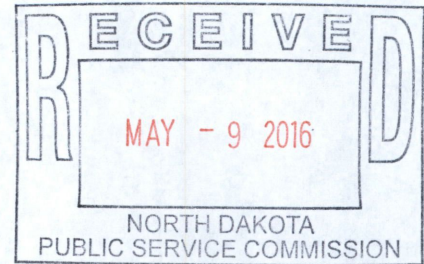




5/6/2016

North Dakota Public Service Commission
ATTN: Victor Schock
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Basin Electric North Killdeer Loop Phase I (PU-14-813)

Mr. Schock,

E3 Environmental, LLC (E3) is pleased to submit the attached Construction Inspection Report for Basin Electric North Killdeer Loop Phase I Project (PU-14-813). Enclosed please find one hardcopy of the Construction Inspection Report.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this project or the enclosed report.

Regards,

Katie Schmidt

Enclosed:

Construction Inspection Report

88 **PU-14-813** Filed: 5/9/2016 Pages: 9
Construction Inspection Report

E3 Environmental, LLC

Katie Schmidt



Project Name: North Killdeer Loop Phase I 34 kV **Date:** 4/28/2016
PSC Case Number: PU 14-813 **Time:** 1300
Inspector: Jon Knudsen, E3 Environmental, LLC **Weather:** Cloudy, saturated

Overview:

Jon Knudsen met with Cris Miller at the Basin Watford City office west of Watford City, ND on 4/28/16 to review PSC provisions, obtain an update on construction status, and ask questions pertaining to Basin's compliance with PSC provisions (see attached). They were joined by Mike Pederson from Stantec, which provides onsite environmental services to Basin for the Project. Mr. Miller provided a detailed update regarding construction schedule and status, and answered Mr. Knudsen's reporting inquiries. Following the meeting, Mr. Miller led a physical inspection of several portions of the North Killdeer Loop Transmission line and substations, currently in Phase I development. Mr. Pederson joined in the inspection. All of the footings were installed along the cleared ROW, with the towers in various phases of completion. At the time of inspection, the lines had not been installed and most of the towers had not been erected on the footings; restoration and reclamation had not yet been initiated. West Inc. and Metcalf Archeology provided pre-construction surveys for natural resource and cultural resource features, respectively.

Observations / Corrective Actions:

All project activities appeared to be in compliance with applicable permit conditions. Mr. Knudsen provides the following observations:

- All wetlands had been avoided or were appropriated permitted under a Nationwide 12.
- ECDs were installed in wetland areas at risk of sedimentation.
- Equipment storage was stored appropriately on footprint, away from wetlands.
- Overall Project was tidy, but surveillance is recommended to ensure it stays clean
- Towers were set within the ROW, ready for installation.
- No archeological sites were disturbed
- All PSC-regulated pre-construction surveys were conducted
- ECDs were installed correctly and were mostly unfilled, despite recent rain events.
- ECDs may need to be reset and sediment cleared, if necessary.
- Re-seeding per NRCS protocols and oversight should be initiated when possible (with guidance from NRCS) to avoid soil erosion and runoff.



Photos:



Photo 1. Substation on west end of Project, showing muddy conditions and stored equipment.



Photo 2. Silt fence protecting wetland at substation on west end of Project in need of maintenance.



Photo 3. Subsoil pile on level surface, protected by waddles.



Photo 4. Waddle that will need maintenance after prolong rain event.



Photo 5. General landscape and ROW along Project.



Photo 6. Construction mats for accessing ROW within wetland (under NW 12 Permit).

ND PSC Inspection Report



Docket No.: PU 14-813	Permittee: Basin Electric Power Cooperative	Project Name: N Killdeer Loop Phase I 345 kV
Inspection Date: 4/28/2016	Type of Inspection: Field inspection/interview	
Inspector Name: Jon Knudsen		Contact: Cris Miller

ND Public Service Commission Orders			Order	Photo	Comments
Has the company made any notifications to the Commission or requested any variance from provisions of its authorization?					
Notifications: Have there been any project design modifications that resulted in a modification of the Permitted Route?			31		Yes, re-routes submitted to PSC
Notifications: Have there been any significant bird or bat kills observed and/or reported during the project?			28		No
Notifications: Has there been any unanticipated protected wildlife and or critical habitat(s) encountered and/or reported during the project?			9, 27		No
Notifications: Has there been any unanticipated cultural or paleontological resources encountered and/or reported during the project?			10, 11		No
Siting Criteria: #23 North Fork Tributary – landslide prone area was it spanned? Additional geotechnical studies completed? And filed with PSC?					Foundations installed – has not been spanned yet
Siting Criteria: #29 Bird Flight Diverters – have they been installed? Where? Have there been strikes/kills in those areas or elsewhere?					Not yet, but will be
Siting Criteria: #30 Have preconstruction raptor surveys been completed? Results?					Yes – 2 nd week in April by aerial survey – None found in 1-mile buffer
Has the project installed buried utilities?					No
Depth of cover: Range land – minimum 48"			6		NA
Depth of cover: Cultivated land – minimum 48"			6		NA
Depth of cover: Road ditch (from bottom) – minimum 48"			6		NA
Depth of cover: Section lines (undeveloped) – minimum 72"			6		NA
Road Crossings: All graded roads to be bored unless permitted to open cut.			12		No
Road Crossings: All pre-existing township/county roads and lanes used during construction to be restored to pre-existing condition or better.			13		NA
Temporary Roads and Staging Areas: To be restored to their original condition			13		Will be, but haven't been restored yet
Have road restrictions been observed and/or work suspended as necessary to prevent irreparable damage to road or land.					Yes – Rain, mud, truck restrictions self-imposed
Or Has a Commission approved alternative protection measure been implemented?			14		Yes - County provides email notifications when there are road restrictions

ND PSC Inspection Report



Has the project been engaged with earth disturbance or excavations?			Yes
Has topsoil (up to 12 inches) been carefully stripped and segregated from subsoil and from locations where subsoil will be stockpiled?	15		Yes - Not replaced everywhere yet
Has subsoil been stockpiled on areas stripped of topsoil?	15		Yes - Not replaced everywhere yet
Have topsoil stockpiles been placed in locations to avoid natural drainages?	3		Yes
Have BMPs been properly installed to prevent water induced erosion of topsoil stockpiles?	3		Yes
Has all of the stockpiled subsoil been returned to the excavation and original contours restored?	15		Yes
Has topsoil been returned to the upper soil horizon after the trench has been backfilled?	15		Substations - yes, Crane pads - no

Has the project engaged in the clearing of trees or woody vegetation?			Yes
Have mapped locations with woody vegetation been inventoried and flagged?	19		West Inc mapped during preconstruction survey
Have trees \geq 1 inch dbh, that will be cleared for construction, been inventoried?	19		Yes
Have woody shrubs in native growth areas located within the permanent ROW been inventoried?	19		Yes
Has clearing of native growth outside the permanent ROW been done in a manner to preserve naturally occurring seed bank and root stocks, and has topsoil been preserved?	19		Not removed outside of ROW
Have clearing activities been conducted in a manner to reduce/avoid, where practicable, the impacts to trees and woody vegetation?	19		Access roads used - no clearing
Has ROW clearing in windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wooded areas been limited to a maximum 50 foot width?	19		Yes
Have fences or gates been encountered?			Yes
Have fences and gates removed or damaged by the project been replaced or repaired.	21		Yes - at the landowner's discretion
Have drain tiles been encountered?			No
Have drain tiles broken or damaged by construction activities been repaired or replaced?	22		No
Have all CR Class III surveys been completed? Reported to SHPO/PSC and has "No Effect" concurrence been received?	3		Metcalf conducted in 2014/2015 - sites avoided
Have all CR avoidance/monitoring mitigation measures been implemented? (Sites 32DU1919, 32DU1920, 32MZ2657 & Site Lead 32Dux129)	3		Yes - Metcalf

ND PSC Inspection Report



Have CR mitigation measures (e.g.; monitoring, UDP) been implemented (if necessary) effectively?	10, 11	Yes - Metcalf
Have there been any unanticipated wildlife or critical habitat encounters with listed species?	9, 27	No
Have wildlife mitigation measures (e.g.; MBTA preconstruction sweeps, exclusion buffers) been implemented (if necessary) effectively?	3	Ongoing - most construction outside of MBTA window
Has trash/debris been completely removed from the ROW and work areas?	24	Yes
Restoration: Has restoration of disturbed areas been initiated in a timely manner?	25	Yes, other than substation which will be done ASAP
Restoration: Was topsoil replaced properly?	15, 25	Yes
Restoration: Was decompaction required?	25	Yes
Restoration: Has restoration of disturbed areas been completed?	25	Not fully
Restoration: Has restoration efforts returned disturbed areas to a condition that is similar to the pre-construction state?	25	Will be completed
Restoration: Has reclamation, fertilization, and reseeding been conducted in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service recommendations?	16	Yes
Restoration: Has reclamation, fertilization, and reseeding been conducted in accordance with landowner request(s)?	16	Yes
Restoration: Has a line list or similar document used to record landowner specifications and restoration specifications? Is it available for review?	16	Yes, documents not available
Restoration: Was seeding conducted?		
Date of seeding: Fall	16	Not yet. Fall.
Type of seed: Mats, broadcast, mostly drill		
Rate of seeding:		
Soil amendments used:		
Restoration: Was rock removed from soil surface?	25	Yes, where needed
Was access limited to approved access roads?	8	Yes
Were project activities limited to approved areas?	8,23	Yes
Have mapped locations of noxious weeds been flagged?		NA - none found
Have appropriate noxious mitigation measures been implemented?		Mowing and spraying will be used to control weeds

Water Discharges	Order	Photo	Comments
Construction Stormwater: Permit (NOC) and SWPPP on site?	3		Yes

