



MONTANA-DAKOTA

UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street

Bismarck, ND 58501

(701) 222-7900

October 21, 2015

Executive Secretary
ND Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Case No. PU-11-680
Post Construction Inspection

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith submits the original and two (2) copies of its responses to the list of actions recommended in the post construction inspection report issued by Wenck Associates, Inc on December 10, 2014 (Wenck Report) and staff questions submitted on September 10, 2015.

1. Documentation that there was minimal disturbance and narrowing of the ROW within the native prairie area.

The defined Native Prairie Areas were determined by Section 4.1.1 and Appendix G of the Biological Resources Survey and identified in Section 3.5.3 Native Prairie in the Wenck Report. Attached are Attachment A, "Remnant Prairie #1" and Attachment B, "Remnant Prairie #2" providing aerial overviews of the Native Prairie Remnant Areas (areas shaded white) and the actual construction scar showing the location of the actual transmission line route as built. The Natural Prairie Remnant Areas were avoided during the actual construction to eliminate issues of disturbance or narrowing of the ROW in these identified areas.

2. Documentation that the areas that were re-vegetated have fully established vegetation.

Section 4.2 of the Wenck Report itself confirms excellent establishment of the re-vegetation along the majority of the project. The Wenck Report went on further to identify two areas of concern relating to the lack of vegetative growth. Identified in Section 3.5.5 of the report are the following two areas of concern:

Area 1 – a hill with evidence of heavy livestock travel and some vehicle travel attributed to local residents. The photo taken of this area from the Report is attached here as Attachment C Page 1, "PHOTO 20 – AREA OF CONCERN". For review, Montana Dakota submits additional photos taken in

September 2015 entitled Attachment C Pages 2-4 "Area of Photo 20(1)-Sept 2015"; "Area of Photo 20(2)-Sept 2015" and "Area of Photo 20(3)-Sept 2015".

Area 2 – is an area of poor vegetation growth near Pipeline Marker N:388012.25 E:1847743.82. The Photo taken of this area from the Wenck Report is attached here as Attachment D Page 1 "PHOTO 8 – AREA OF CONCERN" and looking the other direction, Attachment D Page 2 "PHOTO 19 – AREA OF CONCERN". For Review Montana Dakota submits additional pictures taken in September 2015 entitled Attachment D Page 3 "Area of Photo 8 – Sept 2015" and Attachment D Page 4 "Area of Photo 19 – Sept 2015".

A review of these two areas of concern, shown in the pictures taken in September 2015, provide evidence that the vegetation has been restored to a condition that is equal to or better than the condition prior to the construction of the transmission facility and that the condition of the land will accommodate the previous use of the land.

3. Documentation the weed control has been effective.

Montana Dakota will conduct a weed control survey in the spring of 2016 to assure that weed control has been effective along the project corridor. A third party contractor will be hired to perform this survey and any issues found will be reviewed for a weed control action plan that will be determined post survey. Montana-Dakota will report the findings and action taken by July 1, 2016.

4. Documentation that erosion and sedimentation has not occurred in the area noted.

This area of concern is the same as Areas 1 and 2 identified in the re-vegetation Area of Concern in item 2 above. Montana Dakota has reviewed these areas of concern on this pipeline corridor and concludes that the erosion and sedimentation concerns indicated in the Report have been restored to a condition that is equal to or better than the conditions prior to the construction of the transmission facility and that the condition of the land will accommodate the previous use of the land.

5. Confirmation that the Company participated in the North Dakota One-Call program before, during, and after construction.

The construction of the Transmission Facility was planned, engineered, and constructed under the direct supervision of Montana-Dakota employees. This

process required the notification of One-Call to provide locates for existing facilities for damage prevention during all aspects of construction. Locate request tickets for the entire pipeline construction period, reside within the records of the State One-Call Center. During the construction process as the pipeline was installed, seven change requests were made with the One-Call Center to bring sections of the construction under One-Call 811 damage prevention. The locate District Code MDU09 had modifications filed with One-Call Center from 10/05/13 to 11/15/13 to cover the sections of pipe as the pipe was constructed. The last section of installed pipe was covered under the One-Call Center rules as of that final date of 11/15/13. The Transmission line went into service on July 9th, 2014.

6. Tree and Shrub Survival Reports should be submitted in 2015, 2016, and 2017.

The Tree and Shrub Survival Report has been submitted for 2015 under separate cover on October 1, 2015.

Please contact me at 701-222-7856 or at tamie.aberle@mdu.com with additional questions or follow up necessary.

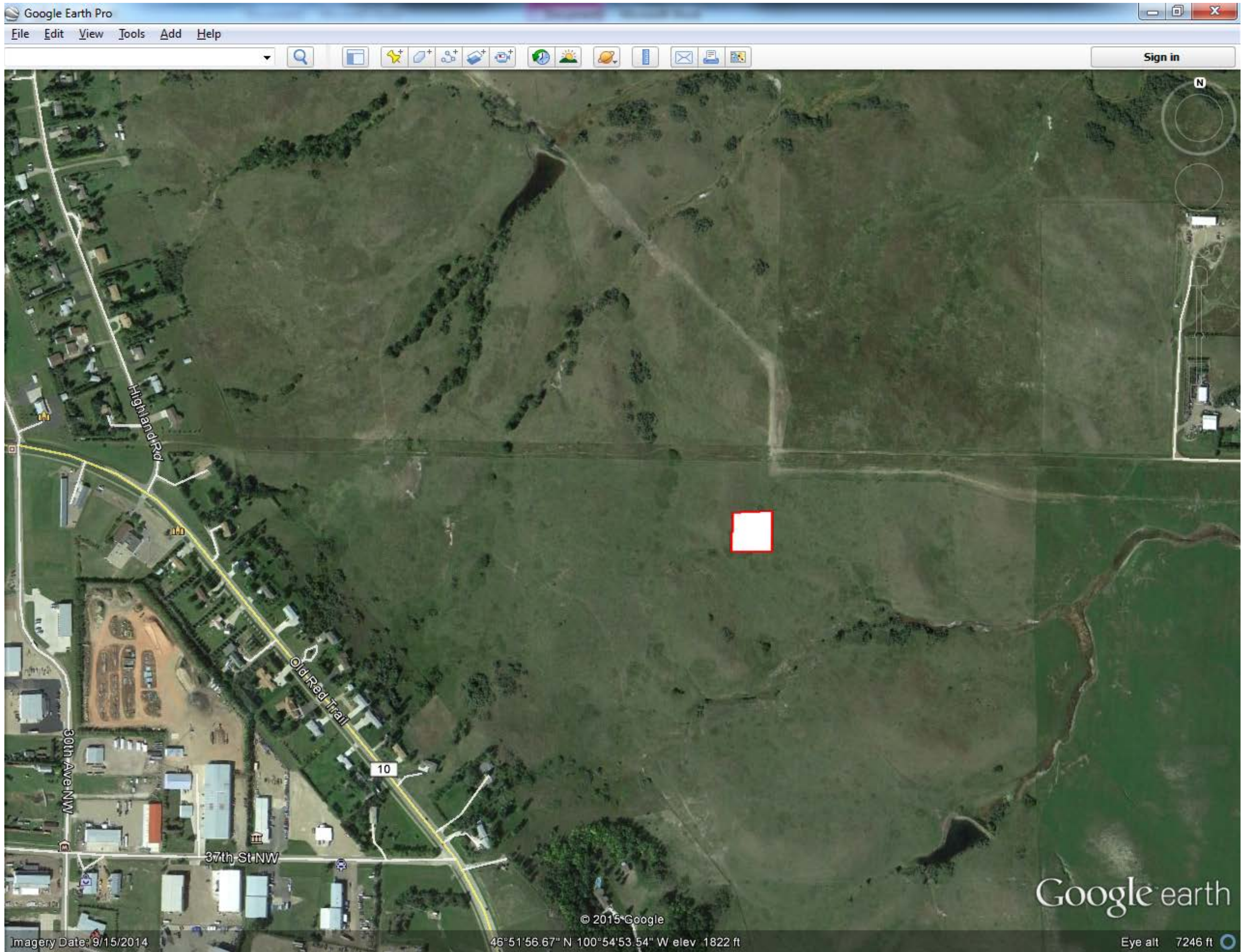
Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter, attached hereto, and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

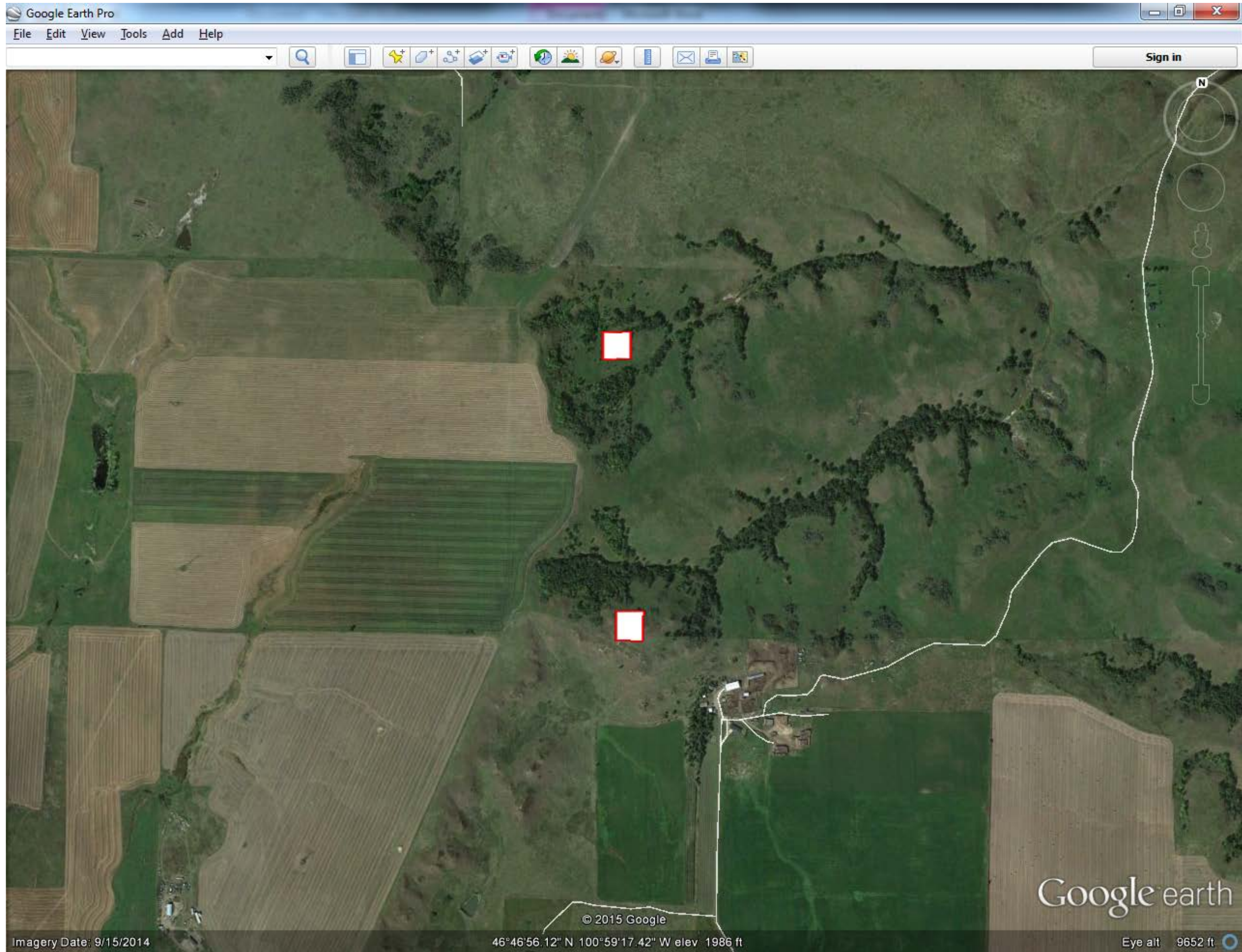
Sincerely,



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

cc. Daryl Anderson















Attachment D
PHOTO 8 - AREA OF CONCERN
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Attachment D
PHOTO 19 - AREA OF CONCERN
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