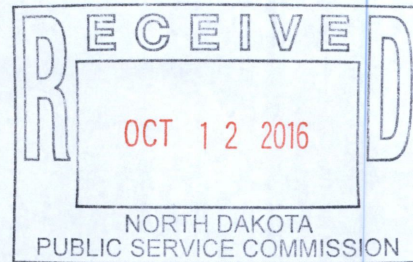


October 10, 2016



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 North Dakota Public Service Commission. While a total of 900 trees and shrubs were required for replanting, Basin Electric elected to plant more than 1,100 trees and shrubs, or about 122% of the minimum number required. The tree and shrub plantings were completed in spring 2011.

Tree and shrubs were inventoried during a period from September 21 to October 10, 2016, by Basin Electric Property and Right-of-Way personnel. The inventory was conducted through a series of onsite inspections and follow-up calls with landowners. The overall survival rate for the trees and shrubs was estimated to be approximately 82%.

Given the survival rate observed during 2016 (82%) and the conservative tree and shrub replacement rate of about 122%, it appears the target survival rate of 75% beyond the third year of planting has been attained. We request that tree and shrub mitigation efforts for Case No. PU-07-169 be deemed complete.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Solie".

Kevin L. Solie, P.E.
Environmental Administrator

/ser

121 PU-07-169 Filed: 10/12/2016 Pages: 1
Request to deem tree and shrub mitigation complete

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Kevin Solie, P.E.