

**Site/Project Location:** Divide Wind Energy Center

**Date of Inspection:** 2 July 2020

Keitu staff visited the Divide Wind Energy Center 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 11:00am and 1:30pm. The weather was clear and sunny, temperature at 84°F, winds at 5-10 mph out of the northwest and no precipitation.

The Divide Wind Energy Center project kicked off its construction at the time of the visit. Two bulldozers and one grader machine started stripping topsoil for the laydown yard located in a planted crop field. The laydown yard and access road are located on the SE ¼ of Section 17, Township 161N, Range 93W on the west side of ND Highway 40.

**Top Soil Management / Condition / Erosion Control / Stormwater Management**

Two bulldozers started stripping topsoil on the south side of the laydown yard which was located in a planted crop field. Topsoil depth varied from 6-10 inches deep on the south side of the laydown yard. The west side of the laydown yard was being stripped using a grader. The lower lying areas of the west side of the laydown yard had topsoil depth of 12 inches or more, while the areas of higher elevation had topsoil depth of 6 inches or less in some areas. The dozers on the south side of the yard pushed the topsoil into piles to be picked up with a grader and used as a perimeter berm for the laydown yard. The grader was segregating topsoil along the western edge of the yard while the dozers stripped the south side.

The bulldozer and grader operators 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 from precipitation earlier in the week. Multiple passes were made 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.

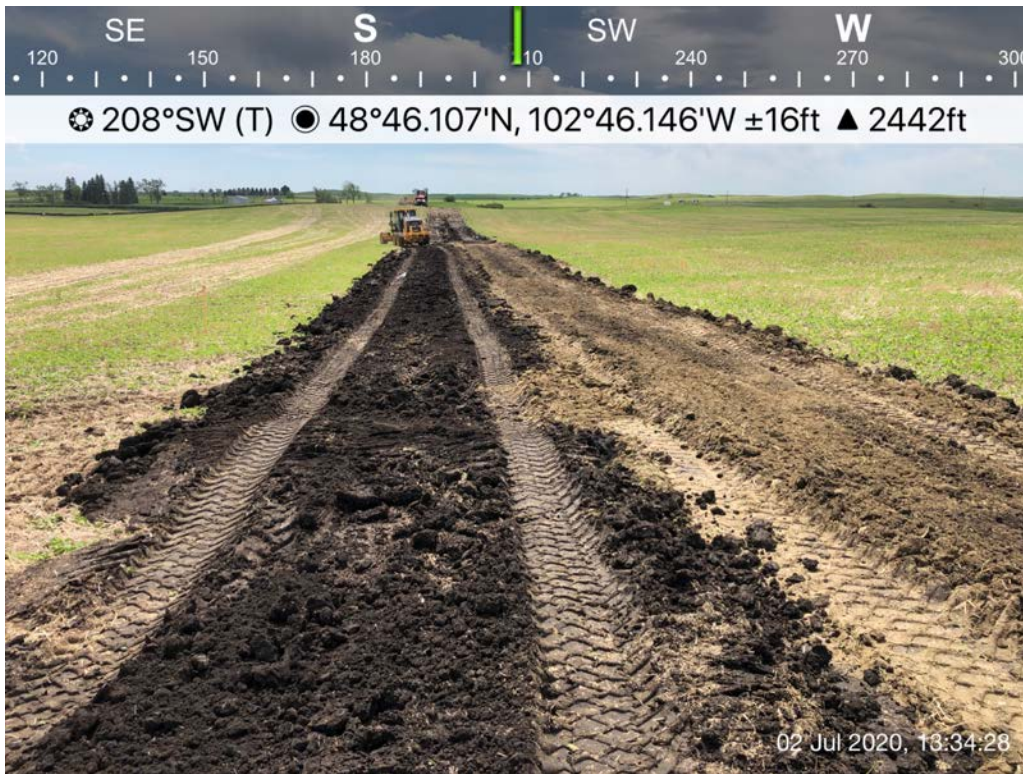
**Actions Taken/To Be Taken**

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:** 16 July 2020

**Report Photo #1 "Grader stripping soil on west side of laydown yard"**



**Report Photo #2 "Topsoil stripped by bulldozers on south side of laydown yard"**



**Report Photo #3 “Varying topsoil depth on hill slope of the laydown yard”**



**Site Location Map**

