

April 6, 2021

Geralyn Schmaltz
ND PSC
Email

This is in response to your request for a review of the environmental impacts associated with the Case No. PU-21-49, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 230kV Transmission Line Project located in Mountrail County, ND.

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

- There are no FEMA regulatory 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 and determined that no construction or drainage permits are likely required from this department. However, any surface drainage disturbed during construction must be returned to existing conditions or to conditions as set by the engineer. If any water resources such as watercourses (i.e. streams or rivers), agricultural drains, and wetlands (i.e. ponds, sloughs, lakes, or any series thereof) are proposed to be altered, modified, improved, or impacted beyond the scope of this initial review, a drainage permit(s) or a construction permit(s) from the OSE may be required. For further information, 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 appropinfo@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 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,



Steven Best
Planner III

SB:dm/1570

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