

**10-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline – Belle Fourche Pipeline Company (PSC Case No. PU-14-135)**

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Permit Compliance / Construction Inspection Review

NDPSC Contract No.: PU-702-14-EE

Reporting Period: January 14, 2015 – April 8, 2015

Prepared By: Houston Engineering, Inc. / Emmy Baskerville, Environmental Scientist and Bart Schultz, Project Manager

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**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 Belle Fourche 10-inch crude oil pipeline in Billings, Dunn and Stark Counties (PSC Case No. PU-14-135). The following is a summary of the work completed to date and the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the permit compliance review. One environmental compliance site visit have been completed during construction, and two additional site visits are planned. These visits are anticipated for spring 2015 during restoration/reclamation activities, and one final site visit later this fall to observe the completed restoration/reclamation activities after the 2015 growing season. This field inspection report is for the first site visit which occurred on March 10, 2015.

**Summary of Activities / Items Completed to Date:**

The focus of our site visit was to observe the active trenching, the stream crossing, road crossings and soil separation areas. HEI met Don and Jory from Belle Fourche Pipeline onsite at approximately 11:30am. Upon arrival on site, we proceeded immediately to the west to observe active trenching areas (**Photo 1, Photo 2, Photo 3**), and observed topsoil separation (**Photo 2**), trenching to a depth of 48 inches, and the construction equipment. No erosion control measures were observed and no erosion problems were observed. We traveled along the construction corridor further to the north and west and observed sites that had recently been completed (**Photo 4**). Under-road boring was observed (**Photo 4**). The road conditions were generally acceptable within the construction areas, with a normal amount of road wear and debris present for sites under active construction. Temporary fencing was observed to be in place. We continued along the corridor and observed completed construction areas (**Photo 4**) and stream boring areas (**Photo 5**). These areas had yet to undergo reclamation or restoration activities. The restoration activities are anticipated to begin soon, as weather permits.

**Compliance**

HEI observed areas of active and completed trenching. HEI observed topsoil separation and compliant installation depths. No erosion control measures were observed on site, and no erosion was observed either. Given the time of year that construction was taking place, it's unlikely that erosion would pose any significant problems. Road conditions within the construction area were in good condition. It was clear that the contractor had bored under the roadways and the stream within the pipeline corridor. At the time of the site visit, trenching was continuing and would be completed

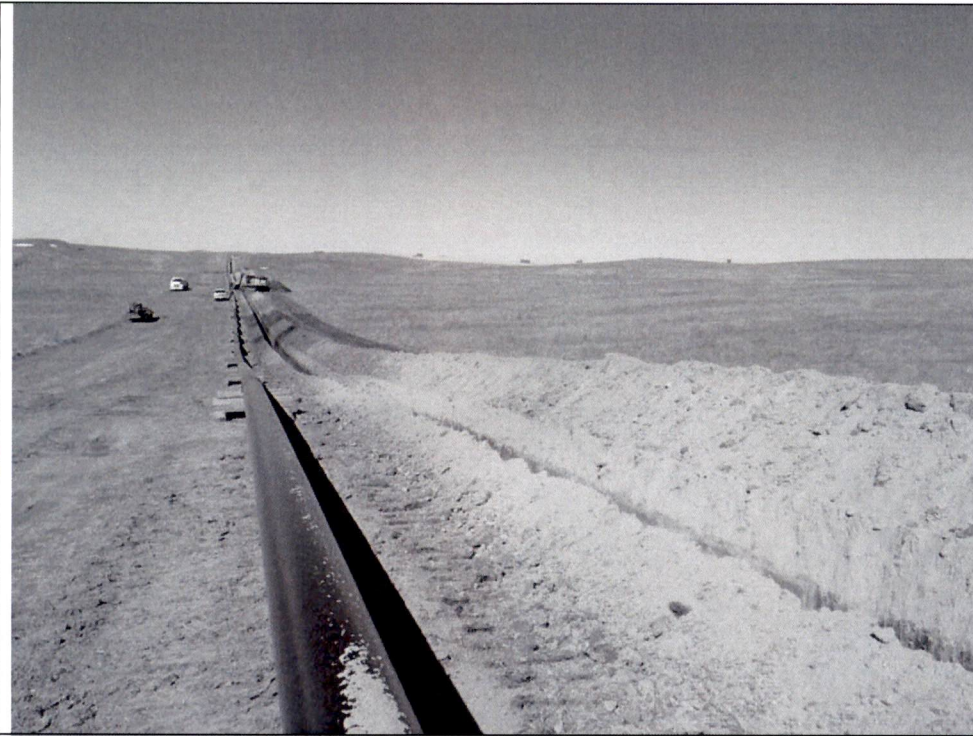
within the next several days. Right-of-way restoration activities will commence after completion of the trenching operations as weather conditions permit.

Based on the site inspection performed on March 10, 2015; HEI staff did not observe any permit compliance issues along the construction corridor.

**Future Activities for the next reporting period:**

HEI will perform another permit compliance inspection when reclamation / restoration activities are underway, anticipated for spring 2015. A final permit compliance inspection will be performed following completion of the reclamation / restoration activities. This final inspection is anticipated in fall 2015.

# Photos



**Photo 1:** Active trench areas.



**Photo 2:** Active trenching areas and topsoil separation (background)



**Photo 3:** Active trenching area.



**Photo 4:** Recently completing boring and open trenched areas, awaiting reclamation / restoration activities.



**Photo 5:** Stream boring area.

# Field Data

(Transmitted previously via email on 3-17-15)

3/10/15

## Belle Fourche Pipeline

• 11:30 am arrive on site

- meet Jon & Don
- visit active trench area

- observe topsoil separation  
ARETS

- 48 in. depth confirmed
- observed welders, xray; trencher/excavator, separation equipment.
- NO erosion control measures observed or necessary.
- NO erosion problems observed.
- under roads boring observed
- road conditions ok no major rutting observed - normal amount of dust.
- boring under stream observed

3/10/15 cont... Belle Fourche

- ⊕ final trenching will be completed in next several days.
- ⊕ Row restoration will commence soon.
- ⊕ temporary fences in place.
- ⊕⊕ mapping from PSC website is not correct. pipeline extends from Skunk Hill station to the West - not East.  
NEEDS to be verified.