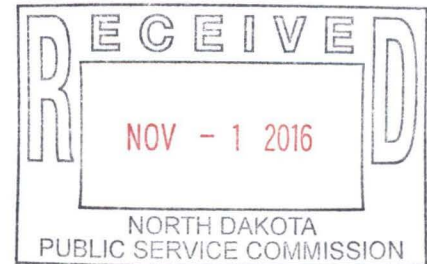




1403 27th STREET NW
PO BOX 98
MANDAN, ND 58554-0098
701-667-1800

October 28, 2016
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Attn: Mr. Jerry Lein

**Construction Inspection Report - Judson Substation to Neseet Substation
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
345 kV Electrical Transmission Line
Williams County, ND
ND PSC Case No. PU-11-696
Keitu Project No. 569-213**

In accordance with your request, Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) is pleased to submit for your use two hardcopies and one electronic copy of the Judson Substation to Neseet Substation construction report.

Keitu appreciates the opportunity to work with you on this project and I hope this report meets with your complete approval. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at the phone number above or via email at jantognazzi@keitu.com.

Sincerely,

Jaimee Antognazzi
Operations Manager

Enclosure: Construction Inspection Report

267 PU-11-696 Filed: 11/1/2016 Pages: 14
Construction Inspection Report - Judson Substation
to Neseet Substation

Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.

Jaimee Antognazzi, Operations Manager

**345 kV Electrical Transmission Line
Construction Inspection Report
Judson Substation to Neseet Substation**

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

ND PSC Case No. PU-11-696

Keitu Project #569-213

Prepared by:

Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.

October 2016

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Executive Summary

The State of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), Division of Public Utilities, has contracted Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to perform consulting services for construction and post-construction siting inspections. This report represents the findings of the construction inspection performed on Monday, October 17, 2016. The Judson Substation to Neset Substation (Project) portion of the project is located in Williams County in the State of North Dakota. Construction for the Project began in April 2016 with anticipated completion in November 2017. The purpose of the construction inspection was to ensure the Project was being constructed in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and the applicable PSC Order for the Project. Prior to the construction inspection, Keitu reviewed all Project documents to identify any and all aspects requiring site verification. The Project was visually inspected on October 17, 2016 by Karine Finken, Project Manager at Keitu.

Overall, the project was very well-maintained and in good condition. It appeared to be constructed as planned with efforts to minimize impacts.

Introduction

The Project is currently under construction at the time of this report. The Project will be operated by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC). The total transmission line permitted will transmit 345 kV electricity between the Antelope Valley Station to Neset Substation near Tioga, North Dakota. The Project is under the jurisdiction of the PSC, which issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order on Case No. PU-11-696 on April 23, 2014, granting a Certificate of Site Compatibility for Corridor Compatibility No. 152 and Route Permit No. 164.

Purpose and Scope of Inspection

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the PSC to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Construction inspections ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order (Order).

The PSC retained Keitu to complete construction inspections and post-construction inspections of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility, Order, and other applicable documents to determine Project-specific siting and construction requirements; a site visit and inspection of facilities; documentation of compliance; and a report summarizing findings. This report includes, but is not limited to, site visit observations, documentation of compliance deficiencies, and a summary of issues, if any, that should be addressed for the Project to be considered in full compliance.

Methods

Keitu reviewed North Dakota siting laws and rules, the Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility, and the Order for the Project to identify what Project-specific documentation was required for compliance.

Karine Finken, Project Manager representing Keitu visited the Project site on October 17, 2016. Digital photographs were taken showing typical Project infrastructure and documenting problem areas, if any, are located in Appendix A.

General Project Information

Electrical Contractor: Great Southwestern Construction, LLC, Castle Rock, CO

Project Owner: Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Bismarck, ND

Site Visit Observations

Temperature: 45 °F

Time: 11:30 AM CST

The Project is located in western North Dakota and stretches from the Williston area to the Tioga area. At the time of the visit, the project was under construction. The project has steel electrical structures erected for a portion of the route near Ray and pouring foundations near Williston.

Concrete foundations were observed for the structures throughout the Project. For the concrete foundations, 4,000 psi concrete was used.

There was no erosion issues observed. These areas along with the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan commonly known as a "SWPPP" are being managed by an environmental consultant, Stantec, per discussion with Mr. Miller referenced on the Construction Inspection Report 2 (Docket #205). The inspections are completed every 14 days or within 24-hours after a rain event greater than 0.25 inches. The SWPPP inspections are to occur until 70% native vegetative cover is in place. Wood matting was also observed to be laid down in sensitive areas. Paved roads where the right-of-way (ROW) crosses were observed for any sediment tracking. No sediment was observed being tracked onto roadways from ROW construction activities on the day of Keitu's inspection.

Red flags were observed to mark the boundaries of wetlands and cultural resources along the ROW so construction crews knew to stay outside of those areas. Blue flags were observed along the edges of the ROW so workers can stay within the approved corridor. Utility work that was happening above roadways was accompanied by workers signaling traffic to slow in the construction area.

BEPC normally has six to ten people onsite through various locations on the project daily. In addition to performing their normal tasks, they keep close observation that the project is being constructed and installed to the Project specifications and the orders of the permit.

Soil piles were observed near the foundations. These piles contained topsoil, subsoil, vegetation and concrete. BEPC communicated to Keitu that many local contractors and farmers accepted the soil as a use for fill on their projects.

Conclusions

Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed as designed with minimal impacts to the surrounding natural and human environment to-date. The Project site was in good condition and well maintained.

Certification

I declare that I have the specific qualifications based on education, training, and experience to assess a property of this nature; I believe to the best of my professional knowledge the contents of this report accurately represents the condition of this project to-date.



Jaimee Antognazzi

Operations Manager

Appendix A. General Project Photos

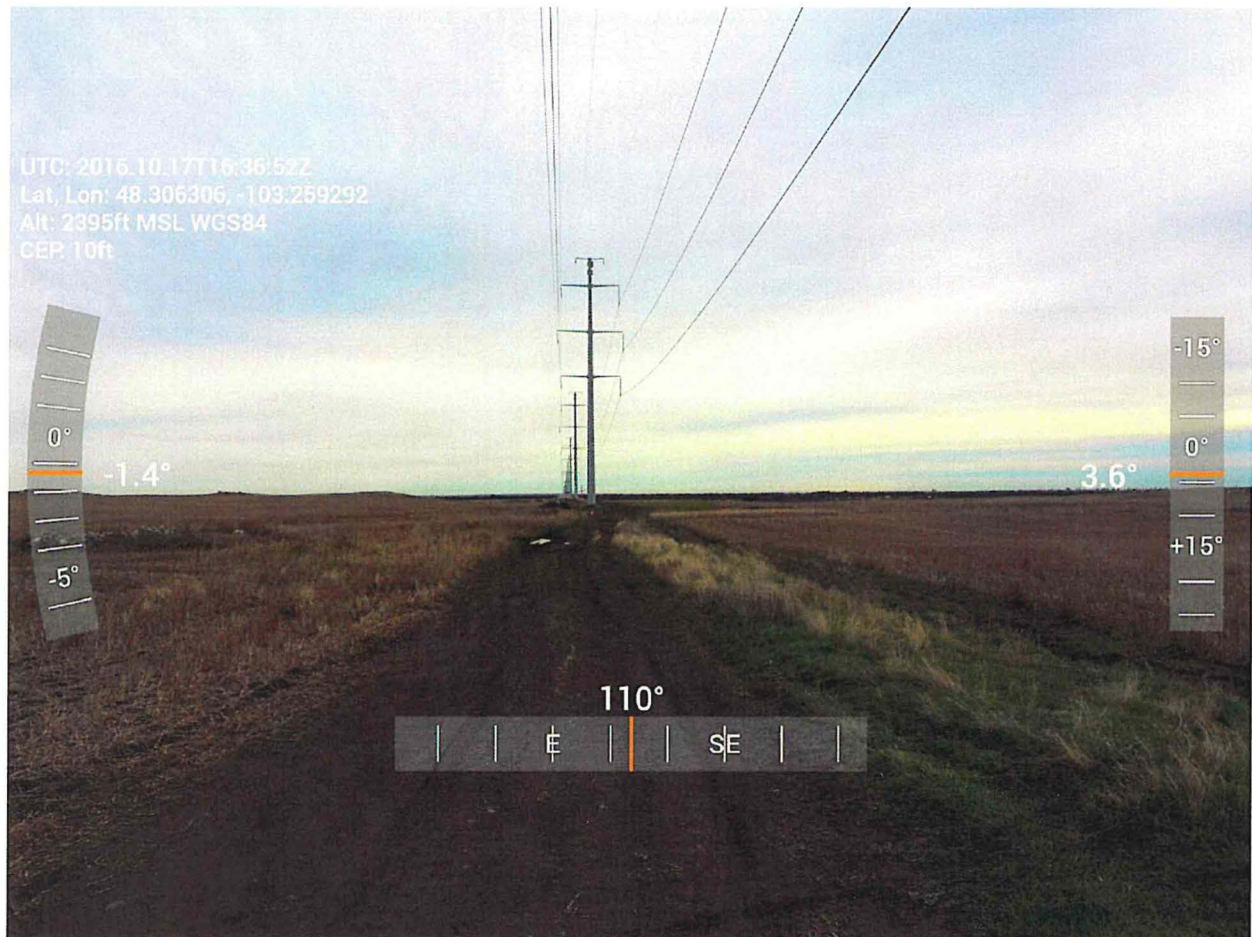


Photo 1 -Typical view of corridor.



Photo 2 – Transmission Line crossing road with powerline goalposts.



Photo 3 -Typical concrete type structural base.

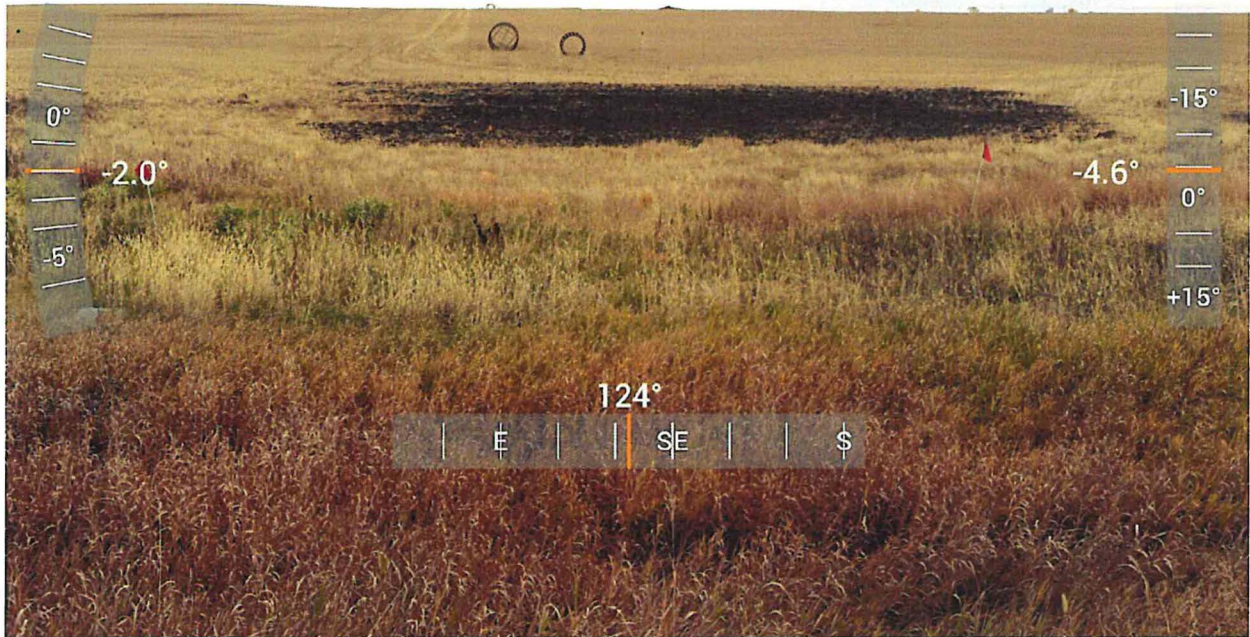


Photo 4 -Steel rebar for concrete structure bases to be installed.



Photo 5 – Soil pile from foundation construction to be used for fill.



Photo 6 - Red flags used to delineate the wetland boundaries.

Appendix B. Map - Points of Observation

