

interoffice
MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioner Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner Randy Christmann
Commissioner Julie Fedorchak

From: Julie Prescott, Utility Analyst

Subject: PU-11-631 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., 10-inch diameter natural gas pipeline
PU-11-680 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., 88 MW simple cycle combustion turbine

Date: March 24, 2014

On March 24, 2014, MDU submitted a tree and shrub mitigation plan for the Commission's approval in compliance with the Commission's orders in Case Nos. PU-11-631 (issued December 21, 2012) and PU-11-680 (issued August 21, 2013). For reference, MDU Heskett Station Unit 3 was sited under PU-11-631, and the 24-mile natural gas pipeline sited under PU-11-680 that will serve Heskett Station from an interconnect with Northern Border Pipeline near St. Anthony.

Information provided by MDU indicates that 329 trees and 616 shrubs were removed from eleven private properties and Heskett Station during construction of these two projects, with a 658 trees and 1,550 shrubs to be replanted on eight private properties (three landowners have opted out) and Heskett Station.

It appears from the plan that less desirable (potentially invasive and/or disease-prone) species including Chinese Elm, American Elm, Russian Olive, and Common Buckthorn will be replaced with species such as Black Hills Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce, Siberian Crabapple, Redosier Dogwood, Schubert Chokecherry, etc. MDU has coordinated with the Morton County Soil Conservation District as to suitable tree selections and also to perform the plantings in accordance with the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications.

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