

Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project Oliver County

Construction Inspection Report

Docket Number: PU-23-318

Prepared for North Dakota Public Service Commission



October 2024

Topsoil Inspection Report

October 2024

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1 Executive Summary

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) retained Meadowlark Environmental, LLC (Meadowlark) to complete a construction inspection for the construction of the Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line (Project) in Oliver and Mercer Counties, North Dakota (ND), constructed by NextEra Energy Resources, LLC (NextEra). The purpose of the inspections is to ensure the project is constructed in compliance with siting laws and rules and the applicable PSC Orders for the project.

The topsoil inspection was conducted on October 22, 2024, when construction of the transmission line was ongoing. The inspection was conducted to observe and document that the Project was being built in compliance with the PSC's Orders for the Project.

At the time of the inspection, approximately 75% of the transmission line structures had been erected and crews were stringing wires and guy lines on completed structures. No major issues were noted at the time of the inspection.

2 Background and Scope

2.1 Introduction

The 19.5-mile-long Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project is being constructed by NextEra to convey power from the associated Oliver IV Wind Energy Center collection substation in Oliver County, North Dakota to the point of interconnection at the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Leland Olds Station 345kV Substation in Mercer County, North Dakota. Approximately 10.8 miles of the transmission line are in Oliver County, and approximately 8.7 miles are in Mercer County.

The Project originates in Section 5, Township 142 North, Range 85 West in Oliver County, North Dakota. The transmission line runs north and east approximately 19.5 miles to the terminal point at the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Leland Olds Station 345kV Substation located in Section 27, Township 144 North, Range 84 West in Mercer County, North Dakota.

The Project is under the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC), which issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order on April 29, 2024, and issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 233 Route Permit No. 243 for Case No. PU-23-318.

2.2 Regulatory Purpose and Need

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) charges the Public Service Commission with determining that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and the welfare of citizens of North Dakota. Inspections during construction ensure that such projects are built in compliance with the siting laws (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) and rules (North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69-06) and the applicable Commission Orders.

2.3 Scope of Work

The North Dakota Public Service Commission retained Meadowlark to perform a construction inspection of the Project. Meadowlark's scope of work was to complete and document an on-site inspection during the start of construction to verify that topsoil was being removed and segregated from subsoil in compliance with the siting laws, rules, and applicable Commission Orders. This report contains site visit observations and a summary of findings and issues that should be addressed for the Project.

3 Findings of Site Inspection

3.1 Methods

Zach Peterson, Project Manager/Field Inspector for Meadowlark visited the Project site on October 22, 2024, to conduct the construction inspection. Mr. Peterson started the inspection on the south end of the Project at the intersection of 18th St SW and 48th Ave SW and followed the transmission line north and east to the point where the line crossed ND Hwy 31.

Mr. Peterson observed the transmission line structures located along roadways, in pastureland, and through harvested and unharvested crop fields. Transmission line structures, foundations, access roads, and SWPPP BMPs were observed throughout the route. Photos (iPhone 15) were taken with a GIS overlay and without the overlay at observation points to record the geographic locations of the observation points visited during the inspection.

3.2 On-Site Inspection Observations

Mr. Peterson started the inspection on the south end of the Project and followed the route north and east. It appeared that construction of the transmission line began on the south end and was continuing northward at the time of the inspection. Construction on the south end of the transmission appeared to be completed with topsoil spread around the foundations and seed planted. As the transmission line ran north and east, structures were erected and electrical wires and guy lines were being strung. Some SWPPP BMPs appeared to be knocked down by heavy winds or livestock and should be monitored routinely.

Construction of the project appeared to be acceptable and in compliance with the Commission's Orders.

4 Issues to Resolve and Recommendations

The Project appeared to be constructed in compliance with the Commission's Order. SWPPP BMPs should be monitored routinely and repaired or replaced as necessary.

Potential Issues	Recommendations
SWPPP Maintenance	Silt fence, straw wattles, and other BMPs must be regularly checked to ensure sediment from the site does not runoff into the irrigation ditch and adjacent property.
Dust Control	During construction, road speed within the Wind Project will be limited to 25 miles per hour to minimize wildlife collisions and increase traffic safety by reducing dust emissions as a result of construction activities.

5 Signatures

The services performed by Meadowlark staff for this project have been conducted in a manner consistent with the technical skill and degree of care exercised by professionals currently practicing in this discipline under similar time and budget constraints. Findings and recommendations represent our professional judgement and are based on available information and accepted practices. No warranty is implied or expressed beyond this.



Zach Peterson, Inspector

11/5/2024

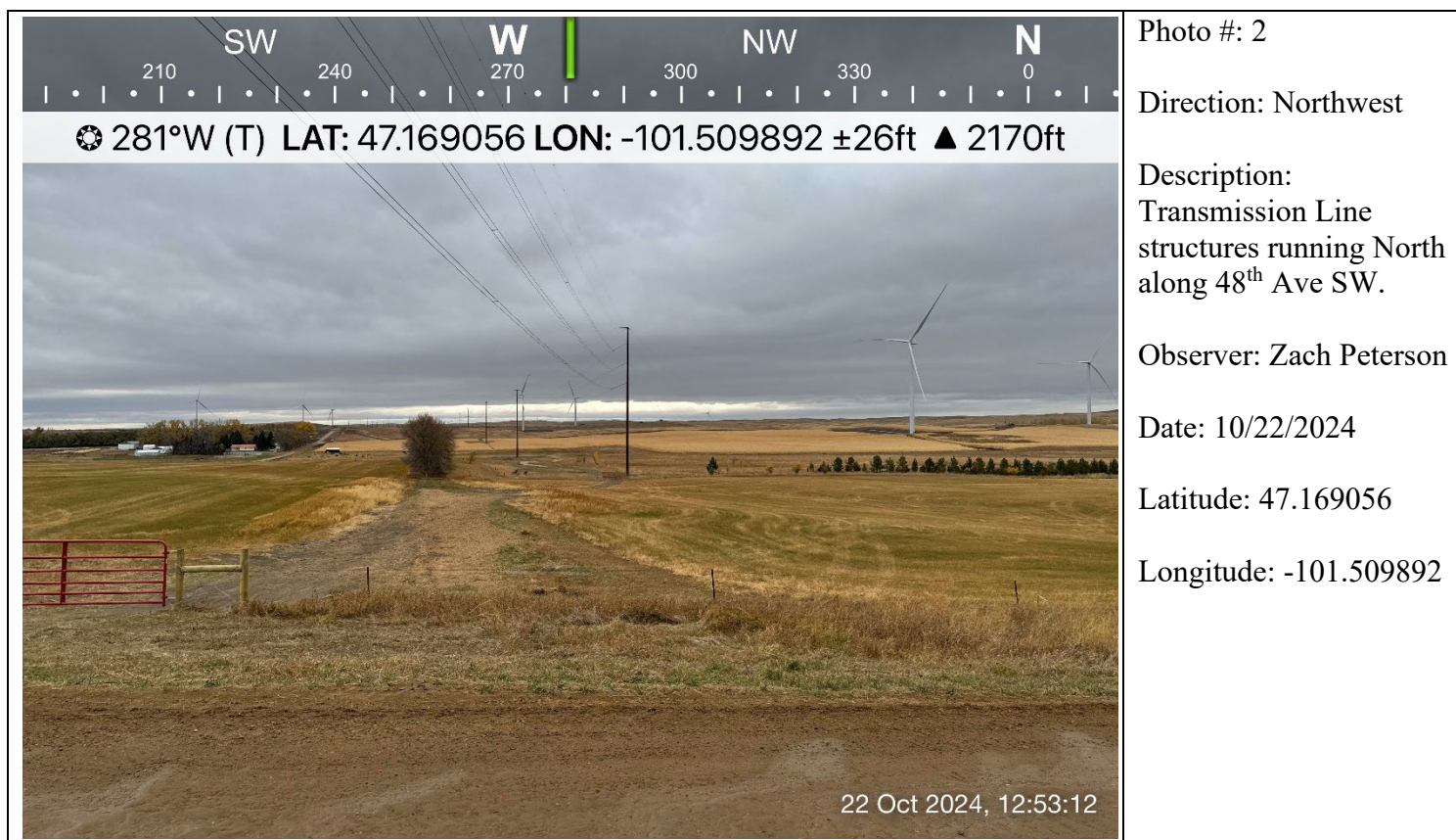
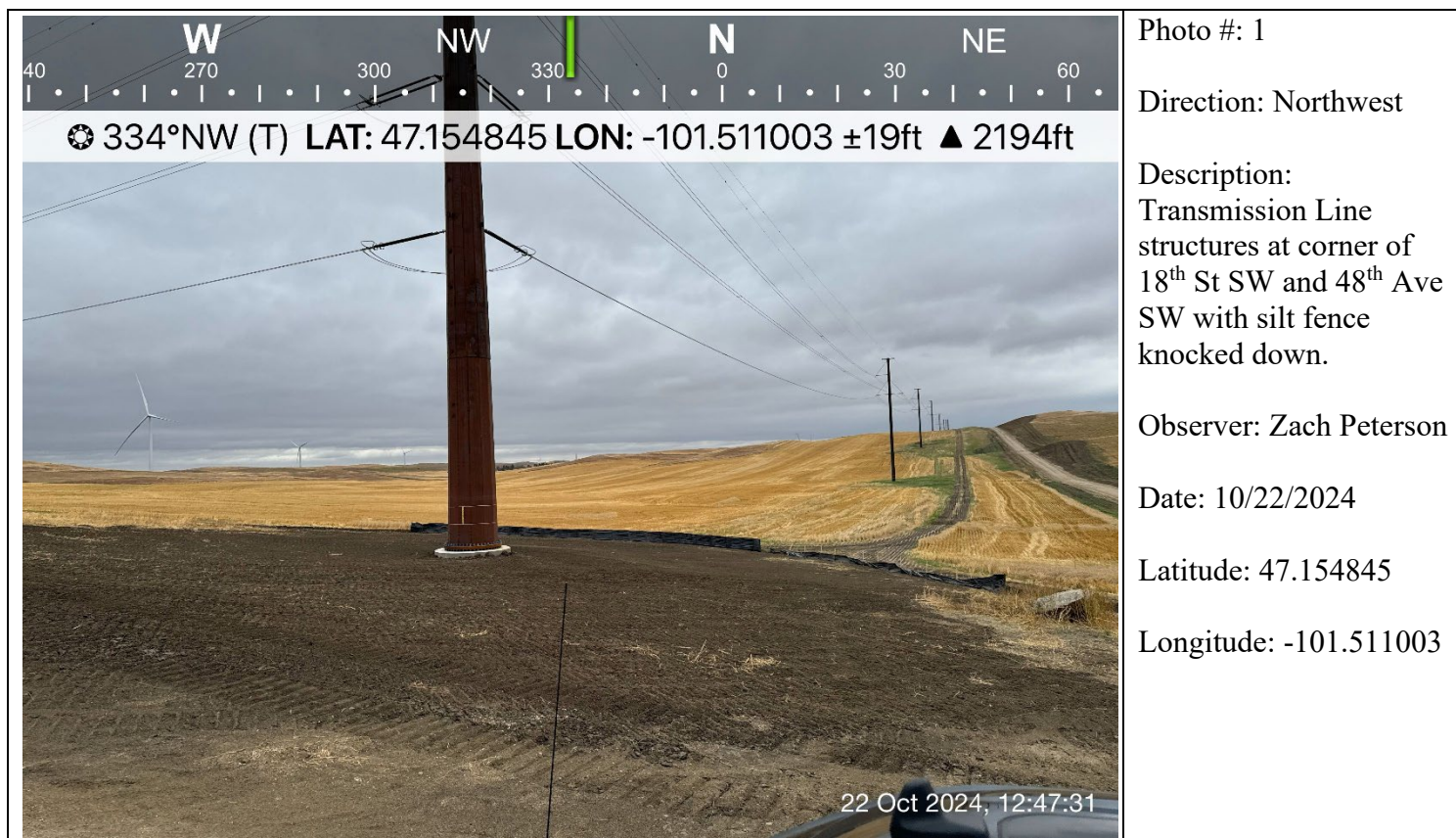
Date

Appendices

Photo Log and Observation Maps



On-Site Photographs

Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project- Oliver and Mercer Counties





On-Site Photographs

Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project- Oliver and Mercer Counties

<p>S 80 SW 210 240 W 270 NW 300 330 N 0</p> <p>☉ 273°W (T) LAT: 47.176312 LON: -101.509068 ±39ft ▲ 2132ft</p>  <p>22 Oct 2024, 13:03:46</p>	<p>Photo #: 3</p> <p>Direction: West</p> <p>Description: Transmission Line structures running through pastureland along 48th Ave SW.</p> <p>Observer: Zach Peterson</p> <p>Date: 10/22/2024</p> <p>Latitude: 47.176312</p> <p>Longitude: -101.509068</p>
<p>NE 60 E 90 SE 120 150 S 180 210 S</p> <p>☉ 128°SE (T) LAT: 47.176273 LON: -101.509148 ±13ft ▲ 2137ft</p>  <p>22 Oct 2024, 13:12:13</p>	<p>Photo #: 4</p> <p>Direction: Southeast</p> <p>Description: Transmission Line structures running through cropland on East side of 48th Ave SW.</p> <p>Observer: Zach Peterson</p> <p>Date: 10/22/2024</p> <p>Latitude: 47.176273</p> <p>Longitude: -101.509148</p>

On-Site Photographs

Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project- Oliver and Mercer Counties

 <p>240 W 270 300 330 0 30 60 NE</p> <p>☉ 331°NW (T) LAT: 47.212542 LON: -101.448598 ±13ft ▲ 2036ft</p> <p>22 Oct 2024, 13:47:15</p>	<p>Photo #: 5</p> <p>Direction: Northwest</p> <p>Description: Transmission Line running through cropland on North side of 14th St SW with SWPPP BMPs in good condition.</p> <p>Observer: Zach Peterson</p> <p>Date: 10/22/2024</p> <p>Latitude: 47.212542</p> <p>Longitude: -101.448598</p>
 <p>W 270 NW 300 330 0 30 60 90 E</p> <p>☉ 1°N (T) LAT: 47.241490 LON: -101.437806 ±13ft ▲ 1949ft</p> <p>22 Oct 2024, 13:53:52</p>	<p>Photo #: 6</p> <p>Direction: North</p> <p>Description: Transmission Line running North of 12th St SW with helicopter staged for construction and inspection use.</p> <p>Observer: Zach Peterson</p> <p>Date: 10/22/2024</p> <p>Latitude: 47.241490</p> <p>Longitude: -101.437806</p>

On-Site Photographs

Oliver Wind IV 345kV Transmission Line Project- Oliver and Mercer Counties

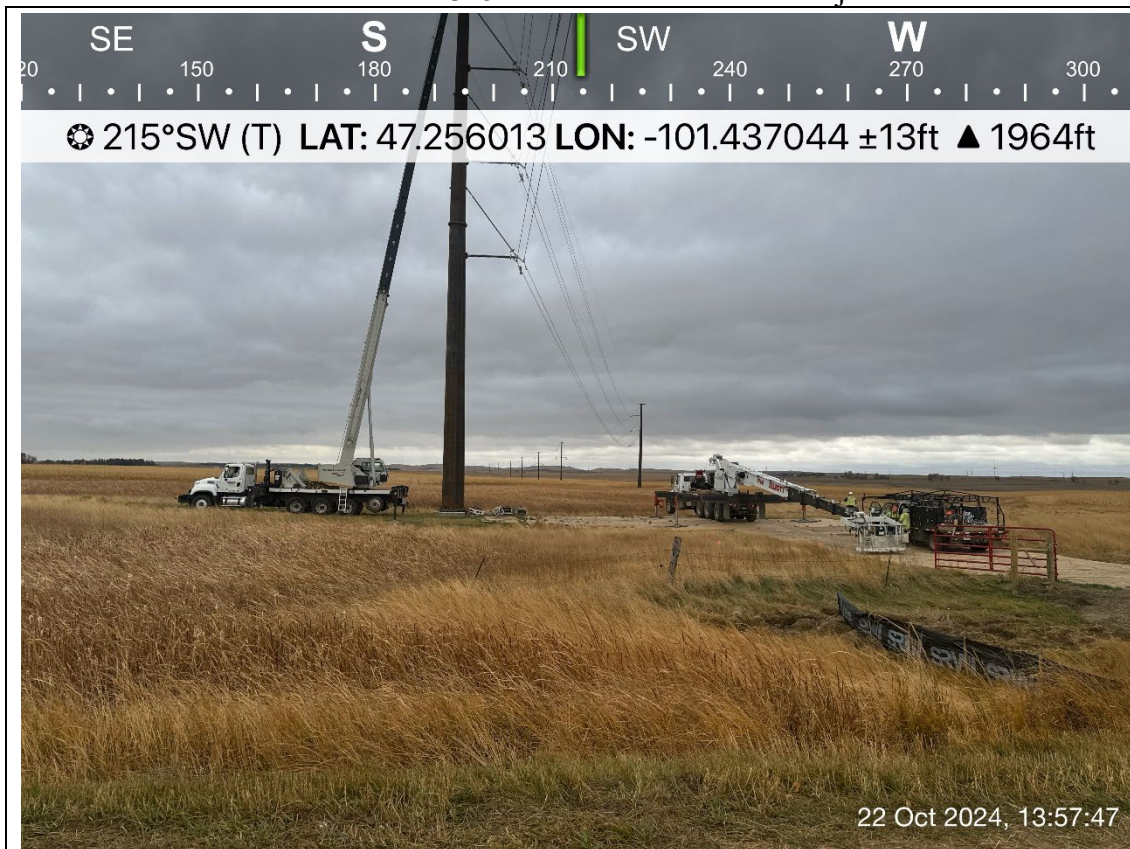


Photo #: 7

Direction: Southwest

Description:
Construction crews stringing wire on structures south of 11th St SW.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 10/22/2024

Latitude: 47.256013

Longitude: -101.437044



Photo #: 8

Direction: South

Description: Guy wires being installed on structure on east side of Highway 31.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 10/22/2024

Latitude: 47.270467



Longitude: -101.422887

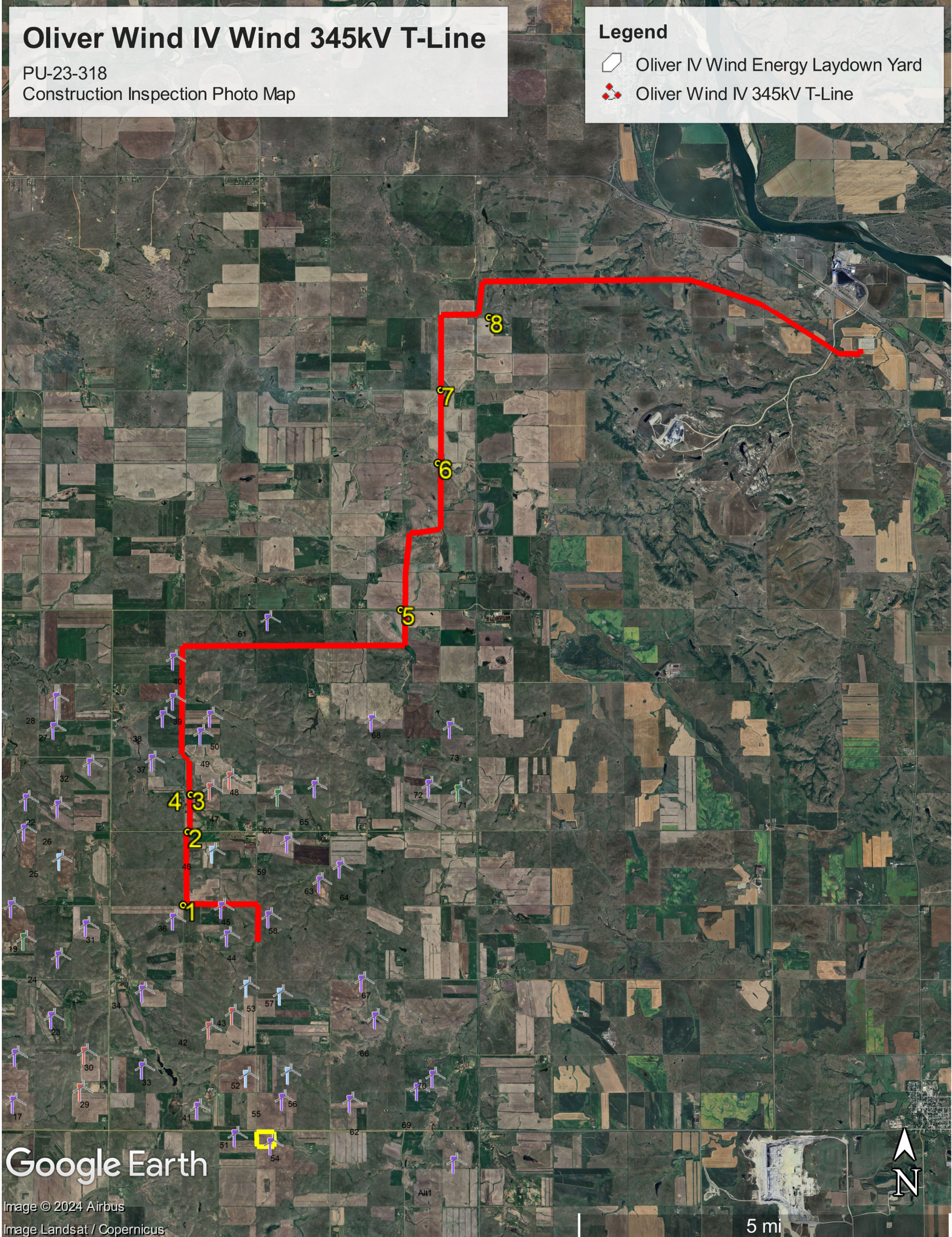
Oliver Wind IV Wind 345kV T-Line

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Construction Inspection Photo Map

Legend

-  Oliver IV Wind Energy Laydown Yard
-  Oliver Wind IV 345kV T-Line



Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus
Image Landsat / Copernicus

5 mi