



October 30, 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-08-75  
(Basin Electric Power Cooperative – PrairieWinds ND1).

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 2668 trees and shrubs were required for replanting. Two large NRCS plantings were completed in 2012, totaling approximately 2343 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 2924 trees and shrubs were planted on behalf of the Project, amounting to about 10 percent more than the minimum required.

Basin Electric Environmental Services personnel inspected the plantings on July 29 and July 30, 2015. The 2012 planting of 2,342 trees and shrubs had an estimated survival rate of 77%, amounting to 1804 living specimens. The 2012 planting was inspected in 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Since the three-year survival rate for the 2012 planting exceeds 75%, it will not be surveyed again.

The 2013 planting totaled approximately 581 trees and shrubs. Based on the 2015 inventory survival rate of 96%, approximately 560 specimens remain. The 2013 planting was inventoried in 2013, 2014, and 2015. Since these trees and shrubs had not grown at least one full year prior to the first inventory, the final inventory for the 2013 planting will be conducted in 2016.

As indicated earlier, Basin Electric planted approximately 10 percent more trees and shrubs than required. With approximately 2364 (1804 plus 560) trees and shrubs surviving, the overall survival rate is 2364/2668 or about 88%.

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

Sincerely,

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

Kevin L. Solie, P.E.  
Environmental Administrator

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