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April 1, 2020

Steve Kahl
Interim Executive Secretary
ND Public Service Commission
Inside Mail

NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Kahl:

This is in response to your request for a review of the environmental impacts associated with the Case No. PU-20-018, Pump Station Additions project located in McKenzie & Dunn Counties, ND.

The proposed project has been reviewed by State Water Commission staff, and the following comments are provided:

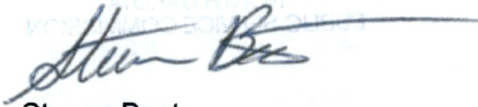
- There are no floodplains identified and/or mapped where this proposed project is to take place. No permits relative to the NFIP are required based on the current effective FIRM and State minimum standards.
- The Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Engineering and Permitting Section reviewed the project route and does not expect any issues with granting a waiver from the PSC. However, from the minimal information provided, it is not entirely clear whether or not the project will impact water resources. Therefore, the OSE requests to be notified regarding the proposed project's impacts, if any, to water resources such as watercourses (i.e. streams or rivers), agricultural drains, and wetlands (i.e. ponds, sloughs, lakes, or any series thereof) as any alterations, modifications, improvements, or impacts to those water resources may require a drainage permit(s) or a construction permit(s) from the OSE. For further information on the OSE's permitting requirements, please visit the Regulation & Appropriation tab on the OSE's website (swc.nd.gov). Please contact the OSE Engineering and Permitting Section at 701-328-2752 if you have any questions.
- Initial review indicates the project does not require a conditional or temporary permit for water appropriation. However, if surface water or groundwater will be diverted for construction of the project, a water permit will be required per North Dakota Century Code § 61-04-02. Please consult with the Water Appropriations Division of the Office of the State Engineer if you have any questions at (701) 328-2754 or waterpermits@nd.gov.
- The State Water Commission maintains a network of observation wells across the state for monitoring the water levels and quality in glacial and bedrock aquifers. These wells are often installed in road and highway rights-of-way to limit inconvenience to the adjacent landowners. State Water Commission observation wells have a yellow protective casing extending between 1 and 3 feet above ground surface, and their

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locations are marked with a stake. If an observation well is encountered during project activities and must be removed, please contact the Water Appropriations Division. The State Water Commission hopes to keep all observation wells, but otherwise will ensure the well is properly abandoned.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. Should you have further questions, please contact me at 701-328-4970 or stevebest@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Best", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Best
Planner III

SB:dm/1570