



## FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

**Date** December 10 and 11, 2024

**Project** WBI Energy Transmission, Inc.  
Wahpeton Expansion Project  
Cass and Richland Counties, North Dakota  
Docket No.: CP22-466-000  
Authority: Section 7(c)

**Personnel** FERC Project Manager: David Hanobic  
FERC Contractor: Tetra Tech, Inc.  
Company Staff: Andrew Bates (Regulatory Affairs Manager);  
Steve Kelly (Project Manager); Robin  
Reubavk (Environmental Specialist)

Inspection Summary	
<u>0</u>	Problem Areas
<u>0</u>	Noncompliance
<u>No</u>	Follow-Up Letter Required
<u>No</u>	Refer to Enforcement

### Introduction

On December 10 and 11, 2024, Krista Dearing of Tetra Tech performed a restoration inspection of the WBI Energy Transmission, Inc. (WBI) Wahpeton Expansion Project (Project), under contract to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) and per the request of the FERC Project Manager, David Hanobic.

The Project consists of the construction and operation of a total of approximately 60.2 miles of new natural gas pipeline and appurtenant facilities in Cass and Richland Counties, North Dakota. More specifically, the Project includes:

- construction of an approximately 60.2-mile-long, 12-inch-diameter pipeline extending in a southeastward direction from WBI's existing Mapleton Compressor Station (CS) in Cass County, North Dakota, to the Project's ultimate terminus at the new Wahpeton Border Station in Richland County, North Dakota;
- minor modifications to WBI's existing Mapleton CS;
- construction of the new Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU)-Wahpeton Border Station;
- construction of the new MDU-Kindred Border Station;
- construction of seven new block valve settings;

- construction of four new pig<sup>1</sup> launcher/receiver stations; and
- construction of new ancillary facilities.

The Project is designed to provide up to approximately 20.6 million cubic feet of natural gas per day to southeastern North Dakota and provide natural gas service for the first time to Kindred, North Dakota. The Project will also include the installation of two farm taps along the pipeline route.

The in-service date for the Project was December 1, 2024.

The purpose of the inspection was to determine WBI's compliance with the environmental conditions of the Commission's October 23, 2023 *Order Issuing Certificate* for the Project and to inspect the restoration conditions of the pipeline right-of-way (ROW) and facilities.

The findings of the inspection were that no noncompliances or problem areas were identified.

A site map and photographic record are presented in this report.

### **Inspection**

On December 10, 2024, weather conditions were cloudy, with moderate winds and temperatures in the low-20s (°F) in nearby Fargo, North Dakota. Weather conditions during the second day of the inspection (December 11, 2024) were cloudy, with strong winds and temperatures ranging from -6 (°F) to -2 (°F). The Project area received approximately 1.6 inches of precipitation during the two weeks preceding the inspection, according to data collected at the Fargo Hector International Airport. Soil conditions were frozen and stable.

The first day of the inspection (December 10, 2024; Photo Numbers [Nos.] 1 through 16) began at the existing WBI Mapleton Station, continued south along the Project ROW, and ended at the Valve #5 site, (Milepost [MP] 39.5). The second day of the inspection (December 11, 2024; Photo Nos. 16 through 20) began at the Valve #6 site (MP 48.9), continued south along the ROW, and ended at the Wahpeton Border Station (MP 59.00).

WBI reported that there were no outstanding landowner concerns except for minor punchlist items. Items being addressed mostly included the removal of construction materials and erosion control devices (ECDs) from agricultural areas and public road entry points and anomaly repair site restoration.

At the time of inspection, final grading and restoration were complete along approximately 98 percent of the pipeline ROW, valve sites, and temporary workspaces (Photo Nos. 3, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, and 19). Some exceptions included an approximately 0.7-mile section of ROW between MP 51.30 and 51.92, where work had been delayed at the Bore #64 HDD crossing of the Wild Rice River and Antelope Creek due to a bore hole collapse (Photo No. 19), and some remaining areas within and around the valve sites (Photo Nos. 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17, and 20).

Final completion of the valve sites and restoration of select areas along the ROW will be completed in the spring 2025. WBI will follow the FERC-approved *Winter Construction and Stability Plan* over the winter months.

Overall, the environmental conditions along the inspected areas of the ROW were satisfactory. In areas of anomaly repair restoration, the approved ROW and workspace limits were adequately marked, and all observed construction activities were within approved workspace limits (Photo Nos. 2, 7, 14, and 19). ECDs, primarily consisting of silt fence or fiber logs, were installed where appropriate and properly

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<sup>1</sup> A "pig" is a tool that moves through the pipeline and is used for cleaning, internal inspections, or other purposes. A launcher/receiver is an aboveground structure used to install/retrieve pigs from the pipeline.

maintained (Photo No. 11). At construction entrances and road crossings, safety flagging and wooden access pads were properly installed and maintained, and no tracking of mud or debris onto public roads was observed. No environmental concerns were identified.

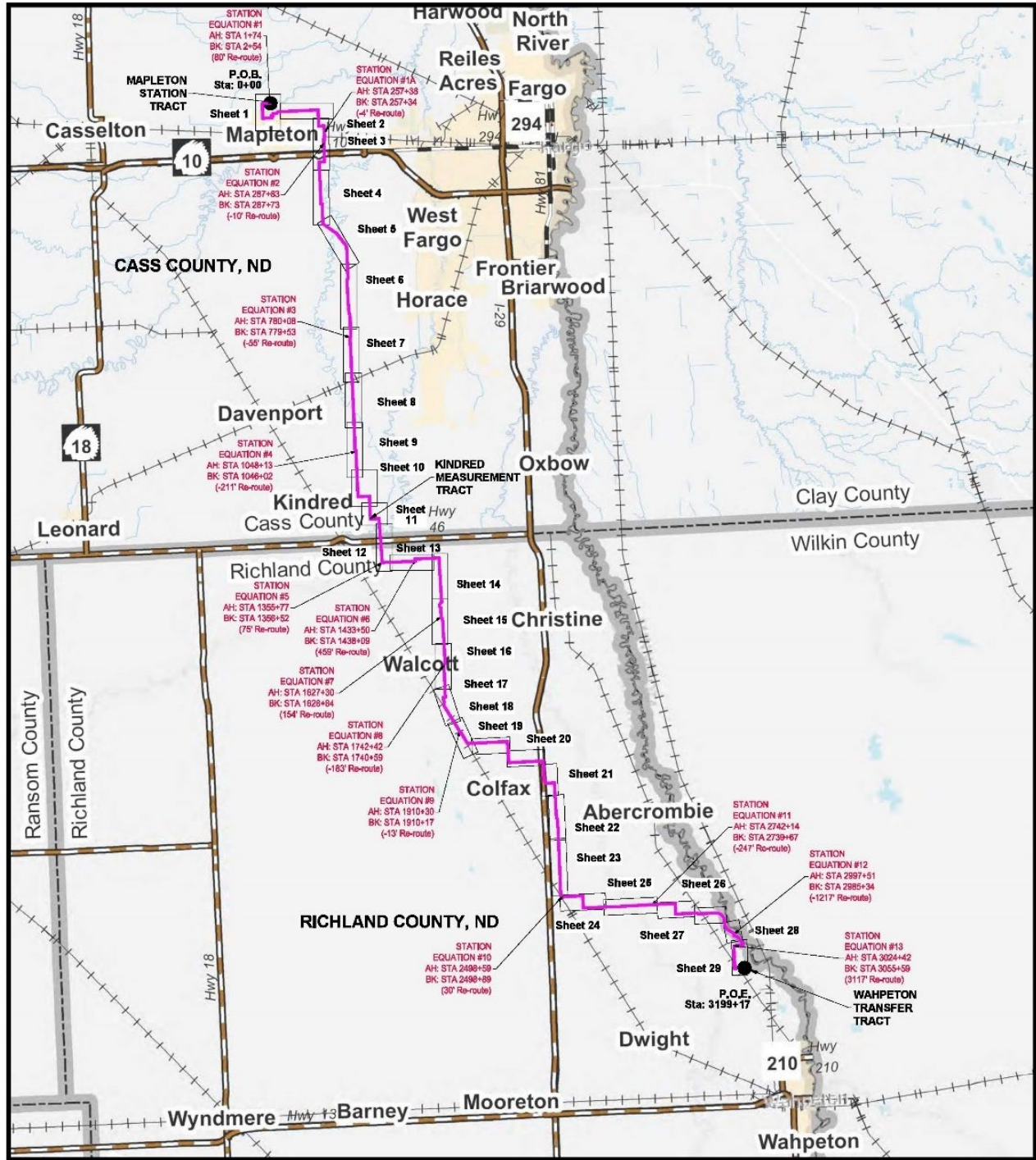
Along the restored ROW and temporary workspaces, primarily crossing agricultural land, topsoil was replaced and final-graded. Reseeding was conducted on approximately 25 percent of the ROW, according to landowner specifications (Photo Nos. 12 and 13). The contours appeared effectively restored, with no large rocks, construction debris, or signs of erosion observed. ECDs were appropriately maintained until successful revegetation of the surrounding areas was achieved or, in active croplands, removed at the landowner's request. Temporary ECDs remained in place where appropriate along some restored agricultural wetlands, swales, and roadside drainage ditches to prevent sediment transport outside of approved workspace limits. No environmental concerns were identified.

Most construction debris and equipment had been cleared from restored areas; however, some materials remained staged at access points near public roadways. WBI stated that these materials would be removed in the subsequent week.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

A follow-up letter is not required at this time, because no instances of noncompliance were identified. Overall, cleanup and restoration were proceeding satisfactorily, environmental conditions were acceptable, and no environmental concerns were identified. The next inspection is recommended for the spring of 2025.

# Site Map





# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 1

**MP:** 0.00

**Direction:** Northwest

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #1 Site. Construction of the valve was complete, with painting planned for the spring of 2025. The adjacent ROW and temporary workspaces were restored and free of rutting, large rocks, and construction debris. The adjacent Wahpeton Station was mechanically complete. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.



**Photo No.:** 2

**MP:** ~0.5

**Direction:** South

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW. Final cleanup (equipment mat removal) and final grading were underway after the area was re-disturbed to address an anomaly. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

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**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 3

**MP:** ~5.5

**Direction:** North

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW. The ROW was restored, with no signs of rutting, large rocks, or construction debris. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.



**Photo No.:** 4

**MP:** 11.65

**Direction:** Northeast

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #2 Site. The dewatering structure, used as part of last month's hydrostatic pressure testing, appeared to be adequately designed, with no evidence of sediment release outside of the approved workspace. Removal of the structure was planned for the following week. No environmental concerns were identified.



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PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

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**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

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**Photo No.:** 5

**MP:** 11.65

**Direction:** North

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #2 Site. Final cleanup and restoration within and around the site (i.e. pad construction, perimeter fence installation, valve settings and equipment painting) will be completed in the spring of 2025. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.



**Photo No.:** 6

**MP:** 12.65

**Direction:** Southwest

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW, Bore #20 Site. The ROW and temporary workspaces were restored and free of rutting, large rocks, and construction debris. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.

# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 7

**MP:** 21.80

**Direction:** Southeast

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW. Final cleanup and final grading were underway after the area was re-disturbed to address an anomaly. ROW limits along active construction areas were marked with stakes and flagging. No environmental concerns were identified.



**Photo No.:** 8

**MP:** 23.40

**Direction:** Southwest

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #3 Site. Montanna-Dakota Utilities [MDU] (local gas delivery provider) was in the process of completing their tie-in. The access point to the public roadway was well maintained, with no tracked mud or debris was present on the road. No environmental concerns were identified.



**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 9

**MP:** 23.40

**Direction:** South

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #3 Site. WBI work at the valve site was complete. MDU was completing their tie-in. No environmental concerns were identified.



**Photo No.:** 10

**MP:** 28.3

**Direction:** North

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW, Bore # 36 Site. The temporary workspaces were restored, and free of rutting, large rocks, and construction debris. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 11

**MP:** 31.35

**Direction:** West

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #4 Site. WBI work at the valve site (i.e. painting and fencing) will be completed in the spring of 2025. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.



**Photo No.:** 12

**MP:** 36.05

**Direction:** Southeast

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Forested ROW, Wetland wria006e. Final cleanup and restoration were complete, and the ROW was seeded from MP 35.60 to MP 36.80; where construction had been delayed due to migratory bird restrictions. Resource identification signs and ECDs remained in place. No environmental concerns were observed.



# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 13

**MP:** 36.05

**Direction:** Southwest

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Forested ROW, Final cleanup and restoration were complete, and the ROW was seeded from MP 35.60 to MP 36.80; where construction had been delayed due to migratory bird restrictions. ECDs remained in place. No environmental concerns were identified.



**Photo No.:** 14

**MP:** 36.10

**Direction:** South

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW. Final cleanup was underway after the area was re-disturbed to address an anomaly. Some tracking was present on the road, but would be cleaned up once the mat was removed from the ROW access, according to WBI. No environmental concerns were identified.



# FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 15

**MP:** 39.50

**Direction:** East

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #5 Site. The valve was mechanically complete; however, work at the valve site was delayed until spring 2025 and will include perimeter fence installation, valve settings and equipment painting, and final cleanup and restoration within and around the valve site. No off-ROW impacts or other environmental concerns were identified.



**Photo No.:** 16

**MP:** 39.50

**Direction:** East

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #5 Site. Topsoil was restored along temporary workspaces. Wooden stakes remained in place to identify the workspace limits in areas of active construction. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 17

**MP:** 48.90

**Direction:** North

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #6 Site. The valve was mechanically complete, and only minor work remained, including perimeter fence installation and final restoration of adjacent temporary workspaces around the facility. Workspace limits in active construction areas remained well marked. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.



**Photo No.:** 18

**MP:** 51.9

**Direction:** West

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW. East of the Wild Rice River HDD site, the ROW was restored and stable. No environmental concerns were identified.



**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Company:** WBI Energy

**Docket Nos.:** CP22-466-000

**Project:** Wahpeton Expansion

**Spread:** Wahpeton Lateral



**Photo No.:** 19

**MP:** 51.9

**Direction:** North

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Agricultural ROW, Final cleanup and restoration were underway but incomplete along an approximately 0.7-mile-long portion of the ROW between MP 51.30 and MP 51.92. No off-ROW impacts or environmental concerns were identified.



**Photo No.:** 20

**MP:** 59.0

**Direction:** West

**Assessment:** Acceptable

**Comments:** Aboveground Facility, Valve #7 Site (Wahpeton Border Station). The valve was mechanically complete, and only minor work remained, including pad completion, painting, and final restoration of temporary workspaces. Construction along the east side of the valve site was associated with the MDU tie-in. The construction access point was well maintained, and the public road was free of tracked mud and construction debris. The site was stable, with no environmental concerns identified.