



UPPER MISSOURI G & T

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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January 28, 2014

Public Service Commission
State of North Dakota
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

**Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Lonesome Creek Station – McKenzie County, Siting Application
– Case No. PU-12-790**

Dear Commissioners,

This letter is offered in support of the construction of two new 45 MW natural gas turbines at the Lonesome Creek Station in McKenzie County planned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Upper Missouri G&T Electric Cooperative is a Class A Member System of Basin Electric located in Sidney, MT. Upper Missouri G&T is a transmission cooperative offering wholesale electricity from Basin Electric and the Western Area Power Administration to its ten member cooperatives in western North Dakota and eastern Montana. There are five cooperatives in North Dakota and five in Montana.

Oil exploration, development and production are all rapidly increasing the demand for electricity in northwestern North Dakota and northeastern Montana. And with it, we also project continued and significant electric growth. This growth can also be attributed to the wide range of ancillary services from oil related activity as well as the growth of all types of businesses, industry, and community development resulting from the influx of people to the area.

Accelerated growth requires timely and coordinated development of our system infrastructure to increase generation and transmission capacities in this region so the demands are met without compromising reliability or public safety. The addition of phase II of the Lonesome Creek Station, and the construction of the two new 45 MW natural gas turbines are an important piece of Basin's commitment to reliability in this region.

It is important infrastructure additions and improvements are made, for the timely development of schools, housing, and industry, as well as maintaining continued reliability to the residents, ranchers, and all of the industry already developed in our region. Upper Missouri strongly supports the development and expeditious construction of these two Lonesome Creek turbines.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Mahowald
Chief Operating Officer

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Exhibit 9

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