

Exhibit 13

Summary of Avoidance and Minimization Measures

North Plains Connector LLC
North Plains Connector Transmission Line Project
PU-26-82

Resource	Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Commitments
Land Use	• Project routed in coordination with landowners, agencies, and other stakeholders. • North Plains has obtained local zoning permits for the Project from all North Dakota counties and Havelock Township. • The Project will comply with applicable setbacks and other federal, state, and local siting requirements.
Communications	• The Project will be designed to operate within industry standard limits with respect to radio and television, and North Plains will monitor and address any impacts, should they arise.
Transportation and Infrastructure	• Project routed to avoid impacts to public airports and private airstrips. • North Plains will enter into road use agreements with applicable road authorities and will secure required road-related permits. • North Plains is coordinating with railroad companies and other infrastructure owners regarding crossing agreements. • North Plains has or is in the process of executing interconnection agreements to facilitate Project interconnection to the electric grid. • North Plains developed a Traffic and Transportation Management Plan that outlines measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts to traffic and transportation from construction-related activities (see Attachment K to the Construction, Mitigation, and Reclamation Plan (“CMRP”), provided in Appendix G of the Consolidated Application). • North Plains will comply with North Dakota One-Call requirements.
Cultural Resources	• As part of the federal agencies’ compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (“NHPA”) in the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process, the Project is subject to a Programmatic Agreement that sets an agreed-upon process for identifying, evaluating, and resolving potential impacts on historic and Tribal cultural resources. • Physical disturbance of cultural resource site boundaries will be avoided during construction by maintaining a buffer around site boundaries via flagging, fencing, or other appropriate methods. Where avoidance of a site boundary is not possible, North Plains will implement measures to ensure the sensitive features within the site are avoided, including fencing and monitoring by a qualified archeologist or Tribal Cultural Specialist during construction; installing construction mats for driving heavy equipment; or other treatment options developed under the Programmatic Agreement. • North Plains will implement a Post Review Discovery Plan, in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Offices and other agencies, which will address procedures and protections in the event a previously unidentified resource is encountered during construction.

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Public Lands, Easements and Recreational Areas	• North Plains coordinated with federal land-managing agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”), regarding Project routing. Federal agency requirements, including USFS requirements, have been incorporated in the permitting authorizations for federal lands, and resource-specific protection measures identified by the federal land agencies are incorporated into the Project’s CMRP. • North Plains coordinated with the North Dakota Department of Trust Lands (“NDDTL”) regarding routing across State Trust Land parcels. North Plains will secure easements through the NDDTL process following completion of key permitting processes. • North Plains has coordinated with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (“NDGFD”) regarding routing across parcels enrolled in the Private Lands Open to Sportsman (“PLOTS”) program and has agreed to the following measures to minimize potential impacts: ○ North Plains will limit construction activities on PLOTS parcels during the hunting season (September through December) to the extent practicable. ○ If construction or operations activities occur during the hunting season (September through December), North Plains will not restrict hunting access on PLOTS parcels outside of the immediate construction zone when construction personnel are present and construction is active. ○ In the event construction activities overlap with PLOTS public entry points, North Plains will ensure designated parking and entry points are not encumbered, or alternate points of entry are facilitated. ○ During the construction phase, North Plains will deploy signage at PLOTS parcel entry points noticing the public of construction activities located on the parcel. ○ If the construction corridor and associated Project construction activities limit public access to the rest of the PLOTS parcel during the hunting period, North Plains will work with NDGFD to offset access to PLOTS land. Mitigation may include a contribution of funds to the PLOTS program commensurate with acres of lost access at the associated rental rate of the affected PLOTS easement agreement.
Geological and Soil Resources	• There is no reasonable alternative but for the Project Route to cross areas of landslide deposits. Project structures will span unstable areas to avoid direct impacts and North Plains is performing geotechnical investigations to determine site-specific soil conditions and design structure foundations accordingly. • North Plains will prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (“SWPPP”) in accordance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (“NPDES”) Stormwater

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	Construction General Permit administered by the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality (“NDDEQ”). North Plains will reclaim and revegetate disturbed areas following construction in accordance with the CMRP, landowner agreements, and applicable permit requirements.
Water Resources	- North Plains conducted field surveys to delineate wetlands and waterbodies in areas that would be impacted by Project construction activities. - Transmission structures and Project workspace have been sited to avoid or minimize impacts to wetlands and waterbodies. - The Project Route crosses two state navigable waters, the Heart and Cannonball Rivers, and one state scenic river, the Little Missouri River. The Project has been designed to span all three rivers and transmission structures have been sited to avoid placement within the rivers. No travel through the rivers (except on existing roads) will occur during construction or operation of the Project. - North Plains will implement construction best management plans (“BMPs”) outlined in the CMRP to minimize the potential for rutting and sedimentation in wetlands and waterbodies, including compliance with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (“USACE”) Section 404 Nationwide Permit requirements, NDDEQ Section 401 Water Quality Certificate conditions, and NDDEQ NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit requirements. - The Project is not anticipated to adversely impact access to or supply of groundwater resources in the region, and is not anticipated to affect Source Water Protection Areas or existing water wells. - The Project has been designed to avoid placement of permanent facilities within the 100-year floodplain by spanning the designated floodplain area, with the exception of one location in Morton County. North Plains has coordinated with Morton County regarding the planned structure placement, and will obtain a floodplain permit from Morton County prior to construction.
Vegetation	- North Plains will comply with the North Dakota Public Service Commission’s Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, subject to a request to expand the width of clearing during construction (to allow adequate workspace) and during operations (to maintain adequate clearance and ensure safe operation and reliability). - North Plains will reclaim and revegetate disturbed areas following construction in accordance with the CMRP, landowner agreements, and applicable permit requirements. - Restoration will use pollinator-friendly and weed-free seed mixes that include native plants with a high forb-to-grass ratio, identified in coordination with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (“NRCS”) and state and federal land-managing agencies, where applicable.

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Threatened and Endangered Species	• <i>General:</i> ○ North Plains conducted numerous field surveys and assessments for Endangered Species Act (“ESA”) listed, proposed, or under review for listing species (see Table 6.11.1-1 of the Consolidated Application). ○ The Project is subject to review under Section 7 of the ESA, which involves a robust evaluation of each listed, proposed, and under review species that may occur in the vicinity of the Project and appropriate species-specific conservation measures. • <i>Northern Long-Eared Bats (“NLEB”) and Little Brown Bats (within occupied summer habitat):</i> ○ Avoid tree felling within 1.5 miles of a NLEB or Little Brown Bat acoustic detection during the active bat season (April 15 to October 31) for NLEB and pup season (June 1 to August 15) for Little Brown Bats. ▪ If tree felling must occur in select areas within 1.5 miles of an acoustic detection within the Project workspace or right-of-way during the pup season, North Plains will conduct presence/probable absence mist netting and telemetry surveys (to the extent practicable) to identify maternity roosts and implement a 150-foot avoidance buffer from occupied roost trees. ○ Prior to construction, North Plains may assess bridges within 0.25 mile of the Project workspace or right-of-way in occupied habitat for summer roost suitability, in accordance with USFWS survey guidelines. If a bridge is found to be occupied, North Plains will avoid tree felling and bridge repair within 0.25 mile of the bridge during the pup season. If a bridge is unoccupied, the pup season restriction would not apply. ○ Avoid burning and blasting activities within 0.25 mile of occupied bridges during the pup season when maternity roosts may be present; develop site-specific blasting plans if blasting is proposed within 0.5 mile of occupied bridges. • <i>Dakota Skipper:</i> ○ Within reproductive and foraging habitat in North Dakota: ▪ Apply construction mats to avoid ground disturbance in temporary workspaces, where practicable, in Oliver, Morton, and Grant counties (subject to construction safety considerations). ▪ Prioritize water, soy-based, or other non-chemical dust suppressant during construction. ▪ After construction within Dakota skipper reproductive habitats, restore vegetative cover with a certified weed-free seed mix that includes native plants with a high forb-to-grass ratio. ○ Within occupied habitat:

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	▪ Avoid construction in Dakota skipper reproductive habitat during the adult flight period (June 10 to July 25). ▪ Avoid burning brush piles within 0.6 mile of reproductive habitat during the adult flight period. ▪ Minimize herbicide and pesticide use within occupied reproductive and foraging habitat year-round. Where necessary within these areas, North Plains will conduct targeted (e.g., spot) herbicide and pesticide application outside the adult flight period to avoid impacts during construction and O&M activities. • <i>Whooping Crane:</i> ○ If whooping cranes are sighted during Project construction or O&M activities, work within a 1-mile radius will cease until the cranes have left the area and North Plains will notify the USFWS of the sighting. ○ During construction, lower or mark for visibility any equipment over 15 feet tall when not in use, at night, or during low visibility conditions. ○ Install bird flight diverters on optical power ground wire (“OPGW”) within 1 mile of suitable habitat within the 50 and 75 percent bands of the migration corridor in North Dakota to minimize the likelihood of collision with OPGW during Project operation. ○ Ensure all Project staff and contractors working on-site participate in an environmental awareness training program that includes proper identification, response protocol, and reporting of whooping cranes. Provide pamphlets or identification guides to operations staff and contractors while conducting work on-site during the migration seasons.
Other Wildlife Species	• <i>Eagles/Raptors:</i> ○ North Plains will conduct raptor nest surveys prior to Project construction. ○ North Plains will implement avian conservation commitments referenced in the CMRP to minimize potential impacts to eagles, raptors, and other avian species, including preparation of an Eagle Management Plan and Migratory Bird Treaty Act (“MBTA”) Compliance Plan for Project construction, and Avian Protection Plan for Project operations. ○ North Plains will continue coordination with USFWS regarding development of the Project’s Eagle Management Plan, and eagle nest disturbance permits (if needed). • <i>Greater Sage-Grouse and Sharp-Tailed Grouse:</i> ○ For the 13 leks where Project structures are sited within potential sharp-tailed grouse nesting habitat, North Plains has developed proposed measures to minimize potential impacts in coordination with the NDGFD:

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	▪ North Plains will restrict construction activity in grasslands within 1 mile of each sharp-tailed grouse lek between March 15 to July 15. North Plains may continue ongoing work within a given lek buffer during this period if construction activity began prior to March 15; however, no new construction will be initiated within buffers that remain undisturbed at the start of the lekking and nesting season. North Plains will not apply the timing restriction within non-grasslands, such as croplands, since croplands do not provide suitable nesting habitat. ▪ If adherence to the March 15 to July 15 activity restriction is not possible within a specific lek buffer, North Plains would avoid construction activity within 0.25 mile of the lek from 30 minutes before sunrise until 10 a.m. between March 15 and May 1 to minimize disturbance to lekking grouse, prohibit blasting within 1 mile of the lek between March 15 and July 15, and monitor for sharp-tailed grouse presence during construction activities within the buffer. Potential activities that may warrant this exception include mandatory compliance-related and/or minimally disturbing activities such as site inspections, equipment retrieval, and installing or fixing erosion control measures. ▪ If greater schedule flexibility and/or more involved construction activities are necessary within a particular lek buffer, North Plains would minimize Project impacts within the lekking and nesting seasons as follows: • Between March 15 and May 1, North Plains would avoid construction activities within 0.25 mile of the lek from 30 minutes before sunrise to 10 a.m. to minimize disturbance to lekking sharp-tailed grouse. Construction may proceed within 0.25 mile of the lek after 10 a.m. during the lekking season. • Between May 1 and July 15, North Plains would conduct nest clearance surveys on grasslands within the potential construction area plus a 100-foot buffer to minimize impacts to nesting sharp-tailed grouse. If nest clearance surveys confirm nesting grouse are not present, construction would proceed within the surveyed area. • <i>General:</i> ○ North Plains will implement the measures outlined in the CMRP to minimize wildlife impacts, including limiting disturbance to approved workspaces, using environmental awareness training, employing on-site biological monitors, and applying seasonal and spatial restrictions in sensitive or occupied habitats such as grouse lek buffers.