

# Memorandum

To: Commissioners Christmann, Haugen-Hoffart and Kringstad

From: Chris Hanson – Public Utilities Analyst

Date: June 1, 2026

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

On May 7, 2026, 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.

On September 12, 2025, Basin filed a request for a temporary construction variance requesting approval to add aggregate to road surfaces in preparation for its anticipated 2026 repower of the PrairieWinds facilities.

On May 1, 2026, in Case No. PU-26-164, Basin filed an application to remove and replace its 1.5-MW GE turbines with 1.6-MW turbines along with 97-meter rotor blades, hubs and gearboxes. Existing towers, foundations, and turbine locations will be reused.

In this temporary construction variance application, Basin proposes to widen roads and approaches to allow long, oversized deliveries to the turbine locations. Basin additionally requests permission to grade temporary workspaces to accommodate material delivery and crane pad setup.

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 2026 construction activities.