

**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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September 30, 2013

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



Re: PSC Case No. PU-07-671  
Tree/Shrub Replacement Report for ND  
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.

Basin Electric commissioned Western Ecosystems Technologies (WEST) to conduct an inventory of the tree and shrub plantings (copy attached). The WEST inventory includes the results of NRCS annual inspections as well as additional field observations.

The six large plantings were inspected in 2013 by the NRCS and survival rates were very good, generally estimated at 90 to 100%. One of these large plantings was replanted in 2013, due to a complete failure (0% survival) in the previous year. The individual hand-planted trees and shrubs, as well as those planted in the communities of Tioga and Ray are estimated to have relatively high survival rates (95% or greater) similar to the six 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

kls/ds  
enclosure



**ENVIRONMENTAL & STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS**

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September 30, 2013

Kevin L. Solie  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
1717 East Interstate Ave  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

**RE: Williston-Tioga Transmission Line Construction  
Tree Planting Monitoring**

Dear Mr. Solie:

In September 2013 WEST along with the NRCS conducted the monitoring of trees and shrubs planted as part of the Williston-Tioga Transmission Line PSC permit. WEST contacted Ms. Ruby Sylte, NRCS, in Williston to obtain information on locations where they had monitored trees for the project in 2013. The NRCS monitoring included private areas in which plantings had occurred and access was gained by NRCS or WEST (see table and attached photographs). WEST conducted the monitoring of trees planted within or by the City of Ray and City of Tioga. The Swensrud property was replanted by the NRCS in 2013 due to 0% survival in 2012. The NRCS noted that there was a lack of weed clearing and general maintenance at many of the locations but that the weed barriers were working the trees were surviving.

<b>Tract Name</b>	<b>2012 Survival</b>	<b>2013 Survival</b>
Stone	100%	100%
Swensrud	0%	90-95%*
Erickson	95%	90-95%
Reider	95%	90%
Kalil	98%	80%
Hughes	100%	98-100%
City of Ray (Golf Course)	Assumed High	100%
City of Tioga (City Park)	Assumed High	100%

\*Replanted in 2013

Other areas planted as part of the Williston-Tioga project included Hersel, Moe, Viall, Lukenbill and Bergstrom. Given that these were small plantings within individual's yards, it is likely that they had similarly high survival as the seven plantings described above, but contact could not be made for these individuals.

Sincerely,

Clayton Derby  
Senior Manager

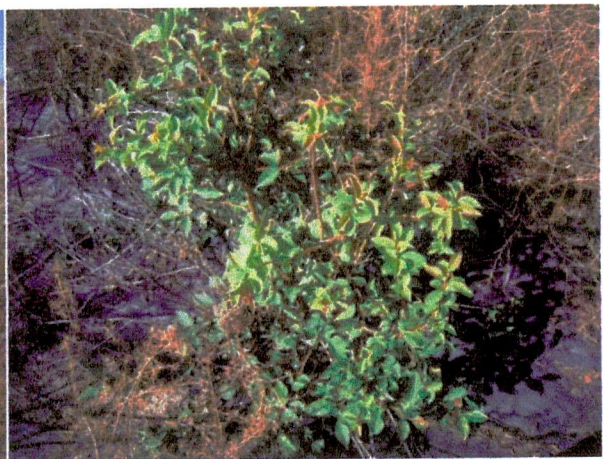
Stone tree planting area. – Photographs not available



Swensrud tree planting area



Erickson tree planting area



Reider tree planting area



**Kalil tree planting area.**

**Hughes tree planting area - Photographs not available**



**City of Ray (Golf Course) tree planting area**



**City of Tioga (City Park) tree planting area**