

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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December 5, 2011

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard; Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and implementing rules, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (**Basin Electric**) hereby notifies the North Dakota Public Service Commission (**Commission**) of our intent to construct the Antelope Valley Station to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project (**Project**).

In accordance with N.D.A.C. Chapter 69-06-03, the following information is provided to support our Letter of Intent:

1. **Description of Size and Type of Facility and the Area to be Served**

This Project is approximately 200 miles of predominately 345-kV transmission line originating from the Antelope Valley Station, located near Beulah, North Dakota, and terminating at the Naset 230-kV Substation located near Tioga, North Dakota. The 345-kV transmission line will also interconnect with the existing Charlie Creek Substation, located near Grassy Butte and Western Area Power Administration's Williston Substation. Two new substations will be required as a part of this project. The Judson 345-kV Substation will be located near Williston and a 345-kV substation will be located near the current Naset 230-kV Substation. This Project will serve the area in northwest North Dakota.

2. **A Map of the Study Area for the Proposed Site or Corridor**

The attached map depicts the Study area, and the existing: Antelope Valley Station, Charlie Creek Substation, Western's Williston Substation and the Naset 230-kV Substation. Also shown are the two proposed 345-kV substations.

3. **The Anticipated Construction and Operation Schedule**

The Project is expected to start construction in 2014. A two-year construction phase is anticipated with in-service expected in 2016. Permitting efforts including the corridor and route selection processes are underway. The Project requires various state, federal and local permits prior to initiating construction.

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4. **An Estimate of the Total Cost of Construction**

The estimated cost for the Project is \$300 million.

5. **Additional Information**

Basin Electric is responding to the accelerated growth of power requirements in northwest North Dakota. This transmission project will provide increased load service capacity and system reliability in northwest North Dakota. Basin Electric appreciates the Commission's attention to this matter. Basin Electric looks forward to developing the necessary transmission infrastructure to support our member systems in northwest North Dakota.

Sincerely,



Ronald R. Harper
CEO & General Manager

rrh/cm/gmj