



BAKER TIMBER: LOGGING PORTIONS OF THE RIGHT OF WAY

BHP

Teckla-Osage- Rapid City 230kV Transmission Line (Black Hills National Forest)

MAY 2, 2017

This is another issue of a short series of updates that will be provided on the current implementation of the Teckla-Osage-Rapid City 230kV Transmission Line. The line is nearing completion of the construction phase and moving into the reclamation and restoration phase. This project was initially proposed to the agency in 2009 and involved multi state and multi-jurisdictional entities throughout the entire 144 mile length, approximately 40 miles crosses the Black Hills National Forest.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS/ISSUE RESOLUTION:

Communication and progress has continued to improve through the entire project. Agreements made in the EIS and transferred to the construction and logging plan are rapidly nearing completion. Meetings are occurring in May on the reclamation and restoration work needed to complete the project in it's entirety. Since the last update on February 13 2017, the work by Brink Construction, a subcontractor to BHP, successfully and in very difficult conditions completed construction in the sections of line that were under wildlife restrictions. They are now working in the remainder of the line that occurs outside the timing restrictions (most were April to August). Significant items the core and support team have dealt with since the last update includes: impending wildlife restrictions, addressing hazard trees, and addressing potential impacts of resource related Areas To Protect (ATPs). The core team (Rodney Brown/Ruth Esperance, Lance Portlock, Darci Collins/David Valenzuela, and Mike Hilton) continue to keep on top of the activities as agreed to by both parties as outlined in the Terms & Condition of the Special Use Permit and Operating Plan.

Logging (99% complete)

Logging operations began on the Wyoming/South Dakota line in late July, 2016. Baker Timber is the subcontractor for Black Hills Power (BHP). There is still scattered hazard tree work to finish up along the length of the line. That is expected to continue throughout the spring, resulting with little follow up on significant maintenance needs will be needed for some time into the future.

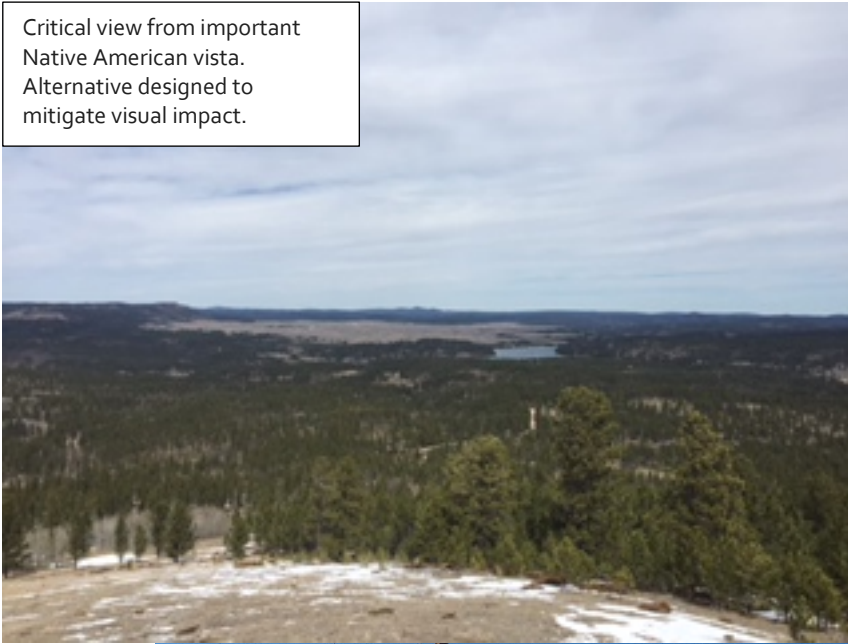
Construction (50% complete)

Construction operations continue with 50% of the line completely done. The remaining 50% of the line is closing in on full completion as described by completion of the line stringing and adding conductors. The transmission line enters the Black Hills National Forest at the WY/SD line with structure 641 and leaves the forest on the east side at structure 894. Remaining work is hit and miss along the line due to the need for the construction company to leap frog around the areas of wildlife restrictions. Brink Construction did a fantastic job in juggling the work to get all these areas complete prior to the April 1 wildlife restrictions periods.

Calculation of project completion has changed from past newsletters to build in the line stringing and related conductor work. This stage signifies major progress toward the goal of energizing the line. Sometime in the near future there will be the addition, in this newsletter, of progress related to rehab work.

Any questions or concerns should be funneled through Rodney Brown so that the team can address them during our weekly Tuesday conference calls; 0800 (internal) and 1600 (BHP and their contractors).

Critical view from important
Native American vista.
Alternative designed to
mitigate visual impact.



Hole prepared for pole
placement.



Line stringing setup, conductor
portion not yet completed.