

Before the Public Service Commission  
of  
The State of North Dakota

In the Matter of the Application of  
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE  
for a Certificate of Site Compatibility  
for the Bison Generation Station

Case No. PU-25-086

Pre-filed Testimony  
of  
Chris Bauer

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I. **Introduction**

Q.1. **Please state your name, employer, and business address.**

A.1. My name is Chris Bauer. I am employed by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (“Basin Electric”). My business address is 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

Q.2. **What is your position with Basin Electric?**

A.2. I am the Supervisor of Structural Engineering in the Engineering and Construction group. In addition to supporting and leading specific projects, I supervise four employees that focus on structural and architectural needs throughout the cooperative.

Q.3. **Please describe your educational and professional background.**

A.3. I received a Bachelor of Science degree and a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 2002 and 2007. I am a registered Professional Engineer in North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, and Minnesota. I began my career as a consulting engineer in 2003. Since joining Basin Electric in 2014, I have worked as the structural engineering lead on new generation projects. I have also been the project coordinator for upgrades and retrofit projects at our existing facilities.

Q.4. **What is your role with respect to the Bison Generation Station Project (“Project”)?**

A.4. I am the Project Coordinator. I am responsible for activities associated with the development and execution of the Project. Specific activities include detailed project siting, detailed project scoping, development of the project schedule and budget, coordination with project stakeholders, and ultimately developing and executing the construction contracting strategy for the Project.

Q.5. **Are you familiar with the contents of Basin Electric’s Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Project (the “Application”)?**

A.5. Yes. I am familiar with the Application’s contents.

**Q.6. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

A.6. The purpose of my testimony is to describe the Project's development, scope, and execution plan. I will also address the application of the Commission's policy criteria to the Project. My testimony, together with the Application and other supporting evidence, will demonstrate that the Project will produce minimal adverse impacts on the environment and human welfare, ensure reliability, and ensure energy needs are met.

## **II. Basin Electric Power Cooperative**

**Q.7. Please describe Basin Electric.**

A.7. Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative organized under the laws of the State of North Dakota, and headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric provides power to over 130 member cooperatives serving approximately three million consumers in nine states.

**Q.8. Who controls Basin Electric?**

A.8. Basin Electric and its member systems are owned by the members at the end of the line. Each of our Class A members has one seat on the 11-member Board of Directors.

**Q.9. What are the business principles on which Basin Electric operates?**

A.9. Basin Electric follows the cooperative business model, embracing the seven cooperative principles: open and voluntary membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training, and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. Basin Electric pursues a smart and affordable energy strategy and takes advantage of the benefits of renewables while maintaining dispatchable generation that ensures the reliability our members expect. Basin Electric's margins must be used to improve or maintain operations, set aside in reserves, or distributed to the membership.

### **III. Project Description**

**Q.10. Please provide a general description of the Project and its location.**

A.10. The Project, which will be known as the Bison Generation Station (“BGS”), consists of two multi-shaft combined cycle generation units with an expected capacity of up to 745 megawatts (“MW”) per unit. Each unit includes an advanced class Combustion Turbine Generator (“CTG”), fully fired Heat Recovery Steam Generator (“HRSG”), Steam Turbine Generator (“STG”), and Air-Cooled Condenser (“ACC”). The overall combined cycle power generation process is shown in Exhibit 1, which is a schematic produced by Basin Electric. (Ex. 1 to Pre-filed Test.) For additional information, see Figure 1.2 in the Application. (Application, Figure 1.2, Docket No. 1.)

**Q.11. Where is the Project site located?**

A.11. The Project will be located on a 240-acre parcel in Wheelock Township purchased by Basin Electric on May 30, 2025. This location is approximately one mile south of Highway 2 between Epping and Wheelock. (Application, Figure 1.1, Docket No. 1.) For reference, see Exhibit 2, which is a map showing the Project Site produced by Basin Electric. (Ex. 2 to Pre-filed Test.) Additionally, see Exhibit 3, which is a photo simulation of a rendering of the Project from Highway 2 produced by Burns & McDonnell for Basin Electric. (Ex. 3 to Pre-filed Test.)

**Q.12. Who will the Project serve?**

A.12. The Project will be a network generation resource in the Southwest Power Pool (“SPP”) that will serve members throughout Basin Electric’s service territory within SPP’s footprint in the north central U.S. These local members include Class A member Upper Missouri Power Cooperative and Class C Member Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (“MWECC”), which serve members in northwestern North Dakota within the Williston Basin.

**Q.13. Will Basin Electric own the Project?**

A.13. Yes, Basin Electric will own the Project.

Q.14. **Please describe the Project schedule.**

A.14. If the Commission grants Basin Electric a Certificate of Site Compatibility, initial site grading is expected to begin in August 2025 or as soon as the requisite permits are received. Pending receipt of the air permit to construct from the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, deep foundation installation is expected to begin in January 2026. The first unit is planned to be constructed by October 2028, then commissioned and tested with a commercial operation date (“COD”) in February or March 2029. The second unit is planned to be constructed by November 2029, then commissioned and tested with a COD in March 2030. The Project schedule was developed to reduce the peak construction workforce.

Q.15. **What is the estimated Project cost?**

A.15. The current cost projection is \$3.68 billion. This cost includes Basin Electric’s internal costs such as employee labor and financing fees. This cost does not include transmission interconnections, which will be permitted separately by Basin Electric.

#### **IV. Project Design**

Q.16. **Please describe the Project’s primary generation equipment.**

A.16. The primary generation equipment for each of the two units will be identical and will include:

- An advanced-class CTG that consists of a compressor section to compress inlet air and convey to the combustion section of the turbine where natural gas is introduced and ignited. Dry low-NO<sub>x</sub> combustors are used to minimize formation of nitrogen oxide (“NO<sub>x</sub>”). The expansion of high temperature combustion gases drives both the compressor and generator. Generated electricity is transmitted to a step-up transformer and interconnected to the electrical grid.
- A fully fired HRSG utilizes exhaust heat from the CTG and additional heat input through duct burners to produce steam for additional power generation. The HRSG is equipped with a selective catalytic reduction (“SCR”) system and an oxidation catalyst for NO<sub>x</sub>, carbon monoxide, and volatile organic compound emissions controls. The exhaust from the HRSG continues out of the stack.

- A STG receives steam flows from the HRSG. The steam flows expand in the sections of the STG to drive the generator, and the generated electricity is transmitted to a step-up transformer and interconnected to the electric grid.
- An ACC receives steam flows from the steam turbine exhaust and utilizes ambient air to cool and condense the steam. The condensate is recycled back to the HRSG. Unlike traditional cooling towers, which rely on continuous water supply and release water vapor into the atmosphere, the ACC is a closed system and does not require significant make-up water.

**Q.17. What is the Project's expected electrical output?**

A.17. The Project is designed to meet variable electrical demands as low as 150 MW and as high as 1,486 MW. The low output of the plant considers only one unit running at minimum load and the high output considers both units running at maximum load. These plant outputs are at annual average ambient conditions (42.8°F, 62.5% relative humidity) and actual output of each unit will vary based on the ambient conditions.

**Q.18. Please describe the associated auxiliary equipment included with the Project.**

A.18. The following facilities and auxiliary equipment will be constructed to support the primary generation equipment:

- Powerhouse building to enclose the primary generation equipment and provide indoor space for critical maintenance.
- Electrical equipment in building enclosures adjacent to primary generation equipment.
- A common building with the control room, administrative office areas, warehouse, maintenance shops, and water treatment.
- Outdoor rated Generator Step-Up Transformers, Unit Auxiliary Transformers, and Station Service Transformers will be installed for the generator outputs to the electrical substation and support of the plant auxiliary electric system.
- A 230/345-kV electrical substation, including two 230/345-kV transformers.
- A natural gas-fired auxiliary boiler used to provide steam for main power generation start-up and shut-down processes.
- A 4,000-kW emergency diesel generator for backup power.
- Emissions control equipment, including anhydrous ammonia storage tanks.
- One 1,200,000-gallon combined service water and fire water storage tank.

- One 750,000-gallon demineralized water storage tank.
- Fuel gas conditioning system, including three natural gas-fired dew point heaters.
- Approximately 55 acres of lined process wastewater evaporation ponds to receive water treatment process reject, evaporative cooling wastewater, and HRSG blowdown that is too warm to be recycled in the water treatment system.
- Two stormwater detention ponds (one approximately 2 acres and one approximately 3 acres) to receive site stormwater prior to flowing offsite.
- Temporary construction parking and construction trailers.
- Temporary warehousing, material laydown, and assembly areas.

**Q.19. Why did Basin Electric select advanced class combustion turbines in combined cycle for the Project?**

A.19. Basin Electric identified a minimum plant output of 1,000 MW for the Project and several alternatives were considered to achieve this output. These alternatives include both simple-cycle and combined-cycle natural gas-fired power plants. Simple-cycle alternatives include 18-MW Reciprocating Internal Combustion Engines (“RICE”) and ‘F’ Class CTGs. Combined-cycle alternatives included ‘F’ class CTGs and advanced class CTGs. The analysis considered capital construction costs, operations and maintenance costs, and fuel costs. The results of the analysis concluded that combined cycle with advanced class CTGs was the most economical option. Basin Electric selected a two unit plant configuration, balancing economics with availability and reliability. For additional information, see Benjamin Hertz’s pre-filed testimony. (Hertz Pre-filed Test. at Section II.)

**Q.20. What factors contributed to Basin Electric’s selection of the Project site?**

A.20. Basin Electric evaluated approximately 65 sites in total. Potential sites were considered in Williams, Mountrail, McKenzie, and Dunn Counties. In addition to consideration of impacts that are addressed in Erin Fox Dukart’s pre-filed testimony (Dukart Pre-filed Test. at Section III), key considerations in selecting the Project site included distance to fuel and transmission interconnections, location relative to forecasted load growth, expected transmission system upgrades required for the generator interconnection, and expected dispatch modeling of other generators in the

SPP service territory. For a project this size, robust fuel supply and transmission interconnections weighed heavily on the siting decision. An additional benefit of this Project site is its proximity to nearby rail sidings for the delivery of large equipment.

**Q.21. What is the fuel supply for the Project?**

A.21. Natural gas for the Project will be transported by WBI Energy. WBI Energy is constructing a new 24" diameter steel pipeline lateral to support the Project. The lateral will extend to the Project from WBI's existing 24" diameter pipeline that runs from WBI's existing Tioga Compressor Station to their Elkhorn Creek Compressor Station just south of Watford City, ND. The new lateral is expected to be approximately 16 miles long and will be permitted separately by WBI Energy.

**Q.22. How much water will the Project consume and what is the water supply?**

A.22. Water use during construction would primarily be used for dust control and quality control measures for earthwork activities. Water use during operation would include potable water for employees, makeup water for evaporative cooling, makeup water for the steam system, and could also include facility fire protection. The time weighted average water consumption for the Project will be 61 gallons per minute ("gpm") and the maximum water consumption will be 235 gpm. The Northwest Rural Water District ("NWRWD") will supply water. NWRWD has approved Basin Electric's request for water service. NWRWD requested Basin Electric construct a new 10" diameter water main to the Project site from an existing water main approximately 1 ½ miles south of the Project site. Once complete, the water main will be turned over to NWRWD and Basin Electric's service line will be supplied from the new main.

**Q.23. Is any new electrical transmission needed for the Project?**

A.23. Basin Electric is working with MVEC to supply temporary power during construction and essential backup power for the facility during operation. Interconnections to the 230-kV and 345-kV high-voltage transmission system are planned once the Project is operational. The 230-kV interconnect will be two 230-kV lines from the 230/345-kV substation on the Project site to the Wheelock Substation approximately 1.1 miles north of the Project site. The 345-kV interconnect will bisect an existing 345-kV line approximately 1.1 miles south of the Project site. Transmission interconnections will be permitted separately by Basin Electric.

**Q.24. How does the Project's lighting design limit impacts to neighboring properties?**

A.24. The Project requires exterior lighting for the safety of workers and security of the generation site and substation. Exterior lighting will be designed in accordance with Illumination Engineering Society and Occupation Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") recommended illuminance levels. Lights are required in parking areas, on service roads, and on all equipment to allow workers to perform critical maintenance activities that may be necessary at any time. Outdoor lighting fixtures will only be installed where needed for these purposes, and the level of lighting will only be to levels required for those purposes. Light fixtures will be shielded and directed downward to minimize light visible from adjacent properties. Where possible warm-colored lights and lighting controls will be used.

**Q.25. How will Basin Electric limit the Project's noise impacts?**

A.25. Due to the winter weather in this area, most of the equipment for this Project is located indoors, which provides significant noise mitigation for the Project. Main sources of noise for outdoor equipment include transformers, fuel gas heaters, the ACCs, cooling water heat exchangers, the air inlet to the CTG, exhaust stacks, and portions of steam piping located outside the building. Equipment manufacturers are required to meet sound level guarantees for their equipment. To meet those guarantees, manufacturers utilize sound attenuation devices, commonly called silencers, to mitigate sound levels at equipment boundaries and meet the contractually required near-field sound guarantees. Basin Electric has monitored the contractual guarantees to verify equipment sound levels conform to the sound modeling provided in the Application. For a discussion of the sound study completed for the Project, see Erin Fox Dukart's pre-filed testimony. (Dukart Pre-filed Test. at Section III.)

**Q.26. Have any changes been made to the Project since the Application was submitted on March 5, 2025?**

A.26. Yes. The following items have changed due to continued design work for the Project:

- Revised water demand calculations have resulted in an increased maximum water demand for the Project. (Application, Environmental Analysis, Section 4.4.2.5, Docket No. 1.) The time weighted average water use has increased from 52 gpm to 61 gpm and the maximum water demand for Project

operations has increased from 223 gpm to 235 gpm. Basin Electric has coordinated the updated requirements with NWRWD.

- Changes to the planned ancillary equipment, emergency equipment, and temporary work areas. (Application, Introduction, Section 1.1.1, Docket No. 1.)

These include:

- Upon further consideration of mobile equipment used at site during operation of the Project, one 1000-gallon gasoline tank and one 1000-gallon diesel tank will be included instead of using up to three 500-gallon gasoline / diesel storage tanks for fueling site equipment.
- Revised water demand calculations, including fire water demand required to comply with Basin Electric's property insurance provider, have resulted in using a 1,200,000-gallon service water tank with 375,000 gallons reserved for fire water instead of a 1,000,000-gallon service water tank with 300,000 gallons reserved for fire water.
- To reduce Project construction costs and long-term maintenance costs, one 4,000-kW emergency diesel generator will be used instead of two 2,000-kW emergency diesel generators.
- Instead of relying only on temporary trailers for construction administration of the Project, Basin Electric is planning to construct an office building for some construction administration staff. The office building may be converted into long term storage for the facility once the Project is operational. Temporary trailers will still be utilized to supplement the temporary office building.

## **V. Project Construction and Operation**

**Q.27. How will Basin Electric maintain the Project site during and after construction?**

A.27. Basin Electric has hired Burns & McDonnell to perform engineering, procure materials and equipment, and assist with construction management for the Project. Basin Electric has contracted with Ray Farmers Union to provide weed control for the Project site until construction begins. Basin Electric will require all construction contractors to meet Basin Electric's corporate standards. Basin Electric will maintain a presence at the Project site during and after construction.

During construction, contractors will limit ground disturbance to the extent feasible. Erosion control measures such as silt fence, rock checks, flow diverters, mulching, seeding, and mesh fabric overlay will be installed as needed to control runoff into the stormwater ponds. Basin Electric will continue weed control efforts during construction.

After construction, areas temporarily disturbed to facilitate construction will be restored. Restoration activities will include removal of temporary surfacing, replacement of stockpiled topsoil, and reseeded to native grasses. Other reclamation activities include removing and disposing of debris and dismantling temporary facilities.

**Q.28. Briefly describe the construction process.**

A.28. Once initial site grading and deep foundations are complete, concrete foundation work will commence, followed by installation of primary generation equipment and structural steel. Building enclosure, electrical work, auxiliary equipment installation, and interconnecting piping will follow primary equipment and steel erection. The general construction sequence will be completion of common systems and Unit 1, followed by Unit 2, and then final site finishing and restoration of disturbed areas. This construction plan allows for work to be completed in an orderly process from the south side to the north side of the Project site.

**Q.29. Are there any existing pipelines or other infrastructure on the Project site that will need to be relocated?**

A.29. An existing 115-kV transmission line owned and operated by Montana Dakota Utilities (“MDU”) currently crosses the southeast corner of the site. Basin Electric is working with MDU to reroute the line along the east and south edges of the Project site. The reroute is expected to be completed later this year. No existing underground utilities are located on the Project site.

**Q.30. What are the Project’s expected traffic impacts?**

A.30. The Project will be constructed with measures in place to minimize disruption and inconvenience to the public. Possible traffic impacts during construction include transport of large equipment loads to the Project site and increased traffic for

construction workforce. Large loads will be permitted through the North Dakota Highway Department by the equipment suppliers. Basin Electric anticipates equipment suppliers will utilize rail sidings in Wheelock, Epping, and Ray, and over-the-road transport will be limited. Basin Electric met with the North Dakota Department of Transportation (“DOT”) Williston District to discuss adding turn lanes at the intersection of 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW and Highway 2. Temporary traffic, including construction workforce, are not considered in determining the need for turn lanes and traffic during operation of the facility is not expected to warrant turn lanes. However, the DOT is willing to consider adding turn lanes if constructed according to DOT standards and paid for by Basin Electric. Basin Electric has also discussed improving and paving 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue NW from the Project site to Highway 2 with the Wheelock Township Board. Based on these discussions, Basin Electric is pursuing the township road improvements and turn lanes from Highway 2 to support the Project.

**Q.31. What benefits does the Project provide to the local economy?**

A.31. The wages and salaries paid to contractors and workers may provide income for residents and workers in the Project area and the region. Basin Electric’s business expenditures for equipment, energy, fuel, operating supplies, and other products and services will benefit local businesses. Once the power plant is operational, Basin Electric will pay taxes to Williams County, including a production tax per megawatt, based on how much electricity is generated annually, and a capacity tax per megawatt, based on the power plant’s rated capacity annually.

**Q.32. What type of labor force will Basin Electric need for the Project?**

A.32. The construction workforce will consist of different skilled trades, such as electricians, pipefitters, boilermakers, and iron workers, as well as supervision and management of the skilled workers. Local labor will be used to the extent practicable. With the tight labor market conditions in the region and low unemployment rate, it is anticipated that significant numbers of workers would come from outside the area. Overall, Basin Electric expects up to 800 skilled workers and 200 supervision / management on site at peak construction activities in 2027.

**Q.33. What housing provisions are required for this type of workforce?**

A.33. According to a housing study commissioned by Basin Electric, the local real estate market is expected to respond to increased demand, and no anticipated permanent housing impacts are expected. During construction, out-of-town workers are expected to use a combination of rental properties (apartments and rental housing), campgrounds, and lodging facilities within a 60-to-90-minute drive time of the Project site. Basin Electric continues to monitor the local housing and lodging market and is working with potential contractors on strategies for workforce housing. Additionally, Basin Electric is nearly complete with a project at Pioneer Generation Station, located approximately 40 miles from the Project site, which had a peak workforce in August 2024 of approximately 365 skilled workers and 65 supervision / management without any reported housing impacts.

**Q.34. After construction, how many workers are expected to operate the Project?**

A.34. Basin Electric is still finalizing the staffing plan for the Project. The current estimate for the permanent workforce is approximately 50 full-time employees. Contracted services are expected to be used for major maintenance of the equipment, which is expected to occur every two to three years.

**Q.35. Will Basin Electric be prepared if there are emergency situations?**

A.35. Basin Electric and Burns & McDonnell are establishing a site-specific site safety plan for construction. This plan includes an Emergency Action Plan ("EAP") for medical emergencies, fire prevention, hazardous materials, and severe weather conditions. The EAP will include maps, addresses, and contact information for local emergency care hospitals, emergency medical services, fire department, and law enforcement as well as contact information for key Project personnel. Updates to the EAP will be made as potential hazards change as construction progresses. Basin Electric and our contractors will meet with the entities identified in the EAP prior to beginning construction and will provide periodic updates during construction. The site-specific safety plan will be incorporated into any contractor-specific safety plans doing work at the Project site.

**Q.36. How will Basin Electric ensure workforce safety?**

A.36. Safety performance is a prime consideration when selecting contractors for the Project. Basin Electric defines safety performance requirements and responsibilities in each contract and holds the contractor accountable for meeting those obligations. The BGS Safety & Health Program establishes the minimum health and safety standards for how contractors, subcontractors, and agents perform work at the Project site. The BGS Safety & Health Program may exceed the requirements of federal, state, and local regulatory agencies. Additionally, Basin Electric is a founding member of the Energy Coalition for Contractor Safety (“ECCS”) which is administered by the North Dakota Safety Council. Contractors may be required to register with ECCS to ensure documentation of safety and health training. Basin Electric will also conduct regular safety audits for contractors working at the Project site.

**VI. Policy Criteria**

**Q.37. How has Basin Electric maximized potential benefits through the Project’s location, process, and design?**

A.37. Basin Electric performed a detailed siting study to determine the location of facilities by evaluating viable options for fuel supply, transmission interconnection, and available sites for generation to support a project’s scope and schedule while meeting local, state, and federal environmental requirements and minimizing impact to the local population. Basin Electric also conducted a detailed technology assessment to determine the most economical resource when considering capital construction, operations and maintenance, and fuel costs. For a discussion of the resource planning process that identifies the Project need to ensure a reliable generation and transmission system, see Benjamin Hertz’s pre-filed testimony. (Hertz Pre-filed Test. at Section II.)

**Q.38. How has Basin Electric trained or utilized labor available in North Dakota for the general and specialized skills required?**

A.38. Basin Electric has used local firms in developing the Project and compiling the Application, including biological and archeological survey firms, a geotechnical engineering firm, civil engineering firms, and will continue to use local labor to the extent practicable. Based on the construction labor study conducted, Basin Electric expects labor from at least the five states adjacent to North Dakota will be required for

the Project. Due to existing relationships, contractors may also source labor from other areas of the country outside the labor study area.

**Q. 39. Will the Project make use of a primary energy source or raw material located within North Dakota?**

A. 39. The natural gas utilized by this Project will come from an existing WBI Energy pipeline running from Tioga to the Northern Border Interstate Pipeline (“NBPL”) in McKenzie County. This pipeline transports natural gas from WBI’s Tioga Compressor Station to NBPL. Modifications will be made to the NBPL connection to allow natural gas supply from NBPL to also serve the Project. While Basin Electric does not know the origin of the natural gas, it is likely that some of the gas will come from North Dakota sources.

**Q.40. Will any residents be required to relocate due to the Project?**

A.40. No residents will be relocated due to the Project.

**Q.41. What efforts has Basin Electric made to economize the Project’s costs of construction and operation?**

A.41. Basin Electric has an obligation to its member cooperatives to construct facilities in a way that manages costs while maintaining reliability and safety. By selecting this site for the Project, the cost of the infrastructure and transmission interconnections was reduced, thereby minimizing the Project cost. All materials and services are competitively bid by qualified suppliers, and the proximity to rail sidings reduces delivery costs for materials and equipment. The selection of advanced class combustion turbines in a combined-cycle configuration maximizes plant efficiency, resulting in lower fuel costs per electrical output. Basin Electric maintains its own facilities, minimizing the cost of contracted services.

**Q.42. Will a portion of the energy produced by the Project be used in North Dakota?**

A.42. Yes. Benjamin Hertz’s pre-filed testimony discusses the load forecasting process that identifies areas of anticipated load growth in Basin Electric’s service territory. (Hertz Pre-filed Test. at Section II.) The siting study conducted for this Project specifically considered existing and anticipated load growth in Northwest North Dakota identified in the 2024 load forecast. Locating the Project in the same area of the load growth will allow that load to be served in the most economical manner.

Q.43. **What is Basin Electric's approach to labor relations?**

A.43. Basin Electric uses both union and non-union contractors and maintains an equitable and fair relationship with labor unions.

Q.44. **What efforts has Basin Electric made to coordinate facilities with other entities?**

A.44. Basin Electric works closely with Western Area Power Administration ("WAPA"), MDU, and our member systems to share facilities and avoid duplication. Basin Electric meets with WAPA monthly to discuss transmission and generation issues. When issues arise, additional entities are added to these communications.

Q.45. **How does Basin Electric plan to monitor the Project's impacts?**

A.45. Basin Electric will use best management practices during construction to minimize environmental impacts and will monitor construction progress to ensure compliance with commitments made in the Application and any applicable permit conditions. Basin Electric will comply with all local, state, and federal environmental monitoring and reporting regulations.

## VII. **Conclusion**

Q.46. **Based on your knowledge of the Project, will its construction, operation, and maintenance produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and human welfare?**

A.46. Yes. Basin Electric has implemented the Commission's criteria in the Project design, routing, and construction, which ensures the Project will have minimal adverse impacts on the environment and human welfare.

Q.47. **Based on your knowledge of the Project, is it compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?**

A.47. Yes. The Project will be constructed, operated, and maintained in a manner to protect the environment and natural resources.

Q.48. **Based on your knowledge of the Project, will it ensure continuing system reliability and integrity needs are met?**

A.48. Yes. The Project will be a critical component of ensuring local and regional electric reliability.

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Basin Electric Power Cooperative )  
Bison Generation Station - Williams County )  
Siting Application )

Case No: PU-25-086;  
OAH File No. 20250113

**AFFIDAVIT OF  
CHRIS BAUER**

I, the undersigned, being duly sworn, state as follows: (1) I have read the pre-filed testimony and exhibits submitted in the above captioned matters under my name; (2) they were prepared by me or under my direction and I know their contents; and (3) they are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
Chris Bauer

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires:

