

**Site/Project Location:** MDU 12-inch Water Pipeline- Morton County      **Date of Inspection:** 14 May 2022

Keitu staff visited the MDU 12-inch Water Pipeline Project for a start of project topsoil inspection at the location being cleared. 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 8:00am and 10:00am. The weather was sunny, temperature at 51°F, winds at 24 mph out of the West and no precipitation.

The MDU 12-inch Water Pipeline Project kicked off its construction in North Dakota at the time of the visit. A bulldozer stripped the topsoil along the Project ROW on the North end of the line near the Heskett Station in the NE ¼ of Section 15, Township 139N, Range 81W in Morton County. Soil was not stripped past the point where subsoil was visible. Subsoil was not removed at the time of the inspection.

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

A bulldozer started stripping topsoil along the ROW in the north end of the Project on the south side of 38<sup>th</sup> Street. Topsoil was placed along the west side of the ROW. Topsoil depth varied from 10-12 inches in lower elevations to 6-8 inches in higher elevations. No subsoil was removed during the inspection. All subsoil being removed will done during the excavation of the pipe trench and will immediately be used to backfill the trench once the pipe is laid in the ground. All subsoil removed during the excavation process will be placed on the east side of the ROW, opposite of the topsoil berm to keep them segregated from one another.

The bulldozer operated carefully removed the topsoil until the subsoil layer became visible and moved the topsoil into a berm on the west side of the cleared area. The bulldozer operator demonstrated proper understanding of the rules and regulations for topsoil removal and removed the topsoil to a depth where the subsoil started to appear. Multiple passes were made over the same ground to remove the 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 pastureland.

### **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:** 24 May 2022

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Topsoil Inspection Report  
Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.

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**Report Photo #1 "Bulldozer Stripping Topsoil along ROW"**



**Report Photo #2 "Topsoil Pile on the West Side of the Cleared Area"**



**Report Photo #3 "Topsoil Being Stripped Showing Color Change from Topsoil to Subsoil"**



**Site Location Map**

