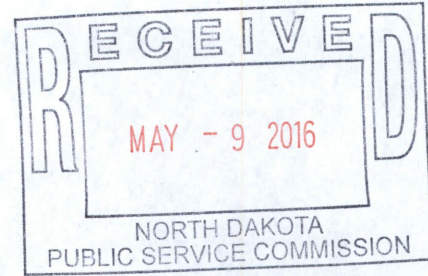




5/6/2016

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



Basin Electric Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project (PU-14-852)

Mr. Schock,

E3 Environmental, LLC (E3) is pleased to submit the attached Construction Inspection Report for Basin Electric Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project (PU-14-852). 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

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Construction Inspection Report

E3 Environmental, LLC
Katie Schmidt



Project Name: Lonesome Creek Station Phase III **Date:** 4/28/2016
PSC Case Number: PU 14-852 **Time:** 0900
Inspector: Jon Knudsen, E3 Environmental, LLC **Weather:** Cloudy, saturated

Overview:

Jon Knudsen met with Cris Miller at the Lonesome Creek Station office outside 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). 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 were muddy and saturated due to a prolonged rain event. At the time of inspection, all construction work was complete; only 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 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 ASAP (with guidance from NRCS) to avoid soil erosion and runoff.



Photos:



Photo 1. Unseeded/reclaimed portion of Project site with equipment sitting on level ground.



Photo 2. Partially re-seeded area of the Project site, showing reclamation progress.



Photo 3. Lonesome Creek Station with partially-reclaimed sideslope and properly-installed waddles.



Photo 4. A wetland armored by riprap, a culvert, erosion mats, and waddles.



Photo 5. A wetland within the Project site with a culvert, riprap, and waddles.



Photo 6. Waddles beginning to load up with sediment from recent rain event.



ND PSC Inspection Report

Docket No.: PU 14-852	Permittee: Basin Electric Power Cooperative	Project Name: Lonesome Creek Station Phase III
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?			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 not been initiated in many areas
Have road restrictions been observed and/or work suspended as necessary to prevent irreparable damage to road or land.			None in 2016 No additional protected measures
Or Has a Commission approved alternative protection measure been implemented?	15		

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% has - work in progress
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 15
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	90% Complete - Yes

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 - Yes - agricultural field will be leased
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 Type of seed: NRCS - advised Rate of seeding: Phased - drilling Soil amendments used:	17	Phased reseeding
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

