



NST EXPRESS, LLC

Permit Compliance Inspection Report #1

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FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Visit Location Map

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Dakota Public Services Commission has contracted with Houston Engineering, Inc. (HEI) to perform permit compliance inspection services for the NST Express, LLC project, (Case No. PU-15-232), a 12-inch crude oil pipeline spanning 23 miles in McKenzie County, North Dakota. This report documents the inspection compliance site visit, which was conducted on May 10, 2016. This site visit focused on observation of the topsoil separation activities.

The site was inspected by Andrew Vistad, Civil Engineer. Andrew coordinated with Chris Thompson, the Chief Inspector of Northstar Express, while on site. HEI observed topsoil separation activities during the inspection site visit. Based on our observations on site, we conclude that the contractors are proficient in segregation of topsoil material. The methods utilized were appropriate for the site and site conditions.

2 INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

Houston Engineering, Inc. was contractually hired by the North Dakota Public Services Commission (NDPSC) to complete construction inspection services, as part of the 12-inch crude oil pipeline known as the NST Express Pipeline project (PSC. Case No. PU-15-232). The purpose of the inspection services is to determine compliance with the permit issued by the NDPSC. The following is a summary of the work completed to date, and the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the permit compliance review. One permit compliance site visit has been completed, and 3 additional compliance inspections will occur during construction, and one will take place after construction is complete to review restoration activities. This field inspection report is for the initial site visit, which occurred on May 10, 2016 and reviewed topsoil separation activities.

3 SITE VISIT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

HEI arrived on site at 8:30 MDT on May 11, 2016. Upon arrival, HEI discussed proposed topsoil separation methods with staff from Northstar and Loenbro (contractor) staff. Their approach included utilizing motor graders to remove topsoil material by pushing to one side of the construction easement. The site visit took place on the most western side of the project corridor, as shown on **Figure 1**. Due to wet slippery conditions, Loenbro altered their approach, and instead used a set of dozers to segregate topsoil in addition to their stated method. Combinations of their original method and alternate method were used and both were successful. HEI observed separation activities for approximately 2 hours, as it was clear that the contractors were proficient in separation technique. HEI concludes that the contractors are proficient in the successful separation and segregation of topsoil material, and that this approach will continue throughout the right-of-way corridor separation activities.

4 FUTURE PLANNED ACTIVITIES

HEI will perform the second permit compliance site visit as construction progresses. Based on the current pace of construction, HEI anticipates that the next site visit will occur during the Summer of 2016. HEI will complete a total of two site visits during active construction, once after construction is complete to observe as-built conditions, and one final inspection approximately 1-year after restoration activities have been completed.

5 SITE PHOTOGRAPHY



**Photo 1: Topsoil removed by
bull dozer, facing ESE.**



**Photo 2: Removal stages and
equipment. Facing SE.**



**Photo 3: Dozer and removal
depth. Facing south.**



Photo 4: Dozer and blade removal. Facing south.



Photo 5: Grader removal depth, Facing south.

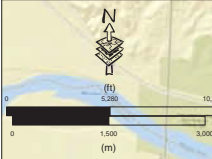


Photo 6: Removal northern extents. Facing west.



FIGURE 1





Site Visit Location / Soil Separation Observation

**NORTHSTAR MIDSTREAM
NST EXPRESS ROW STATUS
6/2/2016**

Legend

PROGRESS

- FACILITIES GRADING
- PIPELINE CLEARING
- PIPELINE GRADING
- PIPELINE STRINGING
- PIPELINE WELDING
- PIPELINE TRENCHING
- PIPELINE LOWERING/FILLING
- PIPELINE TYING
- PIPELINE REMEDIATING
- PROPOSED PIPELINE

ROW STATUS

- NOT ON
- STAKING
- CONSTRUCTION STARTED
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE
- REMEDIATED

