

2.0 Natural Gas Pipeline Siting Permit

2.1 Site Description

An updated vicinity map and overview of the Deer Creek Station Project components are provided in Appendix A, Exhibit A 2.1-1. The final natural gas pipeline alignment is shown in Appendix A, Exhibits A 2.1-2 through A 2.1-7 with an aerial photo background, and in Appendix A, Exhibits A 2.1-8 through A 2.1-13 with a topographic background. A pipe and equipment laydown area has been identified and is shown in Appendix A, Exhibits A 2.1-6 and A 2.1-13. Preliminary design drawings of the natural gas pipeline centerline are provided in Appendix B.

2.2 Evaluation of Sites Considering Reliance upon Eminent Domain

Easement agreements have been finalized with all landowners along the pipeline right-of-way (ROW).

2.3 Environmental Impacts

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (ESCP) will be required for construction activities under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program.

2.4 Community Impacts

Basin Electric has garnered support for the project from local communities. Resolutions of community support from the Brookings County Commission, the Brookings City Council, the Deuel County Commission, the Elkton City Council, and the Hendricks, Minnesota Economic Development Authority were provided in the PUC application. Resolutions of community support from the City of Aurora, the Town of White, and the City of Hendricks, Minnesota, are provided in Appendix C. Deuel County approved a Special Exception Permit and it is provided in Appendix D. Brookings County approved a Conditional Use Permit for the project and it is provided in Appendix E.

2.4.1 Cultural Resources and Landmarks

In October 2009, a Class I records search for the proposed project was completed by Ethnoscience, Inc. No eligible or listed cultural resources were identified through the Class I records search. A Class III pedestrian survey was completed by Ethnoscience and tribal representatives in October 2009. No cultural resources were identified during the pedestrian survey.

In the event that prehistoric or historic cultural resources are discovered during construction or operation of the proposed project, the Unanticipated Discovery Plan will be followed. The plan is provided in Appendix F. Class I and Class III reports have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Officer and to Western Area Power Administration.

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