

210 MW Bison 4 Wind Project, Minnesota Power (PSC Case No. PU-13-127)

Permit Compliance Review

NDPSC Contract No.: PU-688-13-EE

Reporting Period: August 1st, 2014 -- November 21st, 2014Prepared By: Houston Engineering, Inc. / Emmy Baskerville, Environmental Scientist and Bart Schultz, Project Manager

General:

Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) was contractually hired by the North Dakota Public Services Commission (NDPSC) to complete the construction inspection activities, as part of the 210 MW Bison 4 Wind Project, (PSC Case No. PU-13-127). The following is a summary of the work completed to date and the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the permit compliance review. Two environmental compliance site visits have been completed during construction, and one additional site visit is planned after construction is complete, with an estimated timeframe of Spring 2015. This field inspection report is for the second site visit which occurred on October 22nd, 2014.

Summary of Activities / Items Completed to Date:

HEI met Daniel McCourtney from Minnesota Power on site. Upon arrival on site, we observed dust control watering activities on the gravel roads. We traveled throughout the Bison 4 complex and identified and observed sites which were actively under construction as well as sites where construction and restoration had been completed.

The following completed structures were observed during our site visit: 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 426-431, 434, 463, 462, 461, 439, 444, 417, 418 & the weather structure (MET). Turbines 457, 456, 460, 433, 452, 445, were under construction at the time of our visit, however conditions on the day of our site visit were too windy and no active construction was observed.

The focus of our site visit was on turbines that were constructed adjacent to archaeological / historic sites and wetlands to verify their siting compliance. Additionally, tree clearing, erosion control, dust control, and restoration activities were also the focus.

Compliance

The following turbines were visited to observe their construction relative to their vicinity to known archaeological / historic sites: 424, 425, 401, 402, 431, 463, 434, & 444. Each of these turbines were constructed outside of the site limits. The archaeological / historic boundary was marked with permanent fence posting within each of these sites. See photos. No construction within these archaeological / historic site limits was observed.

Turbines 442 and 443 were reviewed to determine their siting compliance relative to the identified wetlands in the area. All turbines were constructed outside the limits of the wetlands, and no wetland impacts were observed.

Biorolls and erosion control seeding was observed within the areas of turbines 421, 424, 402, 405, 426-431 & 439. No erosion or sedimentation issues were observed throughout the site. All areas observed under construction had appropriately placed erosion control measures, which included biorolls, silt fencing and hydroseed.

Minor rutting, likely from the construction equipment was noted on the roadways. This is not unusual given that construction is actively underway in many of these areas. We will observe these areas when construction is complete, and verify that roadways are returned to their pre-construction condition.

Future Activities for the next reporting period:

HEI will perform the final permit compliance inspection once construction is complete. This is anticipated to be Spring 2015.

Photos



Photo 1: Site 421, showing erosion control measures.



Photo 2: Site 408, showing avoidance of significant archaeological site.



Photo 3: Site 457, showing turbine laydown area.



Photo 4: Site 433, actively under construction.



Photo 5: Site 434, showing avoidance of significant archaeological site.



Photo 6: Active construction on pad for turbine 452.

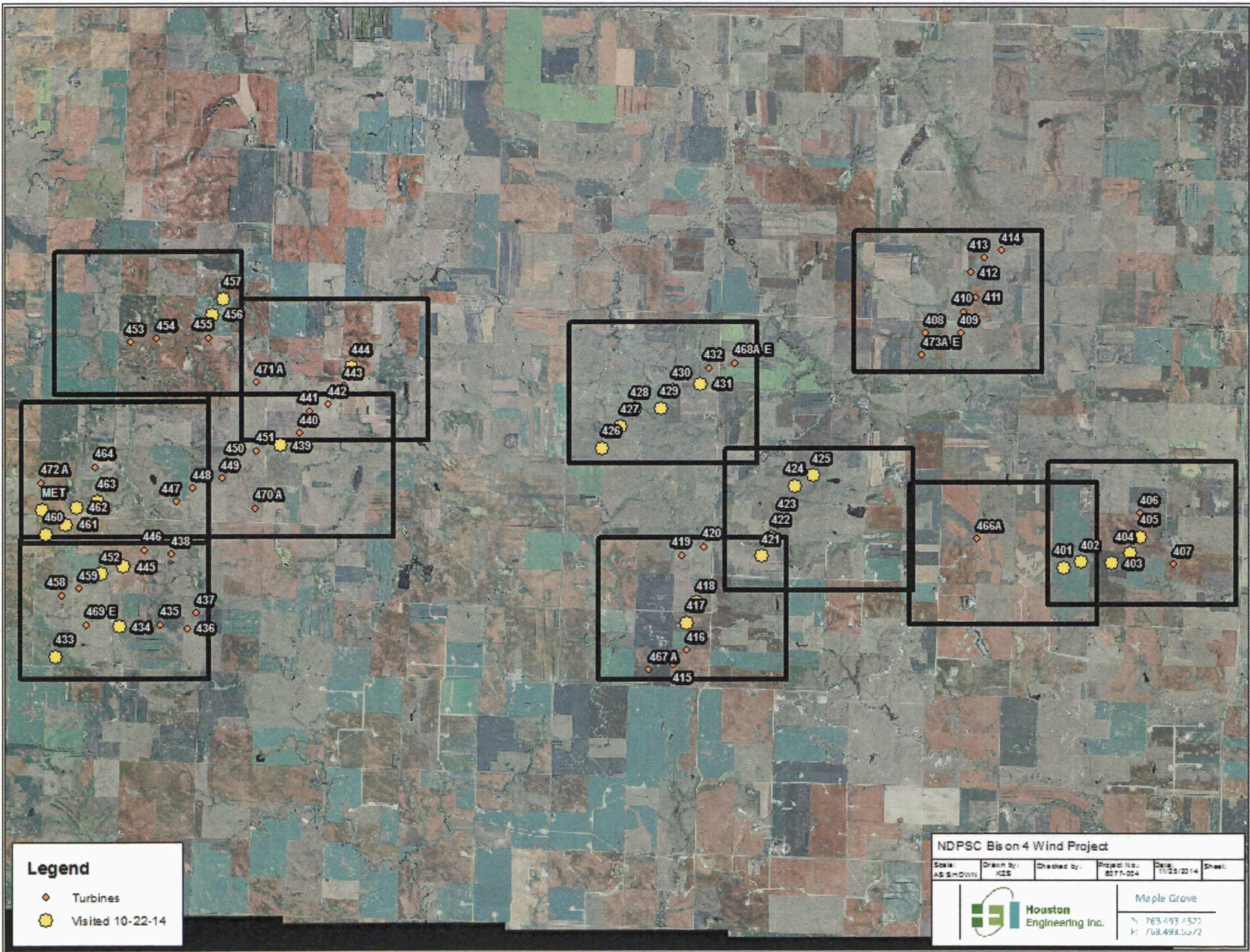


Photo 7: Site 439, recent hydroseeding.



Photo 8: Site 440, recent seeding.

FIGURE 1: Bison 4 Index Map



Field Data

(transmitted previously via email on 10-29-14)

Bison 4- 10/22/14

⊗ 11:35 → entering area, dust management on gravel roads observed.

⊗ 11:40 → meet Daniel McCartney, ^{begin visit.} visiting completed turbines, ^{1/3} restoration to be completed

421: biorolls, erosion control in place

422: ok

423: ok

424: biorolls observed in Row ditch

ROAD b/w 424 & 425 avoids historical site

401: major archaeo/historic site, const. avoids entire site - ok

402: silt fencing observed, access road avoids historic/archaeo site

403: ok

404: ok, seeding, restoration complete

405: biorolls observed in Row ditch

431: archaeo/historic site avoided

string 426-431

- Seeding in adjacent Row complete
- restoration complete

452: under construction

456: under const.

Bison 4 - 10/22/14 cont.

463: visited previously. access
ROAD avoids archaeo/historic
site.
- silt fence observed.

462-461: ok

MET weather tower: ok, const.
complete

460: grading taking place. okay

433: under const - pic

434: ~~at~~ major archaeological site.
Avoided

452: under const. crane on site

445: under const. okay

439: ~~by~~ recent hydro SEED - PIC
silt fence observed

Wetland avoided b/w 424 & 423

444: archaeological/hist. site
Avoided - PIC

417 & 418: okay

⊗ END SITE VISIT @ approx 2pm