

July 22, 2024

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave – Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Please find enclosed two hardcopies of the construction inspection for the Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project, Case No. PU-23-338. If you have questions, please contact Zach Peterson at 701-341-1078.

Sincerely,



Zach Peterson
Project Manager

Enclosures: Construction Inspection Report PU-23-338 (2 hardcopies)



Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project

Williams County

Construction Inspection Report

Docket Number: PU-23-338

Prepared for North Dakota Public Service Commission



July 2024

Construction Inspection Report

July 2024

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1 Executive Summary

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) retained Meadowlark Environmental, LLC (Meadowlark) to complete a construction inspection for the Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line (Project) in Williams County, North Dakota (ND), constructed by Basin Electric Cooperative (Basin). 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 construction inspection was conducted on July 11, 2024. The inspection occurred when transmission line structures were in various stages of construction. Generally, construction for the Project progresses with structures on the southeast end near the Judson Substation being completed first and structures on the northwest end near the Pioneer Switchyard in the early stages of construction. Construction activity observed during the inspection included staging of structure components, construction of structures, and excavation of structure foundations. No major issues were observed during the inspection.

2 Background and Scope

2.1 Introduction

The Pioneer to Judson 345-kV Transmission Line is being constructed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The Project is an approximately 14.6-mile-long electric transmission line being built within a 150-foot-wide easement connecting Basin Electric's Pioneer 345-kV Switchyard, located within the Pioneer Generation Station (PGS), to the existing Judson 345-kV Substation. The Project is needed to connect the PGS Phase IV facilities to electrical grid resources, which will fill a need for additional capacity in the region to meet the growing demand and provide an adequate supply of electrical power in the Williston Basin.

Approximately 81 steel structures ranging from 105 to 165 feet tall and utilizing drilled concrete piers for structure foundations will be constructed for the Project. Construction of the Project began on April 4, 2024, and is anticipated to be completed in summer of 2024.

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, Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 231, and Route Permit No. 241 on March 5, 2024, for Case No. PU-23-338.

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 construction of the pipeline to verify that the project was 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 July 11, 2024, to conduct the construction inspection. Representative for Basin, Darrel Slavick, Field Coordinator, accompanied Mr. Peterson. The inspection occurred between 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM. Construction activities for the Project were occurring for the Project at the time of the visit.

Mr. Peterson observed foundations being excavated, staging of structure components, structure construction, and completed structures during the construction inspection. The majority of the Project was visited during the inspection, with construction activities generally being completed from the south end near Judson Substation to the north end near the Pioneer Switchyard. Construction activities appeared to be in compliance with the Commission's Orders.

3.2 On-Site Inspection Observations

Mr. Peterson met Mr. Slavick at the north end of the Project near the Pioneer Switchyard. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Slavick drove the Project ROW and observed structure construction in various stages, as well as topsoil segregation and stormwater BMPs. Structure locations near the north end of the Project were undergoing excavation for the structure foundations. Structure components were being staged for construction and partially constructed in the middle portions of the Project. In the south end of the Project, structures were mostly completed at the time of the inspection.

With the heavy rainfall experienced during the Project construction, maintenance of the access roads along the ROW was ongoing to minimize damage to low lying areas where rainfall had collected.

All construction activities observed appeared to be acceptable and in compliance with the Commission's Orders.

4 Issues to Resolve and Recommendations

Construction activities were noted to be acceptable and in compliance with the Commission's Orders. As construction of the Project is completed, reclamation of access roads and reseeding of the ROW will be needed.

Potential Issues	Recommendations
Reclamation of Access Roads	When construction is completed, access roads along the ROW will need to be reclaimed to pre-construction condition.
SWPPP BMPs	Silt fence, waddles and other erosion devices will need to be monitored until vegetation is reestablished along ROW.

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

7/22/2024

Date

Appendices

Photo Log and Observation Maps

On-Site Photographs

Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project- Williams County



Photo #: 1

Direction: Northwest

Description: Excavation for foundation at Structure 4 near Pioneer Switchyard.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.223275

Longitude: -103.955030



Photo #: 2

Direction: North

Description: Topsoil pile segregated from subsoil at foundation excavation at Structure 4.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.223375

Longitude: -103.955106

On-Site Photographs

Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project- Williams County



Photo #: 3

Direction: Southwest

Description:
Components prepared
for construction of
Structure 9.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.216257

Longitude: -103.948079



Photo #: 4

Direction: Southeast

Description: Trees
cleared for construction
of Structure 17.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.201608

Longitude: -103.936920

On-Site Photographs

Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project- Williams County



Photo #: 5

Direction: West

Description: Structure
27 partially constructed
in crop field.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.176956

Longitude: -103.927887



Photo #: 6

Direction: Southeast

Description: Overview
of Structures 33-38
running through crop
field.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.176330

Longitude: -103.910159

On-Site Photographs

Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line Project- Williams County



Photo #: 7

Direction: Northwest

Description: Overview of Structures 38-41 running through a crop field.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

Latitude: 48.176252

Longitude: -103.877948



Photo #: 8

Direction: West

Description: Foundation and components prepared for construction at Structure 56.

Observer: Zach Peterson

Date: 07/11/2024

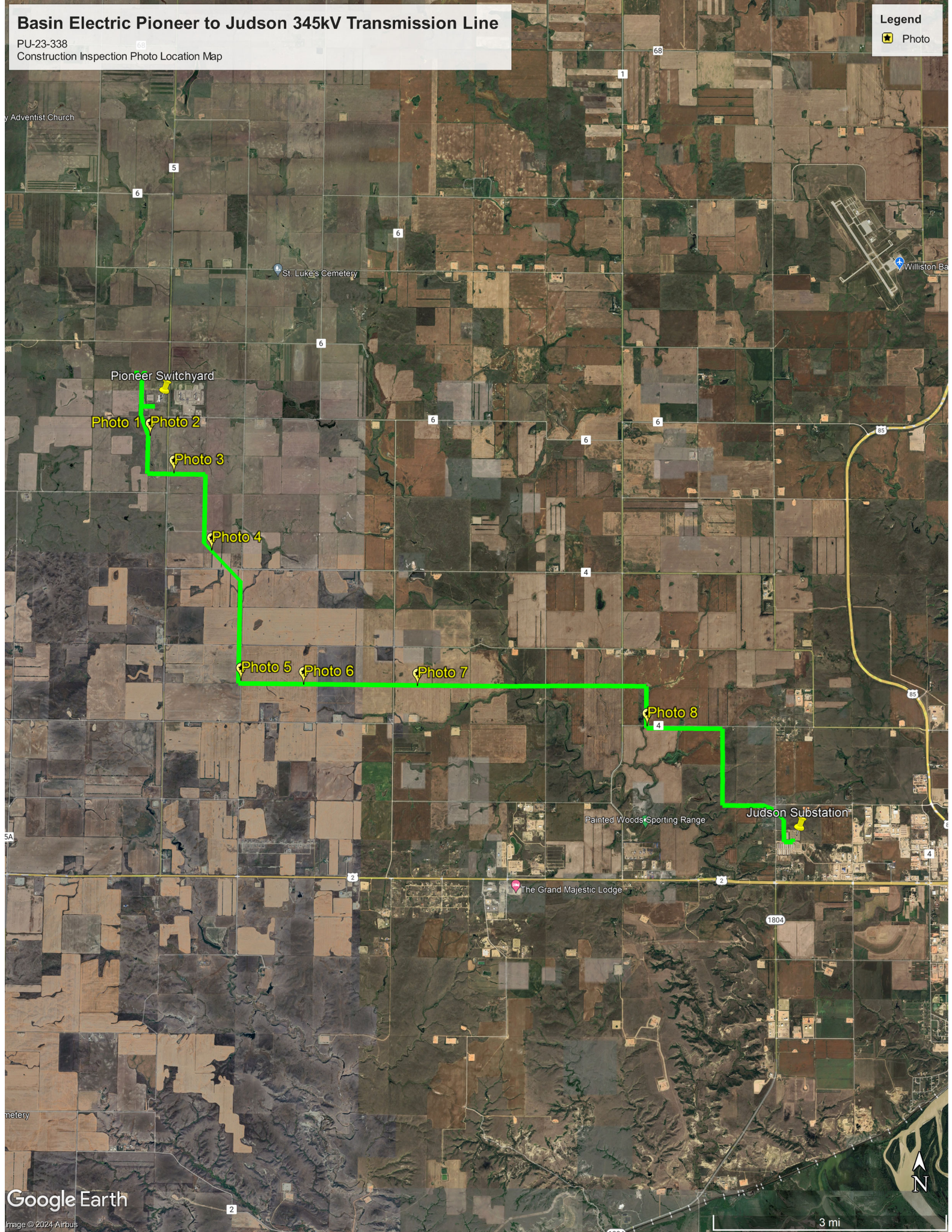
Latitude: 48.169062

Longitude: -103.812935

Basin Electric Pioneer to Judson 345kV Transmission Line

PU-23-338
Construction Inspection Photo Location Map

Legend
Photo



Pioneer Switchyard
Photo 1
Photo 2
Photo 3

Photo 4

Photo 5
Photo 6
Photo 7

Photo 8

Judson Substation