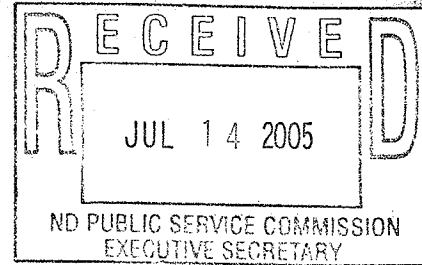


GREAT RIVER  
ENERGY®

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12 July 2005

Mr. Jon Mielke, Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State of North Dakota  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



**Re: Case # PU 380-95-377, Woodlands Mitigation**  
**Case # PU 2149-00-605, Woodlands Mitigation**

Dear Mr. Mielke:

This letter is to inform the Public Service Commission (Commission) that Great River Energy's (GRE) final status reports for these Devils Lake woodland projects will be submitted to the Commission by August 15, 2005. The reports have typically been submitted annually by July 15; however, because this is the final counting/reporting and GRE was initially attempting to accommodate the schedules of Commission staff, the field work has been delayed. The final counting of all the Devils Lake tree plantings will be done on July 25 and 26.

**Case # PU 380-95-377**

This project was initiated many years ago to mitigate the loss of trees that resulted from the relocation of a portion of United Power Association's 230 kV transmission line near Devils Lake, North Dakota.

The original requirement back in 1996 was to plant a total of 3718 trees to replace on a 2:1 basis the 1859 trees taken as a result of the transmission line move. The PSC requires a 75% overall survival rate, which means GRE needs to have 2788 trees surviving in 2005, the final liability period (original liability period was July 2001, a second liability period for additional plantings is 2003, and a third liability period for the 2002 planting is 2005). Based on last year's and previous counts, GRE is confident that there are sufficient surviving trees to meet this requirement.

**Case # PU 2149-00-605**

This project resulted from a more recent reroute (2002) of a portion of GRE's Ramsey to McHenry 230 kV transmission line around Devils Lake in North Dakota.

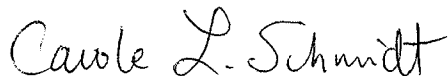
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Approximately 500 trees in shelterbelts were removed during construction of the transmission line, therefore requiring 1000 trees to be planted and 750 surviving at the end of the three-year liability period (June 2005). GRE planted over 1500 trees in May 2002 to meet these requirements. Again, based on last year's count, GRE is confident that there are sufficient surviving trees to meet this requirement.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please give me a call at (763) 241-2272.

Sincerely,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY



Carole L. Schmidt  
Environmental Scientist

c: Diane Stockdill

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