BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

August 12th, 2025

Mr. Steven Kahl
Director, Public Utilities Division
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard; Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Case No. PU-24-61 Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Application Amendment

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed please find an original and seven (7) copies of Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Amendment to the Application for a Consolidated Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Project. A USB flash drive containing the application in electronic format, corresponding GIS data and black and white newspaper map has also been included.

For inquiries regarding the application, please contact me at rking@bepc.com or at (701) 557-5558 with copy to Ms. Maggie Olson, Senior Staff Counsel, at molson@bepc.com or at (701) 557-5719. If preferable, correspondence can be sent to our physical address of 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58503.

Sincerely,

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator

Enclosures

Amendment to the Application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit

Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota

PU-24-361

Prepared by:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Ave.
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

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August 2025

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On April 22, 2025, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) adopted the Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Order and issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility Number 237 (Corridor Certificate) and Route Permit Number 248 (Route Permit) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) Leland Olds Station (LOS) to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project, located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota (ND), Case Number PU-24-361. This Corridor Certificate and Route Permit authorized the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 162 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities (Project) by Basin Electric. Construction of the Project started in June of 2025 and is anticipated to be completed in the fall of 2026.

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-22-08.1, Basin Electric submits this Amendment to the Application to the Commission for a Consolidated Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit to construct the Project. This amendment amends the October 24, 2024, application and additional supporting information submitted by Basin Electric in Case No. PU-24-361 (collectively, the "original application"). In this amendment, two reroutes are being proposed as part of the Project (Project Reroutes). New cultural and natural resources studies were completed for the entire lengths of the two reroutes. These studies can be found in **Appendices B and C**, respectively.

Reroute Number 1

Reroute number 1, originally an approximately 1.98-mile segment with nine structures, is 2.16 miles in length with 10 structures.

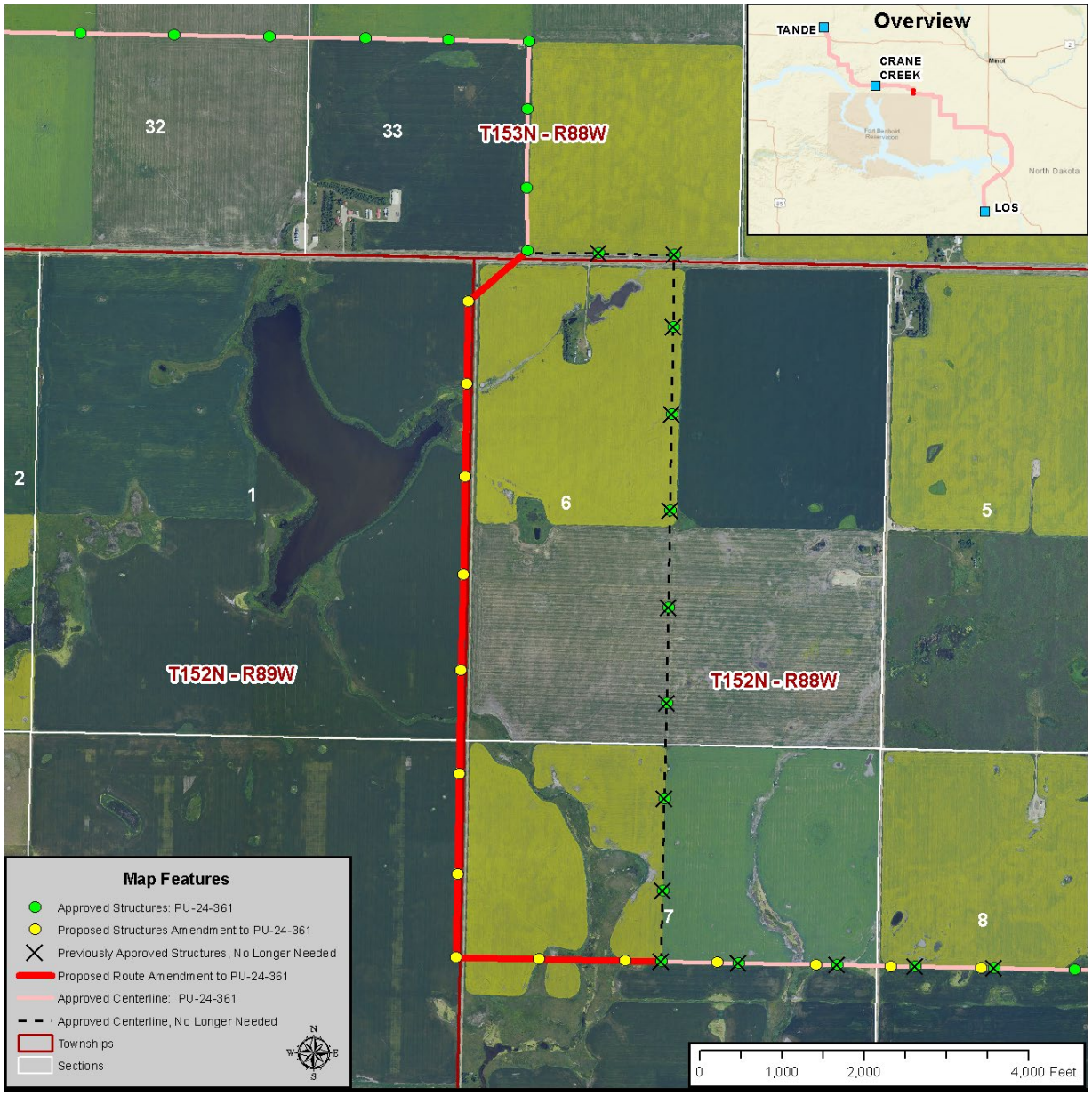

Figure 1-1: Reroute Number 1

Reroute Number 2

Reroute number 2, originally an approximately 3.74-mile segment with 19 structures, is 4.20 miles in length with 19 structures.

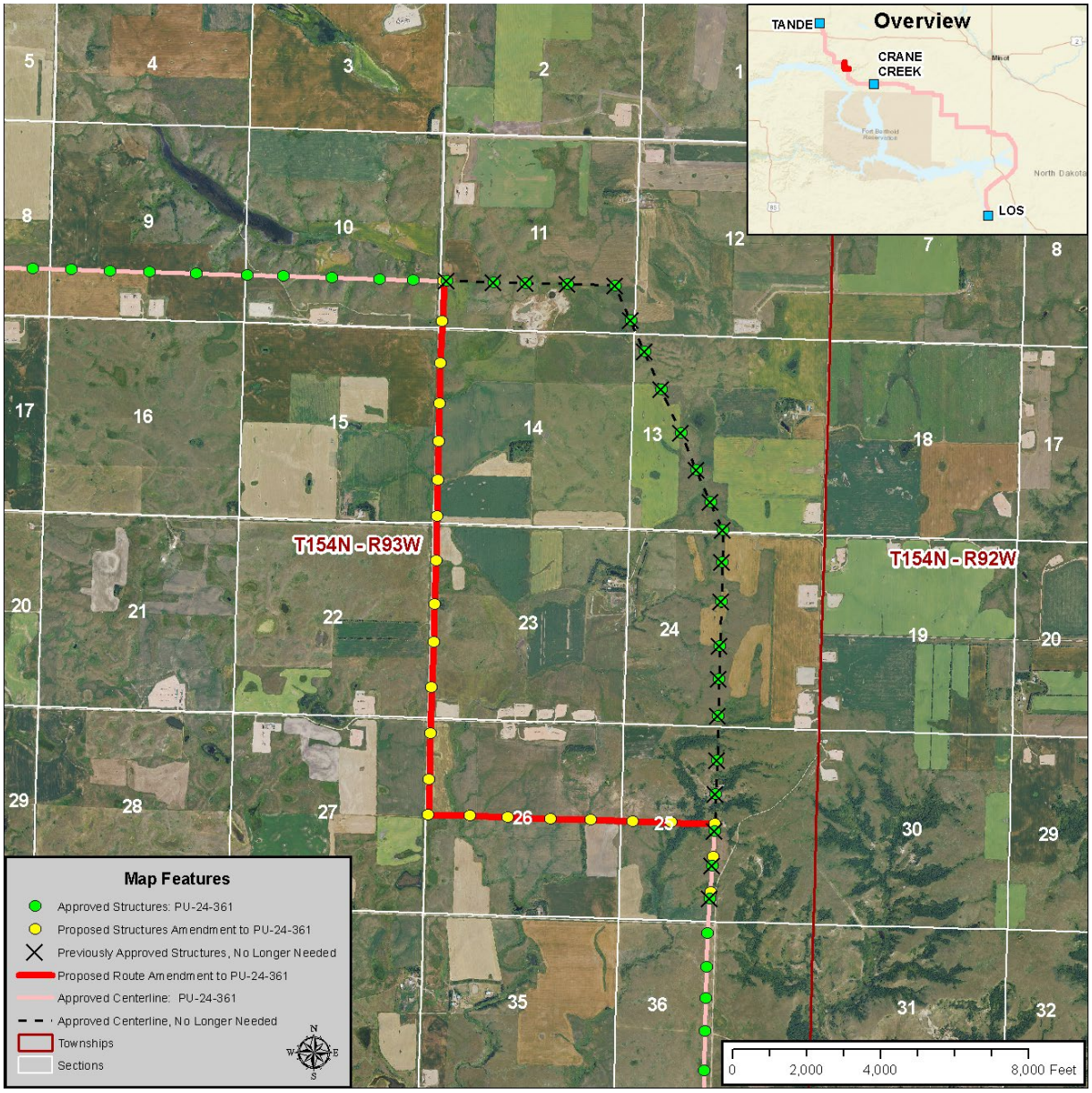

Figure 1-2: Reroute Number 2

The addition of the Project Reroutes does not significantly alter the information presented in the original application, and as such, this amendment only addresses the two proposed reroutes. The general structure of this amendment remains the same, with similar chapters and sections as the original application. If a section is not present in this amendment that was in the original application, it can be assumed that the information in that section remains unchanged for the Project Reroutes. Where appropriate, this amendment notes the location of relevant information in the original application.

1.1 Compliance with the Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act requires an application for a Certificate to meet the criteria set forth in NDCC Chapter 49-22 and the North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Article 69-06. The siting of a transmission facility is to be made in an orderly manner compatible with environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources (NDCC Section 49-22-02). As outlined in this application, Basin Electric will comply with the exclusion and avoidance areas and selection and policy criteria set forth in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02 in the design of the Project. In addition, sufficient Project design and technical information have been provided for a thorough evaluation. **Table 1-1** below outlines the requirements to fulfill a Certificate and Route Permit application and the application section that addresses the requirement.

Table 1-1: Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Criteria Checklist

Description		Section(s) Addressed
NDAC 69-06-05-01 - Transmission Facility Permit		
Subsection 2 - Contents		
a.	A description of the following:	
a. (1)	The type of facility proposed	1.0, 4.1.1
a. (2)	Purpose of the facility	1.0, 2.1
a. (3)	The technology to be used	1.0, 4.1.1,
a. (4)	The type of product to be transmitted	1.0, 4.1.1
a. (5)	The source of the product to be transmitted	1.0, 4.1.1
a. (6)	The final destination of the transmission line	1.0
a. (7)	The proposed size and design and any alternate size or design that was considered, including:	1.0, 1.2, 1.3, 4.1.1
	(a) The width of right of way (ROW);	
	(b) The approximate length of the facility;	
	(c) The estimated span length for electric facilities;	
	(d) The anticipated type of structure for electric facilities;	
	(e) The voltage for electric facilities; and	
	(f) The requirement for and location of any new associated facilities	
b.	The anticipated time schedule for accomplishing major events, including:	1.5
	(1) Obtaining the certification of corridor compatibility;	
	(2) Obtaining the route permit;	
	(3) Completing right-of-way acquisition;	
	(4) Starting construction;	
	(5) Completing construction;	
	(6) Testing operations; and	
	(7) Commencing operations.	
c.	A copy of each evaluative study or assessment of the environmental impact of the proposed facility submitted to the agencies listed in section 69-06-01-05 and each response received.	5.0, Appendix B, Appendix C

Table 1-1: Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Criteria Checklist		
d.	An analysis of the need for the proposed facility based on present and projected demand for the product transmitted, including the most recent system studies supporting the analysis of the need.	1.0, 2.1
e.	A description of any feasible alternative methods for serving the need	2.2
f.	The width of a corridor must be at least ten percent of its length, but not less than one mile [1.61 kilometers] or greater than six miles [9.66 kilometers] unless another appropriate width is determined by the Commission.	1.2
g.	A study area that includes a proposed corridor of sufficient width to enable the Commission to evaluate the factors addressed in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-09.	1.2
h.	A discussion of the factors in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-09 to aid the Commission's evaluation of the proposed route.	3.5
i.	A discussion of the applicant's policies and commitments to limit the environmental impact of its facilities, including copies of board resolutions and management directives.	6.0, Appendix C of Original Application
j.	Identification and map of the criteria that led to the proposed route location within the designated corridor, including exclusion areas, avoidance areas, selection criteria, policy criteria, design construction limitations, and economic considerations.	3.0, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 4.1.1, 5.1, Appendix A
k.	A discussion of the relative value of each criteria and how the applicant selected the proposed corridor location, giving consideration to all criteria and how the location, construction, and operation of the facility will affect each criteria.	1.3, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.2
l.	A discussion of the general mitigative measures that the applicant will take to minimize adverse impacts that result from a route location in the proposed corridor and the construction and operation of the facility.	5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.2, 5.6.2, 5.7.2, 5.8.2
m.	Qualifications of each person involved in the corridor location study.	8
n.	A map identifying the criteria that led to the proposed route location within the designated corridor and the location of any new associated facilities. Several different criteria may be shown on each map depending on the map scale and the density and nature of the criteria.	Appendix A
o.	An eight and one-half-inch by eleven-inch black and white map suitable for newspaper publication depicting the site area	Electronically submitted
p.	A discussion of present and future natural resource development in the area	5
q.	Map and geographic information systems (GIS) requirements. The applicant shall provide information that is complete, current, presented clearly and concisely, and supported by appropriate references to technical and other written material available to the Commission.	Electronically submitted
NDAC 69-06-08-02 - Transmission Facility Corridor and Route Criteria		
The following criteria must guide and govern the preparation of the inventory of exclusion and avoidance areas, and the corridor and route suitability evaluation process:		
1	Exclusion Areas	3.1, Appendix A
2	Avoidance Areas	3.2, Appendix A
3	Selection Criteria	3.3, Appendix A
4	Policy Criteria	3.4
NDCC 49-22-08 - Application for a certificate - Notice of filing - Amendment - Designation of a site or corridor.		
Section 1 - An application for a certificate must be in such form as the Commission may prescribe, containing the following information:		
a.	A description of the size and type of facility.	1.0, 4.1.1
b.	A summary of any studies which have been made of the environmental impact of the facility.	5, Appendix B, Appendix C
c.	A statement explaining the need for the facility.	1.0, 2.1
d.	An identification of the location of the preferred site for any electric energy conversion facility	1.0, 3.0
e.	An identification of the location of the preferred corridor for any electric transmission facility	1.0, 1.3, Appendix A

Table 1-1: Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit Criteria Checklist		
f.	A description of the merits and detriments of any location identified and a comprehensive analysis with supporting data showing the reasons why the preferred location is best suited for the facility	5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5
g.	A description of mitigative measures that will be taken to minimize all foreseen adverse impacts resulting from the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility	5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.2
h.	An evaluation of the proposed site or corridor with regard to the applicable considerations set out in section 49-22-09 and the criteria established pursuant to section 49-22-05.1.	3.1, 3.5
i.	Such other information as the applicant may consider relevant or the commission may require.	4.2
NDCC 49-22-08.1 - Application for a permit - Notice of filing - Amendment - Designation of a route.		
Section 1 - An application for a route permit for a transmission facility within a designated corridor shall be filed no later than two years after the issuance of the certificate and shall be in such form as the Commission may prescribe, containing the following information:		
a.	A description of the type, size and design of the proposed facility.	1.0, 4.1.1
b.	A description of the location of the proposed facility.	1.0
c.	An evaluation of the proposed route with regard to the applicable considerations set out in section 49-22-09 and the criteria established pursuant to section 49-22-05.1.	3
d.	A description of mitigative measures that will be taken to minimize all foreseen adverse impacts resulting from the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility.	5.1.2, 5.2.2, 5.3.2, 5.4.2, 5.5.2
e.	A description of the right-of-way preparation and construction and reclamation procedures.	4 of Original Application
f.	A statement setting forth the manner in which: (1) The utility will inform affected landowners of easement acquisition, and necessary easement conditions and restrictions. (2) The utility will compensate landowners for easements, without reference to the actual consideration to be paid.	1.4,
g.	Such other information as the utility may consider relevant or the Commission may require.	3.7
NDCC 49-22-09 - Factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designation of sites, corridors, and routes.		
Section 1 - The Commission shall be guided by, but is not limited to, the following considerations, where applicable, to aid the evaluation and designation of sites, corridors, and routes:		
a.	Available research and investigations relating to the effects of the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility on public health and welfare, natural resources, and the environment.	5.0, Appendix B, Appendix C
b.	The effects of new energy conversion and transmission technologies and systems designed to minimize adverse environmental effects.	4.9 of Original Application
c.	The potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from a proposed energy conversion facility.	N/A
d.	Adverse direct and indirect environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposed site or route be designated.	5
e.	Alternatives to the proposed site, corridor, or route which are developed during the hearing process and which minimize adverse effects.	To be determined
f.	Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of natural resources should the proposed site, corridor, or route be designated.	4.2
g.	The direct and indirect economic impacts of the proposed facility.	5.1 of Original Application
h.	Existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities for other developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed site, corridor, or route.	3.5, 5.5, 6.0 of Original Application
i.	The effect of the proposed site or route on existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures, and paleontological or archaeological sites.	5.1, Appendix B
j.	The effect of the proposed site or route on areas which are unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species.	5.5, Appendix C
k.	Problems raised by federal agencies, other state agencies, and local entities.	6, Appendix D

1.2 Project Terms

Key terms used in this application amendment associated with the Project are defined in **Table 1-2** below.

Table 1-2: Project Terms

Term	Definition/Description
Project Reroutes Route	In accordance with NDCC Section 49-22-03(15), "Route" is defined as the location of an electric transmission facility within a designated corridor. The Project Route referred to herein is the approximately 2.16-mile-long and 4.20-mile-long transmission line centerlines of the Project Reroutes.
Project Reroutes Corridor	In accordance with NDCC Section 49-22-03(5), "Corridor" is the area of land where a designated route may be established for a electric transmission facility. The Project Corridor 150 feet wide, which is the easement size and Project width that will be used for construction and maintenance through the life of the Project. The Project Corridor encompasses the Project Route.
Study Area	The Study Area analyzed for the Project is one-mile wide (0.5 mile on either side of the Project Route) and encompasses approximately 103,300 acres.[a]

[a] NDAC 69-06-05-01(2)(f) states that the "width of the corridor must be at least ten percent of its length, but not less than one mile [1.61 kilometers] or greater than six miles [9.66 kilometers] unless another appropriate width is determined by the Commission." Basin Electric proposes a one-mile-wide Study Area, with a 150-foot-wide Project Corridor, the combination of which is sufficient for the Commission to evaluate the factors addressed in NDCC 49-22-09.

1.3 Project Location

The Project Reroutes are located in Mountrail County, ND. Reroute Number 1 is approximately 6.6 miles northeast of Parshall, ND; Reroute Number 2 is approximately 10.7 miles northwest of New Town, ND. **Table 1-3** shows the Township, Range, and Sections of the Project Reroutes.

Table 1-3: Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Project Reroutes
Public Land Survey System Locations

Reroute #1			
County	**Township**	**Range**	**Section**
Mountrail	152N	88W	6, 7
	152N	89W	1, 12
	153N	88W	33
Reroute #2			
County	**Township**	**Range**	**Section**
Mountrail	154N	93W	11, 12, 13, 24, 25

1.4 Easement Acquisition

There are a total of 12 landowners within the Project Corridor of the Project Reroutes. Basin Electric is in the process of securing easement agreements over the required parcels for the Project Corridor. As of July 2025, 100 percent of landowner easements have been secured for the Project Reroutes.

1.5 Project Schedule

The proposed Project Reroutes will not have a significant impact on the overall construction schedule of the Project. Basin Electric plans to commence construction on the Project Reroutes in the summer of 2025, pending approvals. Construction is anticipated to be complete by October

of 2026, with reclamation extending into 2027, as needed. Winter construction is anticipated for this Project. Private third-party contractors will construct the transmission line. Basin Electric will ensure that any contractors hired will be familiar with and comply with mitigation measures and any agency or permit requirements.

Key schedule milestones include:

1. **Certificate and Route Permit**: Approved in May 2025
2. **Right-of-Way (ROW) Acquisition**: Complete
3. **Equipment Procurement, Manufacture and Delivery**: Ordering of long-lead equipment is in progress.
4. **Construction**: Began in June 2025, anticipated completion in 4th quarter, 2026.
5. **Test and Operations**: Anticipated in 3rd Quarter 2026.
6. **Commercial Operation**: Anticipated in 4th Quarter 2026.
7. **Expansions or Additions:** Basin Electric has no plans for expansions or additions to the Project.

1.6 Project Ownership

Basin Electric will own the entire transmission line and will manage the construction of all equipment and associated facilities.

1.7 Future Associated Facilities

There are no proposed or future Basin Electric associated facilities, or upgrades or improvements associated with Project Reroutes.

2.0 NEED FOR FACILITY

2.1 Need Analysis

The overall need for the Project does not change with the addition of the Project Reroutes. The Project Reroutes were selected to accommodate landowner preferences.

2.2 Alternatives

The original proposed and Commission approved route is an alternative option. The proposed route changes are to accommodate landowner preferences.

2.2.1 No Action Alternative

See the original application for No Action Alternatives.

3.0 SITE SELECTION CRITERIA

The Project Reroutes are based on landowner participation, field surveys, known environmentally sensitive areas, review of County and state transmission line requirements, and communications with local, state, and federal agencies. Reroute Number 1 is entirely within the Study Area of the original application; Reroute Number 2 has approximately 1 mile of the 4.2-mile route within the original application Study Area. New cultural and natural resources studies were performed on the entire lengths of the two reroutes. North Dakota has several site selection criteria that are considered by the Commission to determine suitability of the transmission line. Basin Electric has reviewed the criteria in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02 and has considered these criteria in Project Reroute design. These criteria are discussed in this section.

3.1 Exclusion Areas

In accordance with NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(1), which implements NDCC Section 49-22-05.1, the geographical areas listed in **Table 3-1** below must be excluded in the consideration of a transmission facility route. Exclusion and avoidance areas may be located within a corridor, but at no given point can such an area or areas encompass more than 50 percent of the corridor width unless there is no reasonable alternative. NDAC Section 69-06-08-02 further specifies that a buffer zone of a reasonable width to protect the integrity of the area must be included. Natural screening may be considered in determining the width of the buffer zone. **Appendix A** depicts the results of review for exclusion areas.

Table 3-1: Exclusion Areas

Exclusion Area	Present in Corridor/Route	Proposed Buffer	Section Addressed
Designated or registered national: parks; memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; monuments; and wilderness areas.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5 of Original Application
Designated or registered state: parks; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; archaeological sites; and nature preserves.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.4, 5.5 of Original Application
County parks and recreational areas; municipal parks; and parks owned or administered by other governmental subdivisions.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5 of Original Application
Areas critical to the life stages of threatened or endangered animal or plant species.	Not present within Corridor/Route	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5
Areas where animal or plant species that are unique or rare to this state will be irreversibly damaged.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5
Areas within 1,200 feet of the geographic center of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) launch or launch control facility.	Not present within Corridor/Route	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	Appendix I of Original Application
Areas within 30 feet on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	Appendix I of Original Application

3.2 Avoidance Areas

In accordance with NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(2), approval of a transmission facility cannot be in the geographical areas listed in Error! Reference source not found. below unless the applicant shows that, under the circumstances, there is no reasonable alternative. NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(2) further requires a buffer zone of a reasonable width to protect the integrity of the area. Natural screening may be considered in determining the width of the buffer zone. **Appendix A** depicts the avoidance areas.

Table 3-2: Avoidance Areas			
Avoidance Areas	**Present in Corridor/Route**	**Proposed Buffer**	**Section Addressed**
Designated or registered national: historic districts; wildlife areas; wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; wildlife refuges; and grasslands.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No buffer is proposed.	5.8 of Original Application
Designated or registered state: wild, scenic, or recreational rivers; game refuges; game management areas; management areas; forests; forest management lands; and grasslands.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5 of Original Application
Historical resources which are not specifically designated as exclusion or avoidance areas.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.4 of Original Application
Areas which are geologically unstable.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	Appendix A
Within 500 feet of a residence, school, or place of business.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	3.6, Appendix A, Appendix K of Original Application
Reservoirs and municipal water supplies.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.2 of Original Application
Water sources for organized rural water districts.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.2 of Original Application
Irrigated land.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5 of Original Application
Areas of recreational significance which are not designated as exclusion areas.	Not present within Corridor/Route.	No impacts are anticipated, and no buffer is proposed.	5.5 of Original Application

3.3 Selection Criteria

In accordance with NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(3), a site can be approved in an area only when the applicant demonstrates to the Commission that any significant adverse effects resulting from the location, construction, and operation of the facility in that area, as they relate to the criteria listed in **Table 3-3** below, will be at an acceptable minimum, or that those effects will be managed and maintained at an acceptable minimum.

Table 3-3: Selection Criteria		
Selection Criteria	**Potential Effects**	**Section Addressed**
The impact upon agriculture:		
Agricultural production.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. Where practical, construction activities will be scheduled during periods when agricultural activities will be minimally affected, or the landowner will be compensated accordingly. Landowners would be compensated for crop and forage loss that occurs as a result of construction and maintenance activities, and damage to soils would be redressed.	5.2
Family farms and ranches.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. Transmission lines are a compatible use with existing family farms and ranches, and the Project will not displace any farms or ranches.	5.1, 5.5 of Original Application
Land which the owner demonstrates has soil, topography, drainage, and an available water supply that cause the land to be economically suitable for irrigation.	There is no known irrigation within the Study Area, thus, no effects are anticipated. Participating landowners have not expressed concerns related to economically suitable irrigation on their land.	5.5 of Original Application

Table 3-3: Selection Criteria		
Selection Criteria	**Potential Effects**	**Section Addressed**
Surface drainage patterns and ground water flow patterns.	No impacts to surface drainage patterns or groundwater flow patterns are anticipated. The Project will be designed in such a manner that runoff from the upper portions of the watershed can flow unrestricted to the lower portion of the watershed.	5.7 of Original Application
The impact upon:		
Sound-sensitive land uses.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. Following construction, there will be a minimal amount of sound from the Project as a result of corona effects, which occur when air molecules near conducting wire are ionized due to changes in the electric field intensity at the conductor surface. The sound is most noticeable when conductors are wet as a result of precipitation.	5.3 of Original Application
The visual effect on the adjacent area.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. The Project will be visible to landowners and travelers along roadways. Existing transmission lines, oil and gas well pads, and roads are present in the viewshed.	Appendix A
Extractive and storage resources.	The Project would not directly affect any wells or drill rigs, because the Corridor/Route has been designed to avoid these areas and provide sufficient clearance for well maintenance and operation.	Appendix A
Wetlands, woodlands, and wooded areas.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. The Project will avoid permanent impacts to all wetlands, in all but two locations. These two locations, as well as temporary impacts to wetlands and waterbodies impacted during construction (e.g., access routes or workspaces) will be permitted under Nationwide Permit 57. Trees/shrubs will be replaced consistent with the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.	5.5, 5.7 of Original Application
Radio and television reception, and other communication or electronic control facilities.	No effect anticipated.	5.2 of Original Application
Human health and safety.	No effect anticipated based on compliance with sound standards and design and construction standards to meet or exceed the National Electrical Safety Code. Regular maintenance and inspections will be performed during the life of the Project to confirm its continued integrity.	5.3 of Original Application
Animal health and safety.	No effect anticipated. Construction work will be coordinated with landowners to avoid impacts to livestock. Basin Electric is committed to mitigating potential impacts to wildlife.	5.5
Plant life.	Negligible/minimal effect anticipated. The Project Reroute structures will result in approximately 0.04 acres of permanent ground disturbance, including loss of the existing plant life. Trees and shrubs will be replaced consistent with the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications. Temporarily disturbed areas will be restored as practicable.	4.2

3.4 Policy Criteria

In accordance with NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(4), the Commission may give preference to an applicant who will maximize benefits that result from the adoption of the policies and practices listed in **Table 3-4** below and may require the adoption of such policies and practices as appropriate.

Table 3-4: Policy Criteria		
Policy Criteria	**Potential Benefits**	**Section Addressed**
Location and design.	The location is based on landowner participation, field surveys, known environmentally sensitive areas, and state transmission line requirements. Project design will meet the requirements of the National Electrical Safety Code for the Heavy Loading District, Basin Electric, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service design criteria, and other applicable local or national building codes.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Training and use of available labor in this state for the general and specialized skills required.	Basin Electric has used several local firms in developing the Project Reroutes and compiling this application amendment and will continue to use local labor to the extent practicable.	5.1 of Original Application
Economies of construction and operation.	Basin Electric will use local contractors to the extent practicable.	5.1 of Original Application
Use of citizen coordinating committees.	Not applicable.	NA
A commitment of a portion of the transmitted product for use in this state.	The Project will meet the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased load growth and will meet reliability and system stability requirements for the region.	1.0, 2.1
Labor relations.	No labor relations would be negatively affected by the Project.	NA
The coordination of facilities.	Existing facilities were considered in the location of the Project. Basin Electric will avoid impacts to existing infrastructure. Basin Electric obtains crossing permits where required for utilities.	4
Monitoring of impacts.	Basin Electric and the contractor will employ Best Management Practices during construction to monitor soil impacts and segregate topsoil. A stormwater pollution prevention plan will be prepared for the Project.	4.2.2, 4.9, 4.10, 5.6 of Original Application
Use of existing and proposed rights of way and corridors	Basin Electric has routed the Project parallel to existing roadways and section lines to the extent practicable and in consideration of preferences from landowners impacted by the Project Reroutes.	Appendix A
Other existing or proposed transmission facilities.	Basin Electric has paralleled the Project Reroutes with existing utility corridors as practicable.	Appendix A

3.5 Factors to be Considered

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act NDCC Section 49-22-09 lists the factors to be considered in evaluating applications and designation of sites (see **Table 3-5** below).

Table 3-5: Factors to be Considered

Factors to be Considered	Evaluation	Section(s) Addressed
Available research and investigations relating to the effects of the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility on public health and welfare, natural resources, and the environment.	Effects of the location, construction, and operation of the Project Reroutes on public health and welfare, natural resources, and the environment are described in Section 5.	5
The effects of new energy conversion and transmission technologies and systems designed to minimize adverse environmental effects.	The Project Reroutes have been designed to minimize adverse environmental effects including utilizing bird flight diverters to avoid and reduce bird mortality.	5.8, Appendix G of Original Application
The potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from a proposed energy conversion facility.	Not applicable.	Not applicable
Adverse direct and indirect environmental effects which cannot be avoided should the proposed site be designated.	Adverse direct and indirect environmental effects which cannot be avoided are described for each resource area in Section 5.	5
Alternatives to the proposed site which are developed during the hearing process and which minimize adverse effects.	Multiple alternatives were considered for the Project Reroutes. Basin Electric believes that the Project Route is the most viable and most direct route alternative that also minimizes impacts on the exclusion, avoidance, selection, and policy criteria identified in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02.	2.2, 3.1, 3.2
Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of natural resources should the proposed site be designated.	Not applicable.	Not Applicable
The direct and indirect economic impacts of the proposed facility.	Direct and indirect economic impacts of the Project Reroutes include payments for participating landowners, employment, transmission line	5.1 of Original Application

Table 3-5: Factors to be Considered		
Factors to be Considered	**Evaluation**	**Section(s) Addressed**
	tax payment to the state of North Dakota based on mileage and voltage, and sales/use tax on materials.	
Existing plans of the state, local government, and private entities for other developments at or in the vicinity of the proposed site, corridor, or route.	No conflicts are anticipated with existing state, local government, or private entities' development plans.	6, Appendix C
The effect of the proposed site on existing scenic areas, historic sites and structures, and paleontological or archaeological sites.	There are no designated scenic areas that will be affected by the Project. As identified through a Class I Literature Review and the Class III Cultural Resources Inventory conducted, archaeological sites are outside the Project Corridor, are found to be not significant, or are spanned. See Section 5.4.	5.1, Appendix B
The effect of the proposed site on areas which are unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species.	The effect of the Project Reroutes on areas which are unique because of biological wealth or because they are habitats for rare and endangered species are described in Section 5.	5
Problems raised by federal agencies, other state agencies, and local entities.	Basin Electric and its representatives contacted key local, state, and federal agencies per Section 69-06-01-05 of the NDAC for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the Study Area.	6, Appendix D

3.6 Setbacks

The setbacks used in designing the Project Reroutes comply with or exceed those required by the Commission. No additional setback criteria applicable to the Project were identified through consultation with Mountrail County. The Project Reroutes comply with or exceed the following transmission line corridor and route criteria exclusion and avoidance areas provided in NDAC Section 69-06-08-02(1)-(2). **Table 3-6** below lists the setbacks used in designing the Project.

Table 3-6: Setback Distances as Designated by the Commission	
Setback Type	**Setback Distance**
The geographic center of an ICBM launch or launch control facility.	1,200 feet
Areas on either side of a direct line between ICBM launch or launch control facilities to avoid microwave interference.	30 feet
Residence, school, or place of business.	500 feet

3.7 County Criteria

The Project Reroutes were submitted to Mountrail County and incorporated into the existing Conditional Use Permit.

4.0 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

4.1 Project Design

4.1.1 Transmission Line Design Parameters

The overall Project design standards will not change with the proposed Project Reroutes. The transmission line will be constructed with clearances that exceed standards set by the National Electric Safety Code. Minimum conductor height under maximum sag conditions will exceed 30 feet for all ground surfaces. **Table 4-1** below includes a description of various Project Reroute design component characteristics.

Table 4-1: Project Reroute Design Components

Description of Design Component	Values
Voltage (kV)	345-kV
Length of transmission line	6.36 miles
Approximate total number of structures	29
Conductor size	1.72 inches
Typical minimum and maximum span distances between structures	800-1,250 feet
Average span	Approximately 1100 feet
Minimum and maximum structure height	105 – 165 feet
Average height of structures	135 feet
Average number of structures	4.6 per mile
Minimum conductor-to-ground clearance to agricultural land at 100 degrees Celsius (°C)	30 feet
Minimum conductor-to-ground clearance to rural roads at 100°C	30 feet
Minimum conductor-to-ground clearance to railroad at 100°C	30 feet
Minimum conductor-to-ground clearance to paved highways at 100°C	30 feet
Circuit configuration	Delta

The Project Reroutes will use galvanized steel monopoles with three steel davit arms for the conductor phases, one steel davit arm for overhead ground wire, and one steel davit arm for optical ground wire (OPGW). The OPGW will provide lightning suppression and fiber optic communications between the Project Substations for systems control.

Structure design will not change from the described structures in the original application.

4.2 Permanent Land Requirements

Permanent impacts are those required for Project operation, consisting mostly of individual structure locations. Permanent land disturbance has been estimated for self-supporting single and double-circuit tangent structures, and self-supporting angle (turning) structures.

Estimated Project permanent ground disturbance impacts are included in **Table 4-2** below.

Table 4-2: Estimated Disturbance Impacts							
Project Component	**Temporary Disturbance Assumptions**	**Permanent Disturbance Assumption**	**Per Unit Temporary Impact (acres)**	**Per Unit Permanent Impact (acres)**	**Impact Multiplier (qty)**	**Temporary Impact (acres)**	**Permanent Impact (acres)**
Single-pole Tangent on foundation	100 ft x 150 ft = 0.344 acres	8ft diameter = 0.0012 acres	0.344	0.0012	24	8.26	0.03
Single-pole Angle on foundation	100 ft x 150 ft = 0.344 acres	13ft diameter = 0.0030 acres	0.344	0.003	5	1.72	0.2
Pulling and Tensioning Site	150ft x 300 ft x 2 = 2.07 acres	None	2.066	0	11	22.73	0
Splicing Sites	100 ft x 150 ft = 0.344 acres	None	0.344	0	4	1.376	0
					Totals	**34.078**	**0.0438**

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

5.1 Cultural Resources

5.1.1 Description of Resources

Class III Cultural Resources Inventory

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Metcalf) conducted a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Project Reroutes conforming to North Dakota's Guidelines for Cultural Resource Inventories. The objective of the inventory was to locate any cultural resources located within the area of potential effects, to determine whether those resources qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and assess the effect that the Project may have on those cultural resources that qualify for the NRHP. Fieldwork was conducted between April 29, 2025 and May 22, 2025. The study area was defined as a 6.13-mile-long by 200-foot-wide corridor, encompassing the Project Reroute Corridor entirely.

No cultural resources were identified during the survey of Reroute Number 1.

Two cultural resources, a corrugated metal culvert and a site lead for archaeological material, documented between 1980 and 2014, overlap or abut the Reroute Number 2 Corridor. **Appendix B** summarizes the sites found, their significance and recommendations for any further steps necessary as it applies to the Project.

A letter cultural resources report for the Project Reroutes was submitted to the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) for review on June 2, 2025. SHSND responded on June 26, 2025, stating no significant sites would be impacted by these reroutes provided they take place in the location and in the manner described (see **Appendix B**).

5.1.2 Impacts/Mitigation

No significant sites or sites eligible for listing on the NRHP are in the Project Corridor; therefore, no impacts are anticipated to cultural resources.

5.2 Land Cover, Land Use, Noxious Weeds and Recreational Resources

5.2.1 Description of Resources

Land Cover

The Study Area is located in rural North Dakota in an area predominantly comprised of cultivated land, hayfields, pasturelands, and grasslands. Accordingly, much of the Study Area is used for agriculture supporting livestock grazing and crops. The main crops grown are canola, wheat, and soybeans; the main livestock raised is cattle. Wooded areas within the Study Area are limited to shelterbelts between fields, windbreaks surrounding farmsteads, within drainages, and near wetlands. No irrigated land is within the Project Corridor.

Land cover classifications, including acreage within the Study Area and Project Corridor, are shown in **Table 5-** below. The Project Corridor is comprised primarily of cultivated lands (47 percent) and herbaceous grasslands (34 percent).

Table 5-1: Land Cover Classifications		
Land Cover	**Acreage within Study Area**	**Acreage within Project Corridor**
Cultivated Crops	2,889	54
Forested	79	2
Developed/Bare Ground	233	21
Wetlands/Open Water	135	0
Grasslands/Herbaceous	1,671	39
Source: Sentinel-2 10m Land Use/Land Cover (Karra, Kontgis, et al. 2021)		

Managed Land Uses

The Study Area does not include any designated or registered national sites including: parks; memorial parks; historic sites and landmarks; natural landmarks; historic districts; monuments; civil works project lands; forests; or wilderness areas; wild, scenic, or recreational rivers.

The Study Area does not include any designated or registered state parks; trails; forests; forest management lands; historic sites; monuments; historical markers; wild, scenic or recreational rivers; or nature preserves.

Noxious Weeds

There are 13 state-listed noxious weeds: absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*); Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*); dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*); diffuse knapweed (*Centaurea diffusa*); houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*); leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*); musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*); palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*); purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*); Russian knapweed (*Acroptilon repens*); Saltcedar (*Tamarix chinensis, T. parviflora, T. ramosissima*); spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*); yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*).

Additionally, Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is listed in Mountrail County.

5.2.2 Impacts/Mitigation

The Project will not result in a significant change in land use. No residences or farms will be displaced due to construction activities. Basin Electric will implement the same mitigation measures outlined in the original application.

5.3 Soils and Geologic Resources

5.3.1 Description of Resources

There are approximately 32 active oil and gas wells within the Study Area (NDDMR 2024). There are no active sand and/or gravel mines located within the Study Area (US-Mining 2023). There are no abandoned coal mines in the Study Area (ND GIS Hub 2024). Approximately 30 acres of geologically unstable area, as indicated by the North Dakota Geological Survey landslide mapping program (Anderson et al. 2022), are present within the Study Area (see **Appendix A**).

5.3.2 Impacts/Mitigation

The Project will not result in a significant change to soil and geologic resources. All active oil and gas wells will be avoided. A geotechnical analysis was performed and areas which are geologically unstable will be avoided and spanned as necessary. Basin Electric will implement the same mitigation measures outlined in the original application.

5.4 Surface Water and Groundwater Resources

5.4.1 Description of Resources

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) conducted a natural resource inventory of a 78.6-acre area (Survey Area) on May 7, 2025 which included wetland and waterbody surveys in support of the Project. Waterbody boundaries were recorded utilizing the criteria and definitions provided by the USACE Ordinary High Water Mark criteria and definitions provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency in *Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act* (Tucker 2024). Wetlands and waterbodies were field classified in accordance with guidelines set forth in the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* by the Federal Geographic Data Committee. A total of eight wetlands were mapped during the field survey efforts (see **Appendix A** and **Appendix C**).

5.4.2 Impacts/Mitigation

The Project Reroutes will not result in a significant change to surface water and groundwater resources. The Project Reroutes will avoid direct, permanent impacts to all wetlands. Basin Electric will implement the same mitigation measures outlined in the original application.

5.5 Wildlife and Rare and Unique Natural Resources

5.5.1 Description of Resources

WEST's natural resource inventory also included an evaluation of habitat for federally listed species. Assessments for federally listed threatened and endangered species were conducted by evaluating historic accounts and reported occurrences of listed species within the area of the Project.

Prior to field surveys, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) tool was reviewed and indicated that eight threatened, endangered, and candidate species could potentially occur within the Survey Area (Tucker 2024) (see **Table 5-** below).

Table 5-2: Threatened and Endangered Species

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Northern long-eared bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered
Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	Threatened, Critical Habitat Designated
Red knot	*Calidris canutus rufa*	Threatened
Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Endangered
Dakota skipper	*Hesperia dacotae*	Threatened, Critical Habitat Designated

Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Candidate
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee	*Bombus suckleyi*	Candidate
Western regal fritillary	*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*	Candidate

Source: USFWS IPaC (WEST 2024)

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). The BGEPA protects bald and golden eagles throughout their range in the United States. Although it does not designate critical habitat, BGEPA protects individual eagles and nests from disturbance. Project surveys conducted by WEST included surveying for raptor nests, including eagles.

An updated Natural Resources Report is included in **Appendix C**.

5.5.2 Impacts/Mitigation

No irreversible damage to rare or unique animal or plant species is anticipated. Individual species are discussed below. Basin Electric will implement the same mitigation measures outlined in the original application.

Northern Long-Eared Bat

The field survey determined that 4.94 acres of potential treed habitat are located within the Project Reroute Corridor. To avoid incidental take, tree clearing activities will occur between the USFWS recommended dates, November 1st through April 14th. If localized tree clearing activities cannot be conducted during this window, the USFWS will be consulted to determine the necessary action.

Piping Plover

No piping plover or habitat was identified during the field survey. No additional mitigation measures are proposed for the piping plover. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. **Appendix C** contains Basin Electric's Avian and Bat Protection Plan. Following these guidelines, it is reasonable to expect the Project is unlikely to adversely affect the whooping cranes.

Rufa Red Knot

No Rufa red knot or their habitat was identified during the field survey. No additional mitigation measures are proposed for the rufa red knot. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. **Appendix C** contains Basin Electric's Avian and Bat Protection Plan. Following these guidelines, it is reasonable to expect the Project is unlikely to adversely affect the whooping cranes.

Whooping Crane

No whooping cranes were identified during the field survey. Noise and vehicle activity during construction activities may cause migratory cranes to divert from the area but would be unlikely to contribute to any indirect or direct effect that would result in an increase of fatalities and, therefore, would be considered insignificant (Tucker 2024). If a crane is sighted within 1.0 mile of the project area, construction activities using heavy equipment would be suspended, and the sighting would be promptly reported to the USFWS. In coordination with the USFWS, suspended

activities would resume once the bird(s) have left the area. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. **Appendix C** contains Basin Electric's Avian and Bat Protection Plan. Following these guidelines, it is reasonable to expect the Project is unlikely to adversely affect the whooping cranes.

Dakota Skipper

The natural resources field survey was conducted within identified grassland habitat to determine if suitable Dakota skipper (DASK) habitat was present. Suitable habitat is defined as native grassland that contains one or more primary constituent elements for the skipper to complete its entire life cycle, including breeding, feeding/foraging, and sheltering behaviors (Tucker 2024).

The field survey recorded one location of suitable habitat, totaling 0.04 ac; less than 1% of the area within the Survey Corridor. Basin Electric has designed the Project to minimize impacts to suitable habitat for the DASK. This includes routing access trails around potential habitat and placing pole structures outside of potential habitat. Identified DASK habitat will be avoided during all construction activities. The same 500-meter and ½-mile construction buffers outlined in the original application will be implemented for this habitat location.

Bald and Golden Eagle

No bald or golden eagles or nest were observed during the field survey. The transmission line will be outfitted with bird flight diverters following Avian Powerline Interaction Committee guidelines, which will also increase visibility of the lines for large raptors such as eagles, thereby reducing collision risk with the transmission lines. Therefore, the impacts of the Project on eagles are likely to be low.

6.0 PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Basin Electric contacted key local, state, and federal agencies per Section 69-06-01-05 of the NDAC for assistance in identifying concerns or issues within the Study Area. Public and agency correspondence as of July 2025 are included in **Appendix D**. Basin Electric has maintained close coordination with landowner stakeholders throughout the process via in-person meetings, mailers, and phone calls. Basin Electric will continue to meet with various state and county officials as the Project moves forward for all necessary permits.

7.0 POTENTIAL PERMITS/APPROVALS

SHSND required a Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for the Project Reroutes conforming to North Dakota's Guidelines for Cultural Resource Inventories. A letter report was submitted in June 2025 with SDSND agreeing that no significant sites will be impacted as a result of the Project Reroutes (see **Appendix B**).

The Project Reroutes were submitted to Mountrail County and incorporated into the original Conditional Use Permit.

8.0 QUALIFICATIONS OF CONTRIBUTORS

Table 8-1: Qualifications of Contributors		
Basin Electric Power Cooperative		
Name	**Responsibilities**	**Education and Experience**
Bobby Nasset	Project Manager	B.S. Civil Engineering Registered Professional Engineer 19 Years of Experience
Shane Vasbinder	Project Engineer	B.S. Civil Engineering Registered Professional Engineer 19 Years of Experience
Ryan King	Environmental/Permitting	Master of Natural Resources Management B.S. Construction Management 13 Years of Experience
Erin Dukart	Environmental/Permitting	B.S. Biology 15 Years of Experience
Nathan Kleyer	Right-of-Way	16 Years of Experience
Jason Brekke	GIS Analyst	B.S. Geography 18 Years of Experience
Shannon Vaira	GIS Analyst	B.A. Geography; Minor in GIS 10 Years of Experience
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.		
Name	**Responsibilities**	**Education and Experience**
Damita Engel	Cultural Resources Inventory	B.A. Anthropology Master of Anthropology, Specialization in Cultural Resource Management 31 Years of Experience
Amy Bleier	Cultural Resources Inventory	B.A. Anthropology Master of Anthropology, Specialization in Cultural Resource Management 28 Years of Experience
Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc		
Name	**Responsibilities**	**Education and Experience**
Chad Tucker	Natural Resources Inventory/Report	B.S. Wildlife Fisheries Science 19 Years of Experience

9.0 LITERATURE CITED

Anderson, F.J., et al. 2022. North Dakota Landslide Maps. North Dakota Geological Survey. Available online at: https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/landslides

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Tucker, C. 2024. East Loop 345-kV Transmission Project, Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota: Natural Resources Inventory Report. Prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST), Bismarck, North Dakota. August 14, 2024.

10.0 ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Basin Electric	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
BGEPA	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
Certificate	Certificate of Corridor Compatibility
Commission	North Dakota Public Service Commission
DASK	Dakota Skipper
ft	foot
GIS	geographic information systems
ICBM	intercontinental ballistic missile
IPaC	Information for Planning and Conservation
kV	kilovolt
LOS	Leland Olds Station
Metcalf	Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.
ND	North Dakota
NDAC	North Dakota Administrative Code
NDCC	North Dakota Century Code
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OPGW	optical ground wire
Project	Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project
Project Reroutes	Two Project Reroutes
Route Permit	Transmission Facility Route Permit
SHSND	State Historical Society of North Dakota
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WEST	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.

Appendix A

Project Mapbook

Project Reroutes

Reroute Number 1

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Project Reroutes

Reroute Number 2

BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Appendix B

Cultural Resources Report (Redacted)

Metcalf
ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS
A Terracon Company

Mr. Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

RE: LOS to Tande Transmission Line Project – Braaflat and 1804 Construction Corridor Reroutes

Dear Mr. King,

Basin Electric Power Cooperative proposes (Basin) to construct a 345 kV electric transmission line connecting the Leland Olds Station to the Tande Substation in Mercer, McLean, Ward, and Mountrail counties. The LOS to Tande project route begins at Leland Olds Station, spans the Missouri River, runs north and west of Falkirk Mining Company operations, and skirts the east end of Lake Audubon. It turns northwest and passes towns from Max north to Plaza. Then, the route runs north of the Fort Berthold Reservation, pivoting northwest, east of the Missouri River. The new Finstad/Crane Creek Substation is planned along the transmission line northeast of New Town, North Dakota. The northernmost portion of the line continues west and then north with the terminus at the Tande Substation, east of Tioga.

LOS to Tande is a state level project. Basin applied for a permit from the North Dakota Public Service Commission, which is responsible for ensuring the project complies with *North Dakota Century Code* 55-03 - Protection of Prehistoric Sites and Deposits - and *North Dakota Administrative Code* 40-02-02 - Permit for Cultural Resource Investigation. Basin contracted Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. (Metcalf) to conduct a Class III cultural resource inventory of the project area.

In 2023, Metcalf entered into Memoranda of Agreement with the State Historical Society of North Dakota (SHSND) to receive necessary cultural resource information for the Class I inventory of the LOS to Tande project. The MOA was updated in 2024 and 2025. The SHSND has provided spatial data and copies of all site files and cultural resource reports for the project area and a three-mile buffer around it.

Metcalf's Class III inventory conforms to *North Dakota's SHPO Guidelines Manual for Cultural Resource Inventories* (SHSND 2020); it includes the mainline construction corridor, pull lanes, and access roads. Archaeologists employ a pedestrian transect survey method with transects spaced no more than 15 meters apart. The mainline construction corridor and pull lane inventories are 150 feet wide. The access road inventories are 100 feet wide. Metcalf uses ESRI Field Maps for navigation and site documentation, take digital photographs, and maintain detailed field notes. Copies of the spatial data, photos, field notes, and cultural resource forms are on file at the Metcalf office in Bismarck.

Volume 1 (Bleier 2025a) and Volume 2 (Bleier 2025b) of the cultural resource report cover the Class III inventory conducted between June 26, 2023, and November 5, 2024. In a letter dated April 3, 2025, the SHSND stated, "For the areas included in [volumes 1 and 2], it is our determination that there are no significant sites affected provided the cultural sites are avoided as described in those reports" (see attached). A forthcoming Volume 3 will cover the Metcalf's Class III inventory in 2025.

On April 29, 2025, Metcalf conducted a pedestrian survey of the Braaflat reroute of the mainline construction corridor (Map 1). *No cultural resources were identified during survey of the Braaflat reroute*. On May 22, 2025, Metcalf conducted a pedestrian survey of the 1804 reroute of the mainline construction corridor (Map 2). Two cultural resources, documented between in 1980 and 2014, overlap or abut the 1804 reroute. These are a site, a corrugated metal culvert (32MN1273), and a site lead for archaeological material (32MNx172) (Table 1; Figures 1 and 2). *Construction of the LOS to Tande transmission line will not impact these cultural resources*. *No new cultural resources were identified during survey of the 1804 reroute*.

Respectfully,

Amy C. Bleier
Senior Archaeologist

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, A Terracon Company
1501 Mapleton Avenue, Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58502
acbleier@terracon.com

April 3, 2025

Damita Engel
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants
PO Box 2154
Bismarck, ND 58502

SHSND Ref.: 24-9097 Basin Electric Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project, PU-24-361 in portions of Mercer, McLean, Mountrail, Ward and Wiliams Counties, North Dakota

Dear Damita,

From your submission on behalf of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, it is our understanding that SHSND Ref: 24-9097 Basin Electric Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project involves construction of approximately 160 miles of new transmission line from the Leland Olds Station substation to the Tande Substation. Within volumes one and two of the cultural resources survey reports, 96.4% of the area proposed for the project has been surveyed. For the areas included in these reports, it is our determination that there are no significant sites affected provided the cultural sites are avoided as described in those reports. We look forward to reviewing the rest of the cultural survey (3.6%) in volume three.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project under North Dakota cultural resources consultation. This letter does not serve as federal agency consultation or SHPO consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (36 CFR Part 800), or the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347). If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist at lbmeidinger@nd.gov or (701) 328-2089.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

24-9097

Appendix C

Natural Resources Inventory Report

Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project
Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota

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Addendum to the Natural Resources Inventory Report

Prepared for:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Prepared by:

Chad Tucker, Erica Matykiewicz, Nick Hill

Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
4007 State Street, Suite 109
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503
Phone: (307) 772-1083

August 6, 2025

WEST

STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Chad Tucker	Project Manager
Erica Matykiewicz	Associate Biologist
Nick Hill	Associate Biologist

REPORT REFERENCE

Tucker, C., E. Matykiewicz, N. Hill. 2025. Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project, Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota: Addendum to the Natural Resources Inventory Report. Prepared by Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST), Bismarck, North Dakota. August 6, 2025.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Definition
BEPC	Basin Electric Power Cooperative
DASK	Dakota Skipper
DBH	diameter at breast height
ESA	Endangered Species Act
Final Rule	*Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bats; Final Rule*
ft	foot
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
kV	kilovolt
N	north
NLEB	Northern long-eared bat
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
PAB	Palustrine aquatic bed
PEM	Palustrine emergent
PEMA	Palustrine emergent temporarily flooded
PEMC	Palustrine emergent seasonally flooded
PLSS	Public Land Survey System
Project	Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kilovolt Transmission Project
R	Range
Reroute	Two route changes totaling 6.7 miles
ROW	Right-of-way
Sec.	Section
Survey Area	258.5 acres
T	Township
USACE	US Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
W	west
WEST	Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc.
WMD	Wetland Management District
WNS	White-nose syndrome

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (BEPC) has been permitted to construct and operate the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Project (Project). Western EcoSystems Technology, Inc. (WEST), was retained by BEPC to provide natural resources inventory services, which include the identification of waterbody/wetland boundaries, an evaluation of habitat for federally listed species, an aerial eagle nest survey, a noxious weed inventory, a tree and shrub inventory, and a review of U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Easements associated with the Project. WEST completed surveys for the approximately 160.4-mile Project in 2024.

In 2025, the Project was rerouted in two locations, both Reroutes are located in Mountrail County (Figure 1). Table 1 identifies the length and Public Land Survey System Sections within which the Reroutes are located.

Table 1. Legal description of the Proposed Reroutes.

Route	Section	Township	Range
Reroute 1 4.5 miles	11, 14, 23, 25, 26	154	93
Reroute 2 2.2 miles	6, 7	152	88
	1	152	88
	12	152	89
	33	153	88

Reroute 1 is 4.5 miles and Reroute 2 is 2.2 miles in length. The Survey Corridor is 300 feet wide centered on the Reroute centerline. The Reroutes also include 12 pull lanes with an approximate survey area of 150-feet by 400-feet. For this report all areas surveyed will be referred to as the Survey Area, which contains a total of 258.5 miles. WEST performed the pedestrian field surveys for the Reroutes on May 7, 2025.

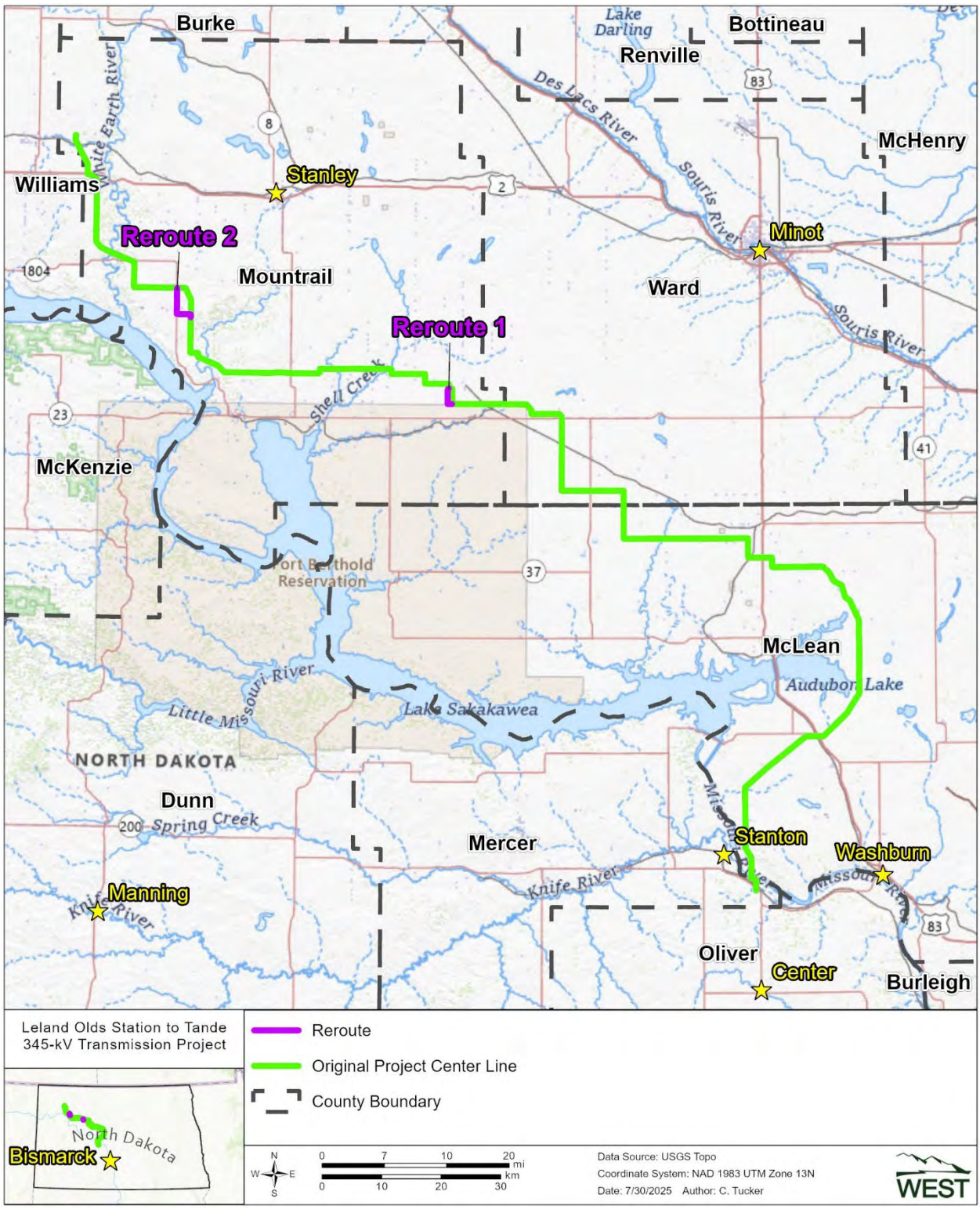

Figure 1. Location of the proposed Reroutes along the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345 kilovolt Transmission Project.

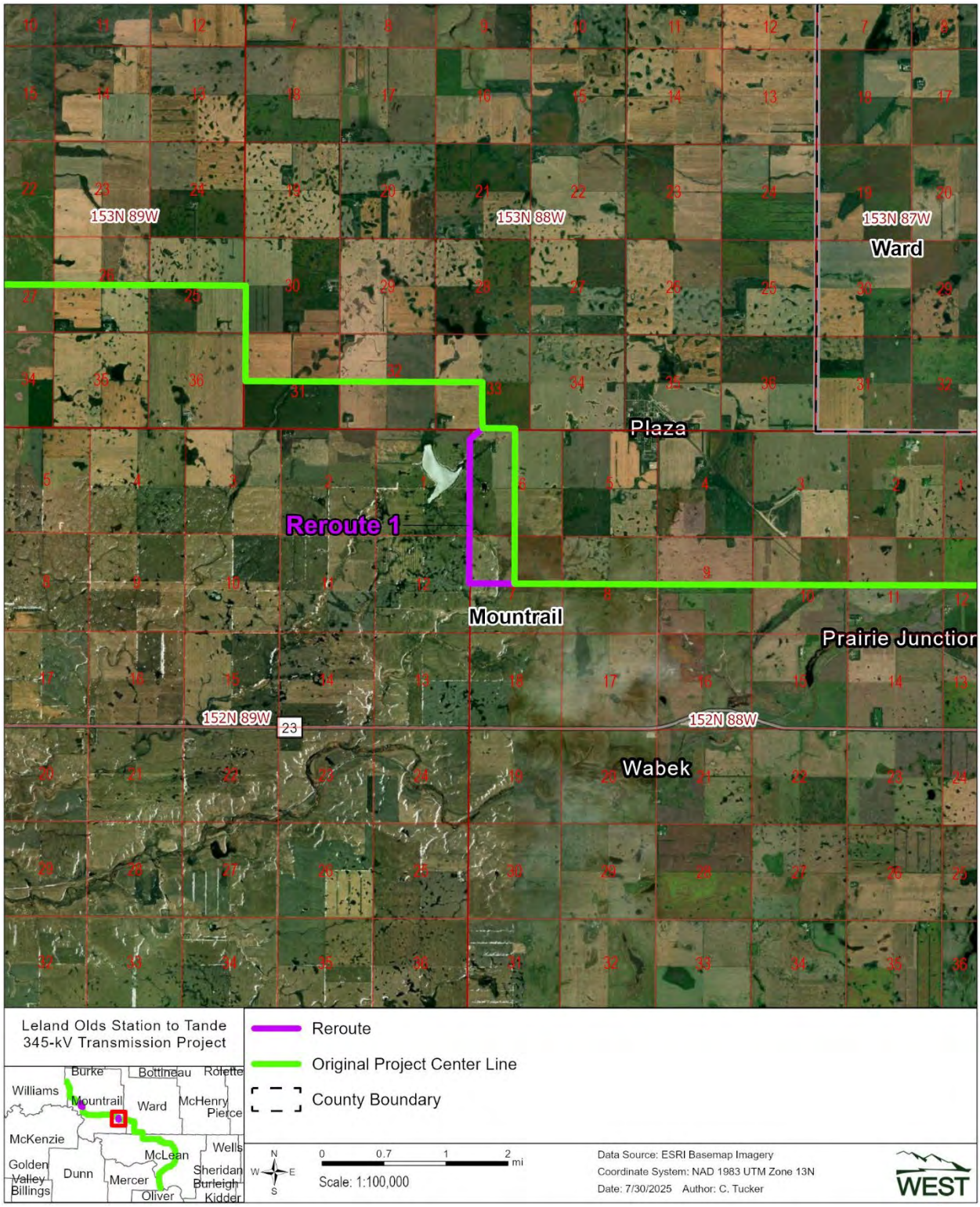

Figure 2. Detailed view of the proposed Reroute 1.

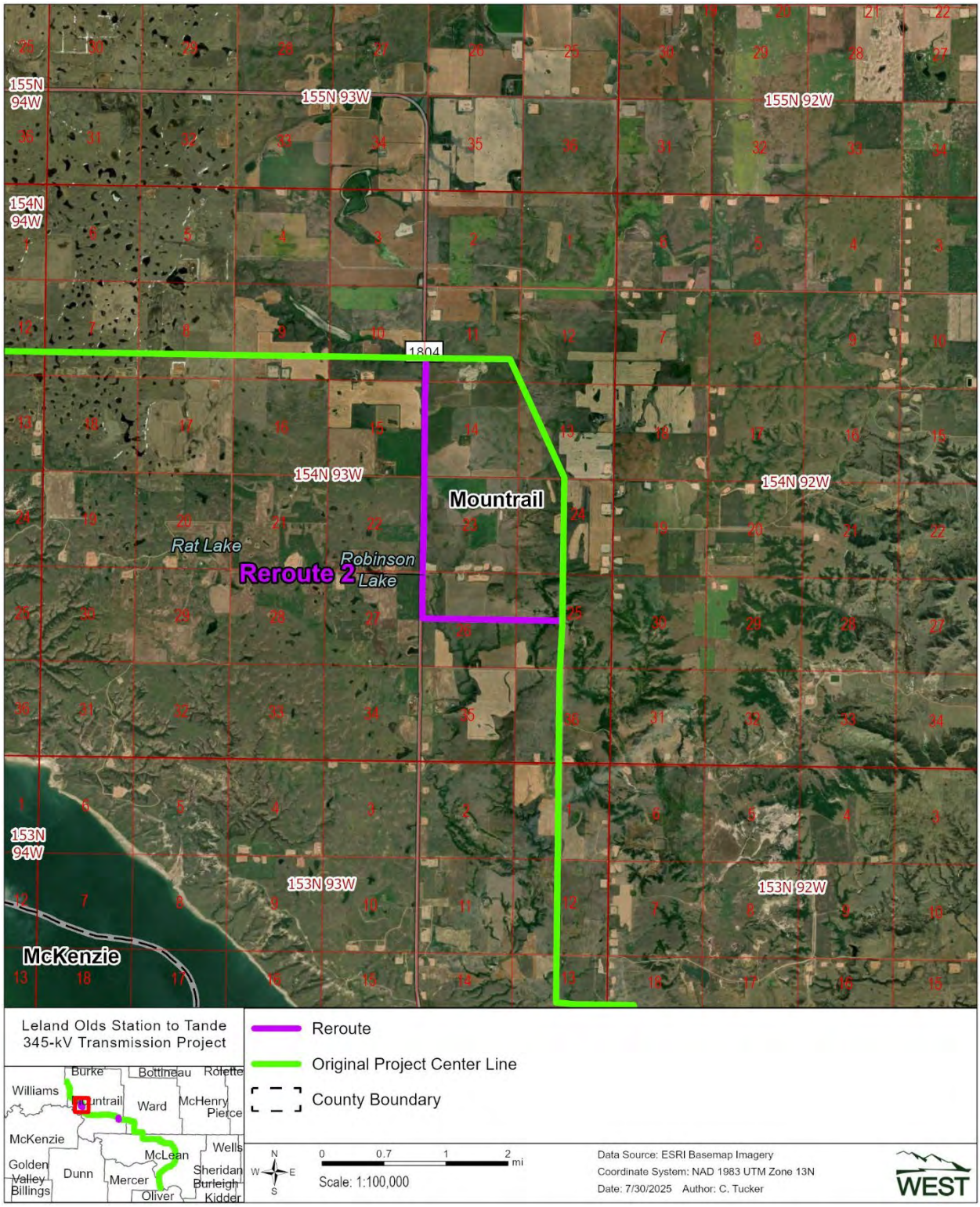

Figure 3. Detailed view of the proposed Reroute 2.

2.0 PROCEDURES

2.1 Wetland and Waterbody Field Determination

Wetland identification utilized the presence of hydrophytic vegetation and landscape hydrology and/or topographic position as outlined in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (US Army Corps of Engineers [USACE] 1987) and the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: [Region supplement] (Version 2.0; USACE 2010). Soil data was not collected. Soils were assumed hydric if the site was dominated by hydrophytic plants and had wetland hydrology. Waterbody boundaries were recorded utilizing the criteria and definitions provided by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Ordinary High Water Mark criteria and definitions provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in *Draft Guidance on Identifying Waters Protected by the Clean Water Act* (USEPA and USACE 2011). Wetlands and waterbodies were field classified in accordance with guidelines set forth in the *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC 2013).

The following resources were reviewed prior to the wetland field determination to aid in identifying potential wetlands within the Survey Area. Mountrail County National Agriculture Imagery Program aerial photographs (US Geological Survey [USGS] 2024); US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI; USFWS NWI 2021); USGS National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2021); and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) digital Web Soil Survey (USDA NRCS 2025). The vegetation within the area surveyed was characterized using hydrophytic criteria as outlined in the *National Wetland Plant List* (USACE 2022).

2.2 Federally Listed Wildlife Species Evaluation

The USFWS Information for Planning Consultation (IPaC) site was used to review federally listed species within the Survey Area (USFWS 2025). The review also included the USFWS designated critical habitat for threatened and endangered species geospatial data (2023a), along with known range, reported occurrences, and habitat needs for each species. Table 2 identifies the federally listed species with the potential for occurrence within the Survey Area. Field evaluations were conducted May 7, 2025, to confirm the presence or absence of potentially suitable habitat for federally listed species within the Project Survey Area. Background data was collected for preliminary review and to aid in the field inventory of biological resources. Minimization efforts for threatened or endangered species are discussed in Section 3.3.

Table 2. Federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Northern long-eared bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered
Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	Endangered
Dakota skipper	*Hesperia dacotae*	Threatened, Critical Habitat Designated
Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	Threatened, Critical Habitat Designated
Red knot (rufa)	*Calidris canutus rufa*	Threatened
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Proposed Threatened
Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee	*Bombus suckleyi*	Proposed Endangered
Western regal fritillary	*Argynnis idalia occidentalis*	Proposed Threatened

Source: US Fish and Wildlife Service 2025

2.3 Nesting Raptor Survey

A 1/2-line of site pedestrian raptor nest survey was conducted while performing field surveys for the Reroutes. Binoculars with 10x magnifications were used to scan trees for nests.

2.4 Noxious Weed Inventory

North Dakota has 13 state-listed noxious weed species. The Mountrail County Weed Control Districts list one additional species as invasive (North Dakota Department of Agriculture 2025). Table 3 provides a list of noxious and/or invasive weed species listed for the Project.

Table 3. North Dakota State and Project County listed noxious and invasive weeds.

North Dakota State Listed Noxious Weeds		Project County Invasive Weeds	
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Common Name**	**Scientific Name**
Absinth wormwood	*Aremisia absinthium*	**Mountrail County**	
Canada thistle	*Cirsium arvense*	Common tansy	*Tanacetum vulgare*
Dalmatian toadflax	*Linaria genistifolia*		
Diffuse knapweed	*Centaurea diffusa*		
Houndstongue	*Cynoglossum officinale*		
leafy spurge	*Euphorbia esula*		
Musk thistle	*Carduus nutans*		
Palmer amaranth	*Amaranthus palmeri*		
Purple loosestrife	*Lythrum salicaria*		
Russian knapweed	*Acroptilon repens*		
Saltcedar	*Tamarix chinensis*		
Spotted knapweed	*Centaurea maculosa*		
Yellow toadflax	*Linaria vulgaris*		

2.5 Tree and Shrub Inventory

Once a right-of-way has been designated for the Project, WEST will conduct a tree and shrub inventory using methodology previously approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission. The results of the inventory will be submitted in a stand-alone document.

2.6 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Easements.

The Survey Area was reviewed for USFWS Easement tracts. The desktop review used the USFWS National Realty Tracts database in comparison to the Survey Area to determine if Easements would be impacted.

3.0 RESULTS

3.1 Wetlands

A pre-survey review of the USFWS NWI database identified eight wetland signatures within the Survey Area (USFWS NWI 2021). This includes five freshwater emergent wetlands containing 3.5 acres and two previously farmed (Pf) "other" wetlands containing 1.7 acres.

The field survey identified eight wetlands, covering 3.38 acres within the Survey Area. Three of the NWI signatures within the Survey Area were found to not exhibit wetland hydrology or contain hydric vegetation. Upland points were recorded at these sites to document that the features had been surveyed and lacked wetland characteristics.

The wetland features and upland points are depicted in Appendix A. Attributes for the wetland are listed in Table 4. Photographs are included in Appendix B.

Table 4. Attributes of Wetlands located within the Survey Area

Name	Classification	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Acres
Wetland 1507	PEMC	Sec. 14 - T154N - R93W	48.162998	-102.611914	0.38
Wetland 1508	PEMC	Sec. 26 - T154N - R93W	48.132035	-102.60896	0.19
Wetland 1509	PEMA	Sec. 6 - T152N - R88W	48.018766	-101.999991	0.04
Wetland 1510	PEMC	Sec. 1 - T152N - R89W	48.018541	-102.000642	0.37
Wetland 1511	PEMC	Sec. 1 - T152N - R89W	48.017136	-102.000801	1.00
Wetland 1512	PEMC	Sec. 1 - T152N - R89W	48.01697	-102.000202	0.13
Wetland 1513	PEMC	Sec. 1 - T152N - R89W	48.007764	-102.00065	0.28
Wetland 1515	PEMC	Sec. 7 - T152N - R88W	47.999874	-101.993846	0.99
				Total	**3.38**

N = north, PEMA = palustrine emergent temporarily flooded wetland, PEMC = palustrine emergent seasonally flooded wetland, R = Range, Sec. = Section, T = Township, W = west.

3.2 Waterbodies

The pre-survey review of the USFWS NWI database identified five signatures classified as riverine. They are classified as R4 (intermittent) and contain 0.28 acres within the Survey Area. The Survey Area does not contain any signatures with "lake" attributes.

The field survey did not observe any waterbody features. Two of the riverine signatures were classified as wetlands and three riverine signatures were documented as uplands. Upland points were recorded at these sites to document that the features had been surveyed and lacked riverine characteristics.

3.3 Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment

Threatened and endangered species that have been documented and/or that have the potential to occur within the Survey Area are listed in Table 2 along with designated critical habitat (USFWS 2023a, 2023b). A review of USFWS species information datasets, along with habitat data gathered from the

field surveys, were used to aid in the determinations. Threatened and endangered species information gathered from the review is documented below in the species discussions.

During the field surveys, no federally listed species were observed. Numerous treed areas (more than three inches [in.] diameter at breast height [DBH]) with the potential to provide summer roosting habitat for the northern long-eared bat were documented and suitable habitat for the Dakota skipper was documented at one location.

3.3.1 Northern Long-eared Bat

The northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*) is a forest-dwelling mammal. The home range of the northern long-eared bat (NLEB) is approximately 150 ac, including a summer and winter habitat. In the summer, NLEB roost under bark or in crevices of trees, preferring to roost in tall trees with greater than three inches (in.; eight centimeters [cm]) DBH, and under the exfoliating bark of dead or dying trees. In the winter, NLEB hibernate in caves and mines. The NLEB prefers foraging in edge habitats and forests comprising trees with a diversity of life stages (USFWS 2014a).

Occurrences of the NLEB are uncertain in North Dakota. White-nose syndrome (WNS) currently remains the predominant threat to the NLEB. North Dakota is included in the current extent of WNS zone per the Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Northern Long-Eared Bat; Final Rule (Final Rule; 88 Federal Register [FR] 4908 [January 26, 2023]; USFWS 2023c). With the Final Rule reclassifying the NLEB as endangered, incidental take of the species is prohibited. To avoid incidental take, it is recommended to conduct tree clearing activities between November 1 to April 14 when bats have either migrated or are hibernating in underground caves.

A desktop analysis was conducted to determine impacts to tree habitat and determine what locations have a higher probability of providing habitat for the NLEB. A 1,000 ft buffer of the Survey Area was digitally analyzed for tree habitat. Tree habitat patches greater than 10 acres in size were selected as potential NLEB habitat. The 10 acres potential habitat patches were then buffered by 1,000 ft and all tree habitat within the buffer was classified as connected habitat. The review determined that 4.94 acres of potential treed habitat are located within the Survey Area of Reroute 1. No habitat was identified within the Survey Area of Reroute 2. Table 5 lists the attributes of the connected habitat polygons. Maps depicting the results of the analysis are in Appendix C.

To reduce the potential to impact NLEB, BEPC has committed to conducting tree clearing activities from November 1 – April 14, outside of the active season for NLEB in North Dakota. If localized tree clearing activities cannot be conducted during this window, the USFWS will be consulted to determine the necessary action.

Table 5. NLEB Habitat within the Survey Area

Route	NLEB Habitat	Location	Acres
Reroute 1	Connected Habitat Buffer	Sec 25-T154N-R93W	4.94

N = North, R = Range; Sec = Section; T = Township; W = West.

3.3.2 Whooping Crane

The primary nesting area for the whooping crane (*Grus americana*) is in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas is the primary wintering area for whooping cranes. In the spring and fall, the cranes migrate, primarily along the Central Flyway. During the migration, whooping cranes make numerous stops, roosting in relatively large, shallow marshes and feeding and loafing in harvested grain fields. The primary threats to whooping cranes are power lines, illegal hunting, and habitat loss (USFWS 2023d).

The whooping crane is federally listed and has the potential to occur in all counties of North Dakota. The Project is located within the migration Area where 75-95% of whooping cranes travel. Land use within the Project is a mixture of cropland and rangeland, and oil/gas development. The USFWS Database (USFWS 2024) contains 57 sightings within Mountrail County. The closest confirmed sighting to the Reroutes was 3.2 miles from Reroute 2 in 2003. The sighting occurred in Sec. 27, T155N, R93W. The sighting locations are depicted on Figure 5.

The Project Reroutes were analyzed using the model developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS) Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and the USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (HAPET). The Model predicts that 33% of the Project's Survey Area (85.4 ac) is within the 10th probability decile and 39% (102.0 ac) is within the 9th probability decile, on a 1-10 scale (Niemuth et al., 2018). The Model also predicts the relative probability of use of whooping cranes, the results of this analysis are displayed in Figure 4.

Noise and vehicle activity during construction activities may cause migratory cranes to divert from the area but would be unlikely to contribute to any indirect or direct effect that would result in an increase of fatalities and, therefore, would be considered insignificant. If a crane is sighted within 1.0 mile of the project area, construction activities utilizing heavy equipment would be suspended, and the sighting would be promptly reported to the USFWS. In coordination with the USFWS, suspended activities would resume once the bird(s) have left the area. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. BEPC's Avian and Bat Protection Plan is in Appendix D.

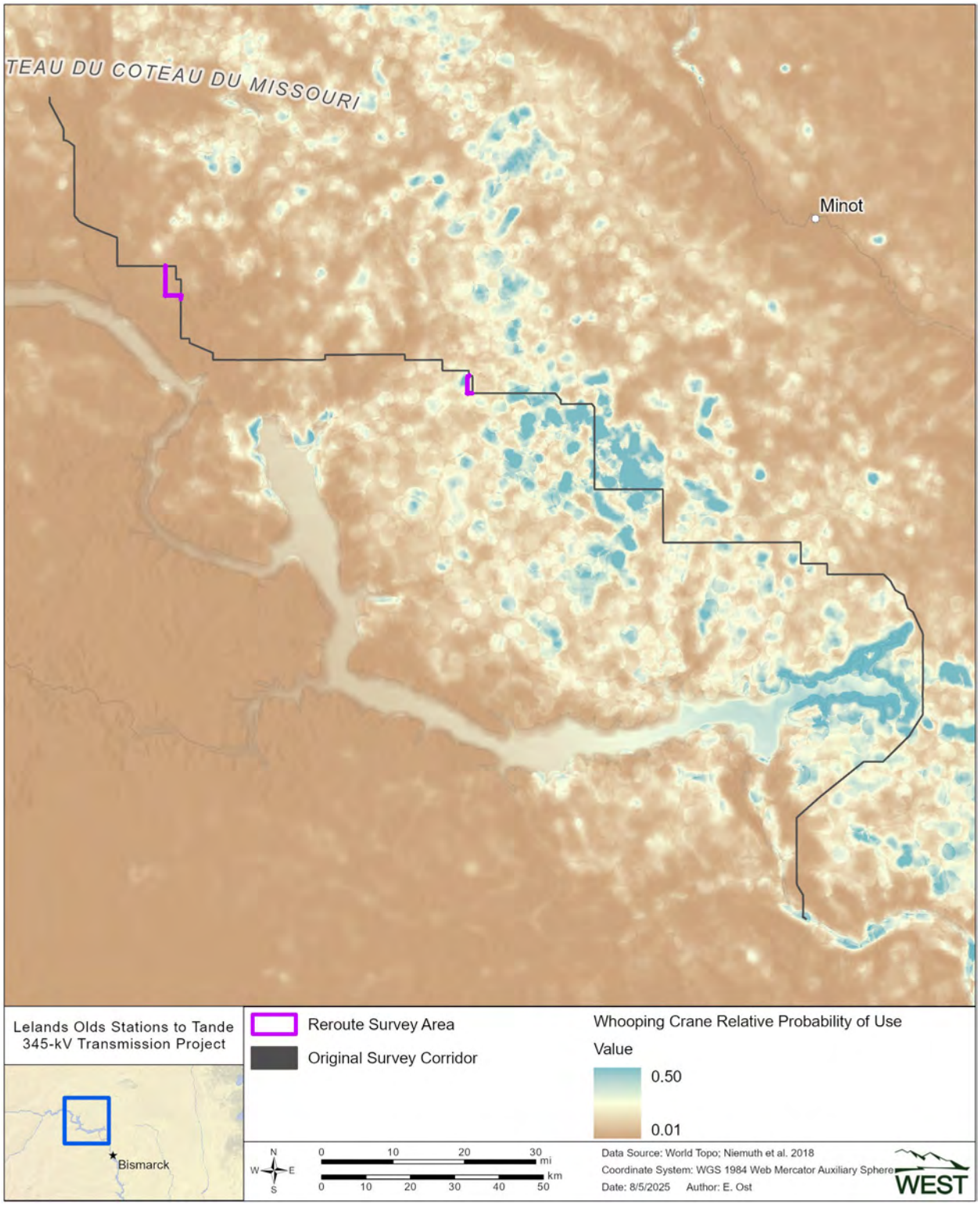

Figure 4. USGS / HAPET Model of Whooping Crane Relative Probability of Use.

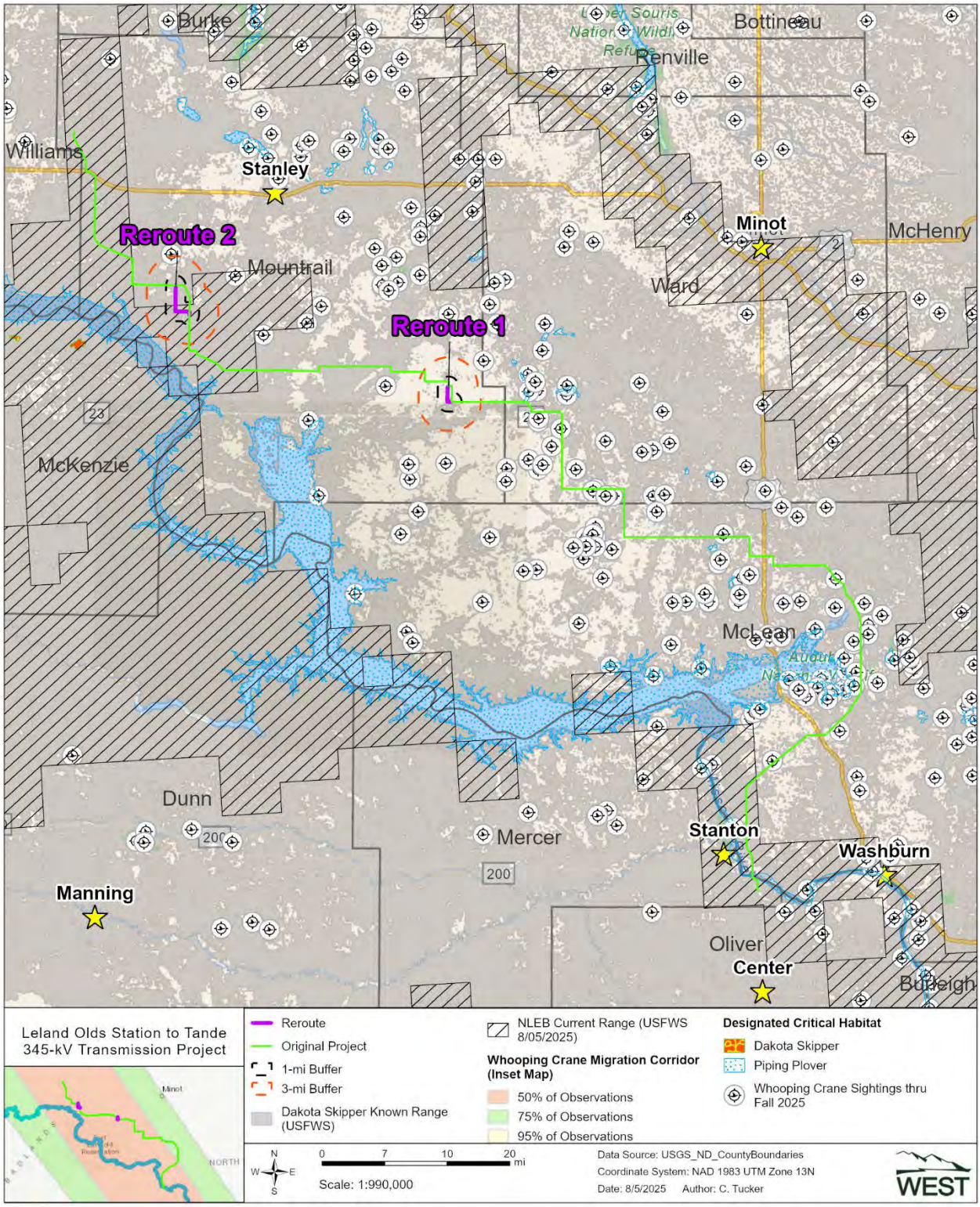

Figure 5. Known sightings, species range, and designated critical habitats in relation to the proposed Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kilovolt Transmission Project.

3.3.3 Dakota Skipper

The Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*), a prairie obligate species, requires nectar-producing native flowers and native grasses. Historically, Dakota skippers (DASK) have been associated with relatively low, wet, prairie-dominated, high-quality, tall grass prairie habitat (Type A habitat). Researchers have found that DASK also use upland mixed grass prairie that is relatively dry and includes ridges and hillsides (Type B habitat; USFWS 2013a). These habitats often have small inclusions of areas with species more commonly typified with tall grass prairie. Larvae require grass components of mixed-grass prairie that include bluestem grasses (*Andropogon* spp.) and needlegrasses, while adults require nectar sources; therefore, suitable prairie must include nectar-producing forbs. These forbs may include purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), blue bells (*Campanula rotundifolia*), blanket flower (*Gaillardia aristata*), wood lily (*Lilium philadelphicum*), or other species that are in bloom during the adult life cycle of the DASK (Dana 1991). The nearest USFWS designated critical habitat for the DASK is located approximately 7.8 miles southwest of the Project (Figure 5). The species is known to occur in all Project Counties and the Project is within the USFWS's known range of the DASK (USFWS 2023a).

A desktop assessment of habitat within the surveyed portion of the Survey Area was used to divide habitat into one of two basic habitat groups: grassland habitat and unsuitable habitat. The assessment identified 72.0 acres (28%) of grassland habitat and 186.5 acres (72%) of unsuitable habitat. The field survey was conducted within the identified grassland habitat to determine if suitable habitat was present. Suitable habitat is defined as native grassland that contains one or more primary constituent elements for the skipper to complete its entire life cycle, including breeding, feeding/foraging, and sheltering behaviors (USFWS 2023e).

The field survey recorded one location of suitable habitat, totaling 0.04 ac; within the Survey Area of Reroute 2. Table 6 contains the attributes for the suitable habitat identified and Appendix G - DASK Habitat Buffers depicts the locations of the suitable habitat. These areas are depicted on Appendix A.

Table 6. Areas of suitable habitat for the Dakota skipper (DASK) within the Survey Area.

Name	Classification	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Acres
DASK 1474	Potential DASK Habitat	Sec 25-T154N-R93W Reroute 2	48.13199	-102.585657	0.04
				Total	**0.04**

N = north; R = Range; Sec. = Section; T = Township; W = west.

BEPC has designed the Project to minimize impacts to suitable habitat for the DASK. This includes routing access trails around potential habitat and placing pole structures outside of potential habitat. Identified DASK habitat will be avoided during all construction activities. A ½-mile buffer around identified DASK habitat has been established and native grassland habitat within the ½-mile buffer will be disturbed at the minimum level practical. To minimize the impacts to foraging or dispersing adult DASK, a 500-meter avoidance buffer will be established around identified DASK habitat locations. Existing surfaced roads within the 500-m buffer may be used

for travel, but construction within the 500-meter buffers will not occur during the flight window. In addition, Dust abatement may be necessary on gravel surfaced roads during the flight window. The flight period is typically 14 days long between the dates of June 10 – July 25 and dates may be adjusted based on annual observations by the USFWS.

The ½-mile and 500-meter DASK habitat avoidance buffers of the Project are depicted in Appendix E. Avoidance and minimization effort follows the guidance of the March 2023 *USFWS Timing/Buffer Recommendations* (USFWS 2023f).

3.3.4 Piping Plover

The piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) is a migratory shorebird that breeds in North Dakota. Suitable nesting habitat for piping plovers includes alkaline wetlands and the shoreline of the Missouri River system; this habitat has been characterized as sparsely vegetated channel sandbars, sand and gravel beaches on islands, temporary pools on sandbars and islands, and island margins that interface with the river channel. The piping plover feeds on worms, insects, and mollusks. The decline of piping plover populations is due to the loss of habitat from river impoundment(s), as well as the degradation of habitat related to the channelization river systems, nest predation, and human disturbance (USFWS 1985).

Critical habitat for the Northern Great Plains piping plover has been designated on alkali lakes and wetlands, the Yellowstone River, and Missouri River in North Dakota. The physical and biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species, referred to as the primary constituent elements, require special consideration for protection. These include sparsely vegetated alkaline wetlands, sand and gravel beaches on islands, temporary pools on sandbars and islands, and island margins that interface with the river channel. Neither Reroute comes within 3.0 miles of designated critical habitat (Figure 5; USFWS 2023b). The field survey documented that the Survey Area is predominantly cropland and contains wetlands and waterbodies that are well vegetated and do not provide bare ground suitable for nesting habitat. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. BEPC's Avian and Bat Protection Plan is in Appendix D.

3.3.5 Rufa Red Knot

The red knot (*Calidris canutus*) is a shorebird breeds in the central Canadian Arctic, with primary breeding grounds in Nunavut Territory, but some potential breeding habitat extending into the Northwest Territories (USFWS 2013b). The rufa red knot (*C, canutus rufa*) winters along the Atlantic coasts of Argentina and Chile (particularly the island of Tierra del Fuego), the north coast of Brazil, and further north into Mexico and the southeast United States (USFWS 2014b). During migration, the rufa red knot primarily follows the Atlantic coastline to and from breeding and wintering grounds. However, geolocator results from red knots wintering in Texas showed that a comparatively small population of birds migrate using the Central Flyway across the Midwestern US and may have a northern Great Plains stopover (USFWS 2013b). Rufa red knots spend two to three months annually on the breeding grounds located in northern Canada.

Red knots are specialized molluscivores, feeding primarily on hard-shelled mollusks in relatively soft, wet sand/sediment (USFWS 2014b). In addition to mollusks, red knots may feed upon shrimp, crabs, marine worms, horseshoe crab (*Limulus* spp.) eggs, and other similar invertebrates. On the breeding grounds, rufa red knots feed mostly on terrestrial invertebrates and grass shoots and seeds (USFWS 2013b).

The shoreline of the Missouri River provides stopover habitat for red knots utilizing a midcontinental migratory route during annual migrations. However, the species is rare and is not reported in North Dakota every year. Reported historical sightings since 1900 (Igl 2015) are primarily composed of single individuals or relatively small flocks; however, on rare occasions, larger flocks have been reported. Many of these sightings have been made in the prairie pothole region during the spring migration in late April through May. An increase in future sightings may result from an increase in public awareness.

The red knot migrates twice annually from its breeding grounds in the Artic to wintering habitat in southern climates. It does not nest in North Dakota but may use areas along the Missouri River as stopover habitat. The Project is over 3.0 miles from the Missouri River system. The Survey Area does not have suitable shoreline stopover habitat for the rufa red knot. Flight diverters will be installed on the transmission line to minimize bird strikes. BEPC's Avian and Bat Protection Plan is in Appendix D.

3.3.6 Monarch Butterfly

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is currently a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and a listing decision is currently anticipated in 2024. Candidate species do not receive statutory protections under the ESA, but are reevaluated annually for listing priority, and, therefore, are likely to be listed in the future.

The species occurs throughout the Great Plains and much of North America. Monarchs prefer open habitats with flowering plants and lay their eggs exclusively on milkweeds (*Asclepias* spp.), which the larvae feed on until pupation (U.S. Forest Service [USFS] 2021). Monarch butterflies will breed in North Dakota during the summer and migrate south to Mexico for the winter; eventually, the butterflies will make their way back to North Dakota during spring migration. Suitable habitat, including wetlands, roadsides with common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), and upland grassland habitat with flowering species, was observed during the field survey. Much of the herbaceous habitat is rangeland used for livestock grazing or grasslands in roadside ditches. Due to the presence of suitable habitat, it is possible for this species to occur within the Survey Area.

3.3.7 Suckleys's Cuckoo Bumble Bee

The Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee (*Bombus suckleyi*) is proposed for federal listing as endangered under the ESA (89 FR 102074 [December 17, 2024]). The western portion of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee range spans from the Yukon down to Arizona and east to Nebraska and Minnesota (USFWS, 2024a). Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee distribution is known from approximately 2,317 occurrence records across North America (USFWS, 2024a). Suckley's

cuckoo bumble bees are obligate social parasites with similar life histories to variable cuckoo bumble bees, usurping colonies of western bumble bees and Nevada bumble bees (USFWS, 2024a). Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees are found in similar habitats to their host species: prairies, grasslands, meadows, woodlands, croplands, and urban parks (Montana Field Guide, 2024a; USFWS, 2024a). Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees are generalists and forage in meadows, grasslands, and developed areas (USFWS, 2024a).

The species probability of occupancy is estimated to have declined by 85% between 1900 and 2020 (USFWS, 2024a). Current threats include loss of host species (e.g., western bumble bee and Nevada bumble bee [B. nevadensis]), pesticides, habitat loss, climate change, and diseases introduced by non-native bee species (89 FR 102074; Montana Field Guide, 2024a; WDFW, 2024a). The viability of Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is dependent on its host species, both of which have declined historically and are expected to continue to do so in the future (USFWS, 2024a).

There are no records of occurrence in the Survey Area (Richardson, 2023). In the compiled occurrence data for the Species Status Assessment ([SSA]; USFWS, 2024a), there were no records within the Survey Area, and the closest records were historical (pre-2000) or had an unknown date. Given the lack of occurrences in Project counties and species' population decline, Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees are not anticipated to be present in the Survey Area.

3.3.8 Western Regal Fritillary

The western regal fritillary (Argynnis idalia occidentalis) is proposed for federal listing as threatened with a 4(d) Rule under the ESA (89 FR 63888 [August 6, 2024]) due to habitat loss, fragmentation, and degradation from conversion of native prairies for agriculture or development; invasive plant species; and land management regimes such as broadcast herbicide application, haying, mowing, and fire.

Western regal fritillaries inhabit tall-grass prairies and wet prairie habitats, such as damp meadows, marshes, wet fields, and mountain pastures (Selby, 2007; NDGFD, 2019b) and avoid areas with bare ground, altered landscapes, or developed areas that surround prairie remnants (Caven et al., 2017). Native grasslands of 2,471 ac (1,000 ha) or more tend to support larger and more resilient populations compared to populations in smaller habitat patches (e.g., 247 acres [100 ha)]; USFWS, 2023c). Populations of the western regal fritillary at the western periphery of the Great Plains tend to be more isolated than the core area of portions Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska (Selby 2007, USFWS 2023e). Smaller habitat patches (i.e., 124 -247 acres (50-100 ha) have the potential to support a long-term population, while it is more uncertain if populations on less than 124 acres would persist due to normal population fluctuations (NatureServe 2024; USFWS, 2023e).

All life stages of the western regal fritillary require native tall or mixed height warm-season bunchgrasses (e.g., big bluestem and little bluestem) that provide tussocks and vegetative litter as shelter (Selby, 2007; USFWS, 2023e). In the summer and fall, females lay eggs in in shade under grass and forbs or dying vegetation; larvae will then overwinter in the leaf litter (USFWS,

2023e; Montana Field Guide, 2024). Larvae emerge in spring and feed exclusively on violets (Viola spp.), while adults consume the nectar of a variety of flowers (USFWS, 2023e; Montana Field Guide, 2024).

During recent statewide North Dakota pollinator surveys, western regal fritillaries were detected in almost every county, although abundance was low (NDGFD, 2019b; USFWS, 2023e). Similarly, citizen science data from iNaturalist (2024) filtered to "research grade" has records from June through September (2016 – 2024) scattered throughout the state.

3.4 Nesting Raptor Survey

A pedestrian survey was conducted, covering 1/2-mile either side of the Reroute centerline. Two active raptor nests were documented during the survey. Both were red-tailed hawk hawks. One is in the SE1/4 of Section 1, T152N, R89W and is approximately 220 feet from Reroute 1 centerline The second nest is located in the N1/2 of Section 25, T154N, R89W, approximately 0.25 miles from Reroute 2 centerline. The nest attributes are listed in Table 7 and locations of the nests discovered during the aerial survey are depicted in Appendix A.

Table 7. Raptor Nest Attributes.

Feature	Classification	Location	Latitude	Longitude
Red-tailed Hawk Nest	Active Nest	Sec 1-T152N-R89W	48.007705	-102.001329
Red-tailed Hawk Nest	Active Nest	Sec 25-T154N-R93W	48.135612	-102.579516

N = north; R = Range; Sec. = Section; T = Township; W = west.

3.5 Noxious Weed Inventory

A pedestrian survey of the Survey Area was conducted for state and county listed noxious weeds. No populations of noxious weeds were identified.

3.6 Tree and Shrub Inventory

A tree and shrub inventory will be conducted once the construction right-of-way has been finalized. The results of the inventory will be submitted to the ND Public Service Commission in a separate report.

3.7 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conservation Easements

Both Reroutes are located within the Lostwood/Mountrail WMD in Mountrail County. The review of the FWS National Realty Tracts database within the Survey Area determined that Reroute 1 crosses approximately 10.2 acres of a property under a wetland easement; Table 8 contains the totals of easement acres along with wetland numbers and wetland acres. The easement location is depicted in Appendix A. BEPC is currently working with the Lostwood/Mountrail WMD to obtain a Compatibility Determination for crossing the grassland easements.

Table 8. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Easements in Survey Area

Easement Type	Location	Acres in Project Survey Area	Survey Completed	Wetland Count*	Wetland Acres
Wetland Easement	Sec 6 - T152N - R88W	10.2	Yes	1	0.04

4.0 LITERATURE CITED

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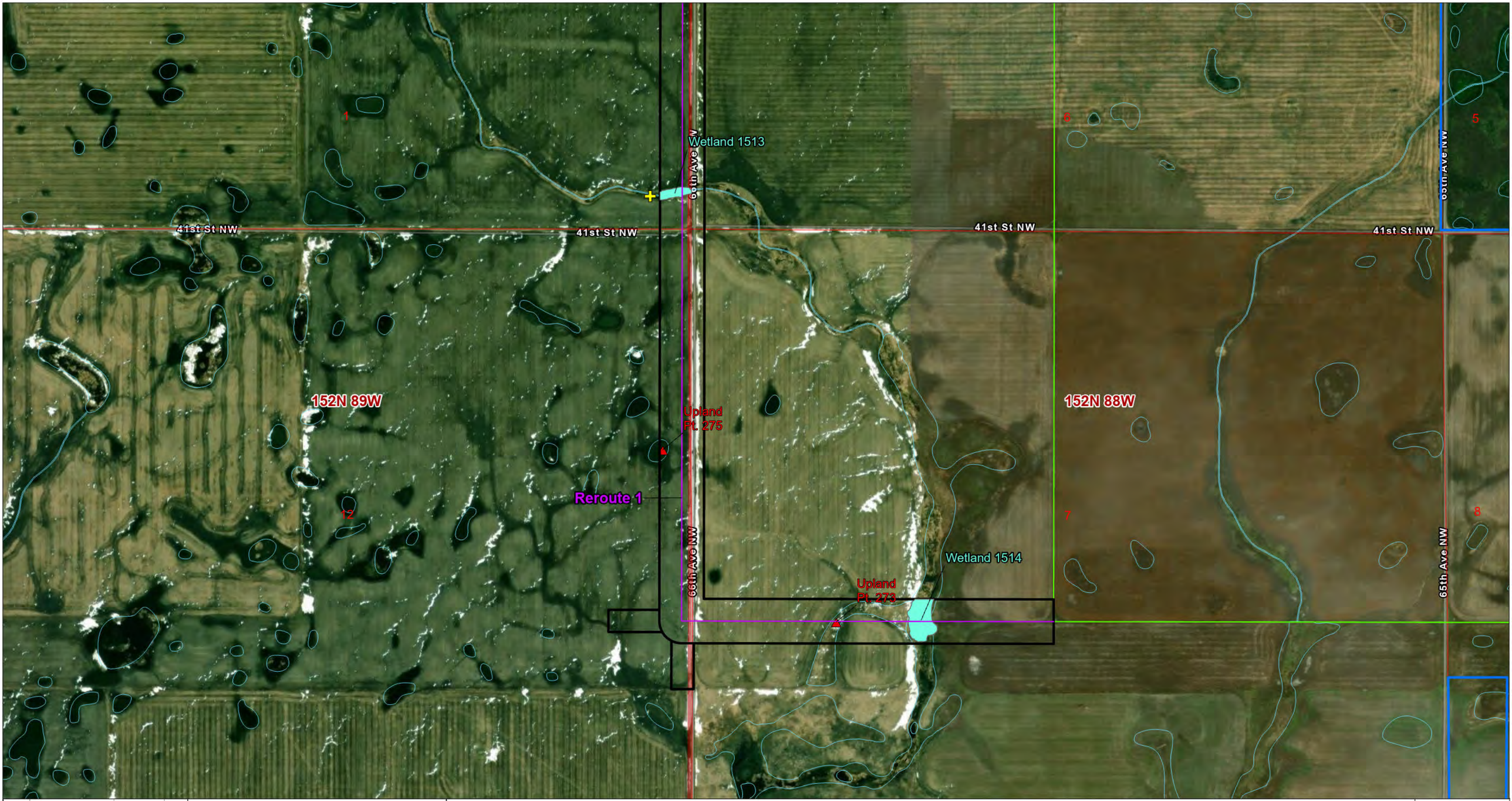
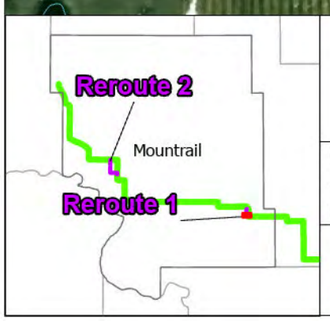
Appendix A - Natural Resource Inventory Figures





Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

0 0.1 0.2 mi

Scale: 1:7,200 Page 1 of 7

- Reroute
- Original Project Center Line
- Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)
- Section
- Township
- NWI Signature

Delineated Field Features

- Dakota Skipper
- Wetland

USFWS Wetland Easement

- Grassland Easement
- Waterfowl Production Area
- Wetland Easement

- Red-tailed Hawk Nest
- Upland Point

N W E S

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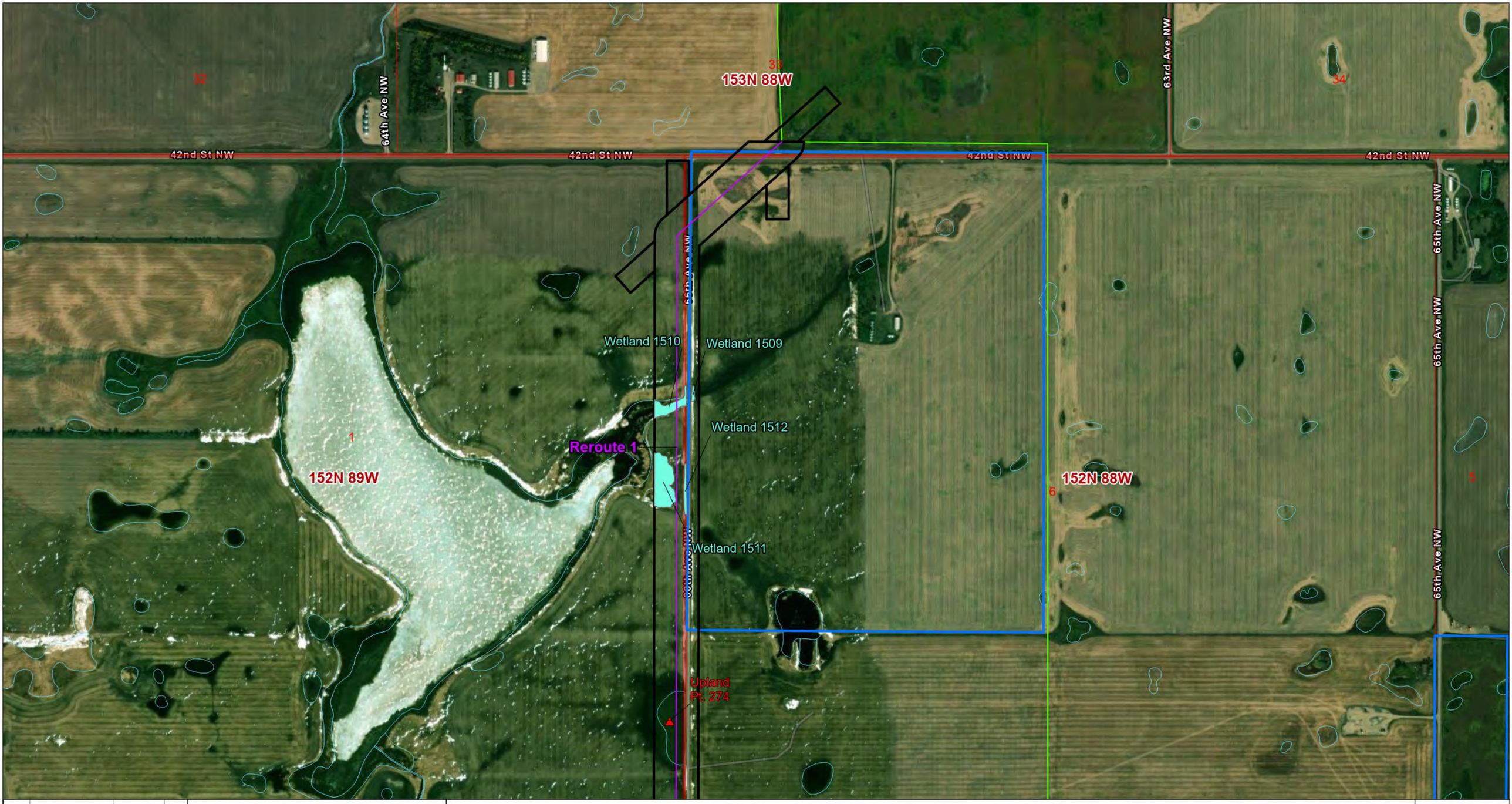

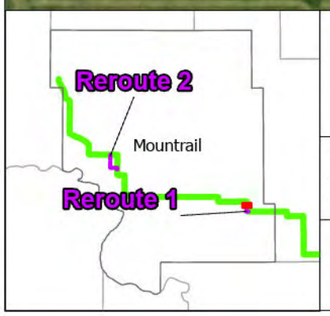

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Data Source: ESRI Basemap

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Scale: 1:7,200 Page 2 of 7

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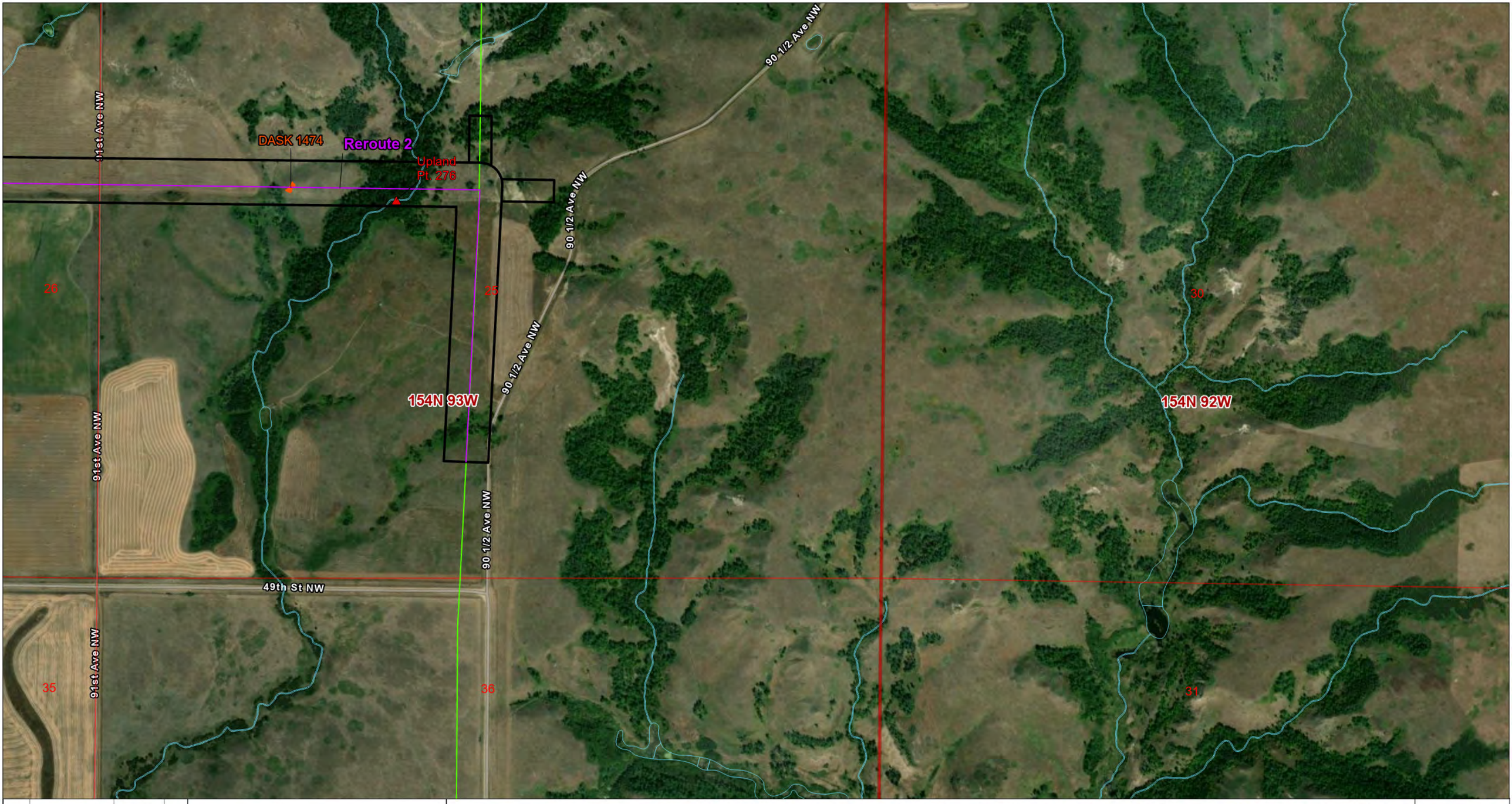

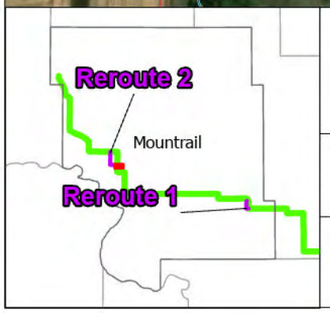

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Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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Scale: 1:7,200 Page 3 of 7

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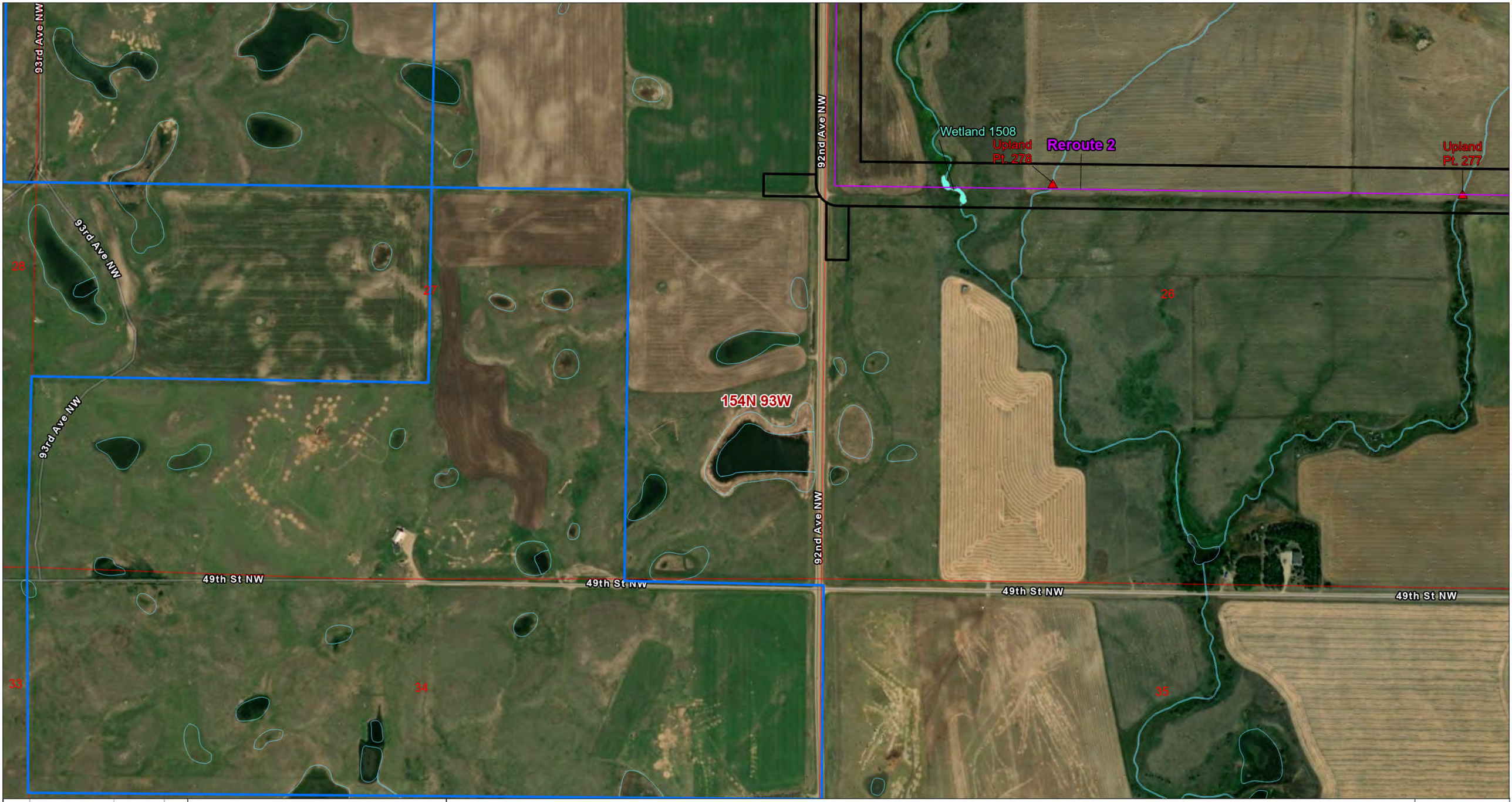

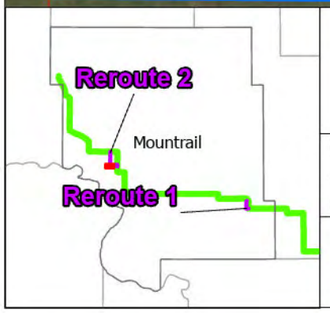

Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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Scale: 1:7,200 Page 4 of 7

- Reroute
- Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)
- Section
- Township
- NWI Signature

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- Wetland Easement

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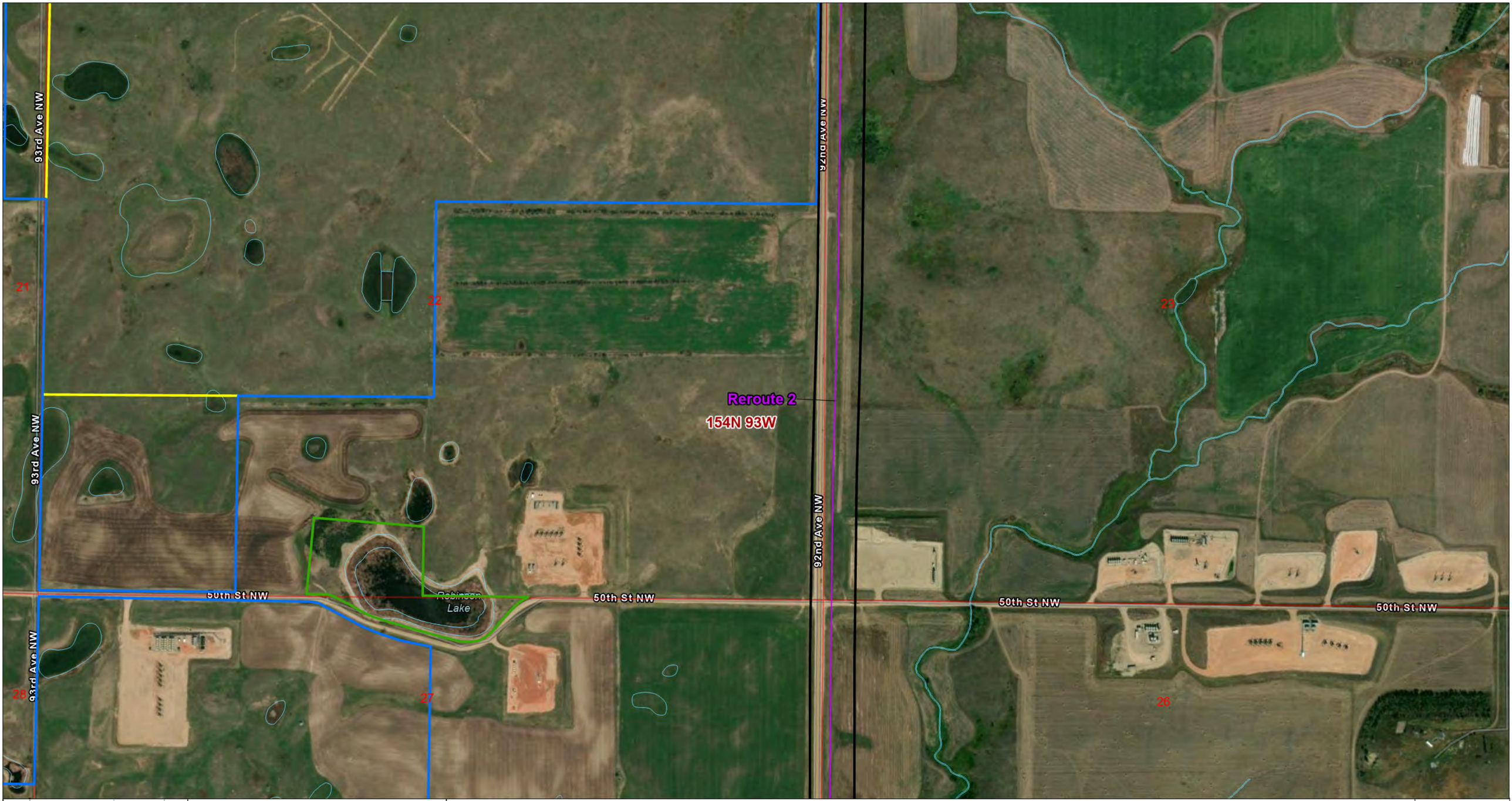

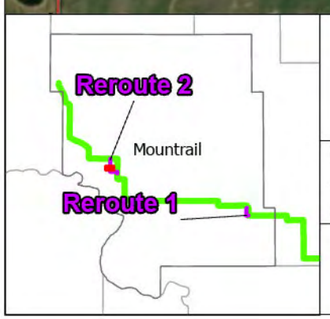

Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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Scale: 1:7,200

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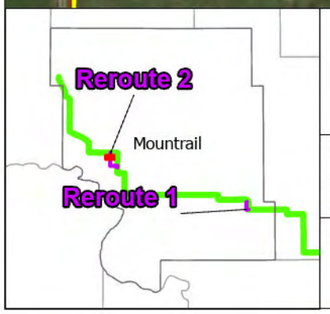

Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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Scale: 1:7,200 Page 6 of 7

- Reroute
- Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)
- Section
- Township
- NWI Signature

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USFWS Wetland Easement

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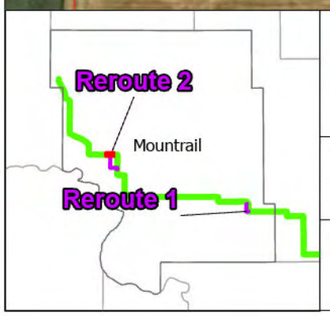
- Wetland Easement

- Red-tailed Hawk Nest
- Upland Point

N W E S

WEST

93rd Ave NW
92nd Ave NW
9
10
11
154N 93W
Reroute 2
92nd Ave NW
52nd St NW
Upland Pt 279
15
14
16



Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: ESRI Basemap

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N

Date: 8/5/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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Scale: 1:7,200 Page 7 of 7

- Reroute
- Original Project Center Line
- Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)
- Section
- Township
- NWI Signature

Delineated Field Features

- Dakota Skipper
- Wetland

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Appendix B - Project Field Photographs

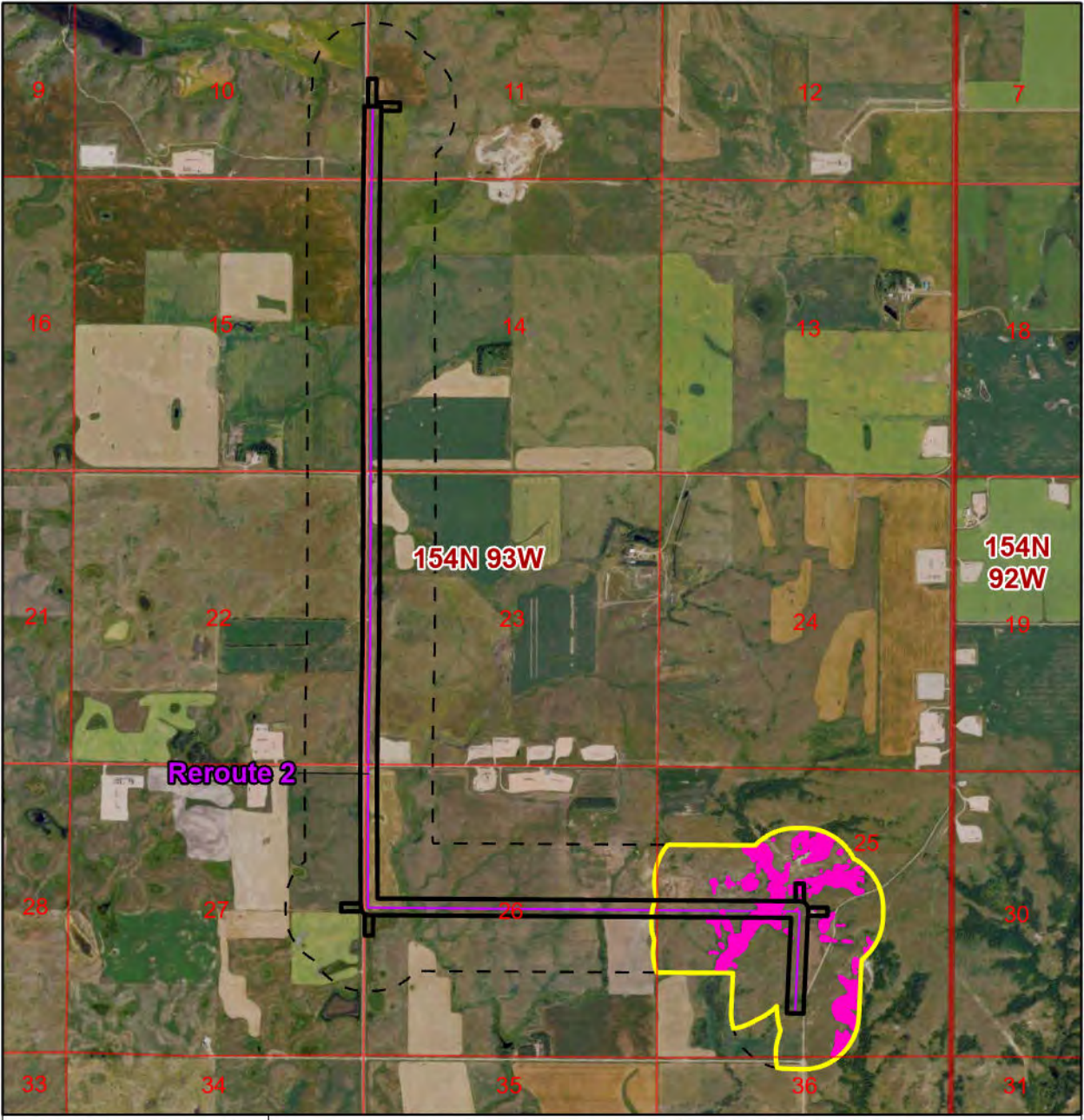
Photograph 1. View of potential DASK (DASK 1474) located in Sec. 25. T154N, R93W along Reroute 2.

Photograph 2. View of Upland Point 277. The NWI database indicated a riverine signature at this location.

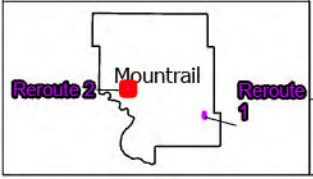
Photograph 3. View of Wetland 1511 in the E1/2 of Sec. 1, T152N, R89W.

Photograph 4. View of Wetland 1508 located in Sec. 26, T154N, R93W.

Appendix C - Northern Long-eared Bat Habitat Analysis



Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project



Reroute

Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)

Potential NLEB Summer Roost Habitat

1,000-ft Connected Habitat Buffer

N
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Data Source: ESRI Basemap
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
Date: 8/6/2025 Author: C. Tucker

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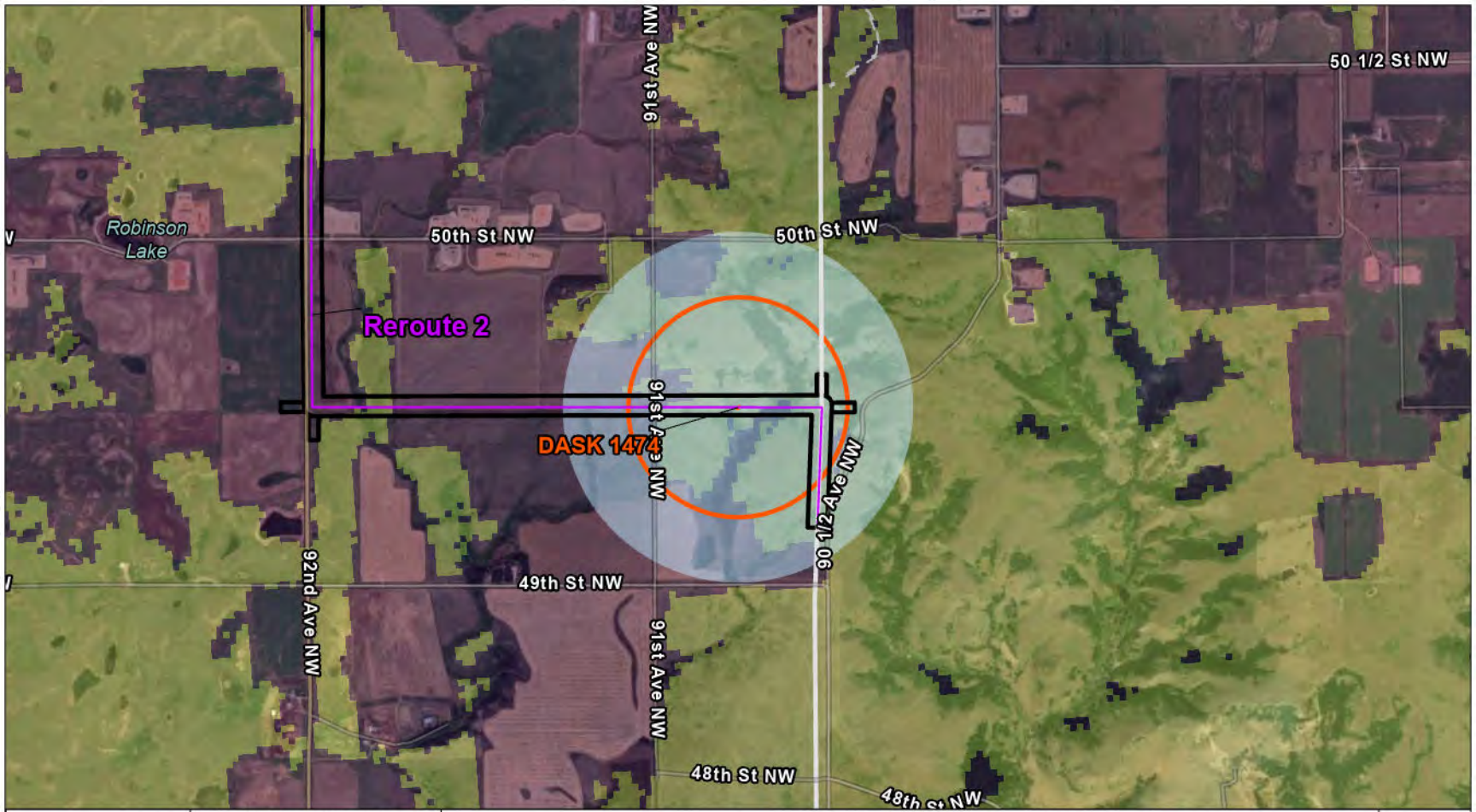
Appendix D - Basin Electric Power Cooperative Avian and Bat Protection Plan

Appendix E - DASK Habitat Buffers



Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project

Data Source: Esri Basemap
Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N
Date: 7/30/2025 Author: E. Matykiewicz

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Scale: 1:30,000

- Reroute
- Original Project Center Line
- Reroute Survey Area (300-Ft)
- DASK Habitat (Field Delineated)
- DASK Flight Window Avoidance Buffer (500-m.)
- 1/2 Mi DASK Habitat Buffer (Minimal Disturbance Area)

DASK Classified Habitat Suitability (USFWS Model)

- Potentially Suitable
- Potentially Unsuitable

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Appendix D

Agency Notification Letters and Responses

Summary of Agency Comments				
Agency	Notification Date	Response Date	Comment Summary	Basin Electric Response
Aeronautics Commission	5/28/2025	None Received		
Attorney General	5/28/2025	None Received		
Bureau of Land Management	5/28/2025	5/28/2025	BLM has reviewed the reroutes for this project and BLM managed lands are not involved, we do not have any concerns.	
Federal Aviation Administration	5/28/2025	None Received		
Governor's Office	5/28/2025	None Received		
Grand Forks Air Force Base	5/28/2025	None Received		
Jobs Service North Dakota	5/28/2025	None Received		
Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse	5/28/2025	9/29/2024	The results of their review indicated that the transmission line project, located in Mountrail County, ND, as proposed, will have minimal impact on military operations conducted in the area.	
Minot Air Force Base	5/28/2025	6/26/2025	After looking at the structure locations near missile cables, two structure locations are within 30' of MAFB cables. MAFB requests those structures to be moved or to have a MAFB representative on site during construction to monitor.	Basin Electric was able to move one of the structures and has agreed to have a MAFB monitor during

				construction at the second.
Natural Resources Conservation Service	5/28/2025	5/28/2025	We will get to work on you request soon.	
ND Department of Agriculture	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Career and Technical Education	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Commerce	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Environmental Quality	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Health	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Human Services	5/28/2025	5/28/2025	Thank you, your inquiry will be answered in the order it was received.	
ND Department of Labor and Human Rights	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Transportation	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Department of Trust Lands (Minerals Management)	5/28/2025	6/1/2025	Basin has been working throught the NDDTL process for this proposed project.	
ND Department of Trust Lands (School/Surface Trust)	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Energy Infrastructure and Impact Office	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Forest Service	5/28/2025	5/30/2025	Thank you!	
ND Game and Fish Department	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Geological Survey	5/28/2025	None Received		

ND Indian Affairs Commission	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Industrial Commission	5/28/2025	None Received		
ND Parks and Recreation Department	5/28/2025	6/19/2025	The project does not appear to affect the properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages positively. The project does not appear to affect any properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund. A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines whether any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, we have no known plant and animal species of concern or significant ecological communities documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site.	
ND Pipeline Authority	5/28/2025	None Received		

ND State Water Commission (Department of Water Resources)	5/28/2025	6/23/2025	There are no FEMA National Flood Insurance Program floodplains identified or mapped where the proposed project is to take place. No permits relative to the NFIP are likely required based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map and State minimum standards. Initial review indicates the project does not require a conditional or temporary permit for water appropriation. The DWR Regulatory Division's Engineering and Permitting Section reviewed the project location and determined no drainage permits, or construction permits for dikes, diversions, or restorations are likely required so long as no watercourses are modified.	
ND Transmission Authority	5/28/2025	5/30/2025	We have no concerns about your reroute.	
State historical Society of North Dakota	5/28/2025	6/26/2025	It is our understanding that the detailed survey work will be included in the volume three report for the larger project. It is our determination that there are no significant sites affected by these reroutes provided they take place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation.	
Twentieth Airforce Ninety-First Missile Wing	5/28/2025	None Received		
US Army Corps of Engineers	5/28/2025	None Received		
US Department of Defense	5/28/2025	None Received		

US Fish and Wildlife Service	5/28/2025	None Received		
Mountrail County Commission	5/28/2025	None Received		
Mountail County Auditor	5/28/2025	None Received		
State Representative - District 4 - Clayton Fegley	5/28/2025	None Received		
State Representative - District 4 - Lisa Finley-DeVille	5/28/2025	None Received		
State Senator - District 4 - Chuck Walen	5/28/2025	None Received		

Bureau of Land Management

From:	McKenzie, Chelsie J
To:	Ryan King; North_Dakota_FO, BLM_MT
Cc:	Erin Dukart
Subject:	External: Re: [EXTERNAL] Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request
Date:	Wednesday, May 28, 2025 2:16:39 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

Ryan,

I have reviewed the reroutes for this project and BLM managed lands are not involved, we do not have any concerns.

Thank you

Chelsie McKenzie
Realty Specialist
Bureau of Land Management
North Dakota Field Office
99 23rd Avenue West, Suite A
Dickinson, ND 58601
Office: 701-227-7702
Cell: 701-502-1271

From: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 12:24 PM
To: North_Dakota_FO, BLM_MT <BLM_MT_North_Dakota_FO@blm.gov>; McKenzie, Chelsie J <cmckenzie@blm.gov>
Cc: Erin Dukart <EDukart@bepc.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request

Director Germann,

Please see the attached consultation letter requesting review of two reroute locations on Basin Electric's LOS to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project, which has been approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, involves construction of approximately 161 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line with about 30.5 miles being built as a double-circuit. The Project is located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota; the two reroutes are located in Mountrail County. Reroute #1 is approximately 2.16 miles in length; reroute #2 is approximately 4.20 miles in length. To stay aligned with our construction schedule, I am respectfully requesting a review of the material within 30 days.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at 701-557-5558 or RKing@bepc.com.

Thank you,

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58503
Direct: 701.557.5558 | Cell: 701.426.9469
RKing@bepc.com | basinelectric.com

Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS
AND ENVIRONMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

July 14, 2025

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E. Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Mr. King,

As requested, the Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse coordinated within the Department of Defense (DoD) an informal review of the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Reroutes Project. The results of our review indicated that the transmission line project, located in Mountrail County, ND, as proposed, will have minimal impact on military operations conducted in the area. However, any subsequent changes will require an additional review by the DoD.

Please note that this informal review by the DoD Military Aviation and Installation Assurance Siting Clearinghouse does not constitute an action under 49 United States Code Section 44718 and that the DoD is not bound by the conclusion arrived at under this informal review. To expedite our review in the Obstruction Evaluation Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA) process, please add the project number (2025-6-T-DEV-09) in the comments section of the filing. If you have any questions, please contact me at robbin.e.beard.civ@mail.mil.

Sincerely,

Robbin Beard
Acting Executive Director
Military Aviation and Installation
Assurance Siting Clearinghouse

Minot Air Force Base

From: Shannon Vaira
To: Ryan King
Subject: FW: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures
Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2025 10:13:18 AM
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.jpg

Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:21 AM
To: Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Cc: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>; Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Bobby,

I assumed it would be difficult to relocate this structure. I can certainly have someone on site to monitor during construction. Having our cable that close to the existing transmission line interferes with the signal when locating so it makes it difficult for us to get an accurate reading. Exposing our cable prior to construction would be definitely help to verify the structure will not be in the missile cable easement (16.5').

//SIGNED//
Cy Munos, CIV, USAF
Cable Affairs Officer, 91 MMXS/MMXSFK
Minot AFB ND
Comm: 701-723-6053
DSN: 453-6053
Work Cell: 701-720-8274

From: Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 2:36 PM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>; Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>; MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Cy,

This structure locations will be difficult to relocate at this point. These were previously submitted and approved by MAFB as part of a special request due to the proximity to the C08 missile site. We are rebuilding a transmission line within the same alignment and don't have any flexibility to move the line west or east. You can see from the image we are utilizing the same alignment as the existing 230kV transmission line (removing and replacing).

Would it be possible to have monitors out there during construction to make sure we maintain adequate clearance to avoid it? in other areas, we help expose buried fiber during construction to maintain safe distance.

Bob Nasset, PE | Civil Engineering Supervisor
Direct: 701.557.5673

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>; Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Subject: FW: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Please see Cy's comments below.

Thanks,
Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, June 30, 2025 1:52 PM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Shannon,

I appreciate all your help. I do have another conflict. Structure 436-190 is approx. 20 ft from our missile cable; however, this is where the transmission line runs parallel to our cable. There's approximately 400ft where we parallel the transmission line so any structures within this span will be close to our cable. Can you please take a look at the attached map and see if there's any solution? If you have any questions or need more measurements, please let me know.

Thanks

//SIGNED//
Cy Munos, CIV, USAF
Cable Affairs Officer, 91 MMXS/MMXSFK
Minot AFB ND
Comm: 701-723-6053
DSN: 453-6053
Work Cell: 701-720-8274

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 12:09 PM
To: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FW: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Hi Cy,

We were able two move that structure. I have attached the updated shapefile. Let me know if you see any other issues.

Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:54 AM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

This should affect the USAF, but #377-332 will also need to be moved in order to move #333.

Here's the new coordinate for #377-332. X= 1716458.297 , Y= 292479.953

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:49 AM
To: Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>
Cc: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>; Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

I'll update and send it to him. Thanks Shane!

Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Cc: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>; Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

We can move 377-333 50' West. Can you verify that will work.

Here's the new location of structure #377-333 : X= 1715428.364 Y= 292491.697

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:37 AM
To: Shane Vasbinder <SVasbinder@bepc.com>; Bobby Nasset <RNasset@bepc.com>
Cc: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>
Subject: FW: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Hi all,

I sent the structures and centerline to Cy with the USAFB. He has one concern as stated below.

Thanks,
Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:18 AM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Shannon,

Thanks for the shape files, it will help us tremendously as the construction begins. After looking at all

the structures near our missile cable, at least one structure raises a flag for us. Structure 377-33 is approximately 30ft west of our cable. Our regulations call for no line towers or poles to be within 100 ft of our cable. I can waive that separation to an extent so would it be possible to move the structure a little farther to the west? I will continue to look at any other concerns we have.

Thanks,

//SIGNED//
Cy Munos, CIV, USAF
Cable Affairs Officer, 91 MMXS/MMXSFK
Minot AFB ND
Comm: 701-723-6053
DSN: 453-6053
Work Cell: 701-720-8274

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 26, 2025 7:08 AM
To: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Hi Cy,

I have attached the route and the structures. Let me know if you have any questions or need anything else.

Thanks!
Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, June 24, 2025 2:29 PM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Shannon,

We've started to get a few one call tickets for this project. Is it possible to get the shapefiles for all the

structures? We've gotten a couple routes from you last year but haven't seen all of it yet. Also haven't seen the one that we asked to be moved due to it being too close to our missile cable.

Thanks

//SIGNED//
Cy Munos, CIV, USAF
Cable Affairs Officer, 91 MMXS/MMXSFK
Minot AFB ND
Comm: 701-723-6053
DSN: 453-6053
Work Cell: 701-720-8274

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 2:48 PM
To: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Here are those structures. Thanks again!

Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 2:44 PM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Can I get the structure shapefiles as well? Thank you !!

Cy

From: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 2:39 PM

To: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Hi Cy,

Attached is the shapefile for Basin's proposed centerline. Let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you!
Shannon Vaira | GIS Analyst II
Direct: 701.557.5672 | Cell: 701.204.2342

From: MUNOS, CY I CIV USAF AFGSC 91 MMXS/MMXSFK <cy.munos@us.af.mil>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 2:27 PM
To: Shannon Vaira <SVaira@bepc.com>
Subject: [External] External: Basin Electric Route and Preliminary Structures

Shannon,

We received more one calls today for the Ryder area, any chance you could send me the shapefiles for that leg?

Thanks

Cy Munos
Cable Affairs Officer
91 MMXS/MMXSFK
Minot AFB ND
701-723-6053
701-720-8274
DSN 453-6053

ND Department of Health and Human Services

From: -Info-DHS Executive Office
To: Ryan King
Subject: [External] External: Thank you for contacting the Department of Health and Human Services
Date: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:55:09 PM
Attachments: image003.png

External Email - Use caution clicking links or opening attachments

Thank you for contacting the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). You have reached the general inbox. Due to the volume of emails, inquiries are answered in the order they are received.

Please contact the Department of Health and Human Services' **Customer Support Center** directly if you are inquiring about the status of your benefits application or have other questions regarding Medicaid, SNAP, Child Care Assistance, Economic Assistance programs, etc.

Call ONE number:	**866.614.6005**	*(Wait times will vary. Your patience is appreciated!)*
Send to ONE email address:	applyforhelp@nd.gov	
Visit ONE website:	applyforhelp.nd.gov	

Please do not submit confidential documents to this email (i.e., social security cards, birth certificates, etc.). Contact the Human Service Zone office in the County in which you live (see contact information below) or email applyforhelp@nd.gov to submit confidential documents for Medicaid and/or Economic Assistance programs.

You may also find the answer you're looking for by visiting the Health & Human Services website (click on the link or type hhs.nd.gov into your browser).

Thank you!

Direct Phone Numbers for Common Inquiries:

701.328.2076	Adoption Services
701.328.4649	Adults & Aging Services
701.328.7575	(Criminal) Background checks
701.328.8920	Behavioral Health *(Addiction, Mental Health, Gambling, Peer Support, etc.)*
701.328.3538	Child Protection Services:

To Report child abuse or neglect, please call 833.958.3500

701.328.5440	Child Support

701.328.8930 Developmental Disabilities
(ND Home and Community Based Services)

701.328.2115 Early Childhood

701.328.2332 Economic (Financial) Assistance
(LIHEAP, SNAP, TANF, Child Care Assist. (CCAP), etc.)

701.328.2316 Foster Care

TO REPORT FRAUD:

Human Services *(Use the toll-free **hotline**.)* **800.472.2622**

701.328.7068 Medicaid

To pick up a Medicaid application or for general inquiries, contact your local County Human Service Zone office
(Click on the link above for a list of locations and phone numbers.)

Technical issues with the online portal: mmisinfo@nd.gov

Open Records Requests: dhsopenrecords@nd.gov

701.328.2372 Public Health
(Immunizations, Emergency Preparedness & Response, Vital Records, etc.)

701.328.2360 Vital Records
(Birth / Death / Fetal Death Certificates)

ND Department of Water Resources

June 23, 2025

Mr. Ryan King

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-557-5558
rking@bepc.com

Dear Mr. King,

This is in response to your request for a review of the environmental impacts associated with the Two Reroutes along the Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Project, located in Mountrail County, North Dakota.

The proposed project has been reviewed by Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the following comments are provided:

- There are no FEMA National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplains identified or mapped where the proposed project is to take place. No permits relative to the NFIP are likely required based on the current Flood Insurance Rate Map and State minimum standards. However, flood risk has been identified through the North Dakota Risk Assessment Mapservice and Base Level Engineering (BLE) (ndram.dwr.nd.gov). In the absence of FEMA NFIP data, BLE is often considered best available data and is recommended to be considered in the design process. The State of North Dakota has no formal NFIP permitting authority as all NFIP permitting decisions are considered by impacted NFIP participating communities, the community with zoning authority for the area in question. Please work directly with the local floodplain administrators of the zoning authorities impacted.

- Initial review indicates the project does not require a conditional or temporary permit for water appropriation. However, if surface water or groundwater will be diverted for construction of any future projects identified in the plan, a water permit will be required per North Dakota Century Code § 61-04-02. Please consult with the DWR Water Appropriation Division if you have any questions at (701) 328-2754 or appropinfo@nd.gov.

- The DWR Regulatory Division's Engineering and Permitting Section reviewed the project location and determined no drainage permits, or construction permits for dikes, diversions, or restorations are likely required so long as no watercourses are modified (i.e., deepened, widened, rerouted, etc.).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. Should you have further questions, please contact me at 701-328-4970 or kyrkoski@nd.gov.

Sincerely,

Kyle Yrkoski
Planner III

KY:mg/1570

ND Forest Service

From:	Claeys, Thomas
To:	Ryan King
Subject:	[External] External: RE: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request
Date:	Friday, May 30, 2025 9:40:12 AM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.jpg image004.png

External Email - Use caution clicking links or opening attachments

Thank you!

Tom Claeys, State Forester
NDSU - NORTH DAKOTA FOREST SERVICE
916 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

Tel: (701) 328-9945
Cell: (701) 228-4914
E-Mail: Thomas.Claeys@ndsu.edu
http://www.ndsu.edu/ndfs/

From: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 9:31 AM
To: Claeys, Thomas <thomas.claeys@ndsu.edu>
Cc: Erin Dukart <EDukart@bepc.com>
Subject: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request

Mr. Clayes,

Please see the attached consultation letter requesting review of two reroute locations on Basin Electric's LOS to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project,

which has been approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, involves construction of approximately 161 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line with about 30.5 miles being built as a double-circuit. The Project is located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota; the two reroutes are located in Mountrail County. Reroute #1 is approximately 2.16 miles in length; reroute #2 is approximately 4.20 miles in length. To stay aligned with our construction schedule, I am respectfully requesting a review of the material within 30 days.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at 701-557-5558 or RKing@bepc.com.

Thank you,

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58503
Direct: 701.557.5558 | Cell: 701.426.9469
RKing@bepc.com | basinelectric.com

ND Parks and Recreation Department

NORTH Dakota | Parks & Recreation
Be Legendary.™

June 19, 2025

Ryan King
Basin Electric
1717 East Interstate Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58503

Re: Basic Electric Power Cooperative Lelands Old Station Transmission Line Project

Dear Ryan,

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above-referenced transmission line in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail and Williams Counties North Dakota.

NDPRD's scope of authority and expertise covers properties that NDPRD owns, leases, or manages; properties protected under Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF); rare plants; and ecological communities established through the Natural Heritage Program.

The project does not appear to affect the properties NDPRD owns, leases, or manages positively.

The project does not appear to affect any properties protected under Section 6(f) of the LWCF.

A North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database query determines whether any current or historical plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, we have no known plant and animal species of concern or significant ecological communities documented within or immediately adjacent to the project site.

We appreciate your commitment to rare plant, animal, and ecological community conservation, management, and inter-agency cooperation. For additional information, please contact Kathy Duttenhefner at 701-328-5370, 701-220-3377 (cell), or kgduttenhefner@nd.gov.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

Sincerely,
Kathy Duttenhefner
Kathy Duttenhefner, Chief Natural Resources Division

604 E Boulevard Ave Dept. 750 | Bismarck, ND 58505
PHONE: 701-328-5357 | FAX: 701-328-5363 | EMAIL: parkrec@nd.gov | WEBSITE: www.parkrec.nd.gov

ND Transmission Authority

From:	Vigesaa, Claire
To:	Ryan King
Cc:	Erin Dukart
Subject:	[External] External: RE: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request
Date:	Friday, May 30, 2025 10:28:06 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

External Email - Use caution clicking links or opening attachments

Ryan,

We have no concerns about your reroute.

Thanks,

Claire

Claire Vigesaa, Executive Director
North Dakota Transmission Authority
406-489-3881

From: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 10:26 AM
To: Vigesaa, Claire <cvigesaa@nd.gov>
Cc: Erin Dukart <EDukart@bepc.com>
Subject: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request

Executive Director Vigesaa,

Please see the attached consultation letter requesting review of two reroute locations on Basin Electric's LOS to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project, which has been approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, involves construction of approximately 161 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line with about 30.5 miles being built as a double-circuit. The Project is located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota; the two reroutes are located in Mountrail County. Reroute #1 is approximately 2.16 miles in length; reroute #2 is approximately 4.20 miles in length. To stay aligned with our construction schedule, I am respectfully requesting a review of the material within 30 days.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at 701-557-5558 or RKing@bepc.com.

Thank you,

Ryan King

Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58503
Direct: 701.557.5558 | Cell: 701.426.9469
RKing@bepc.com | basinelectric.com

ND Department of Trust Lands

From:	-Info-ROW-ND Dept. of Trust Lands
To:	Ryan King
Subject:	[External] External: RE: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request
Date:	Sunday, June 1, 2025 11:43:24 AM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png We sent you safe versions of your files.msg ND Dept of Trust Lands_BEPC LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Reroutes Notification.pdf

Hello,

Basin has been working through the NDDTL process for this proposed project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Kayla Spangelo, SR/WA
Natural Resources Professional - Rights of Ways

701.328.1916 • landrow@nd.gov • kspangelo@nd.gov
land.nd.gov/rightsofway • 1707 N 9th St • Bismarck, ND 58501

image002.png

From: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>
Sent: Friday, May 30, 2025 8:56 AM
To: -Info-DTL Minerals <dtlminerals@nd.gov>; -Info-DTL Surface <dtlsurface@nd.gov>
Cc: Erin Dukart <EDukart@bepc.com>
Subject: Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request

Whom it May Concern,

Please see the attached consultation letter requesting review of two reroute locations on Basin Electric's LOS to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project, which has been approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, involves construction of approximately 161 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line with about 30.5 miles being built as a double-circuit. The Project is located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota; the two reroutes are located in Mountrail

County. Reroute #1 is approximately 2.16 miles in length; reroute #2 is approximately 4.20 miles in length. To stay aligned with our construction schedule, I am respectfully requesting a review of the material within 30 days.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at 701-557-5558 or RKing@bepc.com.

Thank you,

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58503
Direct: 701.557.5558 | Cell: 701.426.9469
RKing@bepc.com | basinelectric.com

Natural Resources Conservation Service

From:	Samson-Liebig, Susan - FPAC-NRCS, ND
To:	Ryan King
Cc:	Erin Dukart
Subject:	[External] External: RE: [External Email]Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request
Date:	Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:47:05 PM
Attachments:	image002.png image003.png

External Email - Use caution clicking links or opening attachments

Hello Ryan,

Will get to work on you request soon. Keep you posted.

Thank you –

Susan

Susan Samson-Liebig

Acting State Soil Scientist

Soil Quality Specialist

Bismarck, ND 58501

p: (701) 530-2018 | c: (701) 934-5158

susan.samsonliebig@usda.gov

From: Ryan King <RKing@bepc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, May 28, 2025 1:35 PM

To: Samson-Liebig, Susan - FPAC-NRCS, ND <susan.samsonliebig@usda.gov>

Cc: Erin Dukart <EDukart@bepc.com>

Subject: [External Email]Basin Electric LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project – Reroutes - Consultation Request

Ms. Samson-Liebig

Please see the attached consultation letter requesting review of two reroute locations on Basin Electric's LOS to Tande 345-kilovolt (kV) Transmission Line Project. The Project, which has been approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, involves construction of approximately 161 miles of 345-kV electric transmission line with about 30.5

miles being built as a double-circuit. The Project is located in Mercer, McLean, Ward, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota; the two reroutes are located in Mountrail County. Reroute #1 is approximately 2.16 miles in length; reroute #2 is approximately 4.20 miles in length. To stay aligned with our construction schedule, I am respectfully requesting a review of the material within 30 days.
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me directly at 701-557-5558 or RKing@bepc.com.

Thank you,

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 E Interstate Avenue | Bismarck, ND 58503
Direct: 701.557.5558 | Cell: 701.426.9469
RKing@bepc.com | basinelectric.com

State Historical Society of North Dakota

June 26, 2025

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

SHSND Ref.: 24-9097 Basin Electric Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project, PU-24-361 in portions of Mercer, McLean, Mountrail, Ward and Wiliams Counties, North Dakota

Dear Ryan,

We have reviewed your submission and the letter from Metcalf Archaeological Consultants to you with the subject line "LOS to Tande Transmission Line Project – Braaflat and 1804 Construction Corridor Reroutes" on June 2, 2025 in regard to the reroutes for this project. It is our understanding that the detailed survey work will be included in the volume three report for the larger project. It is our determination that there are no significant sites affected by these reroutes provided they take place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project under North Dakota cultural resources consultation. This letter does not serve as federal agency consultation or SHPO consultation for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (36 CFR Part 800), or the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended, (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321- 4347).

If you have any questions, please contact Lorna Meidinger, Lead Historic Preservation Specialist at lbmeidinger@nd.gov or (701) 328-2089.

Sincerely,

for William D. Peterson, PhD
Director, State Historical Society of North Dakota

Cc: Amy C. Bleier

24-9097