

Site/Project Location: Aurora Wind Farm

Date of Inspection: 8 October 2019

Keitu staff visited the Aurora Wind Project for a start of project topsoil inspection for the wind turbine construction portion of the wind farm project. Inspection of construction sites to focus on (1) confirming surface disturbance/work occurring within ND PSC-approved work corridor and/or route; (2) topsoil segregation occurring; (3) vegetation removal consistent with tree & scrub mitigation plan.

Observed Work / Weather Conditions

Visit occurred between 10:00am and 2:30pm. The weather was clear and sunny, temperature at 66°F, winds at 5-10 mph out of the northwest and no precipitation.

The Aurora Wind Farm project kicked off its construction at the time of the visit. One bulldozer started stripping topsoil for the laydown yard located in a harvested crop field. The laydown yard and access road are located on the NE ¼ of Section 24, Township 158N, Range 96W on the south side of 75th St. NW.

Top Soil Management / Condition / Erosion Control / Stormwater Management

A bulldozer started stripping topsoil on the south side of the laydown yard which was located in a recently harvested crop field. Topsoil depth varied from 6-10 inches deep on the south side of the laydown yard. The low lying areas on the north side of the yard had significantly deeper topsoil depth of 12 inches or more. The dozer pushed the topsoil into piles to be picked up with a grader and used as a perimeter berm for the laydown yard. After the topsoil was stripped and placed into piles, graders moved the topsoil piles and created a perimeter berm on the east and south sides of the laydown yard.

The bulldozer operator demonstrated proper understanding of the rules and regulation for topsoil removal and removed the topsoil to a depth where the subsoil started to appear. The soil was saturated due to the high amount of precipitation in September and early October. The bulldozer operator made multiple passes over the same ground to remove the wet topsoil in increments to smoothly strip the topsoil layer at proper depths across the varying contours of the field.

Vegetation Condition

No evidence of tree or shrub removal was noted as the project site was located in a field used for crop production.

Deficiencies

Deficiencies were not found at the time of inspection.

Actions Taken/To Be Taken

Topsoil segregation was noted to be acceptable at this time in the areas observed. Equipment operator was reminded to strip soil, where it existed, down to a maximum of 12 inches or to the depth where subsoil appeared. Equipment operators have demonstrated proficiency in topsoil removal and segregation in compliance with the Commission's Order.

Keitu Inspector: ZAP

Inspection Report Submitted: 23 October 2019

Report Photo #1 "Bulldozer Stripping Layout Yard"



Report Photo #2 "Topsoil Pile to be Used for Perimeter Berm"



Report Photo #3 "Topsoil Berm at Laydown Yard"



Site Location Map

