

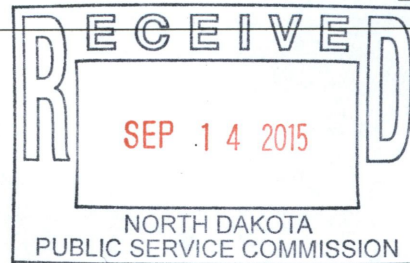
**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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



September 10, 2015

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 located 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 majority of the plantings were inventoried for the third and final year in 2014, with the overall survival rate estimated at 89-91%. One large planting (Swensrud) was replanted in 2012, thus making 2015 the third and final year for survival measurement. WEST reports the Swensrud planting had a 93% survival rate during the 2015 inventory.

Basin Electric's conservative approach in over-planting (862 trees and shrubs were planted while only 700 trees and shrubs were required) and observed three-year survival rates of approximately 90% demonstrate the minimum survival rate of 75% (after three years) set forth in the PSC's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications has been met or exceeded.

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, P.E.  
Environmental Administrator

/ser

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Update regarding tree and shrub plantings



**ENVIRONMENTAL & STATISTICAL CONSULTANTS**

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September 2, 2015

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

**RE: Williston-Tioga Transmission Line Construction  
2015 Tree Planting Monitoring**

Dear Mr. Solie:

In August 2014, the NRCS conducted a follow-up monitoring of trees and shrubs planted as part of the Williston-Tioga Transmission Line PSC permit at the Swensrud property. Trees at this property were replanted in 2013 as there was 0% survival in 2012. All other properties combined had an estimated 89-91% survival for three years (2012-2014) and were not resurveyed in 2015. As in the past, WEST contacted the NRCS in Williston (Nyle Trogstad) to obtain information on tree survival.

The 2015 monitoring indicated that approximately 20 of the blue spruce replanted in 2013 had not survived but all other trees had nearly 100% survival. A total of 305 trees were planted at the Swensrud property, therefore the overall survival is approximately 93%, consistent with the survival documented in 2013 and 2014 at the property.

Sincerely,

Clayton Derby  
Senior Manager