

February 25, 2014

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Heskett 88 MW Simple Cycle Combustion
Turbine & Natural Gas Pipeline –
Case Nos. PU-11- 631 and PU-11-680

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith submits an original and two copies of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan for the Commission's approval in compliance with the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications attached and part of the Commission's Orders in Case Nos. PU-11-631 and PU-11-680 issued on December 21, 2012 and August 21, 2013 respectively.

The Commission's Orders require Montana-Dakota to plant two 2-year-old saplings for every one tree removed. 879 trees or shrubs were removed during construction of the Heskett Station Natural Gas Pipeline and 66 trees or shrubs were removed during construction of the Heskett 88 MW Combustion Turbine for a total of 945 trees or shrubs removed during both segments of the project. As shown on Attachment A, a minimum of 2,058 trees or shrubs will be planted to replace the trees and shrubs removed because of the two projects

The Commission's Orders require Montana-Dakota to coordinate with the North Dakota Forest Service to identify replacement trees that are suitable for the planting location. The North Dakota Forest Service directed Montana-Dakota to the Morton County Soil Conservation District for this service. Montana-Dakota is working with the Morton County Soil Conservation District to identify suitable tree replacements and to perform the plantings in accordance with the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications. Since the Morton County Soil Conservation District does not hand plant trees, the 20 individual trees to be planted on three separate landowner's properties will be performed by a Montana-Dakota employees or a suitable contractor.

Additionally, the Commission's Orders require Montana-Dakota to inspect the trees annually, in September, for three years. If, at the end of the third year, the survival rate is less than 75%, the Commission may order additional planting(s). Montana-Dakota will be contracting with the Morton County Soil Conservation District to perform the

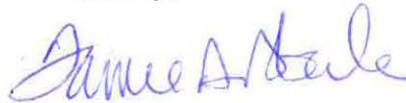
annual inspections and Montana-Dakota will be reporting the findings to the Commission.

The proposed Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan provided as Attachment A identifies the species and number of trees removed from each landowner's property during construction, the species and number of trees to be replanted, and the landowner desired location of the plantings. The tree species may change slightly based on tree availability at time of order and planting but the total number of trees planted will remain the same. Should the species of trees need to be modified, the Morton County Soil Conservation District will determine suitable replacements.

Three landowners, Irwin, Trauger and Mitzel did not wish to have trees replanted on their property (total of 404 trees). These trees will be combined with the replacement trees for the Heskett Combustion Turbine site (132 trees) into one planting on the Heskett Property.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter, attached hereto, and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments

MDU Co. Heskett CT & Pipeline Tree Mitigation Plan

Landowner

Case No. PU-11-680 & Case No. PU-11-631

Kuhn	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	37	74			
Bur Oak	23	46			
Juneberry	30	60			
Silver Buffaloberry	<u>16</u>	<u>32</u>			
Total	106	212			

Plant Trees where removed

Seeman	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Red Pine	1	2			

Plant @ Farmstead at 4647 24th Ave

Kary	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Bur Oak	15	30			
Green Ash	42	84			
Juneberry	4	8			
Common Buckthorn	2				
Silver Buffaloberry	<u> </u>	<u>4</u>			
Total	63	126			

Plant Trees where removed

Schock	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	10	22			
Bur Oak	3	66			
Juneberry	8				
Silver Buffaloberry	<u>23</u>	<u> </u>			
Total	44	88			

Plant Trees at location identified by owner

Marmot	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	1	2			

Plant Trees where removed

Plummer	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Bur Oak	9	18			
Silver Buffaloberry	21	100			
Redosier Dogwood	<u>9</u>	<u>100</u>			
Total	39	218			

Plant Bur Oak where trees removed. Plant Trees at location identified by owner

Vogel	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	2	70			
Juneberry	75				
Silver Buffaloberry	244				
Box Elder	8				
Round Leaf Hawthorn	2				
Golden Current		178			
BH Spruce		30			
CO Blue Spruce		22			
Siberian Crabapple		77			
Cranberry		172			
Schubert Chokecherry		<u>115</u>			
Total	331	664			

Plant Trees at location identified by owner

Norton	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Common Buckthorn	25				
Round Leaf Hawthorn	67				
Silver Buffaloberry		42			
Redosier Dogwood		63			
Silverberry		63			
Nannyberry		<u>42</u>			
Total	92	210			

Plant Trees at location identified by owner

Heskett	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Chinese Elm	18				
Russian Olive	6				
Silver Buffaloberry	12	108			
Common Buckthorn	12				

Redosier Dogwood		120
CO Blue Spruce		54
Schubert Chokecherry		108
Arnold Hawthorn		51
Round Leaf Hawthorn		30
Juniper	<u>18</u>	<u>65</u>
Total	66	536

Trees from Landowners Irwin, Trauger and Mitzel added to trees removed from plant site

Irwin	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	33				
Chinese Elm	8				
Russian Olive	<u>2</u>				
Total	43				

Landowner does not want trees replanted. Replacement trees planted at Heskett Station

Trauger	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Green Ash	39				
Silver Buffaloberry	23				
Common Buckthorn	11				
Eastern Cottonwood	34				
Box Elder	19				
American Elm	<u>1</u>				
Total	127				

Landowner does not want trees replanted. Replacement trees planted at Heskett Station

Mitzel	Removed	Replanted	1st yr survival	2nd yr survival	3rd yr survival
Silver Buffaloberry	12				
Common Buckthorn	<u>20</u>				
Total	32				

Landowner does not want trees replanted. Replacement trees planted at Heskett Station

Total Trees Removed	945
Total Trees Replanted	2058