

**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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November 30, 2012

**RECEIVED**

DEC 06 2012

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

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Re: *Tree/Shrub Replacement Report for ND PSC Case No. PU-07-671 (Basin Electric Power Cooperative – Williston to Tioga 230-kV Transmission Line).*

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) constructed an electrical transmission line in western North Dakota, in Mountrail and Williams counties. Basin Electric submitted a tree and shrub replacement plan for the project which was subsequently approved by the ND PSC.

At a replacement ratio of 2:1, approximately 546 trees and 154 shrubs (for a total of 700) were required for replanting. Basin Electric worked with the Williams County NRCS in procuring the trees and shrubs. Six landowners had fairly large plantings that were machine-planted by the NRCS, amounting to approximately 862 trees and shrubs. An additional 56 trees went to five landowners for hand-planting in their yards. Finally, a total of approximately 164 trees and shrubs were provided to the communities of Tioga and Ray.

The trees and shrubs were scheduled to be planted during the spring of 2011. Due to extremely wet conditions during the 2011 planting season, some plantings were not completed until 2012. The six large plantings were inspected in 2012 by the NRCS and survival rates were generally very good, estimated at 95%, 95%, 98%, 100% and 100%. However, one planting consisting of about 229 trees and shrubs had complete mortality (0% survival) and will need to be replanted. The individual hand-planted trees and shrubs as well as those planted in the communities of Tioga and Ray estimated to have relatively high survival rates (95% or greater) similar to the five plantings described above.

Please contact me at 701.557.5495 or [ksolie@bepc.com](mailto:ksolie@bepc.com) if you have any questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Solie  
Senior Water Quality/Waste Management Coordinator

**105 PU-07-671** Filed: 12/6/2012 Pages: 1  
**Tree and shrub replacement report update**