

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

Case No. PU-24-361

ORDER

October 9, 2025

Preliminary Statement

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

On April 22, 2025, the Commission adopted the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order and issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility Number 237 and Route Permit Number 248 related to the Project.

On August 12, 2025, Basin filed an Amendment to the Application proposing two reroutes for the Project of approximately 2.16 miles and 4.20 miles in length.

On August 20, 2025, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing (Notice) that provided until October 3, 2025, for comments or requests for hearing.

The issues to be considered in this proceeding are:

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

No comments or requests for hearing were received in response to the Notice.

Discussion

Basin's Amendment to the Application proposed two reroutes for the Project located in Mountrail County. These reroutes were based upon landowner participation, field surveys, known environmentally sensitive areas, review of transmission line requirements, and communications with various agencies.

The first reroute is located 6.6 miles northeast of Parshall, ND, and is approximately 2.16 miles in length. It is comprised of ten structures and shifts the line approximately ½ mile to the west of the original route. The reroute starts at Township 152 North, Range 88 West, Section 7 at Tower 377-502 (in the original application) and extends west for approximately ½ mile. It then turns north, abutting the border of Township 152 North, Range 89W sections 6 and 7 for approximately 1½ miles, cuts the corner of section 6 and terminates at Township 153 North, Range 88 West, Section 33 at Tower 377-512.

The second reroute is located 10.7 miles northwest of New Town, ND and is approximately 4.20 miles in length. It is comprised of nineteen structures that move the line approximately 1-1.5 miles west of the originally approved line. The reroute starts at Township 154 North, Range 93 West, Section 25 just north of Tower 378-081 (in the original application), extends west through section 26 for approximately 1.5 miles. It then turns north and extends approximately 2.7 miles through sections 23 and 14 (abutting sections 22 and 15) and terminates at Township 154 North, Range 93 West, Section 11 just west of Tower 378-101 (in the original application).

The first reroute is entirely within the original study area of the original Application. The second reroute has approximately one mile of the 4.2 miles within the original study area. New cultural and natural resource studies were conducted on the entire length of the both reroutes. Two potential cultural resources were identified in the second reroute. A report was submitted to the North Dakota State Historical Society, which responded stating no significant sites would be impacted by these reroutes.

No exclusion or avoidance areas were identified within the project corridors of the reroutes.

Field surveys determined that approximately 4.94 acres of potential Northern Long-Eared Bat habitat is located within the project reroute corridor. Basin will avoid tree clearing between the dates specified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and will consult with USFWS to determine the necessary action if this cannot be avoided.

Field surveys determined there was one area of 0.04 acres of suitable habitat for the Dakota Skipper (DASK). Basin will avoid this habitat during all construction activities and buffers will be implemented.

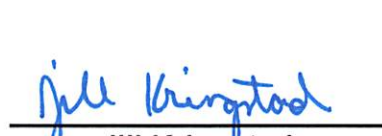
Conclusions of Law

1. Basin is a utility as defined in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-03(14).
2. The Project proposed by Basin is an electric transmission facility as defined in North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-03(6).
3. The construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota.
4. The Project is compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources.
5. The Project will minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion.

Order

The Commission orders First Amended Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 237 and First Amended Route Permit No. 248 are issued to Basin Electric Power Cooperative authorizing the proposed route and corridor modifications.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
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Sheri Haugen-Hoffart	Randy Christmann	Jill Kringstad
Commissioner	Chair	Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

First Amended Route Permit Number 248

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

This permit is issued in accordance with the Orders of this Commission dated April 22, 2025, and October 9, 2025, in Case No. PU-24-361 and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in those Orders.

Bismarck, North Dakota, October 9, 2025.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Executive Secretary



Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

First Amended Certificate of Corridor Compatibility Number 237

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

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Orders of this Commission dated April 22, 2025, and October 9, 2025, in Case No. PU-24-361 and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in those Orders.

Bismarck, North Dakota, October 9, 2025.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



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