



12300 Elm Creek Boulevard
Maple Grove, Minnesota 55369-4718
763-445-5000
greatriverenergy.com

25 September 2017

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



RE: 2017 Tree Mitigation Report
Prairie Substation to Ramsey Substation 230 KV "GD" Transmission Line
Case Number PU-12-398

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On December 12, 2012, the Commission issued Certificate of Compatibility No. 140 to Great River Energy. Great River Energy respectfully submits (via e filing and US Postal) the following information regarding tree planting survival rates on the Steinhaus and Olson properties:

- On September 21, 2017, Breanna DeMarais, Ramsey County Soil Conservation District Manager reported (see attached email) an inventory survey was completed for both Olson and Steinhaus properties. The survey found a total of 119 trees died.
- The inspection indicated that 89 trees died on the Steinhaus property and 30 trees died on the Olson property since the last survey.
- To date (see attached table) the combined 2017 survival rate on both Steinhaus and Olson properties is 77.1 percent (1,459 trees survived). The 77.1 percent survival rate meets the Commission's Order requirement of a minimum 75 percent survival rate after three years.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at 763-445-5215, or by email at mparlow@greenergy.com.

Respectfully submitted,

GREAT RIVER ENERGY

Marsha Parlow
Transmission Permitting Analyst

c: Jerry Lein, ND PSC
Chuck Lukkarila, GRE

Attachments

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Letter and supporting documentation re 2017 tree inspection status

Great River Energy
Marsha Parlow

Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG

From: DeMarais, Breanna - NRCS-CD, Devils Lake, ND <Breanna.DeMarais@nd.nacdnet.net>
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 11:17 AM
To: Parlow, Marsha GRE-MG
Subject: Tree Counts

EXTERNAL

Clerk Steinhuis

Again the Ponderosa Pine were all lost.

Lilac- 29

Amur Maple-27

Cottonwood-6

Boxelder- 15

Red. Dogwood-12

Earl Olson

BHS/CBS- 3

Crabapple- All Lost

N. Cottonwood- 6

BHS/CBS- 3

Breanna DeMarais (Frelich) | District Manager

Ramsey County Soil Conservation District

706 8th Ave. SE Ste. 2

Devils Lake, ND 58301

701.662.4088 Ex. 3

Breanna.DeMarais@nd.nacdnet.net

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Species	Planted	2015		2015		2016		2016		2017		2017	
		Olson loss	Steinhaus loss	2015 Total loss	Survival Actual	Olson loss *	2016 Steinhaus loss	2016 Total Loss	Survival Actual	2017 Olson loss *	2017 Steinhaus loss	2017 Total Loss	Survival Actual
Cottonwood	136	2	13	15	121	9	4	13	108	6	6	12	96
Black Hills Spruce/Colorado	65	4		4	61	1		1	60	3		3	57
Boxelder	143		14	14	129		15	15	114		15	15	99
Apple	22	1		1	21			0	21	21		21	0
Pear	10				10	10		10	0			0	0
Lilac	667		20	20	647		20	20	627		29	29	598
Amur Maple	200		15	15	185		15	15	170		27	27	143
Red Osier Dogwood	500		20	20	480		7	7	473		12	12	461
June Berry	25				25	20		20	5			0	5
Ponderosa Pine	125				125		125	125	0			0	0
All Species	1893	7	82		1804	40	186		1578	30	89		1459
					95.3%				83.4%				77.1%

* Unable to survey Olson's property in 2016 before snow cover. Trees surveyed on June 30, 2017 and results reported to NDPSC on 7/13/17