

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project  
Siting Application**

**Case No. PU-14-852**

**ORDER ON CONTINUING SUITABILITY**

**August 26, 2020**

**Preliminary Statement**

On April 29, 2015, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) issued Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 43 (Certificate) to Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) for the Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project (Project), in McKenzie County, North Dakota.

On June 25, 2020, Basin filed with the Commission a Certification of Continuing Suitability with supporting documentation (Certification), certifying that the designated site continues to meet the conditions upon which the Certificate was issued. Basin constructed 2 of the 3 planned 45 MW simple cycle combustion turbines shortly after the Certificate was issued. Basin plans to begin construction on the third unit September 1, 2020.

On July 23, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Notice), which provided until August 23, 2020 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No requests for hearing were received. The Notice identified the issue to be considered in this matter is whether the site continues to meet the evaluation requirements and conditions under which the Certificate was issued and if so then during what time period should construction be authorized to begin.

**Discussion**

Basin certified that the third planned 45 MW simple cycle combustion turbine (Unit 6) will be constructed as originally proposed within the fenced area of the Lonesome Creek Station, on previously graded land with the existing site.

Having considered this matter, the Commission finds the site designated in Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 43 for the Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project continues to meet the conditions upon which the Certificate was issued and the evaluation requirements of Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and Article 69-06 of the North Dakota Administrative Code.

Therefore, the Commission makes the following:

**Order**

The Commission orders:

1. Basin Electric Power Cooperative is authorized to begin construction of the Lonesome Creek Station Phase III Project pursuant to Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 43 as early as September 1, 2020 and no later than the September 1, 2023.
2. Except to the extent superseded or modified by this Order, the Conclusions of Law and Order provisions of the Commission's April 29, 2015 Order issuing Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 43 remain in effect.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

  
Julie Fedorchak  
Commissioner

  
Brian Kroshus  
Chairman

  
Randy Christmann  
Commissioner