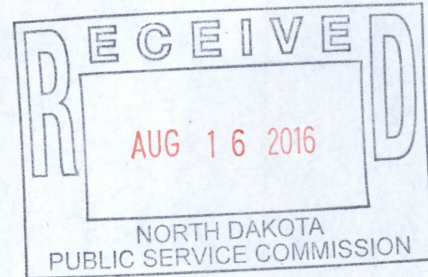




August 16, 2016

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



RE: PU-14-813 and PU-14-852 3rd Party Inspections

Mr. Schock,

E3 Environmental, LLC (E3) is pleased to submit the attached Construction Inspection Report for the Basin Electric North Kildeer Loop and Lonesome Creek Plant Projects (PU-14-813 & PU-14-852). Enclosed please find one hardcopy of the Construction Inspection Report for each project.

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

66 **PU-14-852** Filed: 8/16/2016 Pages: 16
Construction Inspection Report

E3 Environmental, LLC
Katie Schmidt

94 **PU-14-813** Filed: 8/16/2016 Pages: 16
Construction Inspection Report

E3 Environmental, LLC
Katie Schmidt



Project Name: North Killdeer Loop Phase I 34 kV **Date:** 7/8/2016
PSC Case Number: PU 14-813 **Time:** 1100
Inspector: Jon Knudsen, E3 Environmental, LLC **Weather:** Sunny, dry

Overview:

Jon Knudsen met with Cris Miller at the Basin Watford City office west of Watford City, ND on 7/8/16 to review PSC provisions, obtain an update on construction status, and ask questions pertaining to Basin's compliance with PSC provisions (see attached). 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. At the time of inspection, all of the footings were installed along the cleared ROW and all towers were erected on the footings. The lines had been installed on most towers, but were in the process of being pulled along the remaining towers. Mr. Knudsen inspected towers with connected lines, most of which had bird-diverters installed, and towers in the process of having lines strung. Restoration and reclamation had not yet been initiated for some of the ROW and crane pads. 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 or ROW, away from wetlands.
- Overall Project was tidy, but surveillance is recommended to ensure it remains clean.
- Towers and equipment were set within the ROW.
- No archeological sites were disturbed
- All PSC-regulated pre-construction surveys were conducted
- ECDs were installed correctly and were mostly unfilled.
- ECDs may need to be reset and sediment cleared, when 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, with stored equipment in the background.



Photo 2. Natural vegetation growth along silt fence/waddles protecting wetland at substation on west end of Project.



Photo 3. Properly-installed wattle on downhill slope of crane pad.



Photo 4. General landscape and ROW along Project.



Photo 5. Strung towers spanning recent pipeline project.



Photo 6. Supports for spanning wire across road.

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: 7/8/2016	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 - Nothing new
Notifications: Have there been any significant bird or bat kills observed and/or reported during the project?			28		Yes, submitted to PSC
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 – span complete - no issues
Siting Criteria: #29 Bird Flight Diverters – have they been installed? Where? Have there been strikes/kills in those areas or elsewhere?					Mostly complete - Installed as wires are pulled
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 - Fall
Have road restrictions been observed and/or work suspended as necessary to prevent irreparable damage to road or land. Or Has a Commission approved alternative protection measure been implemented?			14		Yes – Rain, mud, truck restrictions self-imposed 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 - not complete

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		Metcalfe conducted in 2014/2015 - sites avoided
Have all CR avoidance/monitoring mitigation measures been implemented? (Sites 32DU1919, 32DU1920, 32MZ2657 & Site Lead 32Dux129)	3		Yes - Metcalfe

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 and some crane pads 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 available
Restoration: Was seeding conducted? Date of seeding: Fall Type of seed: Mats, broadcast, mostly drill Rate of seeding: Soil amendments used:	16	initiated, but not complete. Fall.
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



Project Name:	Lonesome Creek Station Phase III	Date:	7/08/2016
PSC Case Number:	PU 14-852	Time:	0900
Inspector:	Jon Knudsen, E3 Environmental, LLC	Weather:	Sunny, dry, wind

Overview:

Jon Knudsen met with Cris Miller at the Lonesome Creek Station office outside of Watford City, ND on 7/8/16 to review PSC provisions, obtain an update on construction status, and ask questions pertaining to Basin's compliance with PSC provisions (see attached). 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 the Lonesome Creek Station, currently in Phase III development. Most of the Project was visible from roads, which was well-vegetated and mostly reclaimed with significant ground-cover. At the time of inspection, all construction work and most reclamation work was complete; only minor restoration work including some backfilling, re-contouring, and re-seeding remains to be completed. Fall re-seeding is scheduled, following NRCS recommendations.

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 and armored with ECDs.
- Equipment storage was stored appropriately on footprint, away from wetlands.
- Overall the Project was tidy, though several ECDs may need to be replaced/reset.
- No archeological sites were located onsite.
- No woody vegetation or bird nests were identified during preconstruction survey.
- No active construction currently underway.
- ECDs were installed correctly and were unfilled.
- ECDs may need to be reset and sediment cleared periodically, especially after rain events.
- Re-seeding per NRCS protocols and oversight should be initiated during the growing season in 2016 (with guidance from NRCS) to avoid soil erosion and runoff.



Photos:



Photo 1. Reclaimed (in process) portion of Project Site.



Photo 2. Reclamation progress within the Project Site.



Photo 3. Lonesome Creek Station perimeter with partially-reclaimed side-slope and riprap.



Photo 4. A wetland armored by riprap, waddles, and a silt fence.

ND PSC Inspection Report



Docket No.: PU 14-852	Permittee: Basin Electric Power Cooperative	Project Name: Lonesome Creek Station Phase III
Inspection Date: 7/8/2016	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?				No
Notifications: Have there been any project design modifications that resulted in a modification of the Permitted Facility?		30		No
Notifications: Has there been any unanticipated protected wildlife and or critical habitat(s) encountered and/or reported during the project?		10		No
Notifications: Has there been any unanticipated cultural or paleontological resources encountered and/or reported during the project?		11, 12		No
Notifications: Any other notifications (not regular status reporting)?		27		No
Has the project installed buried utilities?				No
Depth of cover: Range land—minimum 48"		NA		
Depth of cover: Cultivated land—minimum 48"		NA		
Depth of cover: Road ditch (from bottom)—minimum 48"		NA		
Depth of cover: Section lines (undeveloped)—minimum 72"		NA		
Road Crossings: All graded roads to be bored unless permitted to open cut.		13		No – either own roads or not crossing
Road Crossings: All pre-existing township/county roads and lanes used during construction to be restored to pre-existing condition or better.		14		No
Temporary Roads and Staging Areas: To be restored to their original condition		14		Work in progress – reclamation has mostly been initiated.
Have road restrictions been observed and/or work suspended as necessary to prevent irreparable damage to road or land.				None in 2016
Or Has a Commission approved alternative protection measure been implemented?		15		No additional protected measures necessary

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?	16		Yes
Has subsoil been stockpiled on areas stripped of topsoil?	16		Yes
Have topsoil stockpiles been placed in locations to avoid natural drainages?	3		Yes

ND PSC Inspection Report



Have BMPs been properly installed to prevent water induced erosion of topsoil stockpiles?	3	Yes - Repaired and replaced as needed
Has all of the stockpiled subsoil been returned to the excavation and original contours restored?	16	80% - will be complete in 2016
Has topsoil been returned to the upper soil horizon after the trench has been backfilled?	16	See above - fall seeding planned
Topsoil shall not be placed within the footprint of the facility.	16	Yes
Has the project engaged in the clearing of trees or woody vegetation?		No
Have mapped locations with woody vegetation been inventoried and flagged?	19	None present in 2012, when survey conducted
Have trees \geq 1 inch dbh, that will be cleared for construction, been inventoried?	19	None present
Have woody shrubs in native growth areas located within the permanent facility footprint been inventoried?	19	None present
Has clearing of native growth outside the permanent facility footprint been done in a manner to preserve naturally occurring seed bank and root stocks, and has topsoil been preserved?	19	Yes
Have clearing activities been conducted in a manner to reduce/avoid, where practicable, the impacts to trees and woody vegetation?	19	No trees or woody vegetation observed
Has ROW-clearing in windbreaks, shelterbelts, and wooded areas been limited to a maximum 50-foot width?	NA	
Have fences or gates been encountered?		
Have fences and gates removed or damaged by the project been replaced or repaired.	20	None
Have drain tiles been encountered?		None present
Have drain tiles broken or damaged by construction activities been repaired or replaced?	21	None
Have CR mitigation measures (e.g.; monitoring, UDP) been implemented (if necessary) effectively?	11, 12	No sites identified during surveys
Have there been any unanticipated wildlife or critical habitat encounters with listed species?	10, 27	None
Have wildlife mitigation measures (e.g.; MBTA preconstruction sweeps, exclusion buffers) been implemented (if necessary) effectively?	3	No nesting birds on April
Has trash/debris been completely removed from the ROW and work areas?	24	15 Yes - Clean
Restoration: Has restoration of disturbed areas been initiated in a timely manner?	25	90% Complete - Yes. Rest will be initiated in fall

ND PSC Inspection Report



Restoration: Was topsoil replaced properly?	15, 25	Yes
Restoration: Was decompaction required?	25	Will be required and used
Restoration: Has restoration of disturbed areas been completed?	25	90% complete
Restoration: Has restoration efforts returned disturbed areas to a condition that is similar to the pre-construction state?	25	In progress - a portion is farmed, reclamation is taking
Restoration: Has reclamation, fertilization, and reseeding been conducted in accordance with Natural Resources Conservation Service recommendations?	17	Yes
Restoration: Has reclamation, fertilization, and reseeding been conducted in accordance with landowner request(s)?	17	Yes - Basin owns
Restoration: Has a line list or similar document used to record landowner specifications and restoration specifications? Is it available for review?	17	Yes - Basin owns
Restoration: Was seeding conducted?		
Date of seeding: Spring 2015, June/July 2015, fall 2016	17	Phased reseeding
Type of seed: NRCS - advised		
Rate of seeding: Phased - drilling		
Soil amendments used:		
Restoration: Was rock removed from soil surface?	25	Yes, and subsurface
Was access limited to approved access roads?	7	Yes
Were project activities limited to approved areas?	7,23	Yes
Have mapped locations of noxious weeds been flagged?		Mechanical control (mowed) and spraying - no weeds found.
Have appropriate noxious mitigation measures been implemented?		Mowing and spraying, where identified.

Water Discharges	Order	Photo	Comments
Construction Stormwater: Permit (NOC) and SWPPP on site?	3		Yes
Construction Stormwater: Are all potential stormwater contaminants stored securely in manner to prevent comingling with stormwater?	3, 24		Yes
Construction Stormwater: Are ECDs installed properly?	3		Yes
Construction Stormwater: Are ECDs in proper working order?	3		Yes
Construction Stormwater: Are additional ECDs required?	3		No
Construction Stormwater: Are all slopes/disturbed areas properly stabilized?	3		In progress, still have dirt work planned
Construction Stormwater: Are all sensitive resources (streams, wetlands, etc.) protected by BMPs?	3		Yes
Construction Stormwater: Are all discharge points and receiving waters free of sediment deposits?	3		Yes

