

August 16, 2017

Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard - Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480



Re: Case No. PU-14-813  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
North Killdeer Loop Phase I 345-kV Transmission Project  
Partial Tree/Shrub Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

As per conditions of the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications in the North Dakota Public Service Commission ( ND PSC) Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order for the North Killdeer Loop Phase I 345-kV Transmission Project (Project) in Case No. PU-14-813, you will find Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) initial Tree/Shrub Mitigation Plan (Plan). Because we have not identified all tree planting opportunities, this submittal represents the initial portion of the Project's overall tree/shrub Mitigation Plan. This Partial Tree/Shrub Mitigation Plan has been filed electronically to the PU-14-813 docket.

The Project was approximately 28 miles in length, located between the newly installed Patent Gate and Kummer Ridge Substations all located within McKenzie County. The transmission line was placed into electrical service in late September 2016.

Pre-project and post-project tree/shrub surveys were performed by our consultant. The total number of tree/shrubs removed is estimated to be 1,129 from nineteen landowners. Ten of the nineteen landowners have requested replacement plantings consisting of 1,534 (767 x 2) trees/shrubs.

The remaining obligation for tree/shrub replacement is 724 (362 x 2), of which Basin Electric's pursuit of planting opportunities continues. Because this Project and the AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project (PU-11-696) are occurring simultaneously, the offer for trees/shrub planting opportunities that was offered to various city, county, state and federal agencies in the Project area in PU-11-696 are combined for that purposes.

**109 PU-14-813** Filed: 8/16/2017 Pages: 3  
**Partial Tree & Shrub Mitigation Plan**

Basin Electric Power Cooperative

Cris Miller

The following describes our partial Tree/Shrub Mitigation Plan for the North Killdeer Loop Phase I 345-kV Transmission Project in specific terms when known and in general planning terms:

**Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan**

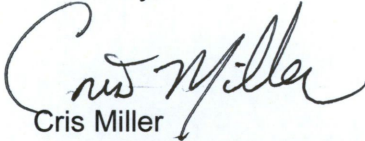
- Pre-Planting Efforts
  - Perform pre-project and post-project tree/shrub surveys that identifying species present and the quantification of tree/shrubs.
  - Identified landowners who requested replacement tree/shrubs on their property on a 2:1 replacement basis.
  
- Landowner Tree/Shrub Planting Effort
  - Communicated the landowner listings and the number of tree/shrub replacements required to the McKenzie County Soil Conservation Service (SCS) staff.
  - Basin Electric committed to be the funding source to the SCS to support the planting of the trees/shrubs on a 2:1 basis for 10 individual landowners.
  - SCS staff is coordinating with landowner to identify suitable lands for tree/shrub plantings and make recommendations for the specific tree/shrub varieties to enhance survivability.
  - Basin Electric committed to the additional cost of incorporating ground fabric in all tree/shrub planting projects. The placement of ground fabric is a strongly recommended by the SCS as it increases the survivability of the trees/shrubs.
  
- Non-Landowner Tree/Shrub Planting Efforts -(Est. > 19,000 Tree/shrubs Required)
  - Basin Electric will continue to identify Tree/Shrub replacement opportunities that create a public benefit by formal and informal communication with local, county, and state agencies.
    - Preference given for planting projects in the affected five counties, (Mercer, Dunn, McKenzie, Williams and Mountrail).
    - Formal communication to city, county and state agencies informing them of potential tree/shrub planting opportunities sent out March 2, 2017, as referenced in PU-11-696.

With the recent outreach effort to the various state, county and city agencies, numerous tree/shrub planting opportunities continue to be identified. When specific tree/shrub planting opportunities are identified and detailed planting plans developed, they will be submitted to the ND PSC for approval.

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For inquiries regarding this initial Tree/Shrub Mitigation Plan, please contact me directly at 701 - 557-5635 or [cmiller@bepc.com](mailto:cmiller@bepc.com) .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cris Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "C".

Cris Miller  
Senior Environmental Project Specialist

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Enclosures

cc: Casey Jacobson  
Amanda Wangler  
Mike Murray