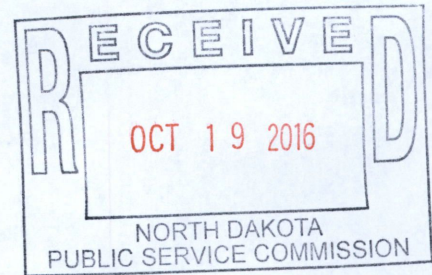


October 14, 2016

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.

The majority of the plantings were inventoried for the third and final year in 2015, with the overall survival rate estimated at 89-91%. One large planting (Swensrud, approximately 200 trees) was replanted in 2013, making 2016 the final year for survival measurement. Basin Electric's consultant, WEST, Inc., reports the Swensrud planting had an estimated 85% survival rate during the 2016 inventory.

Given the survival rate observed during 2016 (85%) and the conservative tree and shrub replacement rate of about 154%, it appears the target survival rate of 75% beyond the third year of planting has been attained. We request that tree and shrub mitigation efforts for Case No. PU-07-671 be deemed complete.

Please contact me at 701.557.5495 or [ksolie@bepc.com](mailto:ksolie@bepc.com) if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Solie".

Kevin L. Solie, P.E.  
Environmental Administrator

/ser

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Request to deem tree and shrub mitigation efforts complete

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Kevin Solie, P.E.