

February 12, 2025

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Geri Schmaltz  
Administrative Officer  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Case No. PU-24-381 & Case No. PU-24-382 in Oliver County

Dear Ms. Schmaltz:

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (Department) has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project received at the Department on January 24, 2025, with respect to possible environmental impacts.

1. Necessary measures should be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions created during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise should be dealt with in an efficient and effective manner.
2. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached.
3. Projects disturbing one or more acres are required to have a permit to discharge stormwater runoff until the site is stabilized by the re-establishment of vegetation or other permanent cover. Further information on the stormwater permit may be obtained from the Department's website or by calling the Division of Water Quality at 701-328-5210. Also, cities may impose additional requirements and/or specific best management practices for construction affecting their storm drainage system. Check with the local officials to be sure any local stormwater management considerations are addressed.

Minnesota Power has a North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NDPDES) permit in place for the existing HVDC facility. The Department's NDPDES program must be notified if the new HVDC terminal, substations, or electric station yard will result in new, different, or increased amounts of pollutants from the existing HVDC facility or result in a "new source" of pollutants. The NDPDES program should be notified at least nine months

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Director's Office  
701-328-5150

Division of  
Air Quality  
701-328-5188

Division of  
Municipal Facilities  
701-328-5211

Division of  
Waste Management  
701-328-5166

Division of  
Water Quality  
701-328-5210

Division of Chemistry  
701-328-6140  
2635 East Main Ave  
Bismarck ND 58501

prior to the start of any new type of discharge to allow enough time to modify an existing NDPDES permit or prepare for a new NDPDES permit.

4. All solid waste materials must be managed and transported in accordance with the state's solid and hazardous waste rules. Appropriate efforts to reduce, reuse and/or recycle waste materials are strongly encouraged. As appropriate, segregation of inert waste from non-inert waste can generally reduce the cost of waste management. Further information on waste management and recycling is available from the Department's Division of Waste Management at 701-328-5166.

The Department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Rockeman', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Karl Rockeman, P.E., Deputy Director  
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality

KR:ll  
Attach.

## **Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements**

The following are the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (Department) for projects that involve construction and environmental disturbance in or near waters of the State of North Dakota. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect waters of the state. All projects must be constructed to minimize the loss of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

### **Soils**

Prevent the erosion and sediment loss using erosion and sediment controls. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, and land resources must be prohibited against compaction, vegetation loss and unnecessary damage.

### **Surface Waters**

All construction must be managed to minimize impacts to aquatic systems. Follow safe storage and handling procedures to prevent the contamination of water from fuel spills, lubricants, and chemicals. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances must be contained to minimize silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocations, and any physical chemicals, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near surface waters is allowed under the Department's pesticide application permit with notification to the Department.

### **Fill Material**

Any fill material placed below the ordinary high-water mark must be free of topsoil, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds, including, but not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill material. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid waste must be properly disposed or recycled. Impacted areas must be restored to near original condition.