

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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November 8, 2011

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard; Dept 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and implementing rules, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (**Basin Electric**) hereby notifies the North Dakota Public Service Commission (**Commission**) of our intent to construct a double circuit overhead electrical transmission line from Western Area Power Administration's (**Western**) Williston Substation for a total distance of approximately 3.7 miles herein referred to as the Williston Tie Project or Project (map attached).

In accordance with N.D.A.C. Chapter 69-06-03, the following information is provided to support our Letter of Intent:

1. Description of Size and Type of Facility and the Area to be Served

The Williston Tie Project is approximately 3.7 mile (in total) portion of the larger approximately 200 mile Antelope Valley Station to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project that Basin Electric is currently developing. A separate Letter of Intent will be filed shortly for the larger project. The area to be served by this Project includes northwest North Dakota.

The Williston Tie Project will be designed, constructed and operated as a double circuit configuration. The 115-kV portions of the Project will be owned by Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative (**MWEC**), a Class C member of Basin Electric. The 345-kV and 230 kV portions of the Project will be owned by Basin Electric.

The Project will consist of two sections with the future Judson Substation located between the two sections. The future Judson Substation facility will be comprised initially of a new 115/25-kV transformer owned by MWEC. Provisions would be made to install a 345/230-kV transformer, owned by Basin Electric, as a part of the larger 200-mile Antelope Valley Station to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project.

The first transmission line segment of the project is a 230/115-kV double circuit transmission line approximately 2.1 miles in length that will interconnect the existing Western owned Williston Substation to the future Judson Substation. The second transmission line segment is a 1.6 mile 345/115-kV transmission line which will be located from the future Judson Substation to a point of departure where the 345-kV transmission line route goes northward and MWEC's 115-kV

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distribution line route travels westward. The 115/25-kV portion of the Judson Substation will not be included in either application as it is outside of the Commission's siting jurisdiction.

The remaining portions of the 345-kV transmission line and associated substations including the future Judson Substation and the various interconnections with existing facilities will be included in the Antelope Valley Station to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project Letter of Intent and subsequent siting application.

2. A Map of the Study Area for the Proposed Site or Corridor

The attached map depicts the Study Area, Western's Williston Substation, the future Judson Substation and the portion of the transmission lines that are double circuited.

3. The Anticipated Construction and Operation Schedule

Construction on the Williston Tie Project will be in two phases with the first phase beginning as soon as all necessary approvals are obtained (May 2012). The first construction phase will consist of only MWECC's 115-kV transmission line and 115/25-kV transformer portion of the Project. We anticipate the first phase to be in operation in the fall of 2012. The second phase of construction will likely take place in 2014 and will consist of the 345-kV and 230-kV portions of the line.

4. An Estimate of the Total Cost of Construction

The estimated cost of construction for the 345/115-kV and 230/115-kV line sections is anticipated to be approximately three (3) million dollars. This cost estimate is for the 345-kV and 230-kV line and pole structures alone. The cost to procure and install the 115kV/25 portion of the project has been omitted from this cost estimate as it is outside of the Commission's siting jurisdiction.

5. Additional Information

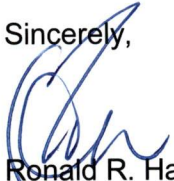
This transmission project will provide increased load service capacity and system reliability in northwest North Dakota. The vicinity surrounding Western's Williston Substation and immediate surrounding area is extremely congested with the fast paced industrial growth associated with the Bakken development. Due to this, it is apparent to Basin Electric and MWECC that co-locating transmission structures where appropriate is prudent as it minimizes impacts to the environment, the public, and land owners.

Basin Electric requests the Commission shorten the one-year waiting period between filing the Letter of Intent and the filing of an Application for Certificate of Corridor Compatibility per Section 69-06-03-01 N.D.A.C. The Application, when filed, will also request Commission approval for Basin Electric to submit a consolidated Application for Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit resulting in a consolidated hearing. We expect to file the Application for Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit in January 2012.

Basin Electric appreciates the Commission's attention to this matter. Basin Electric looks forward to developing the necessary transmission infrastructure to support our member systems in northwest North Dakota.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
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Sincerely,



Ronald R. Harper
CEO & General Manager

rrh/cjj/gmj
Enclosure