

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

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August 7, 2014



Darrell Nitschke, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Submission and request for approval of Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan for ND PSC Case No. PU-13-22 (Dakota Gasification Company – AVS Natural Gas Pipeline).

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On behalf of Dakota Gasification Company (DGC), Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) constructed the Antelope Valley Station (AVS) Natural Gas Pipeline (Project) in Mercer County, North Dakota, with construction beginning in late-2013 and ending in mid- 2014. Basin Electric contracted with Western EcoSystems Technologies (WEST) to inventory trees and shrubs that may be potentially cleared, grubbed, cut or otherwise removed so that mitigation could occur according to the Public Service Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications (Case No. PU-13-22).

Trees and Shrubs Removed

Many of the trees and shrubs identified in the WEST inventory were avoided, due to the numerous bored sections along the pipeline route. However, approximately 26 trees and 28 shrubs were removed during construction of the project. The attached map provides details on species and locations of the trees and shrubs affected by construction. All trees removed were on land owned by Basin Electric.

Replacement Plan

The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications in Case No. PU-13-22 states that both trees and shrubs shall be replaced on a two for one basis; therefore, approximately 52 trees and 56 shrubs (a total of 108) are needed as replacements.

Basin Electric contracted with High Plains Concepts of Beulah, ND to supply the trees and shrubs and complete the planting. The replacements will be planted in the SW1/4 of Section 13 and the NW1/4 of Section 24, Township 145N - Range 88W (on the AVS plant site). The tables below indicate the numbers and types of the trees and shrubs proposed as replacements.

Tree Variety	Number
Black Hills Spruce	5
Birch	3
Linden	15
Burr Oak	3
Maple	15
Locust	9
Cherry	6
Pin oak	5
Flowering Crab	9
Total	70

Shrub Variety	Number
Lilac	52
Ninebark	10
Forsythia	8
Total	70

Tree and shrub planting is proposed to occur in fall, 2014. A total of 140 trees and shrubs are planned as replacements, which is 129.6% of the total required. The plantings will be inspected once a year for three years with reports due to the North Dakota Public Service Commission before October 1st of each year.

Basin Electric requests the PSC consider and approve the Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan for Case No. PU-13-22. Please contact me if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,



Kevin L. Solie, P.E.
Environmental Administrator

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Enclosure

Map Features

- Bored Segments
 - DGC-AVS Pipeline
 - Tree/Shrub Areas Affected
 - Parcels
 - Townships
 - Sections
- Date: 5/27/2014

1 inch = 1,000 feet

