

**BASIN ELECTRIC  
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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November 6, 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-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 that was subsequently approved by the ND PSC.

At a replacement ratio of 2:1, approximately 2,668 trees and shrubs were required for replanting. Two large NRCS plantings were completed in 2012, totaling approximately 2,343 trees and shrubs. In 2013, the NRCS completed an additional planting totaling approximately 469 trees and shrubs. Basin Electric staff also completed two plantings in 2013 totaling 112 trees. In total, approximately 2,924 trees and shrubs have been planted on behalf of the Project, which amounts to about 10 percent more than the minimum required.

Basin Electric Environmental Services personnel inspected the plantings during late summer 2014 and estimated the overall survival rate to be approximately 80%, down from approximately 85% in 2013. In general, plantings observed to be doing well in previous years exhibited very little mortality and continued to do well in 2014. These highly successful plantings had essentially the same survival rates as observed during the 2013 inspection. Plantings exhibiting relatively poor survival rates in past inspections continued to do poorly, and accounted for the majority of the decrease in the overall survival rate.

Since Basin Electric planted approximately 10 percent more trees and shrubs than required, the survival rate (based on a requirement for 2,668 trees and shrubs) is approximately 88 percent.

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

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Tree and shrub replacement report update