



May 21, 2024

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

Re: Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Neset to North Shore 230-kV Transmission Line Project – Mountrail County
Case No. PU-21-49 Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Shock:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) has completed construction on the Neset to North Shore 230-kV Transmission Line Project and is prepping to plant the necessary trees, per the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan.

A pre-construction tree inventory indicated 381 trees and 3,424 shrubs would be impacted by Project construction. The planned construction activities of the Project do not anticipate grubbing or otherwise removing shrub roots. To satisfy the two-to-one replacement specification, 762 trees are needed to be planted in the spring of 2024. Basin Electric has committed to planting 1,374 trees, 180% of the total required.

Basin Electric contacted all 16 landowners in which trees would be removed on their property. 11 waived their option to have trees replaced on their property. For the five landowners who want trees replaced, Basin Electric and a private contractor will plant 374 trees in landowner specified areas. These areas include within existing shelterbelt tree rows and in landowner yards, around their houses. The tree row replacement plantings will fill in gaps in existing shelterbelts to continue to provide windbreaks to those farmers and ranchers as well as continuing to provide wildlife habitat. The trees planted in the house yards will provide long-term aesthetic benefits to the landowners.

For the remaining 1,000 trees, Basin Electric has partnered with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGF) to plant trees within the Van Hook Wildlife Management Area, in Mountrail County. In coordination with NDGF and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Basin Electric is replacing the tree species that were removed during construction as well as adding additional wildlife friendly species to create a diverse planting. The NDGF designs these plantings for the benefit of wildlife and community members. Basin Electric is pleased to be able to provide the NDGF with the trees for this planting and will continue to work with NDGF on the development of future wildlife plantings.

Basin Electric will work with the landowners and the NDGF to replace any trees lost after the 2024 spring planting with the overall goal of 75% survival by 2026.

89 PU-21-49 Filed 05/21/2024 Pages: 2
Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan
Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Ryan King, Environmental Coordinator

May 21, 2024
Page 2

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this submittal, please contact me at rking@bepec.com or 701.557.5558

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R King', written in a cursive style.

Ryan King
Environmental Coordinator