

# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE MONITORING PROGRAM

WEEKLY SUMMARY REPORT NO. 1

# NORTH BAKKEN EXPANSION PROJECT

**DOCKET NOS.:** CP 20-52-000 AND CP 20-52-001 FOR THE PERIOD: JULY 27 THROUGH AUGUST 7, 2021

On June 1, 2021, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) published an Order Issuing Certificate (Certificate) to WBI Energy Transmission, Inc. (WBI) to construct and operate pipeline and ancillary facilities in Burke, McKenzie, Mountrail, and Williams Counties, North Dakota for the North Bakken Expansion Project (Project).

WBI agreed to fund an Environmental Compliance Monitoring Program during construction of the Project. This report provides a summary of the FERC Compliance Monitors' construction review for this reporting period. The Compliance Monitors are responsible for reviewing WBI's construction activities and documenting compliance with the FERC Certificate.

This report includes activities that occurred over an almost two-week period from July 27, 2021 to August 7, 2021. The compliance program and reporting was being initiated during the last week of July, and as such, this report covers a period extending beyond one week. The scope of subsequent summary reports will be limited to one week unless otherwise directed by the FERC staff. During this reporting period, the Compliance Monitors issued twenty-six (26) Daily Monitoring Reports consisting of fifteen (15) Acceptable Reports and eleven (11) Communication Reports. No Noncompliance or Problem Area Reports were issued during this reporting period. No Level 1 and twelve (12) Level 2 variance requests were approved for the Project during this reporting period. A tabular summary of the daily compliance reports and approved variances are presented below.

SUMMARY OF COMPLIANCE MONITOR REPORTS AND APPROVED VARIANCES FOR THE NORTH BAKKEN EXPANSION PROJECT					
Compliance Level	Number of Reports and Variances for this Reporting Period	Cumulative Number of Reports and Variances			
Acceptable	15	15			
Communication	11	11			
Problem Area	0	0			
Noncompliance	0	0			
Serious Violation	0	0			
Approved Level 1 Variances	0	0			
Approved Level 2 Variances	12	12			
Total Reports and Variances	38	38			

During this reporting period, two full-time Compliance Monitors conducted inspections documenting compliance with the Project's environmental requirements along the Project's right-of-way. The Compliance Monitors coordinated with WBI's Environmental Inspectors (EIs) to inspect and discuss issues, planned and ongoing construction activities, review areas subject to variance requests, and clarify interpretations of the Project requirements. The activities of the Compliance Monitors were directed by the Compliance Manager, who coordinated with FERC staff as well as with WBI's field management and support staff.



## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES**

The Compliance Monitors inspected various activities in progress along the Project, including:

- Elkhorn Creek Compressor Station Grading; ground preparation; erosion control device installation and maintenance; variance request review;
- Line Section 25 Loop (MP 0-20.3) land surveys; staking and mowing; installation of temporary erosion controls; variance request reviews;
- Line Section 30 Loop (MP 0-9.6) grading; stringing; variance request review; installation of temporary erosion controls;
- Tioga Compressor Lateral (MP 0 0.5) variance request review;
- Tioga Compressor Station commencement of construction; ground preparation; installation of temporary erosion controls;
- Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline Spread 1 (MP 0 23.0) Mobilization of crews for horizontal directional drill (HDD); installation of temporary erosion control devices; topsoil grading and stripping; pipeline delivery; land surveys; mowing;
- Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline Spread 2 (MP 23.0 62.8) variance request review;
- Tioga Plant Receipt Station installation of temporary erosion controls; grading; trenching; stringing; mobilization of bore and welding crews;
- Section 25 Uprates Pipeline (MP 0.0 to 0.5)- no activity;
- *Norse Transfer Station no activity;*
- *Robinson Station no activity;*
- Springbrook Station no activity;
- Lignite Plant and Border Stations no activity;
- Elkhorn to Northern Border Interconnect Pipeline (MP 0-0.3) no activity; and
- Williston-Tioga-Minot Re-route (MP 0-0.2) re-route; backfill; rough clean-up.

The Compliance Monitors also inspected construction activities at a laydown yard.



## **COMMUNICATION REPORTS**

Communication reports provide documentation of relevant meetings between the FERC Compliance Monitor and landowners, agency staff, Project representatives, environmental inspectors, and others. The two (2) communication reports below present compliance-related information for keeping this weekly summary report relevant to current Project activities. Nine (9) communication reports detailing variance requests are not included.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNICATION REPORTS FOR THE NORTH BAKKEN EXPANSION PROJECT						
Compliance Level/Report Number	Date Issued	Location (Spread/ Facility/ Milepost [MP]/ County/State)	Follow-up Required (Yes or No)	Description		
TiogaCompressor Station_31Jul2021_HT1	7/31/2021	Tioga Compressor Station MP 0.0	No	Construction of the Tioga Compressor Station commenced in Williams County, North Dakota. Ground preparation and installation of temporary erosion controls were complete. Crews were in the process of preparing molds for concrete placement at the building and at foundations for piping and operating instruments. During the inspection, the Compliance Monitor noted two oil containers and a bucket of lubricant stored next to a fuel tank outside of secondary containment. The Compliance Monitor notified the Lead EI. Following this communication, corrective actions were immediately implemented and the containers were then stored adequately per the Project's Implementation Plan. Fire extinguishers and spill kits were also located nearby and made available for deployment in the event of a spill. No other issues were observed during the inspection		
LineSection 25 Loop_03Aug2021_HT2	8/3/2021	Line Section 25 Loop MP 6.0	No	The Lead EI issued a non-compliance report for construction activities outside of the approved workspaces along the south side of an access road from 74th Street NW to the right-of-way at approximate MP 6.0 of the Line Section 25 Loop, in Williams County, North Dakota. Because of confusion with land survey stakes, clearing crews inadvertently mowed approximately 6 feet along the south side of an approved access road. No trees were removed and there was no disturbance below the ground surface. On August 12, 2021, WBI notified the Compliance Team that the non-compliance was changed to a problem area. The Lead EI indicated that the area mowed extended along the length of the road as originally approved. WBI plans to submit a future variance request to utilize the road for temporary access using the area already affected by mowing, once landowner approval is obtained and the internal WBI variance process is complete. In the meantime, the road was posted as non-approved and		



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				is not being utilized for construction access until the variance request is submitted and approved by the FERC. The Compliance Monitor advised the Lead EI that the variance request for that purpose would likely be a Level 2.	



# PROBLEM AREA AND NONCOMPLIANCE REPORTS

Problem area reports record an observation where an area or activity does not meet the definition of acceptable, but is not considered a noncompliance.

Noncompliance reports record an observation where an area or activity that violates (is not in compliance with) the Project specifications, results in damage to resources, or places sensitive resources at unnecessary risk.

The Compliance Monitors issued no problem area or noncompliance reports during this period.



# **SUMMARY OF LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 VARIANCE REQUESTS**

Twelve (12) Level 2 variance requests were approved for the Project during this reporting period.

	SUMMARY OF APPROVED VARIANCES FOR THE NORTH BAKKEN EXPANSION PROJECT						
Variance Number	Variance Level <sup>a</sup>	Date Received	Location (Spread or Facility/ Milepost [MP]/ County/State)	Description	Status (Approval Date)		
L2-V33-DM	2	7/29/2021	Aux Sable Yard	WBI requested to shift the temporary workspace associated with the existing Aux Sable Yard temporary layflat (water) line to move the line west and away from a foreign utility. Additionally, the temporary workspace for the layflat water uptake line was slightly adjusted to better align with the biological survey coverage area. The variance reduced the workspace by 0.23 acre. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	7/29/2021		
L2-V29-DM	2	7/29/2021	Elkhorn Creek Compressor Station	WBI requested additional temporary workspace to widen the temporary access road to the Elkhorn Creek Compressor Station by 30 feet on the north side and an additional 5 feet on the south side. The request increased temporary workspace by 0.81 acre and was needed to safely cross a foreign utility. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	7/30/2021		
L2-V2A- DM	2	7/29/2021	Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline North MP 22.8 to MP 23.1	WBI requested an additional temporary access west of the north Lake Sakakawea bore workspace totaling 0.9 acre. The proposed access road measures 30 feet across, is approximately 1,279 feet long, and connects to the Project near milepost 22.8 at its northern terminus and connects to the 51st Street NW/residential roadway at its southern terminus. The variance allows the landowner to safely bypass construction. No sensitive resources were affected and recent surveys did not identify suitable Dakota skipper habitat.	7/30/2021		
L2-V34-DM	2	7/30/2021	Line Section 25 Loop and Line Section 30 Loop	WBI requested to change the construction crossing method from the cradle bore method back to the originally certificated guided bore method at seven locations along the Line Section 25 Loop and Line Section 30 Loop. The crossing method for these seven locations was changed to the cradle bore crossing method via a previously approved variance request (see accession number 20210720-3063). However, engineering constraints required that the crossing method be switched back to guided bores. The guided bore crossing method was the original crossing method assessed for these locations in the Project's Environmental Assessment and approved in the FERC's June 1, 2021 Order Issuing Certificate.	7/31/2021		
L2-V6-DM	2	8/4/2021	Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline North MP 22.95	WBI requested to change the construction method to cross an unnamed dirt road from a bore to an open-cut at the request of the landowner, reducing the duration of disturbance. All construction activities associated with the open-cut crossing will remain within the current approved workspace. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	8/5/2021		



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Variance Number	Variance Level <sup>a</sup>	Date Received	Location (Spread or Facility/ Milepost [MP]/ County/State)	Description	Status (Approval Date)
L2-V5-DM	2	8/4/2021	Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline North MP 20.8 to MP 20.9	WBI requested to change the construction method to cross 53rd Street NW from a bore to an open-cut at the request of the landowner to reduce the construction footprint within agricultural fields. This change in method will reduce extra workspace requirements by 0.68 acre. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	8/5/2021
L2-V35-DM	2	8/4/2021	Line Section 30 Loop, MP 0.1 to MP 0.2	WBI requested 25 feet of additional temporary workspace on the southeast side of the right-of-way within an existing industrial yard near the western terminus of the Line Section 30 Loop. The requested workspace would serve as a temporary storage area for gravel and fencing materials. There would not be any new impacts to wetlands and other sensitive resources would be avoided. The area was within the survey corridor.	8/5/2021
L2-V9-DM	2	8/4/2021	Line Section 25 Loop MP 1.4 – MP 1.5	WBI requested a change in the construction method to cross an unnamed utility road from an open-cut to a cradle bore. The on-site well site operator requested the change to allow access to the parcel's well pads. The extra workspace locations would be situated on either side of the right-of-way and on both sides of the road requiring an additional 1.01 acres of extra workspace, primarily for bore pits. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	8/5/2021
L2-V10-DM	2	8/4/2021	Line Section 25 Loop MP 4.5 to MP 4.6	WBI requested a change in the construction method to cross an unnamed utility road from an open-cut to a cradle bore. The on-site well site operator requested the change to allow access to the parcel's well pads. The requested extra workspace locations would be situated on both sides of the right-of-way and on both sides of the road requiring an additional 1.07 acres of extra workspace, primarily for bore pits. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	8/6/2021
L2-V8-DM	2	8/4/2021	Line Section 25 Loop MP 0.3 to MP 0.4	WBI requested a change in the construction method to cross an unnamed utility road from an open-cut to a cradle bore. The on-site well site operator requested the change to allow access to the parcel's well pads. The extra workspace locations were situated on either side of the right-of-way and on both sides of the road requiring an additional 0.79 acres of extra workspace, primarily for bore pits. No sensitive resources were affected and recent surveys did not identify suitable Dakota skipper habitat, wetlands, or waterbodies.	8/6/2021
L2-V19-DM	2	8/5/2021	Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline North MP 22.4 to	As a requirement of the McKenzie County road permit, WBI requested to bore and install a 48-inch-diameter culvert beneath County Road (CR) 17A (also known as 51st Ln NW) to allow the 24-inch-diameter pipe string associated with the Lake Sakakawea HDD to run under the road instead of obstructing traffic during the pullback operation. The requested extra workspace locations	8/6/2021



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Variance Number	Variance Level <sup>a</sup>	Date Received	Location (Spread or Facility/ Milepost [MP]/ County/State)	Description	Status (Approval Date)
			MP 22.5	necessary to install the casing pipe are on both sides of the HDD pull-back area north of CR17A and west of the right-of-way and south of CR 17A, requiring an additional 0.96 acres of extra workspace. The workspace was primarily for bore pits, accommodating additional equipment, and bore fluid handling. Following construction, the casing pipe will be sealed and pumped full of grout in accordance with the McKenzie County road permit, and the area shall be restored to preconstruction conditions in accordance with all permits and plans. No sensitive resources were affected and recent surveys did not identify suitable Dakota skipper habitat.	
L2-V36-DM	2	8/5/2021	Line Section 25 Loop MP 1.0	WBI requested to change the construction crossing method from a cradle bore back to the originally certificated guided bore method for the 69th Street NW crossing at milepost 1.0 of the Line Section 25 Loop. The crossing method for this location was changed to the cradle bore crossing method via a previously approved variance request (see accession number 20210720-3063). Engineering constraints required that the crossing method be switched back to a guided bore. The guided bore crossing method was the original crossing method assessed for this location in the Project's Environmental Assessment and approved in the FERC's June 1, 2021 Order Issuing Certificate. No sensitive resources were affected and the area was within the survey corridor.	8/6/2021

#### a Variance Level Definitions

Level 1 Variance – reviewed and approved or denied by the Compliance Monitors. These requests must be within the approved workspace or of like use and are for site-specific, minor, performance-based changes to Project specifications or mitigation measures that provide equal or better protection to environmental resources.

Level 2 Variance – reviewed and approved or denied by the Compliance Manager. These requests involve Project changes that would affect an area outside of the previously approved work area, but within the corridor previously surveyed for cultural resources, sensitive species, sensitive resources, etc.



## SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS OF OBSERVED ACTIVITIES



Lake Sakakawea HDD North – Access road AR-23 at the crossing of the construction right-of-way (July 29, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 22.9



Lake Sakakawea HDD North – Requested temporary access road to be utilized to avoid traffic overlap with a new residence near the west side of Lake Sakakawea (July 29, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 22.9



Elkhorn Compressor Station – Filter socks and silt fence along the north perimeter of the new Elkhorn Compressor Station (July 30, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 61.5



Elkhorn Compressor Station – Filter socks and silt fences (in the distance) along the north perimeter of the new Elkhorn Compressor Station (July 30, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 61.5





Tioga Compressor Station – Lubricants and oils stored outside of a secondary containment (July 31, 2021) – Communication – MP 0.0



Williston Tioga-Minot Reroute – Tie-ins and backfill of the Williston-Tioga-Minot pipeline are complete. Work areas adjacent to the right-of-way depicted (July 31, 2021) – Acceptable – MP  $0.1\,$ 



Line Section 30 Loop – Adequate erosion controls and timber mats over the travel lane at wetland W-WM-EF-004E (August 2, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 0.2



Tioga Compressor Lateral – Grading and stringing throughout the Tioga Compressor Lateral construction right-of-way is complete (August 2, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 0.0





Line Section 25 Loop – Approximately 6 feet of open land was mowed along the south side of an access road outside of the approved limits of disturbance (August 3, 2021) – Communication – MP 6.0



Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline Spread 1 – Equipment bridge and erosion controls at the crossing of waterbody S-WM-EA-002 (August 3, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 2.4



Tioga to Elkhorn Creek PL Spread 1 – Environmental crews installing temporary erosion controls at the crossing of wetland W-WM-EB-007E ahead of ground disturbance east of Beaver Creek (August 4, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 17.9



Waterford Laydown Yard – Office trailers being delivered and set up in the Waterford laydown yard (August 4, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 0.0





Lake Sakakawea HDD – Sound barrier curtain was installed at the Sakakawea HDD pad to minimize the noise level of HDD operations (August 5, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 25.9



Lake Sakakawea HDD – Topsoil removed and stored at the limits of disturbance of the Sakakawea HDD (August 5, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 25.9



Waterford Laydown Yard – Pipe being delivered, stacked and stored in the Waterford laydown yard (August 6, 2021) – Acceptable



Waterford Laydown Yard – Entrance to the laydown yard is clean and free of mud and construction debris (August 6, 2021) – Acceptable





Line Section 30 Loop – Construction activities confined to the approved limits of disturbance (August 7, 2021) – Acceptable – MP  $3.2\,$ 



Tioga to Elkhorn Creek Pipeline Spread 1 – Abrasion resistant sections of pipeline pre-assembled for HDD installation (August 7, 2021) – Acceptable – MP 22.9