



August 4, 2017

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

Re: Case No. PU-11-696 - Notification of Extraordinary Event

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

The following is a written report to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) of the August 3, 2017, verbal notification made to Commission staff (Jerry Lein) of an extraordinary event with Brink Contractors, Inc.'s helicopter support service subcontractor, Winco, Inc. and a drone operated by a private individual on Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project. This near miss incident event resulted in no personnel or property damage to project staff or equipment.

On August 1, 2017, during conductor stringing operations, at a location near the U.S. 2/85 Williston Truck By-Pass, the helicopter pilot, while in stationary/slow moving flight, observed a drone within 30-feet of his aircraft. It was reported that the drone followed the helicopter in its performance of their duties for the project. The helicopter pilot took precautionary action avoiding the drone and then forced the drone to the ground by directing his rotor wash.

Winco has filed an Incident Report with the Federal Aviation Administration. In addition, Brink Constructors, Inc. filed a Near Miss/Incident Report with Basin Electric. This document is attached.

Should you have any further questions or require any additional information, please contact me at 701.557.5635 or by email at [cmiller@bepec.com](mailto:cmiller@bepec.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Cris Miller".

Cris Miller  
Senior Environmental Services Specialist

/ser  
Enclosure

cc: Jerry Lein - North Dakota Public Service Commission ✓  
Kyle Wanner - North Dakota Aeronautical Commission  
Aaron Hately - Brink Constructors, Inc.  
Casey Jacobson  
Amanda Wangler

301 PU-11-696 Filed: 8/7/2017 Pages: 3  
Incident report



# NEAR MISS/INCIDENT REPORT - NON-BEPC EMPLOYEES/PROPERTY

Unit No.:	Facility:	Report No.:
<b>General Information</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Near Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Incident		
Date of Near Miss/Incident: 8/1/17	Time of Near Miss/Incident (2400): 930	Name of Contractor: BCI
Has Contractor Management Been Notified? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No    If yes, who was contacted: Aaron Hatley		
Describe the near miss/incident and its location: The helicopter was installing fiber dampers on a structure a few spans off the Highway. When they were done the pilot Joel Williamson looked over his shoulder to the blind side of the helicopter and noticed a drone about 30' off his passenger side. Joel then checked his surroundings gained altitude to get clear of the powerline, the drone followed so he moved above the drone, used his roader wash to force the it to the ground. Once on the ground Joel landed on it with his skid and returned to the LZ with the drone. The owner of the drone, a truck driver drove down from wherever he was parked, pulled over to the side of the I 85 bypass to confront Joel and the crew and to retrieve his drone. Joel contacted his safety department with WinCo who directed him to report it to the FAA. After collecting video evidence of the SD card of the drone and contact information from the driver the drone was returned to the owner and he went on his way.		
<b>Who or what was injured or damaged? (Check applicable box and complete)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Bodily Injury:		
<b>Name of Injured:</b>	Age:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Address (Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip):		
Nature of Injury:		
<b>Name of Injured:</b>	Age:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F
Address (Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip):		
Nature of Injury:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Property damage to others: What was damaged (Vehicles include make, model, and license)?		
Who is the owner?		
Address (Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip):		
Where can damaged property be seen?		
If damage was to underground line, has the owner been contacted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
Was any Cooperative property damaged? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, complete <a href="#">Property Damage or Loss Report</a> and <a href="#">Insurance information below</a> .		
Were any Cooperative employees injured? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
If yes, complete <a href="#">Occupational Injury and Illness Accident Report</a> and <a href="#">Insurance Information below</a> .		
<b>Contractor's Insurance Information</b>		
<b>Complete only if Cooperative property damaged OR Cooperative employees injured</b>		
Insurance Company:	Policy No.:	Agent:
<b>Witnesses</b>		
Were there any witnesses? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No    If yes, complete the following:		
Name: Jake Hennings		Phone: (605)342-6966, ext.
Address (Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip): 2950 N. Plaza Drive Rapid City SD, 57702		
Name: Ryan Olsen		Phone: 6053426966, ext.
Address (Street/PO Box, City, State, Zip): 2950 N. Plaza Drive Rapid City SD, 57702		
<b>Corrective Action</b>		
Describe the immediate corrective action taken: Stay alert for possible airspace violations from private drone operators.		
Name of Foreman/Supervisor: Aaron Hatley		Date: 8/2/17
(Facility Manager Signature)		(Date)
Report Prepared By: Aaron Hatley	Title: CM	



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## NEAR MISS/INCIDENT REPORT - NON-BEPC EMPLOYEES/PROPERTY

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<i>Rene Hatten</i>	8/2/17
<small>(Preparer Signature)</small>	<small>(Date)</small>

**Forward completed document to BEPC's Manager of Risk and Insurance, Manager of Construction, Safety & Occupational Health Administrator, Construction Safety Coordinator, and BEPC's On-Site Safety Coordinator**