



FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FIELD INSPECTION REPORT

Date October 15 and 16, 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.
FERC Contractor Staff: Krista Dearing
Company Staff: Andrew Bates (Regulatory Affairs Manager);
Steve Kelly (Project Manager); Greg
Huncovsky (Environmental Project Manager);
Robin Reukavk (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 October 15 and 16, 2024, Krista Dearing of Tetra Tech, performed a construction and 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 pig¹ 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.

Currently, the anticipated in-service date for the Project is November 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 construction and restoration conditions of the pipeline rights-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 October 15, 2024, weather conditions were sunny, with temperatures ranging from the low-30s (°F) to the low-50s (°F) in nearby Fargo, North Dakota. Weather conditions during the second day of the inspection (October 16, 2024) were mostly sunny, with moderate winds and temperatures ranging from the high-30s (°F) to the high-60s (°F). The Project area received approximately 2.0 inches of precipitation during the two weeks preceding the inspection, according to data collected at the Fargo Hector International Airport. Soil conditions were dry and stable, with a few areas of standing water in the pipeline trench from recent rains.

The first day of the inspection (October 15, 2024; Photo Numbers [Nos.] 1 through 18) began at the existing WBI Mapleton Station, continued south along the Project ROW, and ended at the northernmost guided bore crossing of Interstate 29. The second day of the inspection (October 16, 2024; Photo Nos. 19 through 22) began at the new Wahpeton Border Station site at the southern terminus of the Project (Milepost [MP] 59.0) and continued north along the ROW to the Wild Rice River horizontal directional drill (HDD) site (MP 51.5) and the Valve Set #6 site, and ended at MP 42.0 where the ROW parallels the onramp to I-29 from County Road 4.

WBI reported that there were no outstanding landowner concerns since the previous inspection on September 17 and 18, 2024, except for minor punchlist items that were being addressed.

At the time of inspection, approximately 99 percent of the pipeline was installed, and rough grading was completed along approximately 80 percent of the Project ROW (Photo Nos. 6, 11, and 14). Some exceptions included areas where work was delayed due to migratory bird nesting (Photo No. 16) and where tie-in work was recently completed or is pending (Photo Nos. 10, 17, 19, 21, and 22). All guided bore crossings were complete except for the Bore #64 crossing of the Wild Rice River due to a bore hole collapse (Photo Nos. 21 and 22). Final grading and cleanup were completed for approximately 20 percent of the ROW, from the Project kickoff at MP 0.0 to approximately MP 16.5. Construction and final cleanup activities were also ongoing at the Wahpeton CS, MDU-Mapleton Border Station, and the six valve sites (Photo Nos. 1, 7, 12, 18, and 20).

¹ 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.

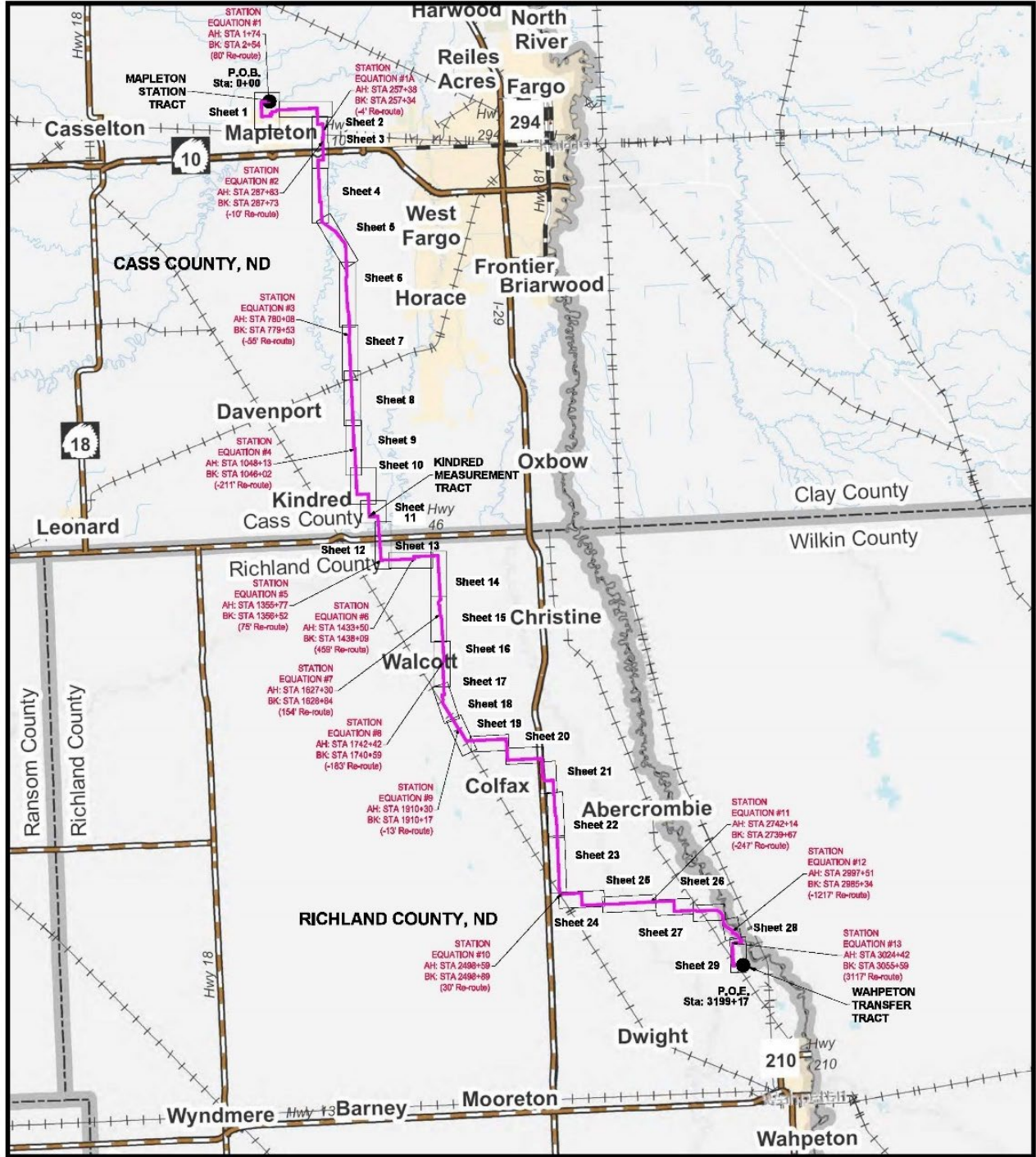
Overall, environmental conditions were acceptable throughout inspected upland areas of the ROW, most of which crosses agricultural land. Approved ROW and workspace limits were adequately marked, and all observed construction activities were within approved areas. In areas requiring topsoil segregation, topsoil was properly segregated, stockpiled within approved ROW limits, and appeared to be adequately stabilized (Photo Nos. 2, 3, 10, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 22). Erosion Control Devices (ECDs), consisting primarily of silt fence or fiber logs, were installed where appropriate and properly maintained. 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 (Photo Nos. 3, 8, and 22). Restored areas were free of rutting and erosion (Photo Nos. 4, 5, and 9). At the Mapleton CS, MDU-Wahpeton Border Station, and active construction site at the Bore #64 crossing, spill kits were readily available onsite and were present on heavy equipment.

At non-agricultural wetlands and waterbody crossings (not flowing at the time of inspection), resource crossing and “no refueling” signs were installed. ECDs were in place, where appropriate, and functioning as intended; and installed equipment bridges and equipment mats were properly maintained (Photo Nos. 3, 8, 21, and 22). Geofabric was in place beneath most of the equipment mats along wetlands and at waterbody bridge crossings to keep upland spoil that was tracked onto the equipment mats from being washed into the resources. No impacts to protected resources were identified.

Conclusions and Recommendations

A follow-up letter is not required at this time, because no instances of noncompliance were identified. Overall, construction was proceeding satisfactorily, environmental conditions were acceptable, and no environmental concerns were identified. The next inspection is scheduled for the week of November 11, 2024.

Site Map



**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 1

MP: 0.0

Direction: Southwest

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Mapleton Compressor Station. The pipe modifications were complete, with final painting pending. The area was free of rutting and construction debris. Protective equipment mats remained in place at the construction entry point from the public road. The entry was well maintained, and the road was free of tracked mud and construction materials. No environmental concerns were identified.

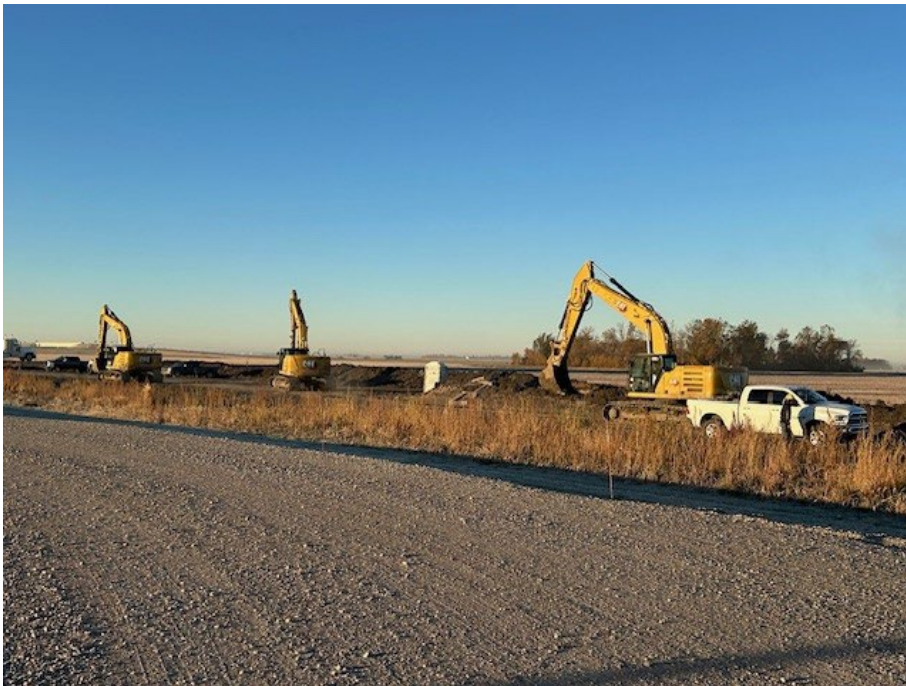


Photo No.: 2

MP: 5.1

Direction: Southeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #7 and #8 Site. The guided bore crossing was complete, and backfilling was in progress. Safety measures were in place at the construction entrance, and no environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 3

MP: 5.1

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #7 and #8 Site. Equipment mats at the ROW entry point were properly installed and maintained. The public road was free of tracked mud and debris. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 4

MP: 1.5

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. The former access road to the ROW was being walked after the equipment mat was removed to ensure that no mat debris was left behind. No debris or other environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 5

MP: 11.64

Direction: Southwest

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. The ROW was re-staked, as stakes were absent during the September FERC inspection. The ROW was final-graded with contours and topsoil restored, and no environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 6

MP: ~11.7

Direction: Southeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. Final cleanup and rough-grading were complete, and stakes remained in place. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 7

MP: 11.3

Direction: North

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Valve Set #2. Construction of the valve set was complete, and electricity was installed but pending final connection. The site was stable with no environmental concerns identified.



Photo No.: 8

MP: 11.3

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Valve Set #2 Site. Topsoil remained properly segregated, and all construction materials and activities were within well-marked workspace limits. Equipment mats at the construction entry point were well maintained, and the adjacent public road was free of tracked mud and construction debris. No environmental concerns were identified.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 9

MP: 12.7

Direction: west

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. This section of ROW was final-graded by WBI but then later disked by the landowner. The ROW remained clearly staked, and no environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 10

MP: 14.8

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #23 Site. The tie-in was complete with backfilling of the trench pending. Workspace limits were well marked, and resource identification signs remained in place (no photo). No environmental concerns were identified.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 11

MP: 16.8

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #25 Site. The bore beneath the BNSF Railroad was complete, and the adjacent ROW was cleaned up and rough-graded. The entrance to the ROW from the public road was clearly staked and marked with signs. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 12

MP: 23..2

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Valve Set #3, Kindred Border Station. The valve set and pad were complete. Fencing material was staged on the pad. Construction materials were within approved workspace limits, which were well marked with stakes and flagging. Topsoil was being returned to the ROW (backhoe in background). No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 13

MP: ~25.5

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. Adjacent to west side of the Bore #32 crossing beneath the Sheyenne River, backfilling was in progress. Workspace limits were well marked, and topsoil remained properly segregated and staged within workspace limits. Construction materials were staged within a temporary workspace approved by the FERC. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 14

MP: ~25.5

Direction: East

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. On the west side of the Bore #32 crossing, the ROW was pending final grading. Pipeline signs were installed near the river's bank. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 15

MP: ~26.2

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. Backfilling was in-progress and spotters were present to monitor the work. No off-ROW impacts or other environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 16

MP: 35.8

Direction: South

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Open ROW, Wetland Crossing. Equipment mats were being removed from the former sensitive resource area. All materials and equipment were within well-marked workspace limits. Resource protection signs remained in place along the wetland edge. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 17

MP: 36.7

Direction: East

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #36 Site. Tie-in was complete with backfill pending. Workspace limits were well marked, and resource identification signs remained in place. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 18

MP: 39.5

Direction: Northwest

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Valve Set #5 Site. Crews were backfilling the trench following the installation of electrical power. The ROW and valve site were stable and free of excessive rutting and erosion. Topsoil remained properly segregated and staged within workspace limits. The adjacent construction access point from the public road was well maintained, and the road was free of tracked mud and construction debris. No environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 19

MP: 59.0

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. Tie-in with the Wahpeton Border Station was complete, and backfilling of the trench was pending. Topsoil remained properly segregated and staged along the ROW edge, and no off-ROW impacts or environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 20

MP: 59.0

Direction: Northwest

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Aboveground Facility, Wahpeton Border Station. The construction access point from the public road was well maintained, and the road was free of tracked mud and construction debris. The site was stable, and no environmental concerns were identified.

**FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

Company: WBI Energy

Docket Nos.: CP22-466-000

Project: Wahpeton Expansion Project

Spread: Wahpeton Lateral



Photo No.: 21

MP: 51.5

Direction: Northeast

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW, Bore #64 Site. Boring on the east side of the Wild Rice River HDD crossing was being initiated. All materials and equipment were within well-marked workspace limits. Hazardous materials and gas-operated pumps were stored within secondary containment, and spill kits were staged throughout the site. No environmental concerns were identified.



Photo No.: 22

MP: 51.5

Direction: West

Assessment: Acceptable

Comments: Agricultural ROW. Adjacent to west side of the Bore #64 crossing beneath the Wild Rice River, tie-in equipment was staged on the ROW, pending completion of the bore crossing. No off-ROW impacts or environmental concerns were identified.