



**PU-25-086**  
**Basin Electric Power Cooperative**  
**Bison Generation Station**  
**Construction Inspection Report**

File No. 227708322

September 2026

Prepared for:

**North Dakota Public Service Commission**  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Prepared by:

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## **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) retained Stantec Consulting Services Inc (Stantec) to complete construction inspection(s) during construction of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (i.e. Basin Electric) Bison Generation Station, PU-25-086 (i.e., the Project) in Williams, North Dakota. The purpose of the inspections is to ensure the Project is constructed in compliance with the siting laws and rules and the applicable PSC Orders for the Project, which includes regarding depth of buried utilities and soil segregation, among others.

Construction involving soil disturbance for the Project began August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Stantec was present to observe the commencement of topsoil salvage and stockpiling by Baranko Brothers, Inc. (i.e., Baranko Bros). Project construction was ongoing, with work being done on or within the facility.

Baranko Bros is currently performing various construction activities pertaining to the proposed generation station facility, including, but not limited to, construction of duct banks, piling, substation facilities, and foundations. Basin Electric has a project superintendent present on-site at all times during construction to oversee the general contractor and subcontractors.

This Construction Inspection Report includes documentation of topsoil and subsoil segregation and Best Management Practices (BMP's) during the September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 on-site inspection of the Project. Overall, soil segregation and BMP's within the project area were satisfactory. Given the nuance of this project facility, in contrast to the typical linear energy conversion projects that the PSC's Orders are tailored for, underground lines were not documented as the main transmission line into the facility has not yet been constructed and pipelines within the facility will typically be above ground for processing purposes. The on-site inspection did not reveal any violations of the PSC Order Provisions.



## **2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

Basin Electric is constructing the Bison Generation Station, a proposed 1,490 Megawatt natural gas conversion plant in Williams County North Dakota. The approximately 240-acre site is located in a cultivated field, and contained within private parcels, with two main entrances located off of 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue Northwest.

### **2.2 PURPOSE & SCOPE**

The North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Act (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) authorizes the Public Service Commission to determine that the location, construction, and operation of jurisdictional energy conversion and transmission facilities will produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and the welfare of citizens of North Dakota. Construction inspections aim to ensure that such projects are constructed in compliance with the siting laws (North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-22) and rules (North Dakota Administrative Code Article 69-06) and the applicable PSC Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order (Order). The PSC issued its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order in Case No. PU-25-086 on August 7, 2025, granting Certificate of Site Compatibility No. 71.

The PSC retained Stantec to complete construction inspections of the Project. The inspection process included a review of the Application, the Project's Order, and other applicable documents. The primary intent of the construction inspection was to perform and document on-site conditions during project construction and examine, topsoil segregation, stockpiles, erosional controls, and general construction practices.

### **2.3 INSPECTION METHODOLOGY**

Stantec visually inspected the Project by walking or driving within the Project site in the presence of Basin Electric's on-site representative. During the inspection, work done by contractors/equipment operators was observed to verify that the topsoil and subsoil handling was performed properly as to keep segregated from subsoil. BMP's were also observed in multiple locations around the site to ensure the contractor was sufficiently controlling stormwater erosion and sedimentation within and leaving the site. An iPhone was used to collect photographs during the inspection with the utilization of Arc GIS's Field Maps application for GPS locating and documentation purposes. Location-referenced photographs are provided in Appendix A and Geographical Information System (GIS) generated map(s) of observation locations are provided in Figures 1.

Stantec met with Basin Electric's construction manager, Darrell Slavick, onsite and discussed the PSC order provisions relating to topsoil stripping, segregation, and protection. Stantec was required to go



through security to access the site and was then escorted around the site for the duration of the inspection by Basin Electric's construction manager. Visual inspections were made by Stantec at various locations to confirm adequate topsoils and subsoil handling, and BMP implementation.

## **3.0 INSPECTION RESULTS**

### **3.1 OVERVIEW**

During Stantec's inspection on September 15<sup>th</sup>, the site mass grading had been completed and construction of the generation station facility and subsidiary components were being constructed. At the time of inspection, approximately 500 workers were performing various construction activities across the site. These activities included installation of pilings, foundations, substation construction, duct bank construction, and steel erection of the generation station facility (**Observation Points 8, 9, 10**).

Mr. Twete, Stantec's field inspector, was escorted around the site for the duration of the inspection by Basin Electric's construction manager, Darrell Slavick, as this project is considered high risk due to the number of employees and moving components across the site.

At the time of inspection, a permanent perimeter fence had been installed around the site boundary, with silt fence placed along the outside of the fencing (**Observation Points 7, 13, 14**). The fencing appeared to be placed within the project boundary, which was verified through our GPS practices as described in Section 2.3. To the best of our knowledge, no work was being performed outside of the perimeter fencing.

### **3.2 TOPSOIL SEGREGATION**

Due to the relatively long construction duration of this project in conjunction with it being constricted to a single area, handling of topsoil and subsoil primarily occurred during the early mass grading phase of the project and the site has been constructed to where minimal effort needs to be taken to manage the topsoil further. After the topsoil was stripped across the entire site, a stockpile was created at the northwest corner of the site (**Observation Points 5 & 6**), which was seeded and stabilized at the time of inspection. Similarly, a subsoil stockpile was created at the southeast corner of the site (**Observation Point 11**), which was actively being worked during the inspection and would continue to be for several months, and was therefore not seeded or stabilized. No mixing of topsoils and subsoils was observed during the inspection.

The project entails permanent development on cropland for the facility and topsoil replacement is not expected to occur over the entire project area.



### **3.3 UNDERGROUND UTILITIES**

PSC Order Provisions dictate that all underground lines shall be buried to a depth of at least 48 inches to the top of the lines. Stantec did not observe any buried utilities and was unable to verify the status of underground lines associated with this project.

### **3.4 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

Various Best Management Practices (BMP's) were observed across the site. A permanent sedimentation basin (future retention pond) was constructed adjacent to the topsoil stockpile at the northwest corner of the site (**Observation Point 4**). Various swales, both permanent and temporary, were graded around the site to direct stormwater to this pond to allow for sedimentation to occur before exiting the site. In addition, drainage swales contained a combination of rock ditch checks, straw wattles, and rip rap to minimize erosion within and leaving the site. (**Observation Points 1, 2, 3**). A perimeter silt fence was observed around the site boundary as a final layer of protection.



## **4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

Construction Inspections for PU-25-086 have verified that the Project, overall, is being constructed in compliance with the siting laws, siting rules, and applicable Commission Orders. The project site appears to be set up properly to allow for the anticipated several-year construction process. Although no apparent issues were present during the inspection, Stantec makes the following recommendations:

- Stabilize the large subsoil stockpile at any point where it is determined it will not be actively worked for a period of 14 days or greater.
- Continue implementing BMPs and stockpile protection measures, especially if stockpiles are to be left over winter when spring melting conditions increase soil erosion.



**PU-25-086 BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE  
BISON GENERATION STATION CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION REPORT**

Signature  
September 2026

## 5.0 SIGNATURE

Stantec's Field Inspector and Registered North Dakota Professional Engineer, Jordan Twete prepared this report. The report was reviewed by Stantec's Project Manager and North Dakota Professional Soil Classifier, Matt Retka.

The conclusions in this Report are Stantec's professional opinion, as of the time of the Report, and concerning the scope described in the Report. The opinions in the document are based on conditions and information existing at the time the document was published and do not take into account any subsequent changes. The Report relates solely to the specific project for which Stantec was retained and the stated purpose for which the Report was prepared. The Report is not to be used or relied on for any variation or extension of the project, or for any other project or purpose, and any unauthorized use or reliance is at the recipient's own risk.

Stantec has assumed all information received from the ND PSC and third parties in the preparation of the Report to be correct. While Stantec has exercised a customary level of judgment or due diligence in the use of such information, Stantec assumes no responsibility for the consequences of any error or omission contained therein.

This Report is intended solely for use by the ND PSC in accordance with Stantec's contract with the ND PSC. While the Report may be provided to applicable authorities having jurisdiction and others for whom the ND PSC is responsible, Stantec does not warrant the services to any third party. The report may not be relied upon by any other party without the express written consent of Stantec, which may be withheld at Stantec's discretion.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Matt Retka  
Project Manager  
Senior Soil Scientist

September 30, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jordan Twete  
Project Inspector  
Civil Engineer

September 24, 2025  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



# **FIGURES**

**Figure 1: Construction Observation Locations Map**

U:\2277\22770832\03\_data\gis\proj\ND\_PU\_25\_86\ND\_PU\_25\_86.aprx Revised: 2026-09-24 By: bschafmeyer



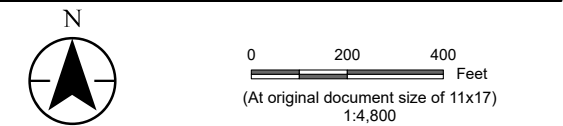
Figure No.  
**1**  
Title  
**Construction Observation Locations**

Client/Project  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
PU-25-086 - Bison Generation Station

227708322

Project Location  
T156N, R98W, S20  
Williams Co., ND

Prepared by BS on 2026-09-24



Legend  
 Project Area (PU-25-086)  
● Construction Observation Point Location



Notes  
1. Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 13N  
2. Data Sources: NDGIS  
3. Background: NAIP 2025 Imagery



# **APPENDIX A**

## **Observation Point Photolog**

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**



**Observation Point: 1**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:40 AM

Direction Photo is Taken: South

Photo Description: Straw waddles and rip rap installed along the ditch adjacent to the eastern project boundary.

Latitude: 48.32784839642889

Longitude: -103.30344219754224



**Observation Point: 2**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:43 AM

Direction Photo is Taken: East

Photo Description: Rock ditch checks installed along the drainage swale for water exiting the site into the eastern drainage ditch.

Latitude: 48.3266169886912

Longitude: -103.30486650142994

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 3</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:46 AM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: West</p> <p>Photo Description: Straw waddles placed along the upslope side of the central roadway embankment.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32666359497431<br/>Longitude: -103.308013439612</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 4</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:48 AM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: North</p> <p>Photo Description: Stormwater sedimentation basin/retention pond location.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32657340155336<br/>Longitude: -103.3142316730335</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 5</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:51 AM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: Northwest</p> <p>Photo Description: Seeded topsoil stockpile.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32657462862308<br/>Longitude: -103.31499462483733</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 6</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:53 AM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: Northwest</p> <p>Photo Description: Seeded topsoil stockpile contained within site fence.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32668862298344<br/>Longitude: -103.31906303776903</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**



**Observation Point: 7**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 11:54 AM

Direction Photo is Taken: South

Photo Description: Permanent fencing placed along western perimeter.

Latitude: 48.32625422503967

Longitude: -103.3191688358313



**Observation Point: 8**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:01 PM

Direction Photo is Taken: East

Photo Description: Overview of generation station under construction.

Latitude: 48.32251158689824

Longitude: -103.31324827912233

## PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <p><b>Observation Point: 9</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:04 PM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: West</p> <p>Photo Description: Overview of laydown yard to the west of generation station location.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32272450088192<br/>Longitude: -103.31331882806039</p>               |
|   | <p><b>Observation Point: 10</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:07 PM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: South</p> <p>Photo Description: Overview of generation station from north side.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32593836344959<br/>Longitude: -103.31235573164608</p>                                  |
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 11</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:11 PM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: Southeast</p> <p>Photo Description: Active subsoil stockpile intended for filling site when building is complete.</p> <p>Latitude: 48.32241852648943<br/>Longitude: -103.3086743833162</p> |

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**



**Observation Point: 12**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:14 PM

Direction Photo is Taken: West

Photo Description: Primary water pipeline feeding site.

Latitude: 48.32247453805265

Longitude: -103.30396874551326



**Observation Point: 13**

Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:20 PM

Direction Photo is Taken: West

Photo Description: South side perimeter fencing.

Latitude: 48.32077113017087

Longitude: -103.30326726804404

**PU-25-86 (Bison Generation Station): Observation Point Photolog**

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>Observation Point: 14</b><br/>Date Taken: September 15, 2026 12:22 PM<br/>Direction Photo is Taken: West<br/><br/>Photo Description: North side perimeter fencing.<br/><br/>Latitude: 48.32802791858808<br/>Longitude: -103.30539063100476</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|