



March 9, 2022

Patrick Fahn
Director, Public Utilities Division
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard; Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: PU-14-813 - Basin Electric Power Cooperative - North Killdeer Loop Phase I 345-kV Transmission Line and PU-11-696 - Basin Electric power Cooperative - Antelope Valley Station to Neset 345-kV Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Fahn:

This letter is in response to your letter dated November 17, 2021 requesting Basin Electric Power Cooperative (**Basin Electric**) make a supplemental filing of statements from the entities that received trees and shrubs as mitigation for the referenced dockets that speaks to the value of the plantings. Basin Electric requested statements from North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Department of Transportation, City of Stanley, and Pheasants Forever.

Statements from North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Department of Transportation, and the City of Stanley are enclosed.

Please contact me at ksolie@bepc.com or 701.202.5096 if you require additional information regarding Tree and Shrub Mitigation efforts for both the PU-14-813 and PU-11-696 dockets.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin L. Solie".

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

/kls
Enclosures

132 PU-14-813 Filed 03/09/2022 Pages: 4
Response to 17 Nov. 2021 request for supplemental information
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Kevin Solie, P.E.

359 PU-11-696 Filed 03/09/2022 Pages: 4
Response to 17 Nov. 2021 request for supplemental information
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Kevin Solie, P.E.



10 February 2022

ND Game & Fish Department
5303 West Front St
Williston, ND 58801

Kevin Solie
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

Dear Mr. Solie;

The purpose of this letter is to document that Basin Electric has complied with the ND Public Service Commission request to mitigate trees and shrubs that were removed for the transmission line. Tree and shrub plantings were established, and replants completed as necessary. These tree and shrub plantings were completed on Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state as per the US Army Corps of Engineers and ND Game and Fish Department requirements. Coordination of the tree survey, preparation of the planting sites, planting of the trees and application of weed barrier fabric was completed by the local Soil conservation Districts, US Army Corps of Engineers, ND Game and Fish Department and Basin Electric.

Tree and shrub plantings will provide food, cover, and shelter for numerous species of birds, mammals, and insects. These tree and shrub plantings will provide thermal cover for wildlife, trap snow (increasing soil moisture), reduce wind erosion, provide a carbon sink, as well as producing oxygen. These tree and shrub plantings were established on public land and will provide long-term benefits as they age and mature.

The ND Game and Fish Department appreciates the efforts and coordination of the agencies and Basin Electric to complete this important mitigation feature.

Sincerely,

Kent Luttschwager

Wildlife Resource Section Leader

Governor
Doug Burgum

Director
Jeb Williams

Deputy Director
Scott A. Peterson

Kevin Solie

From: Beise, Brandon K. <bbeise@nd.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:02 AM
To: Kevin Solie
Cc: Auer, Aaron J.; Darr, Brad W.
Subject: [External] NDDOT - Basin Electric Tree Plantings

External Email - Use caution clicking links or opening attachments

Kevin,

This is what Aaron Auer of the NDDOT Dickinson District prepared in response to the PSC's request of statements from the large agencies.

The NDDOT Dickinson District partnered with NRCS and Basin Electric to plant trees along I-94. We planted approximately 14,000 trees in the Interstate right of way fence lines. We planted a row of trees and a row of shrubs in the Belfield, Richardton and Dickinson areas. Between the two rows of tree and shrubs we planted approximately 65,000 LF of tree and shrub rows. The tree species planted were juniper pine and ponderosa pine. The shrub species planted were silver berry, buffalo berry, and golden currant.

These tree and shrubs rows will benefit the Department by helping mitigate blowing snow, beautification and wildlife habitat. We have received many calls from the public on the plantings. They liked what we had done and were curious on what we planted so they could mimic what we had done on their property. The plantings are only a couple of years old. Some of the pine trees are over 3' high and we can see them already blocking snow.

We appreciate Basin Electric partnering with us and the NRCS on the plantings. The plantings will benefit the Department and public for generations to come.

The NDDOT Central Office also appreciates the opportunity to partner with Basin Electric to plant trees. As Aaron stated, the trees have many advantages including snow & ice control, aesthetic, and environmental improvements. Please keep the Department in mind if any future opportunities arise. Thanks again.

Brandon Beise, P.E.
Maintenance Division, NDDOT
701 328 4359 office
701 426 0979 cell
bbeise@nd.gov



STANLEY PARK DISTRICT



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~ Tara Uran * TUran@weareamerican.com

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PO BOX 901 Stanley, ND 58784

701.629.8990

2/14/2022

Basin Electric Power Cooperative
1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503
RE: Tree and shrub plantings

To Whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to help Basin Electric comply with the North Dakota Public Service Commission's request to provide statements from entities that were recipients of tree and shrub plantings that speak to the value of those plantings regarding the long-term benefits to the community, wildlife and the environment.

Basin Electric contacted me, Cassie Fjeldahl, Stanley Park Districts Rec Director and mentioned they were supposed to plant some trees on a landowners property after they have been through their land. So they were in charged replacing with a few rows of trees. They asked if the park district had any interest in using these trees as the landowner declined them. I took them up on their offer and had the trees planted around our baseball/softball complex in Stanley. We worked with our soil conservation to see what trees would work best in the conditions we had around our complex. I am glad to say, today they are surviving and are looking amazing around the perimeter of our complex. They are a vital resource for our environment, acting as a source of food and shelter for birds, mammals, and insects. They are also providing our complex a windbreak, reducing soil erosion during dry months and acting as living snow fences during the winter.

If you have any questions, please contact stanleyrecdirector@gmail.com .

Thank you,

Cassie Fjeldahl and the Stanley Park Board - 701-629-8990