



Matt Blunt, Governor • Doyle Childers, Director

www.dnr.mo.gov

## MEMORANDUM

Date: January 8, 2008

To: The Land Reclamation Commission

From: Mike Larsen, Chief; Projects and Inspection Unit (*original signed by Mike Larsen*)

Subject: Bond Forfeiture Status Update

Since the last update provided to the commission on November 14, 2007, staff have been working on the forfeiture situation involving a former clay mining company, National Refractories and Minerals Corporation. Over the past two months certain staff members of both the Projects and Inspection and the Industrial/Metallic Minerals units have been coordinating efforts to address this industrial mineral bond forfeiture. During this time there has been no activity of importance concerning coal bond forfeiture work.

During the past two months staff has continued working to identify current landowners of record for all of the National Refractories mine sites as well as to identify those sites upon which the company had completed reclamation but had never requested release of the reclamation bond. A number of those sites have been examined by members of both units and 12 of those sites will be presented for release under a separate agenda item to the commission.

Two of the sites where the company left reclamation to be completed, and which represent a concern of safety, have been the focus of staff during the past two months. These sites are known as the Baumgarth "G" pit and the Baumgarth "BS" pit. There is not enough money available to the program from the bond forfeited to fully reclaim both of these sites however, staff is working with the landowners of both sites in order to determine the most practical and cost effective solutions to this problem.

On-site meetings with the landowners have been held in order to examine various ideas for reclaiming the sites and to, at the very least, resolve the issues of safety which currently exist. The Baumgarth "G" pit represents the biggest challenge of the two pits. The "BS" pit represents a more conventional challenge to resolve the issue of reclamation and safety.

There are also two other clay mine sites that will need to be addressed when the work is completed on the above two mine sites. Staff will consider work at those sites when we have a clearer idea of how much money will be available to us in order to perform work later on this year.