MONTANA-DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO.
A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-222-7900

September 16, 2022

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Ave. Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Case No. PU-13-840
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co./Otter Tail Power Company 345KV Transmission Line – Dickey County Siting Application
Tree Care and Management Plan – Final Report

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company ("Applicants") provide this Final Report pursuant to the Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) Tree Care and Management Plan for 2020-2022 ("Plan") submitted to the North Dakota Public Service Commission ("Commission") on May 6, 2020 and approved by the Commission at its regular meeting on July 8, 2020.

In compliance with the Plan, the Applicants have prepared this summary documenting how the Plan achieved the purpose to create a sustainable planting that will provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment. A final inspection was performed by personnel from the James River Soil Conservation District office in Ellendale on September 9, 2022 and is provided as Attachment A. This letter serves to summarize the success of the Plan and document for the Commission the Final Report. The number of surviving replacement trees and shrubs is 90 of a total of 100 original plantings. The survival of 90% exceeds the goal of 75%.

The surviving replacement trees (90) are expected to provide the landowner (and others) with a new, hardy, long-living group of trees that survive in North Dakota. They will provide shade, windbreak, beauty and ecosystem diversity for wildlife for the next generation. The purpose of the Plan was to create sustainable plantings, as appropriate for the local soil and growing conditions, that will provide long-term benefit to landowners, farmers and ranchers, the community, wildlife and the environment. The addition of these trees to the farmstead achieved the purpose of the Plan. Establishing the plantings in this area was challenging due to the variety of weather and site conditions.

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Tree Care and Management Plan - Final Report
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. / Otter Tail Power Co.

The items in the Plan followed the “USDA-NRCS-North Dakota Field Office Technical Guide: Windbreak and Woodland Tree Care and Management” up to this filing. This Final Report will complete all requirements for tree replanting and care for the BSSE project.

Please refer all inquiries regarding this filing to:

Mr. Mark Dihle
Power Production Engineer
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Please contact me at 701.222.7855 or travis.jacobson@mdu.com if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Jacobson
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachment

Cc: Mark Dihle, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Todd Langston, Otter Tail Power Company

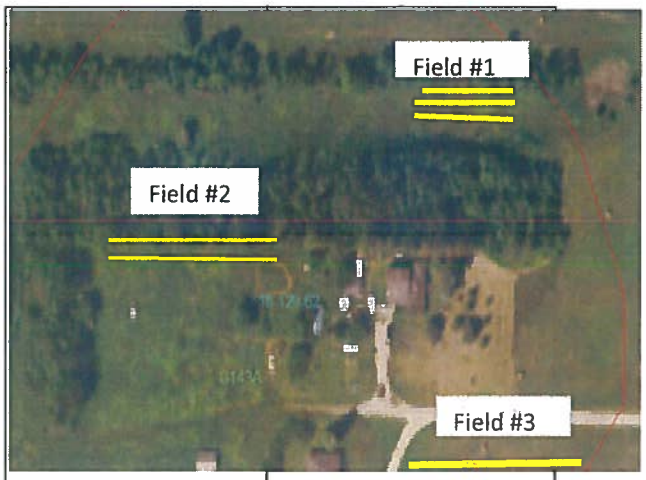
Attachment A

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

ND-CPA-43
Revised May 2003

Tree and Shrub Planting Plan and Record

Name Andra Jenkins Address 9855 91st Ave. SE Ellendale, ND Phone 701-349-3919



SE	18	129	62
Quarter	Sec	Twp	Range

Planned by: JU Date: 7/29/2015 Planted by: Tree Crew Date:

F/Stead XXXX ; Field ; W/Life
S/Fallow ; if other, specify type of land preparation
New Planting XXXXX ; Replants (Indicate date of original planting) .

CRP ; EQIP CO-01
Other (Indicate) Big Stone Project

Between the row spacing 16 feet

Soil Type G143A Suitability Group 3,1

Protected from Grazing Yes (Yes, No)

Distance from Road and/or Buildings Yes

Condition of site at planting time: Tilled by District (Good, Fair, Poor)

Approved (Yes, No) Date 9-9-2022
By: Renee Schlosser Title Bus. Manager

Field No.	Planned Length	Planted Length	Planted Width (Inc. 10' on ea. side of planting)	Dead Trees	Row #	Row #1 is on North or West Side of Planting NORTH Species of Tree or Shrub	Spacing in row	Number Planted (Estimated)	Number Planted (Actual)	Spraying and/or Cultivating Plan and Record. (State how weed control is to be accomplished: - type of spray & rate and/or type of cultivation/equipment - indicating when action is to take place.)
1	200	184		2	1	Black Hill Spruce	12	17	18	On September 6, 2022, JRSCD staff did a review of the Andra Jenkin's tree planting site. In Field #3, we found 5 conifers that did not survive. It looked like the conifers re-planted in 2022 are the ones that did not make it. In Field #2, survival was very good. Found 2 dead conifers. In Field #1, survival was very good. Found 3 dead conifers. One fabric hole that had a dead conifer, a willow tree was growing. Most of the conifers in Field #3 were tall and looked great. No maintenance is being performed on these plantings. The fabric looks good and is a big help to the conifers. The cages are keeping the wildlife from browsing.
	200	186			2	Colorado Blue	12	17	18	
	200	200		1	3	Black Hill Spruce	12	17	19	
								"		
2	200	163		1	1	Black Hill Spruce	12	17	14	
	200	175		1	2	Colorado Blue	12	17	15	
								"		
3	200	186		5	3	Ponderosa Pine/Black Spruc	12	17	16	
								"		
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	1200	1094						102	100	