

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503
PHONE: 701-223-0441 FAX: 701-557-5336



October 30, 2014

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



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.

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 2014 by the NRCS and survival rates were generally very good, estimated at 90% or better. One of the six large plantings was not doing as well, however, with estimated survival rates in the 70 to 75% range. One of the large plantings was completely replanted in 2013, due to 0% survival in 2012. This 2013 planting now has an estimated survival rate of 95%. Estimated survival rates for plantings in the cities of Ray and Tioga are 100% and 80%, respectively. The individual hand-planted trees and shrubs are estimated to have relatively high survival rates (90% or greater) similar to the majority of the plantings described above.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Solie".

Kevin L. Solie, P.E.
Environmental Administrator

/ser

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Tree and shrub replacement report update



ENVIRONMENTAL & STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS

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October 30, 2014

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

**RE: Williston-Tioga Transmission Line Construction
2014 Tree Planting Monitoring**

Dear Mr. Solie:

In September 2014, WEST along with the NRCS conducted the monitoring of trees and shrubs planted as part of the Williston-Tioga Transmission Line PSC permit. As in 2012 and 2013, WEST contacted Ms. Ruby Sylte, NRCS, in Williston to obtain information on locations where they had monitored trees for the project in 2014. The NRCS monitoring included private areas in which plantings had occurred and access was gained by NRCS (see table). 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 trees were surviving.

Tract Name	2012 Survival	2013 Survival	2014 Survival
Stone	100%	100%	100%
Swensrud	0%	90-95% ^a	95% ^b
Erickson	95%	90-95%	90-95%
Reider	95%	90%	90%
Kalil	98%	80%	70-75% ^a
Hughes	100%	98-100%	98-100%
City of Ray (Golf Course)	Assumed High	100%	100%
City of Tioga (City Park)	Assumed High	100%	80%

^aReplanted in 2013

^bBlue spruce need to be replanted, per NRCS. Other species are doing well

^cNRCS indicated junberries could have some replacements added

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