

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative
345kV Mercer-McLean-Ward-Mountrail-Williams Cty
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-24-361

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER

April 22, 2025

Appearances

Chair Randy Christmann, Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Commissioner Jill Kringstad.

Hope L. Hogan, Administrative Law Judge, Office of Administrative Hearings, 2911 North 14th Street, Suite 303, Bismarck, North Dakota 58503.

Brian L. Johnson, Special Assistant Attorney General, as Counsel for the North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505.

Maggie Olson, Attorney at Law, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota 58503.

Preliminary Statement

On October 24, 2024, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) filed a consolidated application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and a route permit (Application) concerning approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota.

On January 30, 2025, the Commission found the application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and a route permit complete, and issued a Notice of Filing and Notice of Public Hearing scheduling two hearings, one for February 26, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Central Time at the Carl Bader Hall (Gymnasium), Underwood City Hall, 88 Lincoln Ave, Underwood, ND 58576, and the second for March 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time at Mountrail County South Complex, 8103 61st St NW, Stanley, ND 58784.

On February 26, 2025, after the conclusion of the hearing in Underwood, ND, the Commission learned that a publication error occurred, and the Notice of Filing and Notice

of Public Hearing did not publish twice in the Hazen Star as required by North Dakota Century Code Section 49-22-13(4).

On March 5, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Public Hearings (Notice), rescheduling the hearings for March 31, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Central Time at the Carl Bader Hall (Gymnasium), Underwood City Hall, 88 Lincoln Ave, Underwood, ND 58576, and April 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Central Time at Mountrail County South Complex, 8103 61st St NW, Stanley, ND 58784.

The Notice identified the following issues to be considered with respect to the Application:

1. Will construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility at the proposed location produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Is the proposed facility compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will construction, operation, and maintenance of the facility at the proposed location minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

On March 31, 2025, and April 4, 2025, the hearings were held as scheduled.

Having allowed all interested persons an opportunity to be heard and having heard, reviewed, and considered all testimony and evidence presented, the Commission makes the following findings of fact:

Findings of Fact

1. Basin is a North Dakota cooperative association authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota since May 5, 1961, as evidenced by the corporate papers filed with the Commission on January 27, 2023 (see Case No. PU-23-42).

Size, Type, and Preferred Location of Facility

2. The Project will consist of approximately 162 miles of new, 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities to be located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota. The Project will originate at the existing Leland Olds Station (LOS) substation, located approximately 5 miles southeast

of Stanton in Mercer County, North Dakota, and terminate at the existing Tande substation, located approximately 4 miles east of Tioga in Mountrail County, North Dakota (Project).

3. The Project consists of approximately 830 transmission structures, of which 223 will be constructed as 345-kV/230-kV double circuit and 53 constructed as 345-kV/115-kV double circuit. The Project will have drilled concrete piers for all structure foundations. Structure heights will range from 100 to 195 feet tall, varying based on required span distances and topography.

4. Basin seeks a Project corridor that varies from 150 to 250 feet wide. The majority of the requested corridor is 150 feet wide. However, Basin has requested the corridor to be 200 feet wide from structure 436-040 to 436-041, and 250 feet wide from structure 436-073 to 436-076 and from structure 436-017 to 436-020 as depicted in Updated Appendix A dated April 15, 2025 (Appendix A).

5. The Project will use an aluminum conductor of 1.72 inches in diameter with a composite carbon fiber conductor core. The minimum conductor clearance to ground will be 30 feet at all operating conditions.

6. Crane Creek Substation (Crane Creek) is a new 345/115-kV Substation in Mountrail County, ND, Township 153N, Range, 91W, section 26. The parcel number is 39-0012105 and the legal description is "Outlot 1 of WSW". Crane Creek includes a fenced area of approximately 14.4 acres in the north ½ of the southwest ¼ of section 26 on approximately 40 acres of Basin-owned property as depicted in Figure 4-4 of the Application.

7. Crane Creek intersects the 345-kV corridor to the north at structures 377-605 and 378-001. It will include three 345kV take-off structures, four 345kV line disconnect switches, twelve 345 kV breaker disconnect switches, six 345kV circuit breakers, twelve single-phase 345kV voltage transformers, two 345/115kV transformers, three 115kV take-off structures, five 115kV line disconnect switches, twelve 115kV breaker disconnect switches, six 115kV circuit breakers, fifteen single-phase 345kV voltage transformers, one 25MVAR shunt reactor, new high and low electric bus structures, and associated structure supports, foundations, and other connectors, cables, and equipment.

8. The total cost of the Project is estimated to be \$360 million.

Study of Preferred Location

9. Basin initiated correspondence seeking comments or inquiring about permitting or other approval requirements from the following federal, state and local agencies regarding the Project:

- a. Federal: (1) Federal Aviation Administration; (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; (3) U.S. Department of Defense; (4) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; (5) Minot Air Force Base; (6) Grand Forks Air Force Base; (7) U.S. Bureau of Land Management; (8) U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; (9) Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse
- b. State: (1) North Dakota Office of Attorney General; (2) North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education; (3) Job Service of North Dakota; (4) North Dakota Aeronautics Commission; (5) North Dakota Department of Commerce; (6) North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality; (7) North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services; (8) North Dakota Department of Transportation; (9) North Dakota Department of Trust Lands (Minerals Managements and School/Surface Trust); (10) North Dakota Energy Development Impact Office; (11) North Dakota Forest Service; (12) North Dakota Game and Fish Department; (13) North Dakota Geological Survey; (14) North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission; (15) North Dakota Industrial Commission; (16) North Dakota Labor Department; (17) North Dakota Office of the Governor; (18) North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department; (19) North Dakota State Water Commission (Department of Water Resources); (20) State Historical Society of North Dakota; (21) North Dakota Department of Agriculture; (22) North Dakota Pipeline Authority; (23) North Dakota Transmission Authority.
- c. Local: (1) Mercer County Planning and Zoning Department; (2) Mercer County Commission; (3) Mercer County Auditor; (4) Mercer County Weed Board; (5) McLean County Planning and Zoning Department; (6) McLean County Commission; (7) McLean County Auditor; (8) Mercer County Weed Board; (9) Mountrail County Planning and Zoning Department; (10) Mountrail County Commission; (11) Mountrail County Auditor; (12) Mountrail County Weed Board; (13) Ward County Planning and Zoning Department; (14) Ward County Commission; (15) Ward County Auditor; (16) Ward County Weed Board; (17) Williams County Commission; (18) Williams County Auditor; (19) Williams County Weed Board.

10. Basin Conducted surveys for wildlife, threatened and endangered species, critical habitats, wetlands and waterbodies across a 300-foot-wide area centered on the Project route. Aerial raptor nest surveys were conducted across a two-mile survey area, centered on the Project route.

11. Basin conducted a Class I cultural resource literature search within a 3-mile-wide area, centered on the Project route.

12. Basin conducted a Class III cultural resource inventory along a 200-foot wide

survey area along the Project route and submitted findings reports to the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (NDSHPO) for 96.4% of the Project corridor. The NDSHPO reviewed the Project findings reports and determined that there are no significant sites affected, provided the cultural sites are avoided as described in the reports. Basin will conduct a Class III cultural resource inventory and submit a findings report to NDSHPO prior to construction on the remaining 3.6% of the Project corridor.

Siting Criteria

13. The Commission has developed criteria pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) section 49-22-05.1 to guide the site, corridor, and route suitability evaluation and designation process. The criteria, as set forth in North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) section 69-06-08-02 are classified as Exclusion Areas, Avoidance Areas, Selection Criteria, and Policy Criteria.

14. Basin evaluated the Project with respect to the Exclusion, Avoidance, Selection, and Policy criteria of the Commission.

15. An Exclusion Area is a geographic area that must be excluded in the consideration of a route for a transmission facility. An Exclusion Area may be located within a corridor, but at no given point may such an area or areas encompass more than fifty percent of the corridor width unless there is no reasonable alternative.

16. Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered species are Exclusion Areas. Basin's studies and surveys identified that the Project crosses Piping Plover critical habitat at the Missouri River crossing. The Project structures will not be placed within the primary constituent elements of the Piping Plover critical habitat, and the Project conductors will span above the Piping Plover critical habitat. Basin has committed to conducting pre-construction presence/absence surveys during the timeframe recommended by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will delay construction if the species is present. As a result of the planned construction methods, there is no evidence of an adverse impact.

17. Areas within 1,200 feet of the geographical center of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility. Basin identified two ICBM launch facilities within 1,200 feet of the route. Minot Air Force Base provided approval for the alignment. Basin Electric submitted a filing request to the Commission for an exemption from this exclusion area. The Commission concurred with Basin's findings on November 29, 2023, in Case No. I-23-275.

18. Basin's surveys did not identify any additional Exclusion Areas within the Survey Area.

19. An Avoidance Area is a geographical area that may not be considered in the routing of a transmission facility unless the applicant shows that, under the

circumstances, there is no reasonable alternative. In determining whether an Avoidance Area should be designated for a transmission facility, the Commission may consider, among other things, the proposed management of adverse impacts, the orderly siting of facilities, system reliability and integrity, the efficient use of resources, and alternative routes.

20. Archeological sites are Avoidance Areas. Basin's surveys identified previously unidentified archeological sites within the Project corridor. Basin has designed the Project to avoid the archeological sites including a reasonable buffer to ensure the integrity of the sites.

21. The route being within 500 feet of a residence is an Avoidance Area. Basin identified five residences within 500 feet of the route. Basin has provided copies of signed waivers from each resident.

22. No other Avoidance Areas are located in the Project corridor. No other Avoidance Areas will be crossed by the proposed route.

23. In accordance with the Commission's Selection Criteria set forth in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(3), a transmission facility corridor or route shall be approved only if it is demonstrated that any significant adverse effects that will result from the location, construction, and maintenance of the transmission facility will be at an acceptable minimum, or that those effects will be managed and maintained at an acceptable minimum.

24. Basin has analyzed the impacts of the Project in relation to all of the relevant Selection Criteria. No significant adverse impact will result from the location, construction, and operation of the Project.

25. The Commission's Policy Criteria are set forth in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(4). The Commission may give preference to an applicant that will maximize benefits that result from the adoption of various policies and practices. There is no need for the Commission to give preference to the applicant in this proceeding.

Measures to Minimize Impact

26. Basin has agreed to a number of steps to mitigate the impact of the Project as indicated by the Certification Relating to Order Provisions - Transmission Facility Siting with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications filed in this proceeding, which is incorporated by reference and attached to this Order.

27. Basin testified that it will implement appropriate measures to minimize avian collision risk with overhead transmission lines, consistent with the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC) Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines (APLIC 2012), as outlined in Basin Electric's Avian and Bat Protection Plan.

28. The Project will be constructed according to standards of the Rural Utilities Service, the National Electric Safety Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Institute of Steel Construction and the American Concrete Institute.

29. Basin will implement the following erosion and sediment control mitigation measures for the Project: excess subsoils and rocks will be hauled off-site to an approved landfill; erosion and sediment controls will be established prior to construction and thereafter maintained and controlled through application of a storm water pollution prevention plan; where appropriate, silt fences or other sediment control measures will be used to prevent sediment from moving off-site; maintenance will be scheduled during periods of minimum precipitation; temporary laydown areas will be located in previously disturbed areas and/or areas previously surveyed for cultural and biological resources.

30. Basin will submit the line route to local emergency agencies prior to any construction so first responders will have GPS coordinates to the site. The LOS and Tande substations both have a 911 address that will be communicated to all contractors working on those sites. Basin Electric has an OSHA-based safety program supported by the Energy Coalition for Contractor Safety for all contractors that work for the Cooperative.

31. Basin has requested authorization from the Commission to clear trees wider than the standard 50 feet from structure 377-009 to 377-010 (150 Feet), 377-010 to 377-011 (150 Feet), 436-034 to 436-035 (75 Feet), 436-112 to 436-113 (130 Feet), 436-116 to 436-117 (125 Feet), 436-117 to 436-118 (95 Feet), 436-126 to 436-127 (150 Feet), 377-248 to 377-249 (85 Feet), 377-260 to 377-261 (80 Feet), 377-272 to 377-273 (90 Feet), 378-082 to 378-083 (70 Feet), 378-083 to 378-084 (80 Feet), and 378-166 to 378-167 (75 Feet).

From the foregoing Findings of Fact the Commission makes the following conclusions of law:

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission has jurisdiction over Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) and the subject matter of these applications under North Dakota Century Code chapter 49-22.
2. Basin is a utility as defined in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-03(14).
3. The Project proposed by Basin is an electric transmission facility as defined in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-03(6).

4. The construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota.
5. The Project is compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources.
6. The Project will minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion.

From the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the Commission makes the following order:

Order

The Commission orders:

1. Basin's consolidated application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and a route permit is granted.
2. Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 237 is issued to Basin Electric Power Cooperative designating a corridor for the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota. For purposes of the Certificate, the designated corridor is 150 feet wide for the Project. However, the corridor is 200 feet wide from structure 436-040 to 436-041, and 250 feet wide from structure 436-073 to 436-076 and from structure 436-017 to 436-020 as depicted in Appendix A of the Application.
3. Route Permit No. 248 is issued to Basin Electric Power Cooperative designating a route for the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota. For purposes of the Permit, the designated route is the proposed route depicted in Hearing Exhibit No. 9.
4. The March 31, 2025, Certification Relating to Order Provisions - Transmission Facility Siting (Certification), with accompanying Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, is incorporated by reference and attached to this Order.
5. Basin Electric Power Cooperative is authorized to clear trees wider than 50 feet from structure 377-009 to 377-010 (150 Feet), 377-010 to 377-011 (150 Feet), 436-034 to 436-035 (75 Feet), 436-112 to 436-113 (130 Feet), 436-116 to 436-117 (125 Feet), 436-117 to 436-118 (95 Feet), 436-126 to 436-127 (150 Feet), 377-248 to 377-249 (85 Feet), 377-260 to 377-261 (80 Feet), 377-272 to 377-273 (90 Feet), 378-082

to 378-083 (70 Feet), 378-083 to 378-084 (80 Feet), and 378-166 to 378-167 (75 Feet).

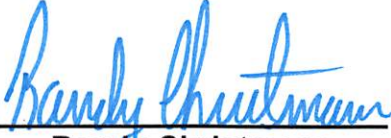
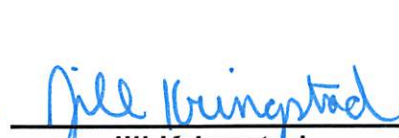
6. To the extent that there are any conflicts or inconsistencies between Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Application in this proceeding and the Certification, the Certification provisions control.

7. Basin Electric Power Cooperative shall obtain all other necessary licenses and permits prior to commencing construction on such portion of the Project for which the license and/or permit is required and shall provide copies of such licenses and permits to the Commission prior to construction.

8. Basin shall conduct a Class III cultural resource inventory and file with the Commission documentation from SHPO indicating concurrence that no historic properties or sites will be affected prior to beginning construction on any portion of the Project where SHPO concurrence has not yet been received.

9. Basin Electric Power Cooperative is required to comply with all applicable laws, rules, and/or regulations in the event it desires to construct another or a different transmission facility than was specified in the Application within the corridor granted in this proceeding.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
<u>Sheri Haugen-Hoffart</u>	<u>Randy Christmann</u>	<u>Jill Kringstad</u>
Commissioner	Chair	Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Corridor Compatibility Number 237

This is to certify that the Commission has designated a transmission facility corridor for Basin Electric Power Cooperative for the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated April 22, 2025, in Case No. PU-24-361 and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

Bismarck, North Dakota, April 22, 2025.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Executive Secretary



Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Route Permit Number 248

This is to certify that the Commission has designated a transmission facility route for Basin Electric Power Cooperative for the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota.

This permit is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated April 22, 2025, in Case No. PU-24-361 and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

Bismarck, North Dakota, April 22, 2025.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Executive Secretary



Commissioner

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

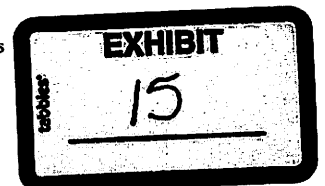
**Basin Electric Power Cooperative
345kV Mercer-McLean-Ward-Mountrail-Williams Cty
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-24-361

**CERTIFICATION RELATING TO ORDER PROVISIONS
TRANSMISSION FACILITY SITING**

I am Bobby Nasset, a representative of Basin Electric Power Cooperative ("Company") with authority to bind the Company to requirements to be set forth by the Commission in its Order and I certify the following:

1. Company understands and agrees that any Certificate of Corridor Compatibility or Route Permit issued by the Commission will be subject to the conditions and criteria set forth in Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and Chapter 69-06-08 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, and that Company shall be responsible for compliance with this order and conditions and criteria set forth in the applicable laws and rules.
2. Company agrees to comply with the rules and regulations of all other agencies having jurisdiction over any phase of the transmission facility including all city, township, and county zoning regulations.
3. Company understands and agrees that it shall obtain all other necessary licenses and permits, and shall provide copies of all licenses and permits to the Commission prior to construction activity associated with the transmission facility that requires said license or permit.
4. Company understands and agrees that any Certificate of Corridor Compatibility or Route Permit issued by the Commission is subject to suspension or revocation and may, in an appropriate and proper case, be suspended or revoked for failure to comply with the Commission's order, the conditions and criteria of the certificate or subsequent modification, or failure to comply with the applicable statutes, rules, regulations, standards, and permits of other state or federal agencies.
5. Company agrees to maintain records that will demonstrate that it has complied with the requirements of the Commission's order issuing a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility or Route Permit, and that it will preserve these records for Commission inspection at any reasonable time upon reasonable notice.
6. Company understands and agrees that the authorizations granted by any Certificate of Corridor Compatibility or Route Permit issued by the Commission for the



transmission facility are subject to modification by order of the Commission if deemed necessary to protect further the public or the environment.

Construction:

7. Company agrees to hold a preconstruction conference prior to commencement of any construction, which must include a Company representative, its construction supervisor, and a representative of Commission Staff, to ensure that Company fully understands the conditions set forth in the Commission's order.
8. Company understands and agrees that all cultural resource mitigation plans must be submitted to the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office and approved prior to the start of any fieldwork and construction activity in the affected area.
9. Company understands and agrees that topsoil removal will begin when the Commission's third-party construction inspector is present at the Project site to observe that topsoil is properly removed and kept segregated from subsoil until replacement occurs. Company shall establish the date and time for the Commission's third-party construction inspector's topsoil removal oversight in the preconstruction conference.
10. Company agrees to inform the Commission and the Commission's third-party construction inspector of its intent to start construction on the transmission facility prior to the commencement of construction. Once construction has started, Company shall keep the Commission and the Commission's third-party construction inspector updated on construction activities on a monthly basis.
11. Company understands and agrees that all topsoil, up to 12 inches, or topsoil to the depth of cultivation, whichever is greater, over and along trench areas where cuts will be made, must be carefully stripped and segregated from the subsoil. Any area on which excavated subsoil will be placed must also be stripped of topsoil. The stripped topsoil must not be stockpiled in natural drainages, and must be protected from water erosion. Care must be taken to protect topsoil from unnecessary compaction by heavy machinery. Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, topsoil must be removed before topsoil freezes in the late fall/ early winter to the point that frost inhibits proper soil segregation. After backfilling with subsoil is completed, any excess subsoil must be placed over the excavation area, blending the grade into existing topography. Topsoil must be replaced over areas from which it was stripped only after the subsoil is replaced.
12. Company understands and agrees that all buried facility crossings of graded roads must be bored unless the responsible governing agency specifically permits Company to open cut the road.

13. Company understands and agrees that staging areas or equipment shall not be located on land owned by a person other than Company unless otherwise negotiated with landowners.
14. Company understands and agrees that if any cultural resource, paleontological site, archeological site, historical site, or grave site is discovered during construction, it must be marked, preserved and protected from further disturbances until a professional examination can be made and a report of such examination is filed with the Commission and the State Historical Society.
15. Company understands and agrees that construction must be suspended when weather conditions are such that construction activities will cause irreparable damage to roads or land, unless adequate protection measures are taken by Company.
16. Company understands and agrees that the Commission has authority to stop Project construction activities in the event of a probable violation of the siting laws, siting rules, or applicable Commission Orders if, in the opinion of the Commission, construction activities are likely to result in irreparable or significant harm.

Restoration and Maintenance:

17. Company understands and agrees that it shall, as soon as practicable upon the completion of the construction of the transmission facility, restore the area affected by the activities to as near as is practicable to the condition as it existed prior to the beginning of construction.
18. Company understands and agrees that all pre-existing township and county roads and lanes used during construction must be repaired or restored to a condition that is equal to or better than the condition prior to the construction of the transmission facility and that will accommodate their previous use, and that areas used as temporary roads or working areas during construction must be restored to their original condition.
19. Company understands and agrees that reclamation, fertilization, and reseeding is to be done according to the Natural Resources Conservation Service recommendations, unless otherwise specified by the landowner and approved by the Commission.
20. Company will fulfill its obligation for reclamation and maintenance of the approved transmission facility right-of-way, transmission facility, and associated facilities continuing throughout the life of the transmission facility.
21. Company will repair all fences and gates removed or damaged during all phases of construction and operation of the transmission facility.

22. Company will repair or replace all drainage tile broken or damaged as a result of construction and operation of the transmission facility.
23. Company agrees to comply with the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, attached.
24. Company understands and agrees that it shall work with landowners and residents to mitigate any increase in television and residential radio interference that results from the construction of the transmission facility.
25. Company understands and agrees that it shall remove all waste that is a product of construction and operation, restoration, and maintenance of the site, and properly dispose of it on a regular basis.
26. Company understands and agrees that it shall provide any necessary safety measures for traffic control or to restrict public access to the transmission facility.

Communication with Landowners and PSC:

27. Company understands and agrees that, prior to beginning construction of the transmission facility at a location, it shall send a letter to each landowner with whom an easement was executed for that location specifying the name and phone number of the company representative who is responsible for receiving and resolving landowner issues for the life of the easement.
28. Company understands and agrees that it will file with the commission the name and phone number of the current company representative who is responsible for receiving and resolving landowner issues for the transmission facility. The company will update this information whenever there is a change to the current company representative for the life of all easements for the transmission facility.
29. Upon request, Company agrees to provide the Commission with engineering design drawings of the transmission facility prior to construction.
30. Company understands and agrees that it shall advise the Commission as soon as reasonably possible of any extraordinary events which take place at the site of the transmission facility, including injuries to any person.
31. Company agrees to report to the Commission, as soon as reasonably possible, the presence in the permit area of any critical habitat or threatened or endangered species of which Company becomes aware and which were not previously reported to the Commission.

32. Company understands and agrees that it shall inform the Commission in writing of any plans to modify the transmission facility or of any plans to modify the site plan for the transmission facility.
33. Company agrees to provide the Commission with both an electronic and a paper copy of the corridor approved by the Commission and the facility design specifications for the construction of the transmission facility showing the location of the transmission facility as built, and will provide this information within 3 months of the completion of the construction. Company also agrees to provide an electronic version of the corridor approved by the Commission and the facility design specifications for the construction of the transmission facility showing the location of the transmission facility as built that can be imported into ESRI GIS mapping software within 3 months of the completion of the construction. This electronic map data must be referenced to the North Dakota coordinate system of 1983, North and/or South zones US Survey feet (NAD 83) UTM Zone 13N or 14N feet (NAD 83), or geographic coordinate system (WGS 84) feet. The vertical data must be in the appropriate vertical datum for the coordinate system used. All submissions must specify the datum in which the data was developed.
34. Company shall notify the Commission as soon as reasonably possible if any damage, as defined by North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-23, occurs to underground facilities during construction conducted under the certificate or permit issued in this proceeding. In the event of any damage to underground facilities, Company shall suspend construction in the vicinity of the damage until compliance with One-Call Excavation Notice System requirements under North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-23 has been determined.

Route Adjustments Before or During Construction:

36. Company agrees to utilize the following procedures if Company seeks a route adjustment before or during construction of the transmission line.
37. Company will file the name and contact information for a key contact person for the purposes of notice and communication during the adjustment application.
38. **ROUTE ADJUSTMENT WITHIN DESIGNATED CORRIDOR, NO AVOIDANCE AREA AFFECTED:** Before conducting any construction activities for any adjustment to the designated route within the designated corridor, the Company will file:
 - a. Certification and supporting documentation affirming that construction activities will be within the designated corridor, will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas within the designated corridor;
 - b. Certification and supporting documentation, including a map meeting the requirements of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-06-04-01(2)(n) identifying the designated corridor, route and the route adjustment;

- c. Certification that Company will comply with the Commission's order, law and rules designating the corridor and route.

39. ROUTE ADJUSTMENT WITHIN DESIGNATED CORRIDOR, AVOIDANCE AREA AFFECTED: Before adjusting the route of an electric transmission line within the designated corridor that may affect an avoidance area, and before conducting any construction activities for any adjustment to the designated route within the designated corridor, the Company will file:

- a. A specific description of the avoidance area expected to be impacted, including a map meeting the requirements of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-06-04-01(2)(n) identifying:
 - i. the designated corridor, route and the route adjustment;
 - ii. all exclusion and avoidance areas within the portion of the designated corridor containing the route adjustment
- b. Certification and supporting documentation affirming:
 - i. That construction activities will be within the designated corridor
 - ii. That construction activities will not affect any known exclusion area
- c. All field studies performed on the portion of the designated corridor containing the route adjustment;
- d. Specific information about any mitigation measures Company will take within the adjustment area;
- e. Certification that each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment;
- f. Certification that unless the Commission previously authorized the impact to the same avoidance area, that the utility has good cause and a specific reason to impact the avoidance area and a reasonable alternative does not exist;
- g. Certification that Company will comply with the Commission's order, law and rules designating the corridor and route.

40. **ROUTE ADJUSTMENT OUTSIDE DESIGNATED CORRIDOR, NO AVOIDANCE AREA AFFECTED:** Before adjusting the route of an electric transmission line outside the designated corridor and not affecting any exclusion and avoidance area, before conducting any construction activities for any adjustment to the designated route outside the designated corridor, the Company will file:
- a. Certification and supporting documentation affirming that construction activities will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas,
 - b. Certification and supporting documents stating the length of the proposed route outside of the corridor and a map meeting the requirements of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-06-04-01(2)(n) identifying the designated corridor, corridor adjustment, designated route and the route adjustment;
 - c. Certification that each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment; and
 - d. Detailed field studies indicating exclusion and avoidance areas for the proposed adjustment area; and
 - e. Certification that Company will comply with the Commission's order, law and rules designating the corridor and route.
41. **ROUTE ADJUSTMENT OUTSIDE DESIGNATED CORRIDOR, AVOIDANCE AREA AFFECTED:** Before adjusting the route of an electric transmission line outside the designated corridor that may affect an avoidance area, and before conducting any construction activities for any adjustment to the designated route outside the designated corridor, the Company will file:
- a. A specific description of the avoidance area expected to be impacted, including a map meeting the requirements of N.D. Admin. Code § 69-06-04-01(2)(n) identifying:
 - i. the designated corridor, corridor adjustment, route and the route adjustment;
 - ii. all exclusion and avoidance areas within the adjustment area
 - b. Certification that construction activities will not affect any known exclusion area;
 - c. Certification that the utility has good cause and a specific reason to impact the avoidance area and a reasonable alternative does not exist within the designated corridor and route;
 - d. Certification that each owner of real property on which the adjustment is to be located and any applicable governmental entity with an interest in the same adjustment area do not oppose the adjustment;
 - e. Provide specific information about any mitigation measures Company will take within the adjustment area;
 - f. Detailed field studies indicating exclusion and avoidance areas for the proposed adjustment area; and

- g. Certification that Company will comply with the Commission's order, law and rules designating the corridor and route.

Company acknowledges and agrees that:

42. When applicable, Company may submit the field studies from the original application for the corridor and route provided they cover the adjustment area.
43. Company acknowledges and agrees that written authorization from the Commission for impacting the avoidance area is necessary prior to commencement of construction activity.

Dated this 31st day of March 2025.

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

By 

Its PROJECT MANAGER

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative
345kV Mercer-McLean-Ward-Mountrail-Williams Cty
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-24-361

Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications

Inventory

Prior to cutting or clearing trees or shrubs for construction:

- All trees one-inch or greater in diameter at breast height must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.
- All shrubs and all coniferous trees of any diameter must be inventoried to record the location, number, and species.

Clearing

The maximum width of tree and shrub removal is 50 feet, unless otherwise approved by the Commission.

Replacement

1. Landowners must be given the option to have trees and shrubs that are removed from their property replaced on their property. The landowner may waive this option in writing. If the landowner waives this option, the company shall plant replacement trees and shrubs in an alternate location in the same region, if practical.
2. Trees and shrubs must be replaced on a minimum two-to-one basis. The company shall develop a Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan (Plan) in consultation with landowners who are seeking replacement trees and shrubs and in accordance with USDA-NRCS-North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide: Windbreak and Woodland Tree Care and Management. The guidelines outlined in the Technical Guide shall be followed until filing of the Plan summary outlined in number 5 below.
3. The purpose of the company's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan is to create sustainable plantings, appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions that will provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment.
4. The Plan, including the proposed number, variety, type, location, and approximate date for plantings, shall be filed with and approved by the Commission.
5. Two years after completion of the plan, the company must file a summary documenting how the plan achieved the purpose outlined in number 3 above. The summary must also report the number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs.
6. The Commission will consider, on a limited basis as conditions warrant, mitigation plans that provide long-term wildlife habitat and conservation benefits but do not involve the replanting of trees and shrubs.