

**BASIN ELECTRIC
POWER COOPERATIVE**

1717 EAST INTERSTATE AVENUE
BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58503
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September 23, 2015



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

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Referenced is North Dakota PSC Case No. PU-13-22 (Dakota Gasification Company – Antelope Valley Station Natural Gas Pipeline).

Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) constructed a natural gas pipeline (Project) in Mercer County in accordance with the Order issued by the PSC for the above-referenced case. The tree and shrub replacement plan for the Project was approved by the PSC in August 2014.

Approximately 26 trees and 28 shrubs were removed during construction of the Project, all of which were on land owned by DGC's parent company, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications for Case No. PU-13-22 require that both trees and shrubs be replaced on a two for one basis; as such, approximately 52 trees and 56 shrubs (a total of 108) were needed as replacements.

A total of 140 trees and shrubs were planted at Basin Electric's Antelope Valley Station, amounting to approximately 130% of the minimum number required. The one-year tree and shrub survival rate inventory was conducted by Basin Electric personnel on September 22, 2015. Three of the trees appeared to have died or were in poor condition. All shrubs appeared to be doing well, with a 100% survival rate. In total, 137 trees and shrubs survived one year. Since only 108 trees and shrubs were required for mitigation, the one-year survival rate is in excess of 100%.

This is the first of three annual tree survival rate reports; additional reports to be prepared in 2016 and 2017. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding this letter please contact me at 701.557.5495.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Solie".

Kevin L. Solie, P.E.
Environmental Administrator

/ser

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Compliance filing – tree survival rate report