

June 23, 2026

Mr. Chris Hanson  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard: Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Case No. PU-24-361  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative - LOS to Tande 345-kV Transmission Line Project

Dear Mr. Hanson:

In accordance with item 30 of the Certification Relating to Order Provisions in the above-referenced case, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) is providing this notification of exclusion areas that have inadvertently impacted on the Project construction site.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Basin Electric' 3<sup>rd</sup> party construction coordinator (Power Consulting Associates (PCA)) noticed that a foundation casing had been placed within an archeological exclusion area. Upon inspection, the exclusion area was staked, but the stakes may have been inadvertently knocked over and been covered in snow prior to the casing being delivered to the site. The casing was left in place, and additional staking was installed around the boundary of the site to ensure no further disturbance. Metcalf Archaeological Consultants (Metcalf) was notified of the impacts and a plan was made for Metcalf to visit the site.

On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Metcalf visited the site to inspect and assess the damage caused by the casing delivery. After their initial inspection, Metcalf recommended having an archaeological monitor present when the casing is removed from the site. Metcalf would then be able to record the remaining impacts to the site.

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, Metcalf notified ND State Historical Preservation Office (NDSHPO) of the impacts and what next steps were to be taken. NDSPHO stated that once the casing is removed and details of the impacts are reported on within the updated site form, NDSHPO may conduct a field visit. The casing was successfully removed on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 with Metcalf present.

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, impacts to an additional site were discovered by PCA. Immediately after being notified of the additional exclusion area impacts, Basin Electric halted all construction activities. Crews were instructed to perform a Project-wide inventory to identify any additional impacts to exclusion or avoidance areas and to locate areas where staking was inadequate and needed attention. An additional five archeological sites (totaling seven) and seven Dakota skipper habitat areas were impacted.

Improper stake installation was the leading cause for incurring the impacts. During the winter, the stakes fell over and were covered with snow. Due to the nature of the Project and the number of short-term delivery contractors, not everyone on site had access to the Project GIS, which shows these exclusion and avoidance areas.

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By April 28<sup>th</sup>, the construction contractor's survey team had re-staked each exclusion and avoidance area. These stakes were inspected by the construction contractor, PCA and Basin Electric's survey team.

On April 29<sup>th</sup>, construction activities resumed.

Metcalf visited each impacted archeological site to assess damages and update site forms, per NDSHPO requirements. A report was developed, detailing their findings and was submitted to NDSHPO on June 22. This report is attached as **Attachment A** but submitted separately as site details are confidential and not public information.

Additionally, Basin Electric and Metcalf met with NDSHPO on June 10, and presented the impact summary, timeline, and revised avoidance measures. NDSHPO stated that a site visit with interested tribal entities will take place in July.

Western Ecosystems Technology, Inc. (WEST) reviewed photographs of the impacts to the Dakota skipper habitat locations and provided a letter regarding their findings. Their letter is attached as **Attachment B**.

Basin Electric and their construction contractor are inspecting all exclusion and avoidance areas daily to ensure any further exclusion or avoidance area impacts are avoided. As part of the daily job-hazard analysis, exclusion and avoidance areas near the planned work areas are noted and all employees must sign to acknowledge.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at [rking@bepc.com](mailto:rking@bepc.com) or 701-557-5558.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. King', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ryan King  
Environmental Coordinator

## **Attachment A**

## **Attachment B**



**ENVIRONMENTAL & STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS**

4007 State Street, Suite 109 Bismarck, North Dakota 58503  
Phone: 701-250-1756 ♦ www.west-inc.com

May 1, 2026

Ryan King  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
1717 East Interstate Avenue  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

**RE: Impacted DASK habitat during construction of Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project**

Mr. King,

Western EcoSystems Technology Inc. (WEST) was notified that potential Dakota skipper (DASK) habitat was recently impacted during the construction of the Leland Olds Station to Tande 345-kV Transmission Project. Table 1 identifies the nearest structure, location, and acreage of habitat potentially impacted.

**Table 1. Location and Description of Impacted DASK Habitat**

| <b>Structure ID</b> | <b>County</b> | <b>PLSS Description</b> | <b>DASK Habitat ID (Natural Resource Inventory Report)</b> | <b>Acres of Habitat in ROW</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 377-562             | Mountrail     | Sec. 19, T153N, R89W    | DASK 1412                                                  | 0.12                           |
| 377-561             | Mountrail     | Sec. 19, T153N, R89W    | DASK 1411                                                  | 0.04                           |
| 377-366             | McLean        | Sec. 6, T150N, R85W     | DASK 554                                                   | 1.27                           |
| 377-364             | McLean        | Sec. 6, T150N, R85W     | DASK 549                                                   | 0.15                           |
| 377-359             | McLean        | Sec. 7, T150N, R85W     | DASK 558                                                   | 0.67                           |
| 377-590             | Mountrail     | Sec. 29, T153N, R90W    | DASK 281                                                   | 0.06                           |
| 377-358             | McLean        | Sec. 7, T150N, R85W     | DASK 617                                                   | 0.08                           |
| <b>Total Acres</b>  |               |                         |                                                            | <b>2.39</b>                    |

Photographs of the impacted DASK habitat were reviewed by a WEST biologist. The impacts appeared to be consistent with vehicles making a pass through the potential DASK habitat locations, resulting in compressed vegetation and disturbed topsoil. The impacts were documented at seven potential DASK habitat locations, however only a small amount of disturbance occurred at each location. Example photos are attached.

The impacts are temporary, short-term disturbances to the surface of the grasslands. No long-term effects are expected, and the vegetation will recover without reclamation. Furthermore, the events occurred in early spring when the DASK is below the soil surface in larval form.

Please contact me at [ctucker@west-inc.com](mailto:ctucker@west-inc.com) or 307-772-1083 if you need additional information.  
Sincerely,

*Chad Tucker*

Chad Tucker



377-366







