



Minnesota Power and Great River Energy  
HVDC Modernization Project, Oliver County  
Case No. PU-24-381  
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report



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August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025

RE: Case No. PU-24-381  
Minnesota Power and Great River Energy  
HVDC Modernization Project  
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report

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

Dear Mr. Renfandt:

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Loretta A. Marshik".

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

Engineers | Architects | Planners | Scientists

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Date:	Inspection - 08/18/2025, Report - 08/27/2025
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Project: PU-25-912, HVDC Modernization
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A topsoil stripping inspection was performed to document Minnesota Power Cooperatives means and methods for segregating topsoil and stripping operations, as well as erosion control measures. Inspector documented equipment on site, erosion control measures in use, which consisted of silt fence. Inspector documented topsoil stripping effectiveness by checking depths using a tape measure (See P10-12, P16-17, P20, P23, P31).

It should be noted that during the first path the dozer made, they over excavated into the subsoil layer (see P11). Inspector spoke with the operators again to remind them of what the NDPSC specs ask for in regards to stripping and segregation of topsoils. The issue was remedied and did not show up again for remainder of site inspection.

Finally, the inspector documented hauling of topsoil to storage piles. After inspector was confident that contractor was following the means and methods for topsoil stripping and storage, the inspector left the site.

ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION: No issues noted that require resolution.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION(S): N/A.

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

*Fallon Jorgenson*

Inspector's Signature



## Daily Construction Observation Report

Job No./file  
NDPSC 186636

Date  
08/18/2025

**Project:** HVDC Modernization

**Location:** Center, ND

**RPR Name:** Dalton Jorgenson

**Start Time:** 8:30 AM

**End Time:** 3:50 PM

**Morning Weather:** Partly Cloudy

**Afternoon Weather:** Sunny

**Temp. (F):** High 88      Low 63

**Rainfall (in):** 0

**Utility Conflicts:** No

**Overall Comments:** Item of note: contractor installed ECMs BEFORE topsoil stripping, saving me any doubts or conversations. See observations for further notes.

**Prime Contractor:** Ulland Brothers

**Foreman Name:** Jordan

**# of Crews:** 8

**Equipment Onsite:** Dozer (2), dump truck (1), track excavator (1), water jetting truck (1), steel drum roller (1)

**Contractor Notes:** See observations

### Observations

**Time:** 8:45am

**Description:** Contractor correspondence

**Comments:** Spoke with a gentleman named Jordan to explain what this inspection will entail. He pointed out the site superintendent to me.

**Time:** 8:46am

**Description:** Weather

**Comments:** Rain is moving in. Chances of storms this morning.

**Time:** 8:50am

**Description:** Contractor correspondence

**Comments:** Kyle Larson called me to ask if I'd found the site, to which I responded that I had. He told me he plans to be on site later today.

**Time:** 10:02am

**Description:** Contractor correspondence

**Comments:** At 9:30 I spoke with one of the dozer operators and let him know he was overexcavating and reiterated that topsoil should be stripped to 12" or to a layer change.

**Time:** 10:30am

**Description:** Means and methods

**Comments:** Ullner marked out edges of stripping area using dozer. Excavator then stripped topsoil area wide enough for dozer to get into without disturbing existing conditions. Dozer then worked left to right across ROW area and piled topsoil south side of ROW. Excavator piled topsoil north side of ROW.

**Time:** 10:33am

**Description:** Equipment

**Comments:** Semi dropped off a steel drum roller.

**Time:** 11:21am

**Description:** Contractor correspondence

**Comments:** Crew had a short meeting where they determined plan moving forward. Crew determined EC crew placed silt fence further out in ROW to give stripping crew more space to work. Crew has a specific area they're going to store topsoil, hence the dump truck.

**Time:** 2:47pm

**Description:** Misc

**Comments:** Braun intertec arrived on site to collect soil samples for proctors.

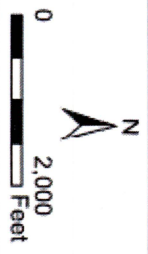
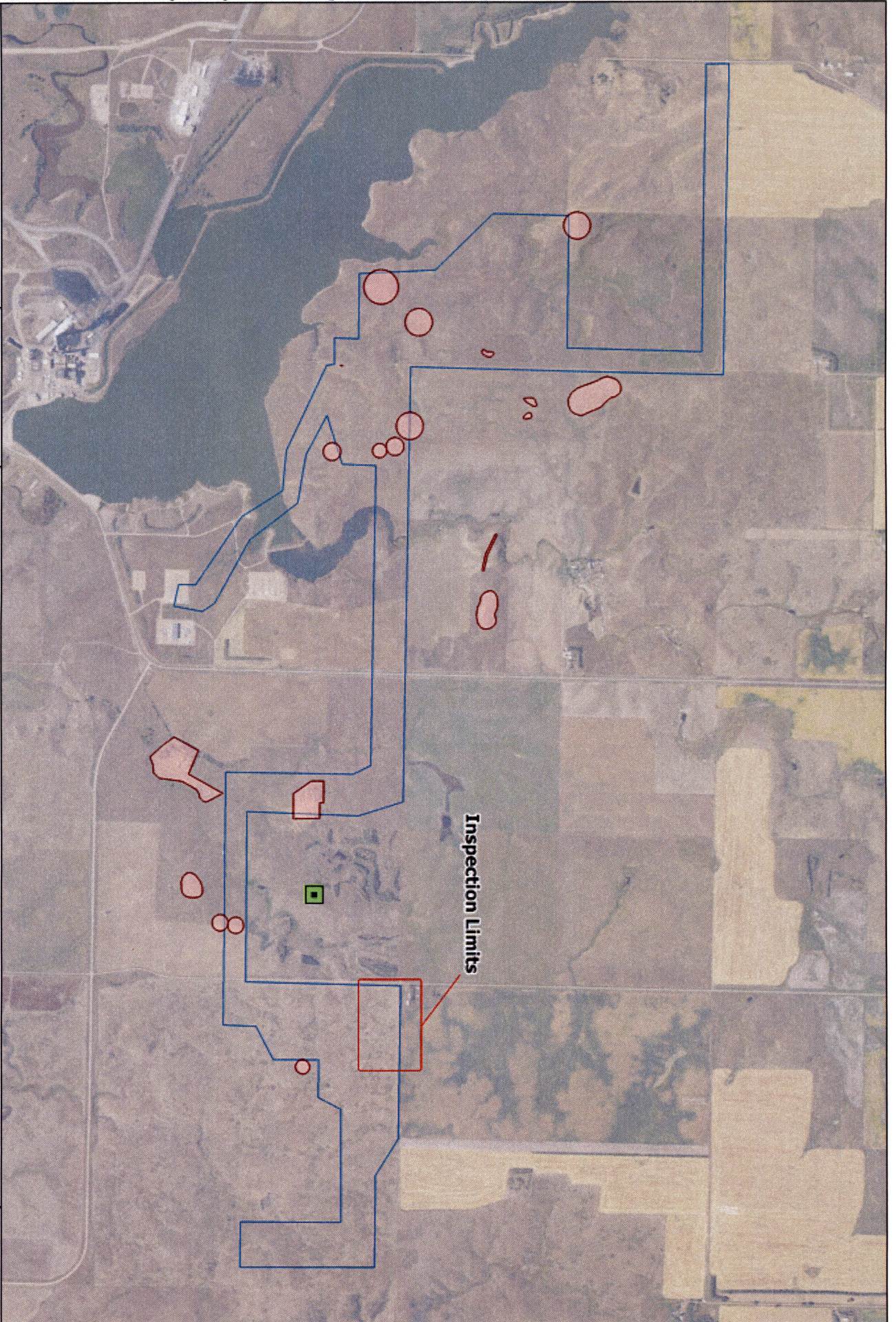
**Time:** 3:48pm

**Description:** Contractor correspondence

**Comments:** Met with Kyle Larson to discuss findings for day. I found out that the pipe was part of an old irrigation system that's no longer in service. Minnesota power installed a new one south of location some time ago. I reminded them of what PSC considers adequate stripping depth and to keep an eye on that. I left site at 3:50pm

# Appendix A

Photo Location Map



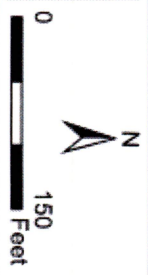
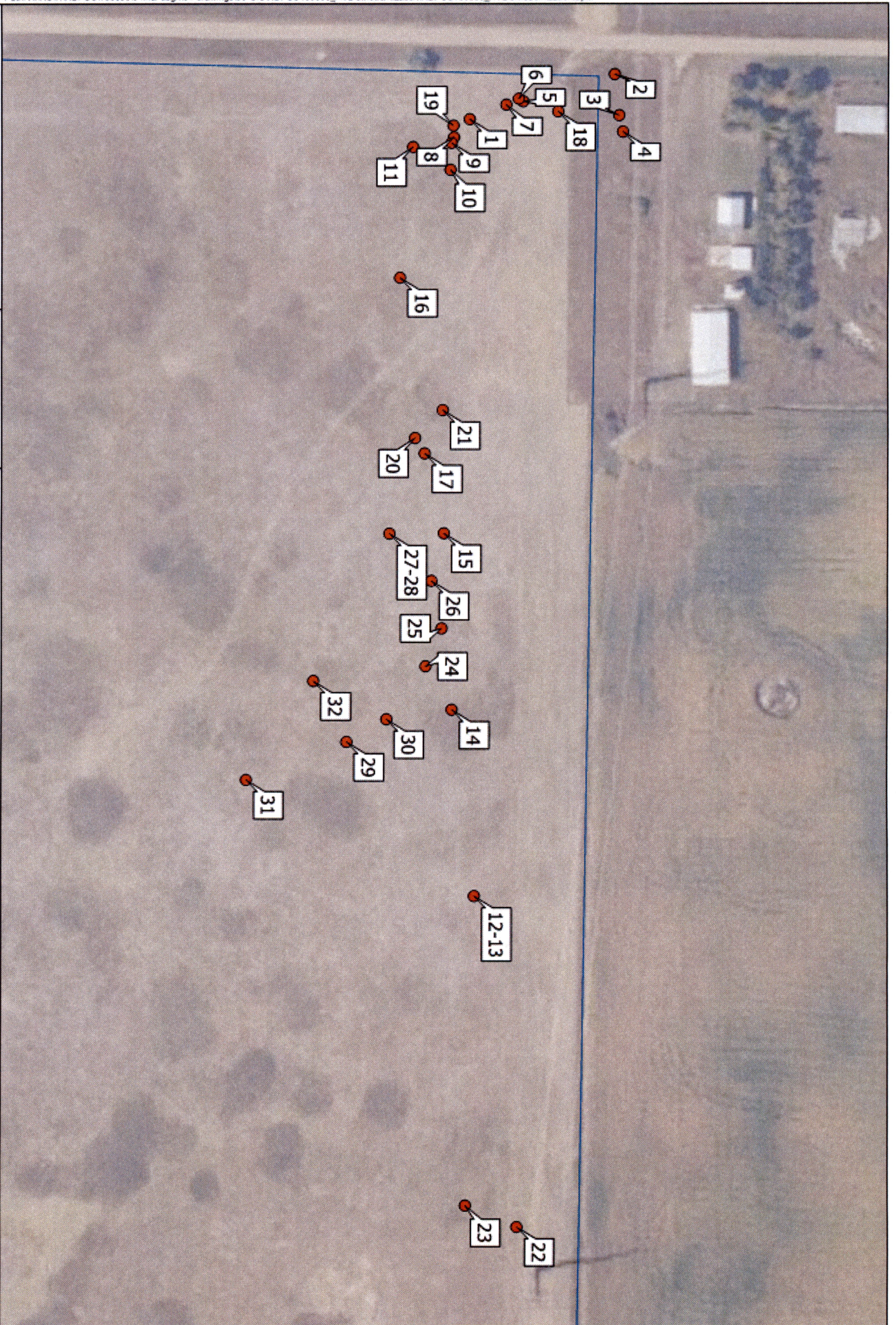
Project: NDPSC 188636  
Print Date: 8/29/2025  
Map by: Ischwarz  
Projection: NAD 1983  
UTM Zone 14N  
Source: State of ND, SEH Inc.

# Project Overview Map

## HVDC Modernization

Figure 1

This map is neither a legal record nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources listed on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking, or other purposes requiring accurate measurement of distance or direction or position in the absence of geographic markers. The user of this map acknowledges that SEH shall not be liable for any damage which may result from the use of this map or any of its data provided.



Project: NDP-SC 186636  
Print Date: 8/25/2025  
Map by: boeharz  
Projection: NAD 1983  
UTM Zone 14N  
Source: State of MD, SEH Inc

# Photo Location Map

## HVDC Modernization

Figure 2

This map is neither a sight, recorded map nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources listed on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking, or any other purpose requiring accuracy measurements of distance or direction or precision in the depiction of geographic features. The user of this map acknowledges that SEH shall not be liable for any damage which may result from the use of data provided.

# Appendix B

Photos



**INSPECTOR'S DIARY**

Date: 8/27/2025

Project: PU-25-912, HVDC Modernization Project	Contractor or Sub: Ulland Brothers
Photo Description:	
Photo Name:	Description:
P1 - Equipment: Potholing Truck	
P2 - Equipment: Dozer, Excavator	
P3 - Equipment: Dump Truck	
P4 - Equipment: Dozer	
P5 - Erosion Control: Silt Fence Temporarily Removed	
P6 - Miscellaneous: Barb Wire Removal	
P7 - Erosion Control/Site Conditions: Documentation of existing site conditions for end of project life, and silt fence conditions.	
P8 - Site Conditions: Topsoil Description	
P9 - Means and Methods: "Outlining" of Stripping Area by Dozer Blade	
P10 - Topsoil Depth Check 1: 12"	
P11 - Topsoil Depth Check 2: Over-Excavation (discussed with contractor)	
P12 - Topsoil Depth Check 3: 7"	
P13 - Site Conditions: Subsoil Description	
P14 - Site Conditions: Topsoil Storage Windrow	
P15 - Means and Methods: Excavator work	
P16 - Topsoil Depth Check 4: 8"	
P17 - Topsoil Depth Check 5: 12"+	
P18 - Equipment: Steel Drum Roller	
P19 - Site Safety: Pothole Cordoning	
P20 - Topsoil Depth Check 6: 10"	
P21 - Means and Methods: Prep for Dump Truck	
P22 - ROW & Topsoil Storage Pile Placement	
P23 - Topsoil Depth Check 7: 12"+	
P24 - Means and Methods: Dump Trucks Hauling	
P25 - Site Conditions: Subsoil Description	
P26 - Progress Check	
P27 - Miscellaneous: Boulder	
P28 - Miscellaneous: Boulder Hole	
P29 - Miscellaneous: Abandoned Irrigation Pipe	
P30 - Miscellaneous: Proctor Pick-Up	
P31 - Topsoil Depth Check 8: 12"	
P32 - Site Conditions: Existing Conditions	
*See attached Photo Layout Map with location of each photo (P1-P32), and attached pages of photos	

Inspector's Signature

**Item Records**

**Location:** Entrance to site

**Point Number:** 1

**Photo Number:** 1

**Time:** 8:37 AM

**Direction Facing:** SW

**Notes:** Crew pot holing to find water line, equipment, water jetting truck.



**Location:** Staging area

**Point Number:** 2

**Photo Number:** 2

**Time:** 8:38 AM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** Equipment: komatsu D61PXi dozer and PC490LCi track excavator.



**Location:** Staging Area

**Point Number:** 3

**Photo Number:** 3

**Time:** 8:40 AM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** Volvo A45G dump truck



**Location:** Staging area

**Point Number:** 4

**Photo Number:** 4

**Time:** 8:41 AM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** D71PXi dozer



**Location:** Project entrance along 32nd ave.

**Point Number:** 5

**Photo Number:** 5

**Time:** 8:54 AM

**Direction Facing:** SW

**Notes:** Downed silt fence, temporarily removed to allow access for jet truck. Will make note if free does not reinstall it by EOD.



**Location:** Entrance along 32nd ave

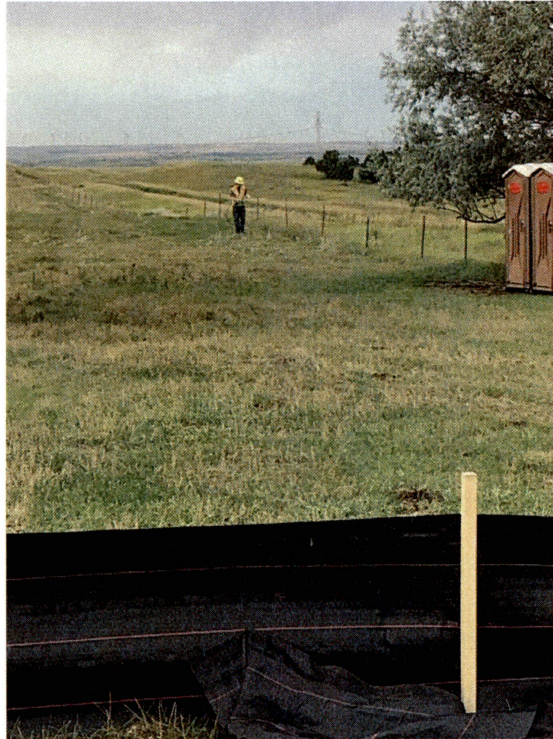
**Point Number:** 6

**Photo Number:** 6

**Time:** 8:56 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Crew pulling barbed wire down to allow ROW access to heavy equipment



**Location:** Entrance at 32nd ave

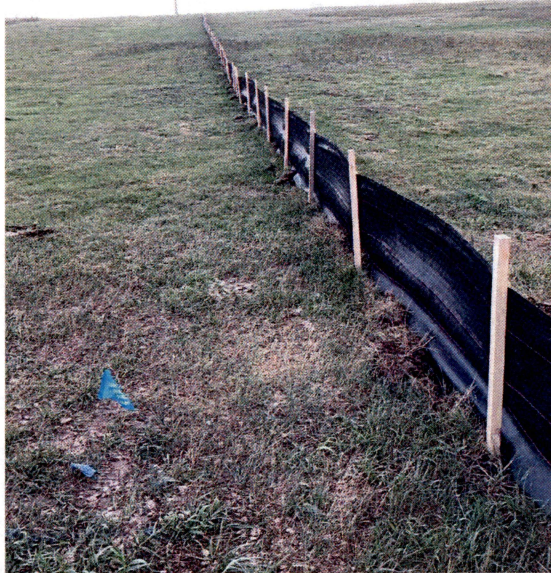
**Point Number:** 7

**Photo Number:** 7

**Time:** 8:57 AM

**Direction Facing:** SE

**Notes:** Existing conditions and silt fence that was installed yesterday.



**Location:** Start of project

**Point Number:** 8

**Photo Number:** 8

**Time:** 9:05 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Topsoil layer, very lumpy and dry.



**Location:** Project start

**Point Number:** 9

**Photo Number:** 9

**Time:** 9:06 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Crew is using dozers to "outline" stripping limits.



**Location:** Start of project by 32nd ave

**Point Number:** 10

**Photo Number:** 10

**Time:** 9:17 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Topsoil depth stripped to 12"



**Location:** Start o topsoil excavations

**Point Number:** 11

**Photo Number:** 11

**Time:** 9:32 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Crew is overexcavating here. I reiterated the 12" or layer change rule and will be keeping a close eye moving forward. Actual topsoil depth here is 12"



**Location:** 47.082572N, 101.168491W

**Point Number:** 12

**Photo Number:** 12-13

**Time:** 9:54 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Topsoil depth in this location 7", subsoil seems to be a light brown to gray clayey loam.



**Location:** 47.082486N, 101.169334W

**Point Number:** 13

**Photo Number:** 14

**Time:** 9:58 AM

**Direction Facing:** NE

**Notes:** Topsoil storage pile



**Location:** 47.082445N, 101.170134W

**Point Number:** 14

**Photo Number:** 15

**Time:** 10:01 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Topsoil storage piling. Excavator pulling material to make a starting point for dozer following behind.



**Location:** 47.082285N, 101.171287W

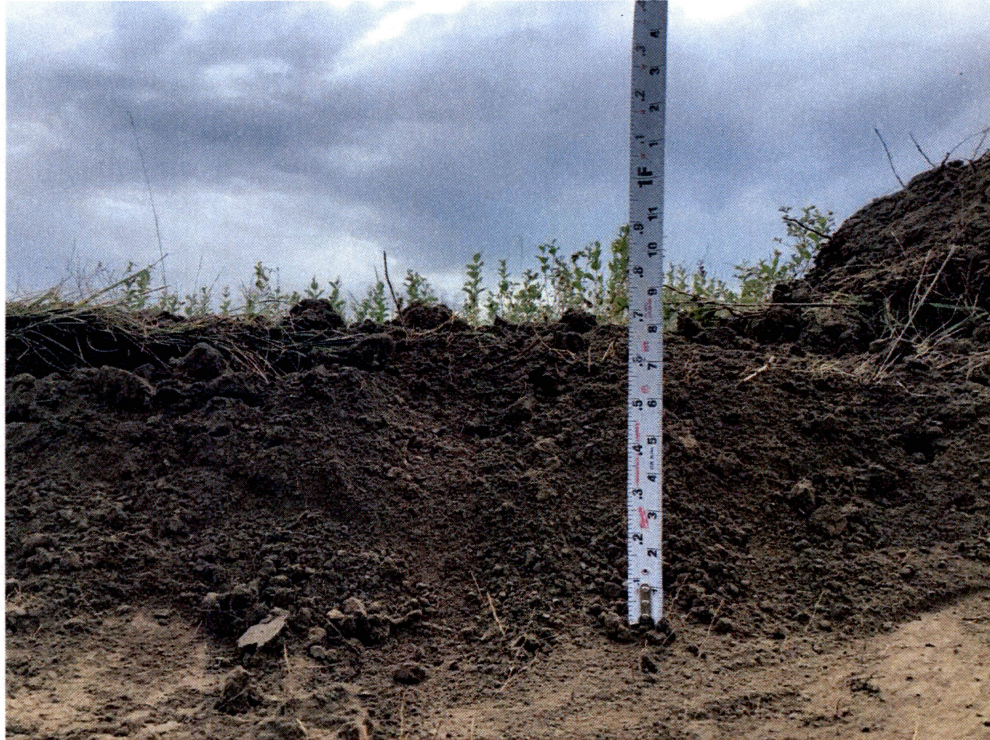
**Point Number:** 15

**Photo Number:** 16

**Time:** 10:23 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Topsoil depth check of 8in.



**Location:** 47.082378N, 101.170493W

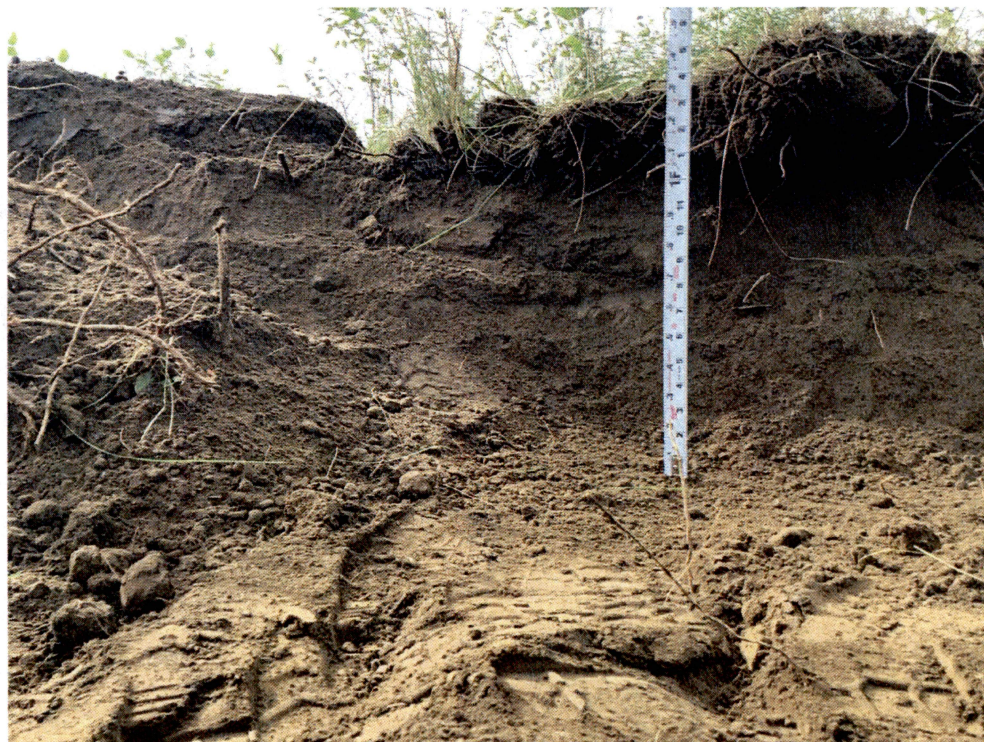
**Point Number:** 16

**Photo Number:** 17

**Time:** 10:36 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Topsoil depth in this area up to 18"+



**Location:** Cattle gate

**Point Number:** 17

**Photo Number:** 18

**Time:** 10:41 AM

**Direction Facing:** SE

**Notes:** Bomag BW 213 DH steel drum roller



**Location:** 47.082437N, 101.171983W

**Point Number:** 18

**Photo Number:** 19

**Time:** 10:45 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Safety procedures: subcontractor cordoned off area where jetting had occurred to keep people away from hazardous fall risks.



**Location:** 47.08234N, 101.170561W

**Point Number:** 19

**Photo Number:** 20

**Time:** 11:09 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Topsoil depth check: 10"



**Location:** 47.082431N, 101.170691W

**Point Number:** 20

**Photo Number:** 21

**Time:** 11:35 AM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Topsoil pile the crew plans on loading into dump truck and moving to a storage area.



**Location:** 47.082733N, 101.166987W

**Point Number:** 21

**Photo Number:** 22

**Time:** 11:45 AM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Topsoil piles are staying within ROW



**Location:** 47.082572N, 101.167078W

**Point Number:** 22

**Photo Number:** 23

**Time:** 11:50 AM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Topsoil depth check, 13"



**Location:** 47.082400N, 101.169527W

**Point Number:** 23

**Photo Number:** 24

**Time:** 11:56 AM

**Direction Facing:** SW

**Notes:** Dump truck loaded with topsoil heading for storage pile



**Location:** 47.082447N, 101.169701W

**Point Number:** 24

**Photo Number:** 25

**Time:** 12:04 PM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** One of several subsoils on site. This one appears to be a pale clayey sand loam



**Location:** 47.082411N, 101.169916W

**Point Number:** 25

**Photo Number:** 26

**Time:** 12:12 PM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Topsoil stripping progress as of 12:13pm



**Location:** 47.082276N, 101.170125W

**Point Number:** 26

**Photo Number:** 27-28

**Time:** 1:16 PM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Misc: crew unearthed a large boulder while stripping topsoil.



**Location:** 47.082161N, 101.169174W

**Point Number:** 27

**Photo Number:** 29

**Time:** 2:36 PM

**Direction Facing:** W

**Notes:** Crew appears to have hit a small vertical tube which is set into the ground. Unsure if abandoned or in use.



**Location:** 47.082283N, 101.169282W

**Point Number:** 28

**Photo Number:** 30

**Time:** 2:46 PM

**Direction Facing:** N

**Notes:** Braun intertec on site to collect proctor samples



**Location:** 47.081851N, 101.168988W

**Point Number:** 29

**Photo Number:** 31

**Time:** 2:52 PM

**Direction Facing:** E

**Notes:** Topsoil depth check: 12"



**Location:** 47.082052N, 101.169446

**Point Number:** 30

**Photo Number:** 32

**Time:** 3:17 PM

**Direction Facing:** S

**Notes:** Existing conditions for reference during reclamation inspection





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