

**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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November 30, 2012

**RECEIVED**

DEC 05 2012

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

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

Re: *Tree/Shrub Replacement Report for ND PSC Case No. PU-08-75 (Basin Electric Power Cooperative – PrairieWinds ND1).*

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) constructed the PrairieWinds ND1 wind energy facility (Project) in Ward County, North Dakota. 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 2668 trees and shrubs were required for replanting. While approximately 2520 trees and shrubs were projected for planting during spring 2012, two of the smaller plantings (88 trees and 15 trees) were not completed. Basin Electric intends to complete these small plantings during spring 2013. Two large NRCS plantings were projected to total approximately 2405 trees and shrubs; however, due to constraints in the field, approximately 2343 trees and shrubs were planted.

Basin Electric Environmental Services personnel inspected the NRCS plantings during the fall of 2012, and estimated the survival rate to be approximately 80-85%. The somewhat dry summer resulted in fairly challenging growing conditions for the newly planted trees and shrubs. Further, it appears that some of the stock was not viable; in one plot, only one of 25 ponderosa pine saplings survived.

Basin Electric continues to work with the NRCS to fund an additional planting of at least 400 trees and shrubs so as to exceed the total number required by at least 10 percent. Once the location(s) of the additional planting(s) and species are known, Basin Electric will submit the information to the PSC.

Please contact me at 701.557.5495 or [ksolie@becp.com](mailto:ksolie@becp.com) if you have any questions regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

Kevin L. Solie  
Senior Water Quality/Waste Management Coordinator

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Tree and shrub replacement update