



Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Wheelock and Tande to Saskatchewan 230 kV Transmission
Line, Divide, Mountrail, and Williams Counties

Case No. PU-25-283/284

Topsoil Removal Inspection Report

73 PU-25-283 Filed 07/24/2026 Pages: 25
Topsoil Inspection Report

SEH - Short Elliot Hendrickson Inc.
Loretta A. Marshik, PE



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July 21st, 2026

RE: Case No. PU-25-283/284
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Wheelock and Tande to Saskatchewan
230 kV Power Transmission Line, Burke,
Mountrail, and Williams Counties
Topsoil Removal Inspection Report

Mr. Christopher Hanson – Project Manager
Analyst - North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Hanson:

Attached is the Topsoil Removal Inspection Report for the above referenced project. This report includes the following:

1. Executive Summary
2. Inspection Report
3. Appendix A – Photo Location Map
4. Appendix B - Photographs

Sincerely,

Loretta A. Marshik, PE
Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.
905 Tacoma Ave., Suite 2
Bismarck, ND 58504



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Page 1 of 1

Date:	Inspection - 07/09/2026, Report - 07/16/2026
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Project: PU-24-283/284 Wheelock & Tande - Saskatchewan 230 kV Tran
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A topsoil stripping inspection was performed to document Basin Electric Power Cooperatives means and methods for segregating topsoil and stripping operations, as well as erosion control measures. Inspector documented equipment on site, erosion control measures in use, which was not used during inspection, as crew will be replacing topsoil for this phase before stabilization is required. Inspector documented topsoil stripping effectiveness by checking depths using a tape measure (See P3), and by observing the distances between spoil and topsoil piles, proximity of spoil pile to edge of stripped spoil mat, and visual documentation of soil layer changes.

There were no sub soil changes at the structure site visited (Structure 12), as the spoil mat covered a relatively small footprint.

There were no observed animals on the site during work operations, save for bugs like mosquitoes, flies, and a few honeybees.

From the work that was completed on site, the contractor had a solid grasp on the means and methods for stripping and storing topsoil.

ISSUES REQUIRING RESOLUTION: Inspector noticed that contractor underestimated the amount of spoil that would come out of the foundation bore hole, as excavated material got close to topsoil pile (within 10') and the spoil mat that had been stripped was completely filled, with some materials starting to edge into the undisturbed grass. (See P12)

Inspector also observed material displaced during auger drilling operations was projected beyond the limits of the designated spoil mat. In several locations, augur shake-off deposited subsoil onto adjacent undisturbed surface conditions outside the spoil containment area, contributing to the topsoil mixing and contamination concerns.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION(S): Inspector recommends expanding the spoil mats by at least 5' in all directions, and storing topsoil further away from the stripped spoil mat.

Upon Inspection, the site appears to follow the means and methods discussed with the inspector and meets the construction and Commission siting rules, laws, and applicable Orders except those listed above.

Inspector's Signature



Daily Construction Observation Report

Job No./file
NDPSC 191735

Date
07/09/2026

Project: Wheelock and Tande to Saskatchewan 230kV Transmission Line

Location: Wheelock station

RPR Name: Dalton Jorgenson

Start Time: 11:28 AM

End Time: 4:30 PM

Morning Weather: Partly Cloudy

Afternoon Weather: Sunny

Temp. (F): High 87 Low 60

Rainfall (in):

Utility Conflicts: No

Overall Comments:

Prime Contractor: Brink

Foreman Name: Zack Borgen

of Crews: 7

Equipment Onsite: Skidsteers, excavators, cranes, loaders

Contractor Notes:

Observations

Time: 5:30 PM

Description: Means and methods

Comments: Crew is using a skid steer to strip topsoil for spoil pile location.

Time: 2:40 PM

Description: Means and methods

Comments: After stripping a spoil mat for subsoils, the crews operation consists of the excavator boring material and dumping it onto the spoil mat where the skid steer then pushes it into a more uniform pile. As needed the skid steer strips more topsoil to make the spoil mat bigger.

Time: 4:03 PM

Description: PPE on site

Comments: Contractor PPE consists of high visibility vests, hard hats, safety glasses, safety toe footwear, personal fall arrest systems, ear protection, leather gloves, and to protect from the heat, crew distributes water bottles to workers to maintain hydration.

Time: 4:08 PM

Description: Contractor correspondence

Comments: Spoke with Zack Borgen about timeline for spoil pile removal and replacement of topsoil above spoil mat. He told me the plan was for the crew to truck the spoil off site tomorrow morning as a different contractor wants the material. Topsoil should be replaced at that time, negating the need for stabilization.

Time: 4:12 PM

Description: Means and methods/site safety

Comments: Crew is wearing ear protection that has a built in headset so laborers and operators can effectively communicate with one another in real time with clarity.

Time: 4:13 PM

Description: Site safety

Comments: At 1300, one of the contractor's foremen came around and had me sign the job site hazard acknowledgment form.

Time: 4:20 PM

Description: Recommendations

Comments: Overall, site meets the siting laws, findings of fact and conclusions of law and order, with the following recommendations: for future spoil piles and mats, plan on stripping topsoil an extra 10-15' wide to ensure material doesn't spill onto native ground.

Time: 4:25 PM

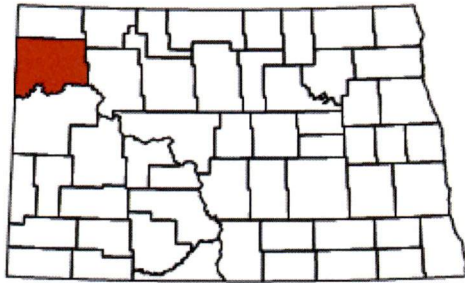
Description: Pollution prevention

Comments: Concrete trucks will have a metal container at the access approach for structure 12 tomorrow for wash out purposes.

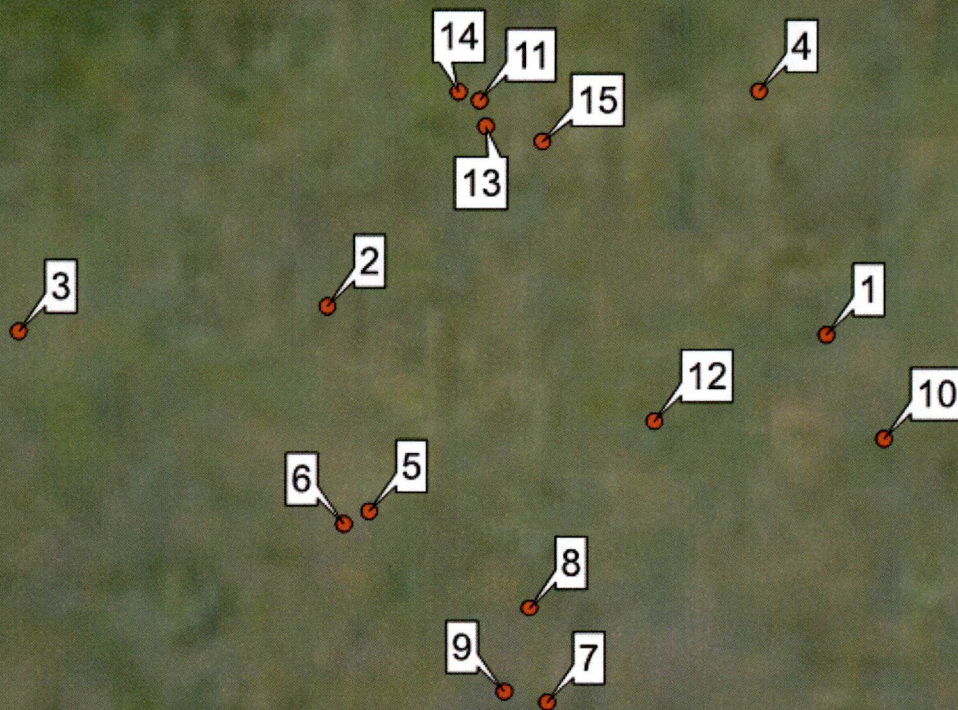
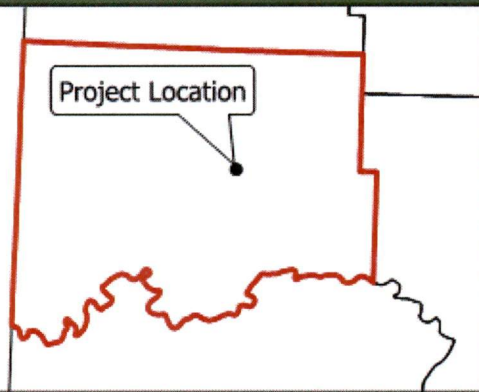
Appendix A

Photo Location Map

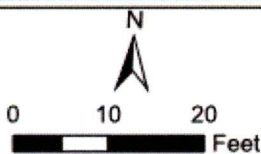
Williams County



Project Location



Path: X:\KON\NDPSC\191735\5-final-dsgn\51-drawing\60-GIS\NDPSC\191735_SaskatchewanBasinElec230kV.aprx



Project: NDPSC 191051
Print Date: 7/21/2026

Map by: tschwarz
Projection: NAD 1983 State Plane
North Dakota N (US Feet)
Source: USDA & SEH Inc.

WHELOCK AND TANDE TO SASKATCHEWAN 230 kV TRANSMISSION LINE

Figure
1

This map is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey map and is not intended to be used as one. This map is a compilation of records, information, and data gathered from various sources based on this map and is to be used for reference purposes only. SEH does not warrant that the Geographic Information System (GIS) Data used to prepare this map are error free, and SEH does not represent that the GIS Data can be used for navigational, tracking, or any other purpose requiring exacting measurement of distance or direction or precision in the depiction of geographic features. The user of this map acknowledges that SEH shall not be liable for any damages which arise out of the user's access or use of data provided.

Appendix B

Photos



INSPECTOR'S DIARY

Page 1 of 1

Date: 07/16/26

Project: PU-24-283/284 Wheelock & Tande - Saskatchewan 230 kV Tran. Line	Contractor or Sub: Brink Construction
Photo Description:	
Photo Name:	Description:
P1 - Means and Methods: topsoil stripping	
P2 - Means and Methods: topsoil stripping	
P3 - Topsoil Depth Check: 8"	
P4 - Equipment: JLG SKYTRACK LOADER	
P5 - Equipment: CAT 336 Excavator with 3' and 9' Augur Attachments	
P6 - Equipment: CAT 289D3 Skidsteer	
P7 - Means and Methods: Topsoil Storage methods	
P8 - Site Safety: Construction Cordon	
P9 - Construction Activity: Boring	
P10 - Means and Methods: Spoil Mat Expansion	
P11 - Construction Activity: Larger Boring Activities	
P12 - Possible Issue: Potential Segregation Loss	
P13 - Site Safety: Crew PPE	
P14 - Means and Methods: Strike-off Chisel	
P15 - Site Safety: Cordon	
 *See attached Photo Layout Map with location of each photo (P1-P15), and attached pages of photos	

Dalton Jorgenson

Inspector's Signature

Item Records

Location: Structure spoil pile

Point Number: 1

Photo Number: 1

Time: 11:40 AM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Stripping operations



Location: Structure 12 spoil pile

Point Number: 2

Photo Number: 2

Time: 11:43 AM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Topsoil layer change evidence, top soil is dark brown, while subsoil is a lighter brown.



Location: Structure 12 spoil pile

Point Number: 3

Photo Number: 3

Time: 11:46 AM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Topsoil depth check of spoil pile: 8"



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 4

Photo Number: 4

Time: 12:55 PM

Direction Facing: SW

Notes: JLG SKYTRAK LOADER 10054 loading small augur bit onto the EX 90 attachment for the excavator to begin pilot hole boring.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 5

Photo Number: 5

Time: 12:57 PM

Direction Facing: N

Notes: CAT 336 excavator with EX90 augur attachment carrying a 3' diameter bore augur. 9' augur will be used once pilot hole is made.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 6

Photo Number: 6

Time: 12:59 PM

Direction Facing: NW

Notes: CAT 289D3 skid steer that was used to prep spoil pile mat.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 7

Photo Number: 7

Time: 1:01 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Topsoil storage pile. Material to be replaced once spoil is hauled off site, inspector to monitor spoil pile to ensure no mixing of soils.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 8

Photo Number: 8

Time: 1:02 PM

Direction Facing: NW

Notes: Crew using delineators and cattle fence to denote cordoned area of swing radius of excavator.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 9

Photo Number: 9

Time: 1:06 PM

Direction Facing: NW

Notes: Crew dumping spoil on prepped spoil mat. New subsoil layer is light brown



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 10

Photo Number: 10

Time: 1:31 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Skid steer operator stripping more topsoil to extend spoil mat area for spoil material.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 11

Photo Number: 11

Time: 1:37 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Crew switches to 9' augur and begins drilling pier hole. Subsoil is a light brown loam with lots of rocks in it.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 12

Photo Number: 12

Time: 2:50 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Spoil pile is getting closer to topsoil storage pile. Crew should consider expanding spoil mat to account for extra material or move storage pile further away.



Location: Structure 12

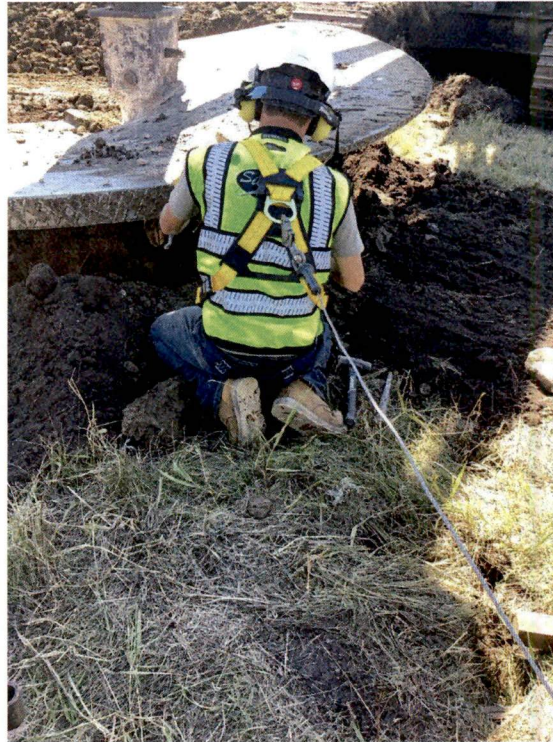
Point Number: 13

Photo Number: 13

Time: 3:02 PM

Direction Facing: SW

Notes: SITE SAFETY: laborer is wearing a personal fall arrest system (PFAS) while clearing spoil from 9' augur bit.



Location: Structure 12 bore hole

Point Number: 14

Photo Number: 14

Time: 3:06 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Crew uses a chisel piece slotted into the edge of the 9' augur to screed off built up material from the rim of the pier hole.



Location: Structure 12

Point Number: 15

Photo Number: 15

Time: 3:18 PM

Direction Facing: W

Notes: Crew finishes for day at 1619. They cordon off the bore hole with cattle fence and plan on putting in rebar and forms tomorrow, with concrete scheduled for 1200.





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Sustainable buildings, sound infrastructure, safe transportation systems, clean water, renewable energy and a balanced environment. Building a Better World for All of Us communicates a companywide commitment to act in the best interests of our clients and the world around us.

We're confident in our ability to balance these requirements.

