



UTILITIES CO.
A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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

September 28, 2018

Executive Secretary
ND Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505

Re: Case No. PU-15-592
Post Construction Monitoring
Tree & Shrub Report

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith submits the final year of the Raptor Nest Survey, and the year one survival data for tree and shrub replacements for the Thunder Spirit Wind Energy Facility (TSWEF) located in Adams County, North Dakota.

No occupied or active bald or golden eagle nests were located within the Project or the 10.0-mile buffer as reported by Western EcoSystems, Technology, Inc.

With regard to the first-year trees and shrub report, a total of 69 trees and shrubs were partially or completely removed during construction of TSWEF. Montana-Dakota committed to replacing these trees and shrubs at a 2:1 ratio (138) and ensuring a survival rate of 75% (104), 3 years after the initial planting. Montana-Dakota chose to add a contingency of 20% to the plantings, bringing the total amount of trees and shrubs planted in the Spring of 2017, to 165. A summary is provided in Exhibit A.

Drought conditions in Adams County, ND in 2017 was a significant factor in the low survival rates of juniper and ponderosa pine replacements. Montana-Dakota and Adams County Soil Conservation District worked with the landowners to plant replacements in the Spring of 2018, for the majority of the trees that did not survive the first year. As of July 1, 2018, 141 trees are still alive.

Please contact me at 701-222-7856 or at tamie.aberle@mdu.com with additional questions or follow up as necessary.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping the duplicate copy of this letter, attached hereto, and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tamie A. Aberle'.

Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

cc. Andy McDonald

MDU/TSW 2018 First Year Survival and Replants

Name	# Trees	Survival %	Juniper	Ponderosa Pine	Scotch Pine	Common Chokecherry	CB Spruce	Crab Apple	Dogwood	Bur Oak	Plum	Lilac	Notes
YEAR 2017 - Original Planting													
Elhers, Jerry	39			20		5	2	1	2	2	1	6	<i>Planted in 2017</i>
Christman, Todd	55			55									<i>Planted in 2017</i>
Erickson, Tyler	71		17	27	27								<i>Planted in 2017</i>
2017 Total Planted	165												

YEAR 2018													
Elhers, Jerry	39			20		5	2	1	2	2	1	6	<i>Trees planted in grass/drought yr</i>
Alive trees				8		5	0	0	0	0	1	0	
Survival		36%											
Added Spring 2018				8		1						6	Replacement trees received from nursery
Total as of 7/1/2018	29	74%		16		6	0	0	0	0	1	6	

Christman, Todd	55			55									<i>Trees were watered & well taken care of</i>
Alive Trees				49									
Survival		89%											
Added Spring 2018				6									Producer purchased 6 Ponderosa pine -
Total as of 7/1/2018	55	100%		55									

Erickson, Tyler	71		17	27	27								
Alive trees			1	5	20								
Survival		35%											
Added Spring 2018			9	22									Replacement trees received from the nursery
Total as of 7/1/2018	57	80%	10	27	20								

Cumulative Total	141	85%											
After Year 1													