

Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart and Kringstad

From: Victor Schock – Director of Public Utilities



Date: September 16, 2025

Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Temporary Construction Variance, Siting Temporary Approval, Case No. PU-25-253

On September 12, 2025, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) filed an expedited request for approval of a temporary variance for construction activities under North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) section 49-22-25.

On August 12, 2009, the Commission issued a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the PrairieWinds ND1 Project in Ward County, North Dakota in Case No. PU-08-75.

Basin intends to repower the Prairie Winds Project in 2026. However, Basin also recognizes that an amended application for its Certificate of Site Compatibility is necessary due to the megawatt limitation in the original Order and the changing impacts as a result of the repower project.

Basin intends to submit an amended application in early 2026 and would not begin the repower project until it has received approval from the Commission on that application.

In this temporary construction variance application, Basin proposes to add approximately four inches of aggregate to the existing access road surfaces during 2025 in order to take advantage of the limited construction season in North Dakota. They would only be adding the aggregate to existing roads and would not be widening or otherwise modifying any roads or conducting any other construction activities.

Staff believes Basin's variance request is appropriate given the provisions of NDCC 49-22-25 and the very limited scope of Basin's planned 2025 construction activities.