

Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Fedorchak, Haugen-Hoffart

From: Adam Renfandt, Public Utility Analyst



Date: February 27, 2023

Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin), Pioneer Generation Station Ph IV - Williams County, Siting Application, Case No. PU-22-380

On February 24, 2023, Basin filed a request to remove frozen topsoil to prepare an 80-acre site for below grade foundation installation for the proposed reciprocating engine and combustion turbine power block areas and the combustion turbine evaporating pond area. Pursuant to provision 14 to the Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Energy Conversion Facility Siting attached to the February 8, 2023, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, such a request must be approved by the Commission.

Basin plans to use INGAA Foundation Guidelines for Pipeline Construction During Frozen Conditions, which would include pothole testing to verify topsoil depth, utilizing ripper shanks and/or tooth buckets to loosen the frozen soil prior to removal, and multiple excavator passes to ensure separation between topsoil and subsoil. Basin's construction contractor, Burns & McDonnell, will monitor the site excavation subcontractor to verify compliance with the various requirements.

Since Basin intends to follow INGAA Foundation guidelines, I believe topsoil will be properly segregated from subsoil during the excavation and subsequent replacement of topsoil, and I recommend approval of Basin's request.