

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kroshus, Fedorchak, and Christmann

Fr: Jerry Lein

Da: July 8, 2020

Re: PU-13-840: BSSE Tree & Shrub Mitigation Plan

On December 14, 2016 The Commission approved a Tree and Shrub Replacement plan (Attachment L of docket entry no. 64) for the Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) 345 kV transmission line, Case No. PU-13-840. In summary, 29 trees requiring replacement were removed and arrangements were made for NRCS to provide replacement plantings of 100 trees. Landowners were consulted and agreed that all 100 replacement trees will be planted on one property.

On October 31, 2018 Parties reported that NRCS inspection revealed only 40% survival and trees were replanted with fences around them to protect from animals.

On October 31 2019 Parties reported that NRCS inspection revealed only four surviving trees and the trees would be replanted in Spring 2020.

On December 18, 2019 the Commission approved switching the project to the new tree & shrub mitigation specs.

On May 6, 2020, Parties filed a new tree plan. James River Soil Conservation District is replanting 60 evergreen trees (evergreen discourages deer from eating them) Parties will monitor and report the results after two years

I recommend approving the plan.

JRL