

Site/Project Location: Divide 345 kV Transmission Line

Date of Inspection: 27 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 1:30pm and 3:30pm. The weather was clear and sunny, temperature at 75°F, winds at 10 mph out of the northwest and no precipitation.

The Divide 345 kV Transmission Line project kicked off the construction of its project with the stripping of the laydown yard the week previous to the inspection. The inspection occurred during the topsoil stripping of the transmission line structures, which began at the time of the inspection. An excavator and a bulldozer were used to strip topsoil to clear a pad for transmission line structures. The laydown yard is located on the SE ¼ of Section 33, Township 159N, Range 93W on the west side of 93rdth Ave NW.

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.

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Topsoil Inspection Report
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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: 11 August 2020

Report Photo #1 "Topsoil stripped off laydown yard"



Report Photo #2 "Topsoil pile at laydown yard"



Report Photo #3 "Topsoil being stripped for a transmission line structure."



Site Location Map

