

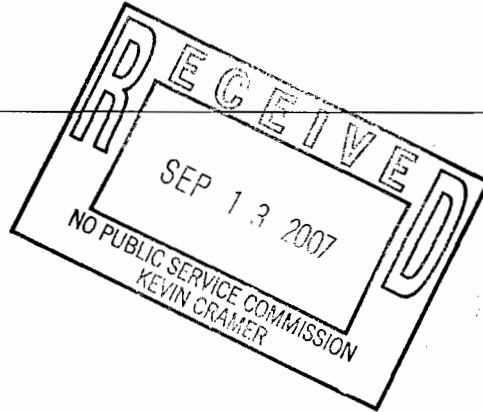
# BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

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September 11, 2007

Ms. Ilona Jeffcoat-Sacco  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard; Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and implementing rules, Basin Electric hereby notifies you of its intent to construct a 230 kV transmission line from the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) Williston Substation near Williston, North Dakota, to the existing Tioga Substation near Tioga, North Dakota, owned by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.

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

The facility would consist of a 230 kV transmission line approximately fifty (50) miles in length beginning at Western's Williston Substation near Williston, North Dakota, to the existing Tioga Substation near Tioga, North Dakota.

The transmission line is needed to increase the load-serving capacity and reliability of the interconnected transmission system in northwestern North Dakota, due primarily to expanding oil development and related increased electrical power usage in this area.

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

The proposed facility will begin at the existing Williston Substation and terminate at the existing Tioga Substation.

A map of the area being studied for location of a corridor for the proposed facilities is enclosed.

## 3. The Anticipated Construction and Operation Schedule

Construction on the Williston to Tioga line would begin as soon as necessary approvals are obtained. Under schedules giving consideration to state and federal regulation, that construction will begin in 2009, with the line being placed into operation in early 2010. We intend to begin right-of-way acquisition in July 2008 to meet our on-line schedule of early 2010.

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

Basin Electric has not to date developed a definitive cost estimate for the Williston to Tioga project, but preliminary figures indicate the cost of the facility would be approximately \$20,500,000.

## 5. Additional Information

The considerable oil development activity in northwestern North Dakota is causing an accelerated growth in requirements for electric power. Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, a member of Upper Missouri Generation and Transmission Cooperative (a Class A member of Basin Electric),

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will not be able to serve forecasted load growth due to existing high-voltage transmission limitations. Therefore, additional high-voltage transmission facilities are needed in this area to allow service to existing loads and anticipated load growth. The Williston to Tioga Project will also provide significant reliability improvements, as well as load-serving increases in the area.

Basin Electric hereby requests the Commission shorten the one-year waiting period between filing a Letter of Intent and the filing of an Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility as provided at Section 69-06-03-01 N.D.A.C.

The Application, when filed, will also request Commission approval for Basin Electric to submit a consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and a Route Permit resulting in a consolidated hearing. We will be prepared to file the Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit by June 1, 2008.

We would appreciate any assistance the Public Service Commission can provide to expedite the permitting process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald R. Harper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "H".

Ronald R. Harper  
CEO & General Manager

rrh/df/mw  
Enclosures

