

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kalk, Cramer and Fetch
Fr: Jerry Lein
Da: August 17, 2012
Re: Basin Electric/PrairieWinds Tree Replacement Plan, Case No. PU-08-75.

Basin Electric has filed for approval of its PrairieWinds Tree and Shrub Replacement Plan as required by the Commission's Order in Case No. PU-08-75. Basin reports removing approximately 989 trees and 345 Shrubs, resulting in a requirement to plant $1978 + 690 = 2668$ replacement trees and shrubs. Many of the 23 affected landowners did not want replacements on their property or requested different species than those removed. The majority of the replacements (2305 plantings) are being planted by NRCS on land owned by two individuals while Basin works with three other land owners to plant approximately 115 trees. Basin is working with NRCS to fund a minimum of 248 additional plantings in areas impacted by the Souris River flood. Basin Electric will submit the locations and species of these additional planting when that information becomes known.

I recommend the Commission approve the plan.

JRL