



November 23, 2016

Jerry Lein  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Lein:

Carlson McCain, Inc. (CMI) conducted a construction inspection of the Sunflower Wind Project (Case No. PU-14-105) on November 15, 2016, on behalf of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC). The project consists of installing 52 2.0-MW Vestes wind turbines and substation that will connect to the U.S. Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration's Dickinson-Mandan 230 KV transmission line.

CMI Inspector Mike Fettes met with Ryan Hartleben, Solas Energy Consulting US Inc., Project Manager, at the site office south of Hebron, North Dakota. Construction progress was discussed and a site map was reviewed prior to the onsite inspection. M.A. Mortenson is the construction contractor.

Since construction started on September 21, 2015. Mr. Hartleben reported that 100% of the access road stabilization, aggregate placement, grading on the turbine sites, and cut/fill have been completed. Final grooming, backfilling, and seeding will be completed yet this fall or next spring. Mr. Hartleben stated that there is a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) in place with regular inspections occurring. Working with the local landowners, Mr. Hartleben also indicated that approximately 1,400 trees of various species were going to be installed at locations requested by the landowners.

Mr. Fettes and Mr. Hartleben proceeded to drive through project area to visually inspect construction and overall site quality. Inspection notes and photos taken during the site visit are attached to this letter.

#### Field Review

Weather conditions at the time of the field visit were cloudy, 41 degrees, with a strong northwest breeze. Soil surfaces within the Project Area were dry.

Access road and turbine pad grading has been completed for the project. Erosion control devices (ECDs) including seed, mulch, straw swaddles, erosion blanket, and silt fence were installed along access roads and around topsoil piles. Substation construction is complete. The O&M building structure was near completion with some interior construction yet to be finished.

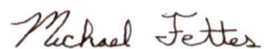
*Construction Inspection Summary*  
*PSC Case No. PU-14-105*

Installation of electrical junction boxes and tie-in lines were completed as of 11/11/2016. All 52 of the wind turbines were installed during the time of the inspection, with only four of the turbines yet to be mechanically complete and fully functional.

Construction procedures appeared to be in compliance with the siting laws and rules, and the applicable Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order. No serious issues were noted during the onsite visit.

Please contact me at 701-595-7005 if you have any questions or comments.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Fettes  
Natural Resources Specialist

cc: Mr. Aron Anderson - Senior Project Manager, Solas Energy Consulting US Inc.  
Mr. Ryan Hartleben - Project Manager, Solas Energy Consulting US Inc.

Attachments: Notes and photos



Figure 1. Photo of reclaimed access road between T1 and T2. Seeding was complete where grasslands were adjacent to the ROW.



Figure 2. Culverts found between T3 and T4. ECDs were properly installed to prevent erosion.



Figure 3. Rip-rap that was installed up-drain of the culvert found between T2 and T3.



Figure 4. Finished substation.

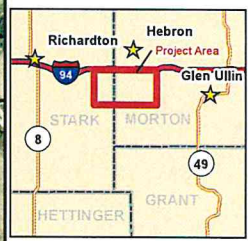
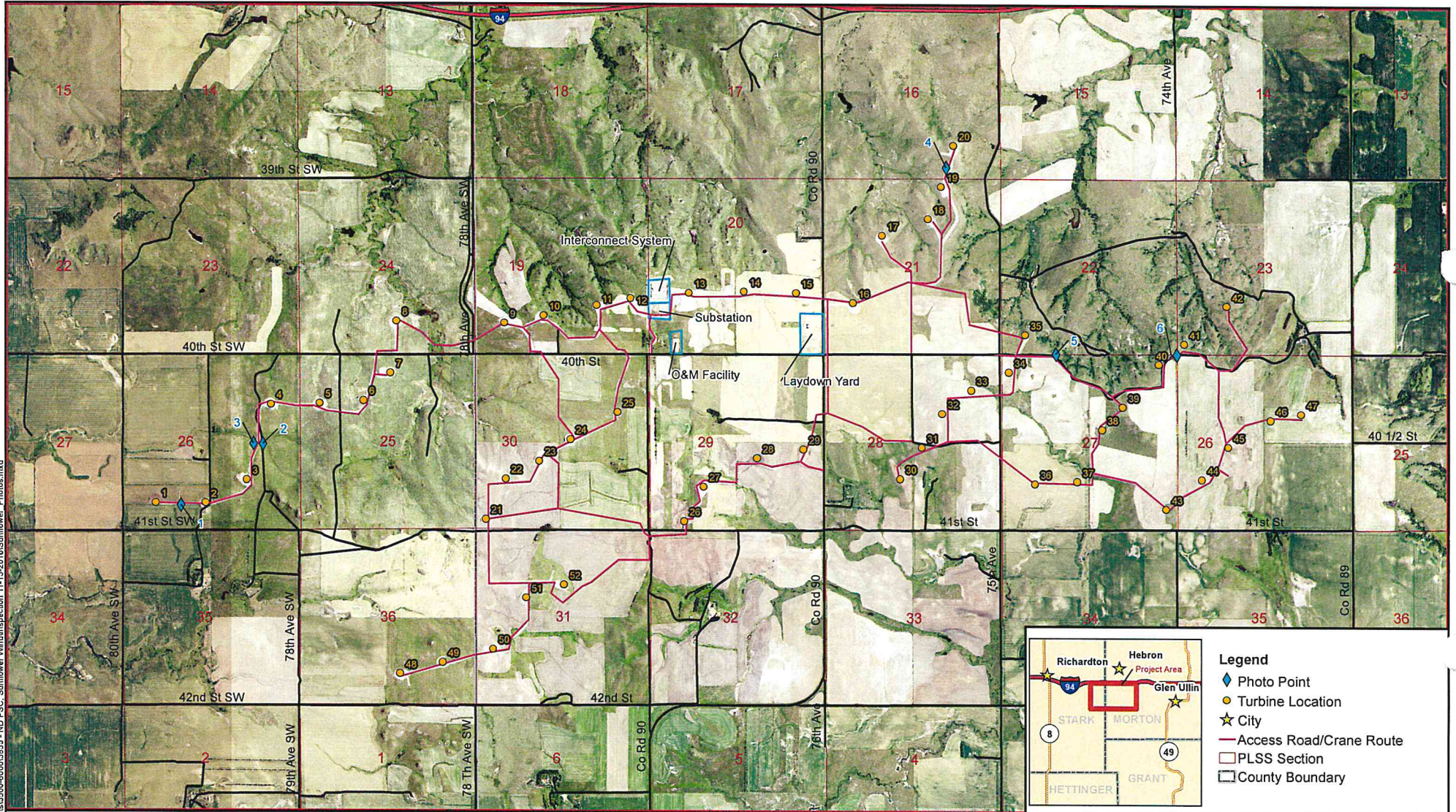


Figure 5. All 52 turbines have been completed and put in place. Only 4 of the 52 turbines are yet to be mechanically completed.



Figure 6. Gates were installed at the intersections with existing fence lines.

November 2016 R:\projects\5500-6000\5505 - ND PSC Sunflower Wind\Inspection 11-15-2016\Sunflower\_Photos.mxd

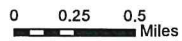


- Legend**
- ◆ Photo Point
  - Turbine Location
  - ★ City
  - Access Road/Crane Route
  - PLSS Section
  - ▭ County Boundary



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1:31,680



Basemap: NDGISHub



ND Public Service Commission

Sunflower Wind Project, LLC.

Morton and Stark Counties, North Dakota

**Figure 1**  
**Construction Inspection**

PSC Case No. PU-14-105

Sunflower Wind

Date: 11-15-2016

Weather: Cloudy - 41°F - 15+ mph

- Tree mitigation "1400"
- 4 mechanically incomplete
- All 52 turbines have been installed
  - Only 4 are not mechanically complete
- Straw wattles/riprap in place at culverts
- Mortenson is construction contractor
- T20 is the last turbine being installed
- ROW has been seeded
- Substation has been installed
- O&M building is having interior work still being done
- Electrical boxes & terminations were completed