

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503-0564
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November 29, 2012

RECEIVED

DEC 05 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Tree/Shrub Report for ND PSC Case No. PU-07-169 (Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Belfield to Rhame 230 kV Transmission Line)

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) constructed an electrical transmission line in southwestern North Dakota, in Stark, Slope and Bowman counties. Basin Electric submitted a tree and shrub replacement plan for the project, which was subsequently approved by the ND PSC. While a total of 900 trees and shrubs were required for replanting, Basin Electric elected to plant more than 1,100 trees and shrubs. The tree and shrub plantings were completed in the spring of 2011.

Trees and shrubs were planted on seven landowner parcels. The locations of which are described in Basin Electric's Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan. Basin Electric Lands and Right-of-Way personnel inspected the plantings during the fall of 2011 and estimated the survival rate to be approximately 95%. A subsequent inspection during the fall of 2012 found that survival rates were similar to those observed during the 2011 inspection, with an estimated additional loss of one or two percent.

Given the high survival rate observed to date and the tree and shrub replacement rate of about 122% of the required number, it appears the target survival rate of 70% in the third year after planting should be attainable.

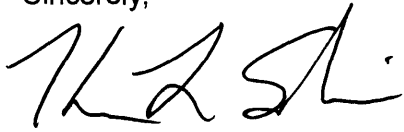
115 PU-07-169 Filed: 12/5/2012 Pages: 2
Tree and shrub replacement update

November 29, 2012

Page 2

Please contact me at 701.557.5495 or ksolie@bepc.com if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Solie', written in a cursive style.

Kevin L. Solie

Senior Water Quality/Waste Management Coordinator

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