



# Thunder Butte Pipeline, LLC

Thunder Butte Pipeline Project, Mountrail and Ward  
County, North Dakota

Case No. PU-24-86

Topsoil Removal Inspection Report



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

68 PU-24-86 Filed 08/14/2025 Pages: 31  
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report

SEH - Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.  
Loretta Marshik, PE



Building a Better World  
for All of Us®

Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

RE: Case No. PU-24-86  
Thunder Butte Pipeline, LLC  
Thunder Butte Pipeline Project  
Mountrail and Ward County, ND  
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report

Mr. Adam Renfandt  
Project Manager  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Renfandt:

Attached is the Topsoil Removal Inspection Report for the above referenced project. This report includes the following:

1. Executive Summary
2. Inspection Report
3. Appendix A – Photo Location Map
4. Appendix B - Photographs

Sincerely,

Loretta A. Marshik, PE  
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.  
905 Tacoma Ave., Suite 2  
Bismarck, ND 58504





## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Page 1 of 1

Date: 08/05/2025

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project

Inspector visited the construction site to document topsoil stripping activities for PU-24-86 Thunder Butte, LLC's Crude Oil Pipeline Project. Inspector documented topsoil stripping activities and equipment, existing conditions, topsoil storage methods and segregation practices, topsoil depth checks and subsoil types. Inspector also verified all work remained inside of authorized ROW and within work easements.

Inspector oversaw topsoil stripping activities to ensure that contractor could effectively segregate topsoil from subsoil such that project footprint will be returned to previous or better condition at conclusion of work. No erosion control was installed during field observation, nor were any avoidance areas (habitat, cultural, military) disturbed or worked around during observations. Inspector concluded that contractor was stripping topsoil to the soil layer change without overexcavating, and succeeded in maintaining segregation between topsoil storage piles and subsoil layers.

### ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION:

-No fiber roll or other erosion control measures were installed around topsoil stockpiles, nor were any planned to be installed per conversation with Ralph Anaya.

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION(S):

-Install fiber roll on downstream side of any topsoil piles to prevent runoff erosion.

Upon Inspection, the site appears to follow the means and methods discussed with the inspector and meets the construction and Commission siting rules, laws, and applicable Orders except those listed above.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eaton Jorgensen', is written over a black rectangular background.

Inspector's Signature



## INSPECTOR'S DIARY

Page 1 of 3

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project		Contractor: Thunder Butte, LLC	
Date: 08/01/2025	Day: Friday		Subcontractor: Baker Energy Services
Weather: Mostly Sunny, winds 15-20mph		Temp: 76 F	Inspector: Dalton Jorgenson
<b>Work Activities:</b> *Baker Energy Services began topsoil stripping and stockpiling activities for a crude oil transmission pipeline.			
<b>Labor Force:</b> Baker Energy Services: 1-Superintendent (Ralph Anaya), 4-laborers, 1-heavy equipment operator			
<b>Contractor Correspondence:</b> *Correspondence began on 5/27/25 when I reached out to Ralph A to see if they were still planning on starting on the week of June 1st. He did not respond until July 15th, letting me know it would be "another month" until work outside of Thunder Butte Property began. *7/18/25: Ralph A reached out again through email and text that they were planning on starting topsoil operations on 7/21/25 at 8am. *7/21/25: Ralph, his crew, and myself had a safety meeting and discussed plans for day. *7/21/25, 9:00: Ralph and I discuss options moving forward given that soil is too wet to move with the grader, and the nearest dozer is 5 hours away. I told him we couldn't be sitting out there all day doing nothing, so it would be best to reschedule. Goal was to try again on 7/23. *7/22/25: Ralph texted me to let me know that 7/23 wasn't going to work as site had received even more rain. Ralph suggested trying again on Tuesday, 7/29. *7/28/25: I checked with Ralph over text if the 7/29 plan was still happening. He notified me that work was delayed again. 7/31/25: Ralph texts me if the following morning at 8am is open for me. I said I will be there. 8/1/25, 8:00: I notify Ralph over text that I've arrived on site. 9:25: Ralph and I had a discussion about a hole on site uncovered during topsoil removal. After discussion between he, myself, and an electrician, none of us were sure what it was. Ralph marked it with Lath to ensure it is avoided for time being. No evidence of hit utilities. 1:25: I let Ralph know that I would be leaving around 2:30.			
<b>Other Remarks:</b> *During inspection, inspector noticed a perfectly circular, 8" diameter hole in the stripping area. Upon further investigation, it seemed to be approximately 3 feet deep. No signs of disturbed utilities, and none of us on the crew were sure what it was. Ralph used a piece of lath to mark the spot so crew can keep an eye on it and not accidentally bury it.			

Inspector's Signature



## INSPECTOR'S DIARY

Page 2 of 3

Date: 08/01/2025

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project

Contractor or Sub: FB Timberline

### Work Performed & Location:

\*Inspector visited site to oversee and document topsoil stripping operations for 3.84 miles of new crude oil pipeline for Thunder Butte Pipeline, LLC. Inspector was on site to verify that all work was being completed entirely within easements and ROW, that topsoil was being excavated to depths compliant with PSC standards and orders. Day's work consisted of topsoil stripping between stations 6+00 and 18+00. Work included:

- Topsoil Stripping (See Photos P4, 6, 10, 12, 18, 19, 24, 26)
- Topsoil Stockpiling (See Photo P11)
- Moving Decorative Rocks (See Photo P14)

Site Disturbances Noted: An 8" diameter hole was discovered during topsoil stripping around Station 12+25. No evidence of a utility incident, but no one on crew nor inspector could tell if it was made by an animal or if it was man made. (See Photo P8). Crew placed Lath in hole to make sure no one lost it.

Once it was evident that contractor was capable of stripping topsoil and ensuring segregation, inspector departed from the site.

### CONTRACTOR EQUIPMENT:

Equipment Operating: (1) Deere 772G Grader, (1) Deere 750K Bulldozer

Inspector's Signature





## INSPECTOR'S DIARY

Page 3 of 3

Date: 08/01/2025

Project: Thunder Butte Pipeline Project

Contractor or Sub: Baker Energy Services

Photo Description:

Photo Name:

Description:

P1 - Equipment: Deere 772G Grader  
P2 - General Site Conditions: Existing conditions  
P3 - General Site Conditions: photo location reference  
P4 - Topsoil Stripping  
P5 - Equipment: Deere 750K Bulldozer  
P6 - Topsoil Stripping: Depth check  
P7 - General Site Conditions: Subsoil identification  
P8 - General Site Conditions: Hole  
P9 - General Site Conditions: Subsoil Identification  
P10 - Topsoil Stripping: Depth Check  
P-11 - General Site Conditions: Topsoil Storage and Stripping Progress  
P-12 - Topsoil Stripping: Depth Check  
P-13 - General Site Conditions: Subsoil Identification  
P-14 - General Site Conditions: Existing conditions  
P-15 - General Site Conditions: Existing conditions  
P-16 - General Site Conditions: Existing conditions  
P-17 - General Site Conditions: Existing conditions  
P-18 - Topsoil Stripping: Depth Check  
P-19 - Topsoil Stripping  
P-20 - Misc. Documentation: Dozer Crossing  
P-21 - Misc. Documentation: Dozer Crossing  
P-22 - Misc. Documentation: Dozer Crossing  
P-23 - Misc. Documentation: Dozer Crossing  
P-24 - Topsoil Stripping  
P-25 - General Site Conditions: Subsoil Identification  
P-26 - Topsoil Stripping: Depth Check

\*See attached Photo Layout Maps with location of each photo (P1-P26), and attached pages of photos

Inspector's Signature



## Daily Construction Observation Report

Job No./file  
NDPSC 185555

Date  
07/21/2025

**Project:** Thunder Butte Crude Transmission Line

**Location:** Thunder Butte ROW

**RPR Name:** Dalton Jorgenson

**Start Time:** 8:23 AM

**End Time:**

**Morning Weather:** Partly Cloudy

**Afternoon Weather:** Partly Cloudy

**Temp. (F):** High 84      Low 65

**Rainfall (in):**

**Utility Conflicts:** No

**Overall Comments:** Baker Energy Services performed topsoil stripping and segregation activities for installation of a new underground line. Work did not begin due to wet terrain.

**Prime Contractor:** Baker Energy Services

**Foreman Name:** Ralph Anaya

**# of Crews:** 5

**Equipment Onsite:** Deere 772G Grader

**Contractor Notes:** Met with Ralph Anaya at 0800 to have introductions and discuss overall plan for day. Discussed with Ralph plan moving forward due to wet ground. He told me he'd reach out again when ready to work. (Second try at topsoil stripping began on august 1st.)

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Daily Construction Observation Report</h2>	Job No./file NDPSC 185555	
			Date 08/01/2025

**Project:** Thunder Butte Crude Transmission Line

**Location:** Just outside fence of Thunder Butte ROW

**RPR Name:** Dalton Jorgenson

**Start Time:** 8:42 AM

**End Time:** 8:43 AM

**Morning Weather:** Sunny

**Afternoon Weather:** Sunny

**Temp. (F):** High 80      Low 64

**Rainfall (in):** 0

**Utility Conflicts:** No

**Overall Comments:** Crew will be performing topsoil stripping for crude oil line installation using a dozer. The team finished topsoil stripping south of the access road around 1:40 pm and began crossing the road to strip topsoil north of said access road. Tires were used to let the dozer cross without damaging existing pavement.

**Prime Contractor:** Baker Energy Services

**Foreman Name:** Ralph Anaya

**# of Crews:** 5

**Equipment Onsite:** Bulldozer, grader

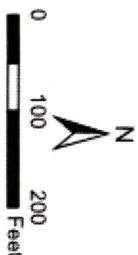
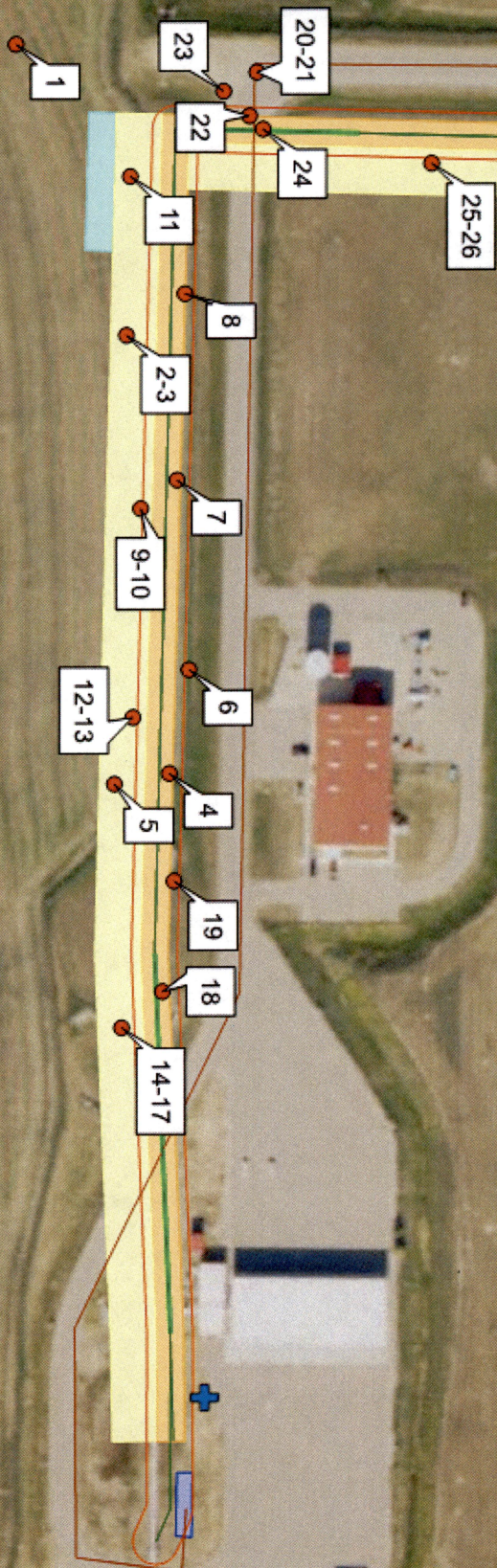
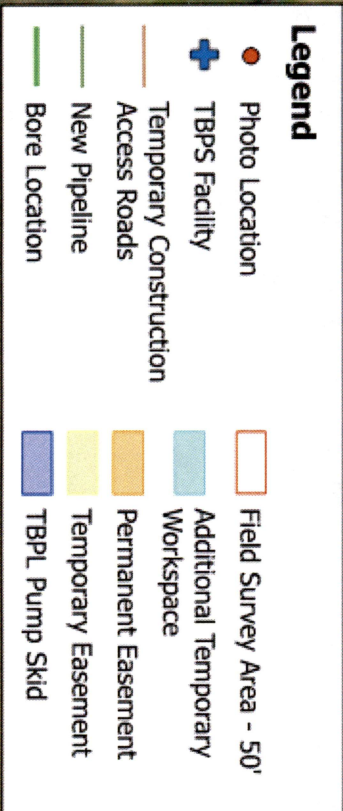
**Contractor Notes:** Had correspondence between last inspection attempt and today coordinating time to make trip up here. I notified Ralph we plan on being on site for 6 hours today. Spoke to Ralph about a mysterious hole. We will investigate more on next pass. Ralph is placing lath in hole for documentation. Operator plans on grading site with road grader after finished pushing topsoil with dozer.



# Appendix A

Photo Location Map





Project: NDPSC 18555  
Print Date: 8/8/2025  
Map by: Isidore  
Projection: NAD 1983 (2011) State  
Plane North Dakota N (feet)  
Source: USDA, State of North Dakota,  
& SEH Inc.

**Photo Location Map**  
**Thunder Butte Crude Transmission Line**  
**Ward-Mounttrail County**

**Figure**  
**1**



## Appendix B

Photos



## Item Records

**Location:** Thunder Butte Staging Area - Point 1, photo 1

**Time:** 8:26 AM

**Direction Facing:** SW

**Notes:** Deere 772 G grader



## Item Records

**Location:** Station 12+00 - Point 2, photos 2-3

**Time:** 8:48 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Existing conditions and reference marker.



**Location:** Station 7+50 - Point 3, photo 4

**Time:** 8:54 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Dozer making second pass at pipe alignment





**Location:** Station 7+00 - Point 4, photo 5

**Time:** 8:57 AM

**Direction Facing:** NW

**Notes:** Deere 750K bulldozer

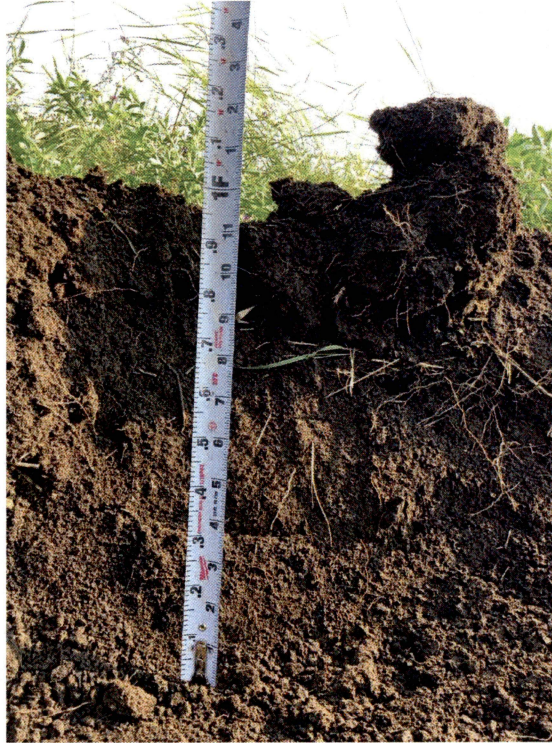


**Location:** Station 8+15 - Point 5, photo 6

**Time:** 9:09 AM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Topsoil depth of 12+ inches, crew has excavated to the 12 inch requirement with no layer change in this spot.





**Location:** Station 9+20 - Point 6, photo 7

**Time:** 9:12 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** One of the subsoils on site. Seems to be a light brown sandy clay loam. Topsoil in background for comparison. Found at depth of roughly 8 inches.



**Location:** Station 12+25 - Point 7, photo 8

**Time:** 9:23 AM

**Direction Facing:** NW

**Notes:** Odd hole in topsoil stripping area. Unsure if natural or if this is something hit. Will check with Ralph. Hole is approximately 8" in diameter and 3 feet deep.



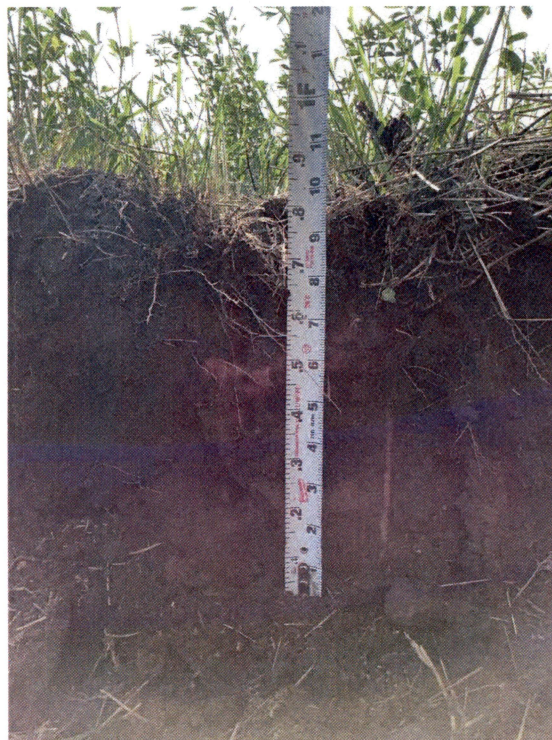


**Location:** Station 10+00 - Point 8, photos 9-10

**Time:** 10:00 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Difference between topsoil and most prevalent form of subsoil. Subsoil seems a clayey loam and topsoil seem dusty and crumbly. Depth of topsoil in that spot is approximately 8"



**Location:** Station 14+50 - Point 9, photo 11

**Time:** 10:11 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Current progress of stripping and on the right side of photo can be seen topsoil windrow pile.





**Location:** Station 7+90 - Point 10, photos 12-13

**Time:** 10:54 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Depth check, operator hit a new type of subsoil at depth of 6". Subsoil is a light brown sandy clay loam.





**Location:** Station 5+00 - Point 11, photos 14-17

**Time:** 11:14 AM

**Direction Facing:**

**Notes:** E, S, W, N existing conditions east of fence







**Location:** Station 5+50 - Point 12, photo 18

**Time:** 11:21 AM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Topsoil depth here only 4-6". Ralph thinks this is a result of when this facility was originally built and the grading that went into it.





**Location:** Station 6+05 - Point 13, photo 19

**Time:** 11:32 AM

**Direction Facing:** SW

**Notes:** Crew to remove fence and strip topsoil in that area when construction begins



**Location:** Bend in access road - Point 14, photos 20-21

**Time:** 1:42 PM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Tires set up for dozer crossing and dozer crossing.





**Location:** Access road bend - Point 15, photo 22

**Time:** 1:45 PM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Better angle of dozer crossing



**Location:** Access road bend - Point 16, photo 23

**Time:** 1:46 PM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** Access road after crossing, no damage to pavement observed, gravel is tracked.





**Location:** Station 15+25 - Point 17, photo 24

**Time:** 1:48 PM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Topsoil stripping north of access road and south of ND HWY 23



**Location:** Station 16+60 - Point 18, photos 25-26

**Time:** 2:16 PM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Depth check north of access road. Station 16+60. 9 inches







## Building a Better World for All of Us<sup>®</sup>

Sustainable buildings, sound infrastructure, safe transportation systems, clean water, renewable energy and a balanced environment. Building a Better World for All of Us communicates a companywide commitment to act in the best interests of our clients and the world around us.

We're confident in our ability to balance these requirements.

