



June 21, 2024

Steve Kahl  
Executive Director  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 East Boulevard; Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Dakota Gasification Company  
Dakota Carbon Pipeline – Mercer County  
Case No. PU-21-150 Tree and Shrub Replacement Plan

Dear Mr. Kahl:

The purpose of this letter is to provide an update and final report regarding tree and shrub replacement efforts for the Dakota Gasification Company's (DGC) Dakota Carbon Pipeline (Project) and to request that tree and shrub mitigation efforts for Case No. PU-21-150 be deemed complete. On June 30, 2022, The North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) approved the Project's Tree and Shrub Replacement Plan, dated June 1, 2022.

### **Trees and Shrubs Removed**

During construction of the Project, 71 trees, and 134 shrubs (205 total) were removed. All removed trees and shrubs were on land owned by The Coteau Property Company (Coteau).

### **Replacement Plan**

The Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications in Case No. PU-21-150 states that both trees and shrubs shall be replaced on a minimum two-to-one basis; therefore, 410 replacements were needed for the Project. Coteau waived their option for tree and shrub replacements. With the intent to plant the replacement trees and shrubs in the same general region, a location was selected at Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) Antelope Valley Station. In coordination with the Mercer County Soil Conservation District (SCD), a wildlife friendly planting was designed. The SCD recommended the species, number, and location of the planting.

The pre-construction tree and shrub inventory identified one tree species (Russian olive) and three shrub species (common chokecherry, American plum, and silver buffaloberry) that would be removed during construction. Due to species availability and wildlife benefit, the SCD recommended replacing the common chokecherry and American plum but recommended planting red splendor crabapple, Arnold hawthorn, and bur oak instead of the Russian olive and silver buffaloberry).

The replacements were planted in June of 2022. A total of 419 trees and shrubs were planted, 102% of the total required. The five selected species were planted in nine rows. Landscaping fabric was used to aid in survival.

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Final Tree and Shrub Mitigation Report  
Basin Electric Power Cooperative  
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### **Tree and Shrub Survival Information**

In June of 2024, an inspection of the replacement planting was performed. The planting site has been well taken care of, with evidence of mowing and weed control being performed along each row. In total, 386 of the 419 planted survived, a 92% survival rate. During the inspection, numerous bird species were in the area, a rabbit was observed, and deer and racoon tracks were present.

It is of Basin Electric's and DGC's belief that the planting efforts meet the intent and purpose of the NDPSC's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications. This planting will provide long-term environmental and wildlife benefits to the area and will continue to provide a more natural outdoor space to an otherwise industrialized area. It is requested that tree and shrub mitigation efforts for Case No. PU-21-150 be deemed complete.

Please contact me at [rking@bepc.com](mailto:rking@bepc.com) or 701.557.5558 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R King', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan King  
Environmental Coordinator