMID:1926(61)

SEBR:1916(162)

SEBR:1910(103-104)

SEBR:1919(173)

SEBR:1912(125)

WCB Map:1923

SEBR:1914(148-149)

Notes:

This mine apparently was operated initially at T154N, R100W, Section 7, NE, SE (SEBR 1910, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918; Herald 1913; Leonard et al. 1925). It had extended into T154N, R100W, Section 8, NW by at least 1923, as indicated on a 1923 WCB map.

Sources (primary and secondary):

Bureau of Mines:1948(87)--information from 1928

CMID:see table, next page, for appropriate years

Gauger et al.:1928a(5)

Hancock:1921(19)

Herald:1921(19)

Leonard et al.:1925(154)

Government/Montana-Dakota Mine (continued)

Non-Partison Leader:1917(July 5)

School of Mines:1927, 1930, n.d.(6)

SEBR:see table, next page, for appropriate years

Wonder of Williams:1976(Vol.II, 1792)

WCB:1923

Mine: Government Coal Mine (1909-1913) Planning Unit: 092  
 Reclamation Service Coal Mine (1914-1920) AML Number: 491  
 U.S. Reclamation Service Mine (1921-1923)  
 Bureau of Reclamation Mine (1924-1925)  
 U.S. Reclamation Mine (1926)  
 Montana-Dakota Power Co. (1926-1931)

Year	Days Operated	Employees	Price Per Ton	Tons Produced	Tons Local Trade	Tons Shipped	Owner or Superintendent*
1909	no data	10	1.50	4,456	no	no	Williston Irrigation Project
1910	100	35	1.50	5,671	no	no	Williston Irrigation Project
1911	100	40	1.50	6,075	no	no	Williston Irrigation Project
1912t	126	3	1.50	1,456	no	no	U.S.R.S.
1913t	300	14	1.50	6,574	no	no	U.S.R.S.
1914t	325	12	1.50	9,072	no	no	U.S. Reclamation Service
1915t	283	5	1.73	6,618	no	no	U.S. Reclamation Service
1916t	325	6	1.75	7,657	no	no	U.S. Government
1917t	340	7	2.00	9,151	no	no	U.S. Government
1919	306	19	no data	14,011	no data	no data	Wm. S. Arthur**
1920	302	16	2.08	13,997	13,997	none	Wm. S. Arthur**
1921t	274	14	2.75	12,927	none	none	W.S. Arthur**
1922t	263	15	2.00	12,580	none	none	W.S. Arthur**
1923t	290	16	2.35	12,664.2	none	none	W.S. Arthur**
1924t	314	16	2.50	14,579	none	none	W.S. Arthur**
1925t	310	9	1.91	11,325	211	none	W.S. Arthur**
1926tt	76	8	2.00	3,400	3,400	none	W.S. Arthurs**
1926	U.S. Reclamation Mine						
1926tt	233	8	2.00	7,815	7,815	none	E.A. Jackson**
1926	Montana-Dakota Power Co.						
1927tt	249	9	2.00	10,592	10,592	none	E.A. Jackson**
1928tt	300	11	1.50	10,159	10,159	none	Edward Henry**
1929tt	241	10	2.00	10,303	10,303	none	F.R. Kleinsorge**
1930tt	309	10	2.00	11,510	11,510	none	F.R. Kleinsorge**
1931	"Closed"						

\*Unless otherwise indicated, name listed is that of owner.  
 \*\*Individual was superintendent of the mine; owner not listed.  
 t Coal was not sold; it was used at the power plant. The price per ton provided was the estimated market value.  
 tt Part of the coal distributed locally was "used at power plant."