

Reclamation and Revegetation

Inspection Report

Brady II Wind Energy Center
Stark and Hettinger Counties

Brady Wind II, LLC

ND PSC Case No. PU-16-42

Prepared for:

North Dakota Public Service Commission
Public Utilities Division
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard – Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



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Executive Summary

The State of North Dakota, acting through its North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), Division of Public Utilities, has contracted Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to perform consulting services for reclamation and revegetation inspections. This report addresses the inspection findings concerning issues requiring resolution, areas of concern, recommendations for resolution of issues, and a determination whether the area affected by construction activities has been restored as near as practicable to the condition as it existed prior to the beginning of construction, including the establishment of desired plant species where applicable in Case No. PU-16-42.

The Brady II Wind Energy Center (Project) is located in Stark and Hettinger Counties, North Dakota. The Project is a wind energy conversion facility in Stark County, North Dakota. The wind project consists of 72 turbines generating up to 150 megawatts and is located in Hettinger County. Construction for the Project began in August 2016 and was completed in December 2016. The purpose of the reclamation and revegetation inspection was to ensure the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order Amending Certificate and Permit for the Project. Prior to the construction inspection, Keitu reviewed all Project documents to identify any and all aspects requiring site verification.

The site was visually inspected on October 10, 2018 by Keitu staff. It appears to be returned as near as practical to preconstruction conditions at the time of visit.

Overall, the project was very well-maintained, secured, and in good condition. Keitu listed an item to be addressed at the Commission's discretion in the Recommendations section of this report. If the recommendation is followed, the Project should continue to be as near as practical to pre-construction conditions.

Introduction

The Project was approved and constructed in 2016 with post-construction seeding in 2017. The Project is a wind energy conversion facility in Stark County, North Dakota. The wind project consists of 72 turbines generating up to 150 megawatts. The Project and associated facilities permanently impact approximately 17,762 acres in Hettinger County and 2,554 acres in Stark County. The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission), which issued its Order Amending Certificate and Permit (Order) for Case No. PU-16-42 on July 6, 2016.

Purpose and Scope of Inspection

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Commission to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and welfare of the citizens of North Dakota. Construction inspections ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with siting laws, rules, and the applicable Commission Order.

The Commission retained Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. (Keitu) to complete a reclamation and revegetation inspection of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Application for Amended Corridor Certificate and Route Permit Application (Application), Order, Certification Relating to Order Provisions Certification, and other applicable documents to determine Project-specific siting and construction requirements; a site visit and inspection of facilities; documentation of compliance; and a report summarizing findings. This report includes, but is not limited to, site visit observations, documentation of compliance deficiencies, and a summary of issues that should be addressed for the Project to be considered complete and in full compliance.

Methods

Keitu reviewed North Dakota siting laws and rules, the Application, Certification, and the Order for the Project to identify what Project-specific documentation was required for compliance. Keitu then reviewed Project documents in the Commission Online Case Search to identify those siting laws, rules, and Application and Order assertions that already had written verification, those that still required documentation, and those that required physical site verification.

Keitu staff visited the Project area on October 10, 2018 to visually inspect the site. Digital photographs were taken showing typical Project infrastructure and documenting any problem areas. During the field visit, construction was complete and the project was in operation.

As-Built Inspection Follow-Up

An As-Built inspection was conducted on July 16, 2017 by Keitu Staff. During this inspection it was deemed by Keitu staff that the Project was constructed in compliance with the siting laws, siting rules, and applicable Commission Orders.

Observations

Project areas occurring in crop lands appeared to be returned to pre-construction conditions at the time of visit. Crop density appeared to be similar to areas adjacent to the Project area. Portions of the Project occurring in range or pasture land had approximately 80-100% ground cover, but were mostly weeds and nonnative species. Even though they were undesirable species, the disturbed areas appeared to be stabilized.

Recommendations

1. Continual maintenance should be done to encourage the revegetation of desirable species.

Conclusion

Overall, the Project appeared to be constructed as designed with minimal impacts to the surrounding environment. The Project site is in good condition and is well maintained. The Project is as near as practical to preconstruction conditions.

Management Review

The services performed by Keitu and its staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the degree of care and technical skill appropriately exercised by professionals currently practicing in this area under similar time and budget constraints.

Recommendations and findings contained in this report represent our professional judgment and are based upon available information and technically accepted practices at the present time and location. Other than this, no warranty is implied or expressed.



10/26/2018

Jaimee Antognazzi, Operations Manager

Date

Report Photo #1: Overview of turbine construction block (T9) from East to West.



Report Photo #2: Overview of turbine construction block (T23) from South to North.



Report Photo #3: Overview of turbine construction block (T38) view to South Southwest.



Report Photo #4: Overview of turbine construction block (T57) from South to North.



Report Photo #5: Overview of turbine construction block (T56) from North to South.



Report Photo #6: Overview of turbine construction block (T41) from North to South.



Project Photo Location Map:

