



August 24, 2017

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. 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. The tree and shrub replacement plan for the Project was approved by the PSC in August 2014; trees and shrubs were planted during September 2014. 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.

A tree and shrub inspection was conducted by Basin Electric personnel on August 23, 2017. Nine trees were found to be missing or dead. Twelve trees appeared to be in poor condition, most likely stressed by the lack of moisture early in the growing season. Shrubs generally appeared to be doing very well.

One-hundred-thirty-one trees and shrubs appear to have survived. Twelve of the surviving trees are in poor condition, however, amounting to a conservative survival number of 119. Since only 108 trees and shrubs were required for mitigation, the current survival rate is approximately 110%.

Given the conservative tree and shrub replacement rate of about 130% and the 110% survival rate observed in 2017, it appears the target survival rate of 75% beyond the third year of planting has been attained. We request that tree and shrub mitigation efforts for Case No. PU-13-22 be deemed complete.

100 PU-13-22 Filed: 8/24/2017 Pages: 2
Request to deem tree and shrub mitigation efforts complete

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Kevin Solie, P.E.

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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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin L. Solie. P.E.
Senior Environmental Compliance Administrator

/ser