

1250 West Century Avenue Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5601 Bismarck, ND 58506-5601 (701) 530-1600

January 14, 2022

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission 888 First Street NE, Room 1A Washington, D.C. 20426

Re: WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.
Docket Nos. CP20-52-000 and CP20-52-001
North Bakken Expansion Project
Request for Authorization to Place Facilities into Service

Dear Ms. Bose:

On June 1, 2021, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) issued an Order Issuing Certificate (Order) in the above referenced dockets authorizing WBI Energy Transmission, Inc. (WBI Energy) to construct and operate its North Bakken Expansion Project (Project) in Burke, McKenzie, Mountrail and Williams Counties, North Dakota. On July 8, 2021, the Commission granted a notice to proceed with the construction of all Project facilities.

Pursuant to Environmental Condition No. 11 of the Appendix to the Order, WBI Energy respectfully requests the Director of the Office of Energy Projects (OEP), or the Director's designee, grant WBI Energy authorization to place all Project facilities into service by Friday, January 28, 2022 to allow Project shippers to nominate for incremental firm transportation service to begin on February 1, 2022.

Environmental Condition No. 11 provides authorization by the Commission to place facilities into service following a determination that rehabilitation and restoration of the right-of-way (ROW) and other areas affected by the Project are proceeding satisfactorily. WBI Energy confirms that it has met the requirements in Environmental Condition No. 11. As reflected in the Weekly Project Status Reports, FERC's Environmental Compliance Monitoring Program, and the Appendix to this filing, rehabilitation and restoration of the Project ROW and areas associated with aboveground facilities are proceeding satisfactorily.

The Commission has previously granted partial in-service authorizations for Project facilities, as summarized in Table 1, to continue providing natural gas service to WBI Energy's existing customers at currently certificated volumes during construction of the Project. Please refer to the Appendix to this filing for all Project facilities WBI Energy is requesting authorization to place into service to flow incremental volumes associated with the Project.

| Table 1 Partial In-Service Authorization  |                            |                          |                    |  |  |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--|
| Facilities  | Authorization<br>Requested | Authorization<br>Granted | In-Service<br>Date |  |  |
| 12-inch Williston-Tioga-Minot Mainline Reroute  | 7/27/2021                  | 7/28/2021                | 7/29/2021          |  |  |
| Upgraded Robinson Lake Plant Receipt Station  | 9/09/2021                  | 9/13/2021                | 9/15/2021          |  |  |
| Temple Valve Setting  | 9/10/2021                  | 9/15/2021                | 9/16/2021          |  |  |
| Upgraded Norse Plant Receipt Station, Norse Transfer Station, replacement of 0.1 mile of 6-inch pipeline with 8-inch pipeline (formerly the Stoneview-Conoco Lateral) and a new 8-inch pig launcher/receiver (southbound) at the Norse Transfer Station   | 10/21/2021                 | 10/27/2021               | 10/28/2021         |  |  |
| Upgraded Lignite Plant Receipt Station, replacement of 0.1 mile of 8-inch pipeline between the 86th Street NW bore and the Norse Transfer Station, replacement of approximately 0.4 mile of 8-inch pipeline via the guided bore method at four road crossings, and an 8-inch pig launcher/receiver (northbound) at the Norse Transfer Station | 11/02/2021                 | 11/08/2021               | 11/09/2021         |  |  |
| 8-inch pig launcher/receiver at the upgraded Lignite Plant Receipt Station  | 11/23/2021                 | 11/30/2021               | 12/01/2021         |  |  |

As indicated in the Appendix to this filing (Section A - Construction Status - Pipeline Facilities), the Project pipeline facilities are mechanically complete and WBI Energy intends to complete purging and packing activities in order for the pipeline facilities to be ready to provide service by February 1, 2022.

Restoration of all areas impacted by pipeline construction are proceeding satisfactorily. Approximately 62% of the ROW is actively cultivated agricultural land and seeding is not required in cultivated croplands unless requested by the landowner after construction is complete in accordance with the FERC's *Upland Erosion Control, Revegetation, and Maintenance Plan* (Plan) (FERC, 2013a). WBI Energy did not receive any such requests from landowners. The remaining ROW has been seeded and stabilized in accordance with the Plan. Table 2 below summarizes remaining Project pipeline activities.

| Table 2 Summary of Remaining Activities for Pipeline Facilities |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| Pipeline  | Total %<br>Completion as of<br>January 14, 2022 | Estimated Date of Completion  |  |  |
| Williston-Tioga-Minot Reroute                                   |   | Zotimatou Zuto di Completion  |  |  |
| Seeding   | 0%  | The rerouted mainline is within the Tioga Compressor Station. Backfilling and spreading of some gravel occurred in July 2021. Final restoration will be completed in conjunction with the final restoration of the Tioga Compressor Station. In Spring 2022, the remainder of gravel will be spread throughout the station yard, the security fence will be re-installed, and re-seeding will occur along the fence line. |  |  |
| Line Section 30 Loop  |   |   |  |  |
| Nesson Pig Launcher /Receiver and<br>Temple Valve sites         | 0%  | A security fence will be installed, and gravel will be spread around the Temple Valve setting and the Nesson pig launcher/receiver in Spring 2022.  |  |  |

As indicated in the Appendix to this filing (Section B - Construction Status – Aboveground Facilities), construction of the aboveground facilities is complete with the exception of the activities noted in Table 3 below. WBI Energy intends to complete remaining start-up and commissioning activities in order for the facilities to be ready to provide service by February 1, 2022. WBI Energy will supplement this request upon completion of the remaining start-up and commissioning activities.

In addition, WBI Energy, in conjunction with the customer at the Springbrook Plant Receipt Station, have elected not to complete the station upgrade at this time. Any work completed at this station in the future will be done under WBI Energy's blanket certificate authority and will be reported in its Annual Report of Activities Under Blanket Certificate.

| Table 3 Summary of Remaining Activities for Aboveground Facilities |   |  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| Facility   | Total %<br>Completion as of<br>January 14, 2022 | Estimated Date of Completion   |  |  |
| Tioga Compressor Station   |   |  |  |  |
| Start-Up & Commissioning - Electrical                              | 87%   | The week of 1/17/2022.   |  |  |
| Cleanup / Restoration  | 95%   | Final restoration will be completed in<br>Spring 2022 and includes spreading of<br>gravel, re-installing the security fence,<br>and re-seeding along the fence line.   |  |  |
| Elkhorn Compressor Station   |   |  |  |  |
| Start-Up & Commissioning - Electrical                              | 90%   | The week of 1/24/2022.   |  |  |
| Cleanup / Restoration  | 99%   | Forty feet of the approach from the county highway will be asphalted in Spring 2022 per the county highway requirements.   |  |  |
| Lignite Plant Receipt and Town Border Station                      |   |  |  |  |
| Cleanup  | 96%   | Due to cold weather conditions, concrete can no longer be set for the security fence posts. The installation of the security fence around the Lignite Plant Receipt and Town Border Stations will be completed in Spring 2022. Gravel has been spread. |  |  |
| Northern Border Interconnect                                       |   |  |  |  |
| Cleanup  | 99%   | Fifty feet of the approach from the county highway will be asphalted in Spring 2022 per the county highway requirements.   |  |  |
| Tioga Plant Receipt Station  |   |  |  |  |
| Cleanup  | 99%   | Due to cold weather conditions, concrete can no longer be set for the security fence posts. The installation of the security fence will be completed in Spring 2022. Additional gravel will be spread in Spring 2022.                                  |  |  |

Because approval from the Director of the OEP, or the Director's designee, to commence service will only be granted following a determination that rehabilitation and restoration of all areas affected by the Project are proceeding satisfactorily, WBI Energy herein provides supporting photographic documentation of the progress of the restoration and rehabilitation in the Appendix and Attachments to this request. WBI Energy has no pending or unresolved environmental issues and will continue to monitor restoration and address any environmental issues as they arise. Additionally, ongoing inspections of the ROW will occur in accordance with the FERC Plan and Procedures and applicable permit requirements. WBI Energy will continue with the FERC compliance monitoring program over the winter and into the spring.

WBI Energy has not received any FERC or other agency issued non-compliances or problem areas that have not previously been reported to the Commission in the Weekly Project Status Reports and corrected. WBI Energy has not received any landowner complaints that have not previously been reported to the Commission in the Weekly Project Status Reports and corrected. WBI Energy has and will continue to address any landowner concerns.

Pursuant to 18 CFR § 385.2010 of the Commission's regulations, copies of this request are being served to each person whose name appears on the official service list for this proceeding.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding this filing, please call the undersigned at (701) 530-1563.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lori Myerchin

Lori Myerchin Director, Regulatory Affairs and Transportation Services

Enclosure: Appendix – Project Restoration Status and Photographs

Courtesy Copies:

Dawn Ramsey, FERC Environmental Project Manager (via email) Shannon Crosley, FERC Environmental Deputy Project Manager (via email) Official Service List

## STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

I, Lori Myerchin, being first duly sworn, do herby depose and say that I am the Director, Regulatory Affairs and Transportation Service for WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.; that I have read the foregoing document; that I know the contents thereof; that I am authorized to execute such document; and that all such statements and matters set forth therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of January 2022

Lori Myerchin

Director, Regulatory Affairs and

Transportation Services

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of January 2022

Carmen Fish, Notary Public

Burleigh County, North Dakota

My Commission Expires: 01/03/2024

CARMEN FISH Notary Public State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires January 3, 2024

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon each person designated on the official service list compiled by the Secretary in this proceeding.

Dated this 14th day of January 2022.

By /s/ Lori Myerchin

Lori Myerchin Director, Regulatory Affairs and Transportation Services WBI Energy Transmission, Inc. 1250 West Century Avenue Bismarck, ND 58503

Telephone: (701) 530-1563