

# BELLE FOURCHE PIPELINE COMPANY

Environmental Division  
Bob Dundas P.G., Environmental Coordinator  
Kate Forsting, Assistant Environmental Coordinator

RECEIVED

SEP 20 2010

Reply to:  
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455 North Poplar  
Casper, WY 82601  
Phone: (307) 237-9301  
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September 16, 2010

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Patrick Fahn  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Alex Loop Tree & Shrub Planting Update (PU-07-596)

Dear Mr. Fahn:

The following is an update on the tree/shrub planting success in several areas located along the Alex Loop right of way.

The Watford City tree planting project is very successful and establishment of the 74 total ash, elm and cottonwood trees has been a positive addition to the community.

The plantings of chokecherry bushes in Section 30, T152N, R101W was very successful with an estimated success rate of 95%.

In Section 7, T150N, R101W the survival rate of the planted shrubs was low (< 5%). This is attributed to heavy invasive weeds. After consultation with our reclamation specialist, we have learned the landowner in this area will be returning the subject lands to a food plot (corn, sorghum etc.) due to the high noxious weed pressure. Therefore, Belle Fourche Pipeline (BFPL) will be unable to replant the chokecherry/buffaloberry shrubs on the same land.

BFPL is proposing to use a Pheasants Forever habitat area for an alternate planting site. The alternative project planting site is located northeast of Alexander in Section 18, T153N, R102W. BFPL is also requesting that instead of replanting the subject area with 168 chokecherry/buffaloberry shrubs, we instead plant 170 blue spruce conifer trees. Our reclamation specialist believes the conifer species is hardier and may have a greater success rate establishing in this area. The conifers will also greatly enhance the pheasant habitat and act as replacements for trees that were destroyed by summer hail storms in 2010. The landowners in the area also have a history of taking exceptional care of their trees. Your consideration and approval of this proposal would be most appreciated.

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Letter re. Tree and shrub planting update

Belle Fourche Pipeline Company

Bob Dundas

Please feel free to contact me in our Casper Office at (307) 266-0411 should you wish to discuss this matter in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Dundas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Bob Dundas, P.G.  
Environmental Coordinator

e-C: Debra Bell - BFPL

File: BFPL Alex Loop