



Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Naset 345- kV Transmission Line Project

**Scoping Report
March 2012**



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service
Washington, DC**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) has requested funding from the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) for the upgrade, construction, expansion, maintenance, and replacement of electric infrastructure in rural areas of western and northern North Dakota. The RUS, an agency that delivers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Program, is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems.

Generally, RUS will prepare an environmental impact statement and hold public scoping meetings according to its Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1784) to analyze requests for financing for certain types of projects. This scoping report identifies and summarizes substantive comments received during the scoping period for the Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project (Project) and is indicative of what will be evaluated in the EIS.

The Western Area Power Administration (Western) is serving as a cooperating agency in the environmental review process and will be the lead Federal agency for Section 7 and Section 106 compliance.

This report describes the proposed Project and activities associated with the agency and public scoping meetings. Substantive agency and public comments received during the scoping period held from November 2 through December 2, 2011 are summarized. In addition, this document includes seven appendices with supplementary information relating to the scoping process and the public meetings:

- Appendix A: Notice of Intent
- Appendix B: Public Meeting Newspaper Notices
- Appendix C: Public Mailer and Radio Bulletin Text
- Appendix D: Agency Scoping Letters and Mailing List
- Appendix E: Agency and Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets
- Appendix F: Public Scoping Meeting Materials
- Appendix G: Index of Public and Agency Comments by Category

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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Basin Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased demand and to meet reliability and system stability requirements for the region. Investigations and analyses conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads, especially in the vicinity of Williston, North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The entire project will consist of:

- construction of 190 miles of new single circuit 345-kV and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines,
- construction of two new substations,
- modifications to four existing substations,
- potential for construction of a 345-kV switchyard,
- construction of maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads and staging sites, river crossings, and other facilities.

The Project would connect to the integrated system at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation. The proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota. The proposed project area and preliminary transmission line routes can be seen in Maps 2-1 and 2-2.

Basin Electric is pursuing financial assistance for its ownership interest in the proposed Project from RUS. RUS funding of the proposed project would constitute a federal action subject to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis (42 United States Code [USC], § 4321, specifically 7 CFR § 1794.3).

One preliminary document was prepared in preparation for scoping. The document contained both an Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and a Macro Corridor Study (MCS). These studies are required by RUS when an environmental analysis for a proposed transmission line project is conducted. This document detailed the entire project area from AVS to Neset. The purpose of the document is to provide agencies and the public with a general understanding of the proposed Project. The AES portion explains the need for the proposed Project, discusses the alternative methods that have been considered to meet that need, and recommends an alternative that is considered the best for fulfilling the need. The MCS defines the project area and illustrates the Project end points. Within the Project area, macro-corridors have been developed based on environmental, engineering, economic, and land use data as well as conditions of regulatory constraints. This document is available for review on the RUS website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-AVS-Neset.html> or upon request to RUS.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2011, informing the public of the intent by RUS to prepare an EIS with scoping. The notice initiated the 30-day public scoping period and included the dates for public scoping meetings during November 2011. A copy of the NOI is provided in Appendix A. Notices were printed in local newspapers in the weeks preceding the public scoping meetings, and a legal notice similar to the NOI was published as required by RUS guidance. A list of the names of the publications and dates of these advertisements and legal notices are included in Table 2-1. Copies of the newspaper advertisements and legal notices are included in Appendix B.

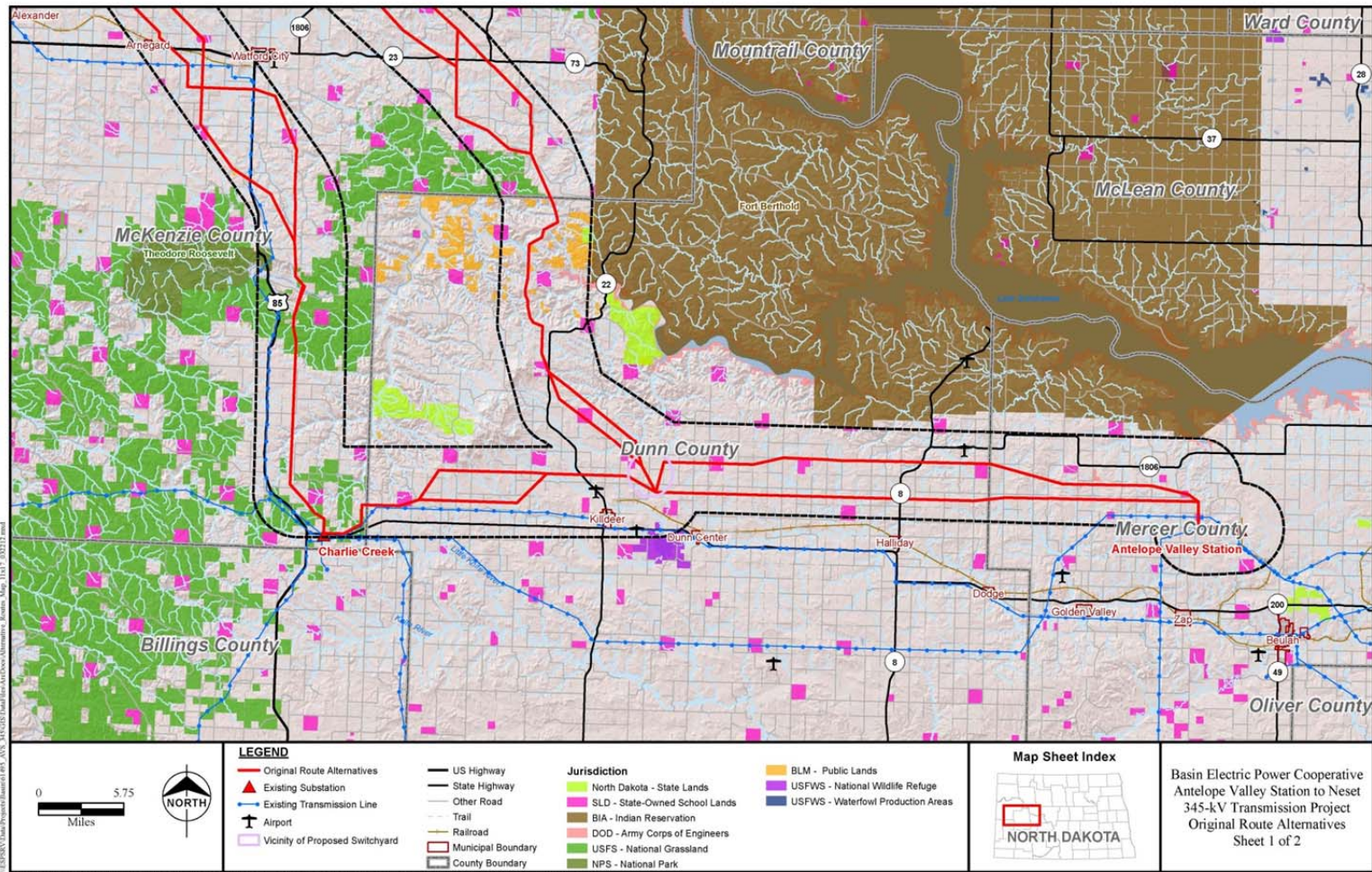
TABLE 2-1: NEWSPAPERS AND DATES OF PUBLIC NOTICES

Newspaper	Publication Dates	Location
Beulah Beacon	November 3 and 10, 2011	Beulah, North Dakota
Bismarck Tribune	October 31 and November 7, 2011	Bismarck, North Dakota
Dickinson Press	October 30 and November 6, 2011	Dickinson, North Dakota
Dunn County Herald	November 4 and 11, 2011	Killdeer, North Dakota
Tioga Tribune	November 2 and 9, 2011	Tioga, North Dakota
Williston Herald	October 31 and November 6, 2011	Williston, North Dakota



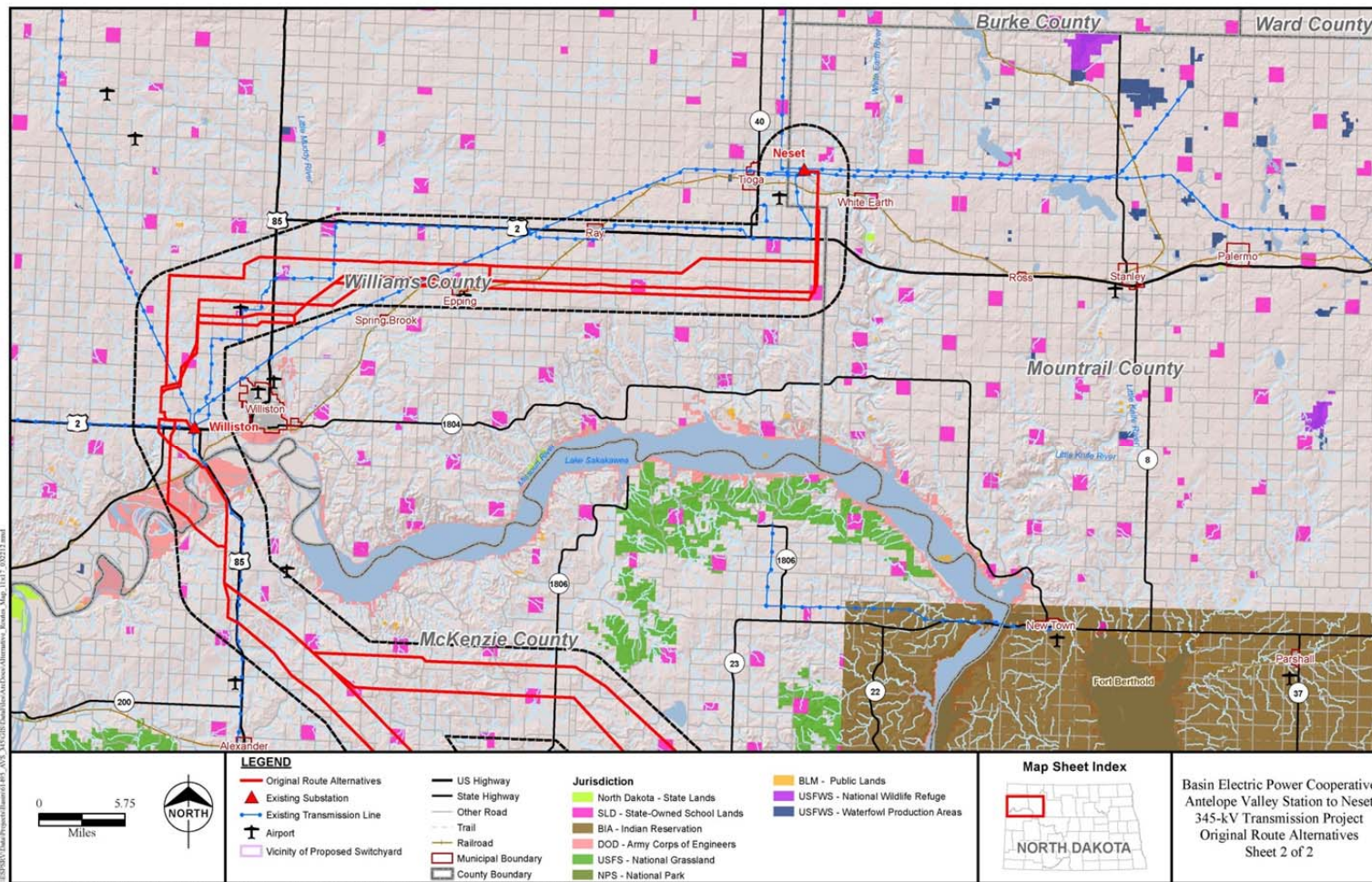
A public mailer was distributed to approximately 200 landowners surrounding the vicinity of Williston, ND, stakeholders as well as those individuals who requested to be on the Project mailing list. Basin Electric's public project website http://www.basinelectric.com/Projects/North_Dakota_Transmission/index.html was also used to disseminate the public scoping schedule and other project information to stakeholders. A copy of the public mailer and text from a public service announcement over radio broadcast is included in Appendix C.

MAP 2.1: ALTERNATIVE ROUTES MAP 1



Source: North Dakota GIS; North Dakota State Land Department; Esri; National Flight Data Center; Basin Electric; Burns & McDonnell.

MAP 2.2: ALTERNATIVE ROUTES MAP 2



Source: North Dakota GIS; North Dakota State Land Department; Esri; National Flight Data Center; Basin Electric; Burns & McDonnell.

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3.0 AGENCY SCOPING MEETING

RUS conducted one agency scoping meeting for interested federal, state, and local agencies and tribal representatives. The meeting involved a presentation by RUS followed by a question and answer session for the attending agencies. The agency scoping meeting was held on November 14, 2011, at the Basin Electric Headquarters, located at 1717 East Interstate Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

3.1 Purpose

The purpose of the agency scoping meeting was to provide the agencies with information regarding the proposed Project, answer questions, identify concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction and operation of the Project, and gather information to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in RUS environment review and documentation of the Project. The notification process, public scoping meeting materials, and the process for collecting public comments are described in the following sections.

3.2 Notification

RUS notified federal, state, and local agencies of the proposed Project by mail. Federal and state agencies received a letter detailing the role of RUS in the proposed Project, the availability of the AES and MCS report, the dates and locations of the public and agency scoping meetings, contact information for the RUS and Basin Electric representatives assigned to the proposed Project, and methods for submitting comments. Local agencies and government representatives were sent similar letters, detailing the role of RUS in the proposed project, dates and locations of the public scoping meetings, the availability of the AES and MCS reports and methods for submitting comments. A list of federally recognized tribes near the proposed Project area was also compiled. The tribal leaders and the Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) were notified by mail. A copy of the federal and state agency letter, the local agency, government representative and Tribal letter, and list of recipients for each are included in Appendix D.

3.3 Agency Attendance

A total of 18 participants representing the following entities signed in at the agency scoping meeting:

- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Little Missouri Scenic River Commission
- National Park Service (NPS)
- North Dakota State Department of Health
- North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
- North Dakota State Department of Trust Lands
- North Dakota Transmission Authority
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (USDA – RUS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA – NRCS)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- Western Area Power Administration

Sign-in sheets used for the agency and public scoping meetings are included in Appendix E.

3.4 Agency Comments

The following Federal, and state agencies provided written scoping comments:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- National Park Service (NPS)
- North Dakota State Department of Health



- North Dakota State Department of Trust Land
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (USDA – RUS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Appendix G is an index of comments by categories received by both agencies and the general public.

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4.0 PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The RUS conducted two public scoping meetings as listed in Table 4-1 using an open-house format. Both of the public scoping meetings were held between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. RUS requires that public scoping meetings be held after regular business hours and at reasonable distance for all people in the Project area to attend. The proponents met the requirements with the evening public scoping meetings within reasonable driving distance held in Williston and Killdeer, North Dakota.

TABLE 4-1: PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Date	Time	Location
November 15, 2011	4:00-7:00 p.m.	Ernie French Center 14120 Highway 2 Williston, North Dakota 58801
November 16, 2011	4:00-7:00 p.m.	America Legion Hall Post 46 42 Central Avenue Killdeer, North Dakota 58604

4.1 Purpose

The purpose of the public scoping meetings was to provide the public with information regarding the proposed Project, answer questions, identify concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction and operation of the Project, and gather information to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the RUS environmental review and documentation of the Project (RUS Bulletin 1794A-603). The notification process, public scoping meeting materials, and the process for collecting public comments are described in the following sections.

4.2 Notification Process

Several methods were used to notify the public of the scoping process and meetings, including those required by RUS, including the RUS *Federal Register* Notice of Intent To Prepare An Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Meetings (NOI), the borrower public notice in newspapers, and general public notification by direct mail, radio bulletins and the use of Basin Electric's website to provide additional outreach to the public and stakeholders in the proposed Project area. The NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on November 2, 2011. A legal notice and newspaper ads were printed October 30 through November 10, 2011, in area newspapers. A mailer with information on the Project and scoping meeting dates and locations was sent to approximately 200 stakeholders in the proposed Project area during the week of November 1, 2011, to inform them of the public scoping meetings. Basin Electric posted meeting notice flyers in area restaurants and community bulletin boards.

4.3 Public Scoping Meeting Materials

An open house format was used to encourage discussion and information sharing and to ensure that the public had opportunities to speak with Agency and Project representatives. Stations detailing different areas of the proposed Project were staffed by either representatives of Basin Electric, Western, and consultants. Information stations at the public scoping meetings included the following:

- Sign-in and Welcome table
- USDA RUS, their NEPA process and background information regarding RUS and Basin Electric
- Project overview, purpose, and need
- Project alternatives and next steps
- Environmental resources to be analyzed
- Land and easement acquisitions, including acquisition process and Project land requirements
- Detailed macro-corridor sections, including GIS maps.

Sign-in sheets (Appendix E) and comment forms were made available to all scoping meeting attendees. Public scoping meeting materials are included in Appendix F.

4.4 Collecting Public Comments

A total of 38 comments were received during the scoping comment period beginning on November 2, 2011, ending December 2, 2011. Comments received after the deadline are not included in this report, but will continue to be collected and considered by RUS. Public comments were submitted using comment forms, letters, and emails. All comments were directly delivered to RUS or forwarded if they were addressed to Basin Electric by the commenter. None of the comments received were in whole or part, identical form letters. A summary of the public comments received and organized by category is below. Each of these were referred to as an item and entered into the comment management database. Items were index based on the when they were received. Comments were then categorized based on the content of the comment, resulting in 12 categories. It is possible that comments address multiple topics; therefore comments may be included in multiple topics below. Appendix G is an index of comments by category. This index includes each comment that was considered under each of the categories described below.

4.4.1 Air Quality

Two (2) comments were received regarding air quality. Both comments mentioned minimizing and managing fugitive dust created during construction of the transmission line. One commented discussed the need to identify potential effects to air quality from AVS.

4.4.2 Aesthetics

Four (4) comments were received regarding aesthetics. Commenters mentioned that the proposed Project would negatively alter the existing landscape and reduce the aesthetic quality of the Project area, Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, as well negatively affecting the viewshed of personal property owners.

4.4.3 Conservation

Twenty one (21) comments were received regarding conservation. Commenters noted the need for conservation in the area of the proposed Project, particularly in the area of Lone Butte within the Little Missouri National Grassland, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Multiple commenters requested that the proposed Project avoid all roadless areas. One commenter noted that the proposed Project could affect the possible designation of Lone Butte as a wilderness area and requested that the proposed Project avoid this area. Another commenter requested that the proposed Project adhere to all applicable conservation standards and strategies as prescribed by the USFWS. On commenter suggested that the proposed Project avoid all prime farmland. One commenter suggested that the Lone Butte and Long X Divide areas receive protection under the Wilderness Protection Act. One commenter mentioned preserving the Killdeer Mountains. Two comments requested that their personal property be conserved and avoided by the proposed Project.

Based on these comments requesting that roadless areas be avoided, different route alternatives were established. The updated alternatives can be seen in Map 4-1.

4.4.4 Environmental Justice

One (1) comment was received regarding concerns about environmental justice. The commenter requests that a full environmental justice impact assessment be conducted and screen for potential health and monetary effects to low income or minority populations.

4.4.5 Project Information/Communication

Five (5) comments were received which requested that they be kept informed regarding future meetings and happenings with the proposed Project. One commenter requested that all appropriate permits and documents be obtained by the North Dakota Department of Transportation.

4.4.6 Need

Two (2) comments were received regarding the Project's need. One commenter expressed satisfaction over the proposed Project and mentioned that the proposed Project is needed. Another commenter mentioned that the proposed Project was not needed and that it is an inappropriate use of taxpayer money.

4.4.7 Noise

One (1) comment was received regarding noise. The commenter stated that the construction of the proposed Project would create unwanted noise to surrounding landowners and suggested that all steps to minimize noise be taken.

4.4.8 Property Values

Two (2) comments were received regarding potential impacts to property values. Both commenters expressed worry that should the proposed Project cross their property that their property values would be negatively affected and requested that the proposed Project not be constructed on their property.

4.4.9 Route Alternatives/Land Use

Ten (10) comments were received regarding general routing guidelines and suggestions. Commenters requested that homes, residences and private property be avoided when the final routes are chosen. Multiple commenters suggested that proposed Project corridor D be removed, while another commenter requested that corridor E be removed. One commenter requested that the proposed Project avoid potential airport expansion sites at Williston. Another commenter requested that the potential Project adhere to all existing North Dakota School Trust property easements.

4.4.10 Vegetation

Two (2) comments were received regarding vegetation. Both commenters requested that all construction and maintenance adhere to vegetation protection standards. One commenter requested that all grassland vegetation be protected.

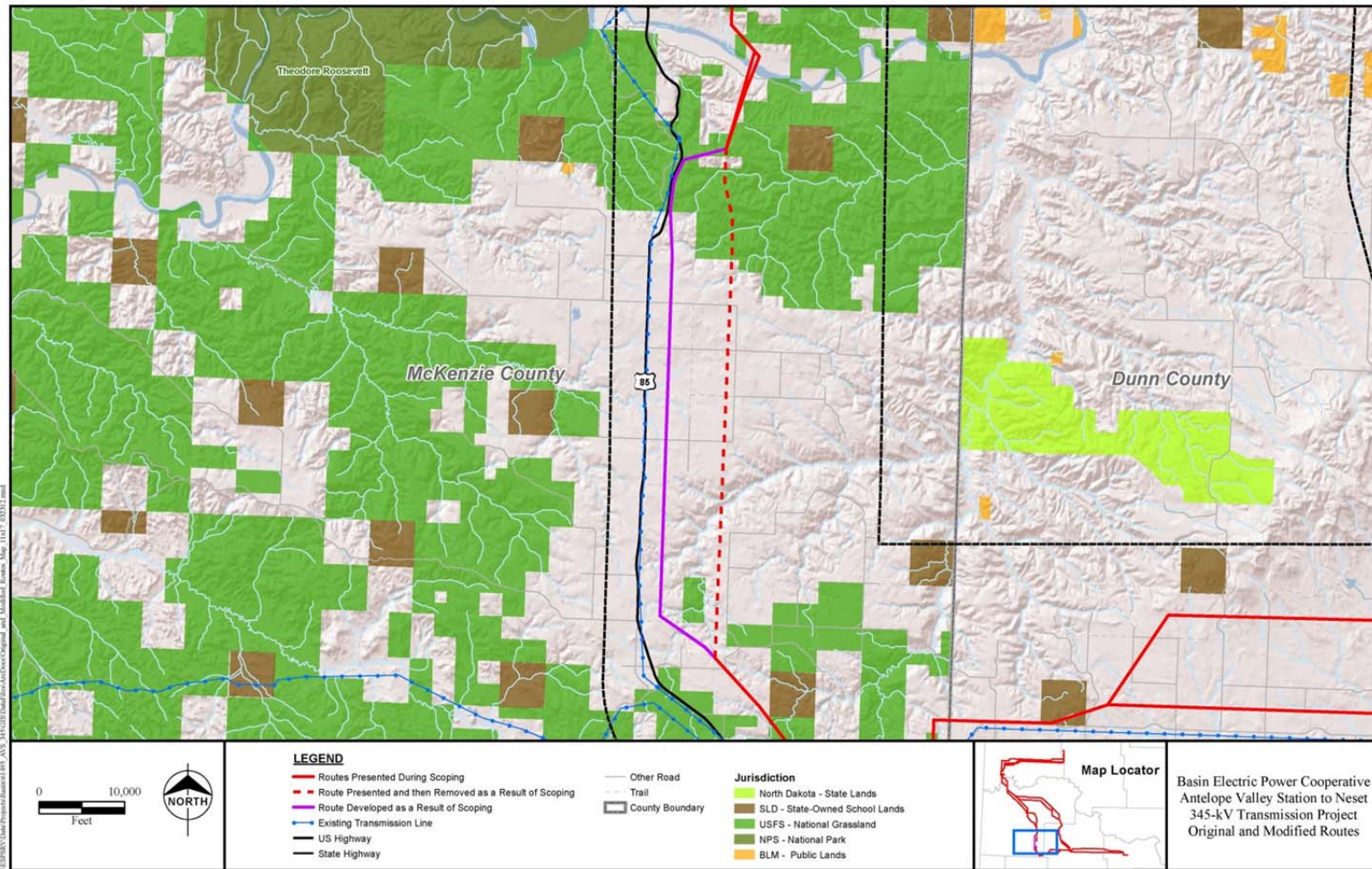
4.4.11 Water

Three (3) comments were received regarding potential impacts to water. Commenters requested that the proposed Project ensure satisfactory water quality and that existing water sources be protected from fill material as well as protecting wetlands, streambeds while not negatively affecting storm water flow.

4.4.12 Wildlife

Nine (9) comments were received regarding wildlife and wildlife habitat. General comments mostly expressed concern about potential impacts to wildlife and wildlife habitat for common species. One commenter expressed concern for potential impacts to avian species, their migratory routes, and wetland habitats with one commenter specifically referring to the Golden eagle. One commenter mentioned the wildlife and wildlife habitat areas at the Missouri River bottoms and requested that the route avoid these areas.

MAP 4-1: UPDATED ALTERNATIVES ROUTE MAP



Source: North Dakota GIS; North Dakota State Land Department; Esri; Basin Electric; Burns & McDonnell.

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5.0 PROJECT STATUS

A second round of public meetings will be held in late 2012 or early 2013 to solicit public input and to present refined routes based on public input received at the November 2011 scoping meetings. A draft EIS is currently anticipated in late-2012. A public review and comment period on the Draft EIS would occur in that same timeframe. Additionally, RUS will continue to engage in all necessary agency consultation and coordination regarding potential effects to resources. RUS will continue and respond to substantive comments provided to them. A Project Decision is anticipated in late-2013.

APPENDIX A:
NOTICE OF INTENT

APPENDIX B:
PUBLIC MEETING NEWSPAPER NOTICES

APPENDIX C:
PUBLIC MAILER AND RADIO BULLETIN TEXT

APPENDIX D:
AGENCY SCOPING LETTERS AND MAILING LIST

APPENDIX E:
AGENCY AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS

**APPENDIX F:
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS**



**APPENDIX G:
INDEX OF PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS BY CATEGORY**



APPENDIX A:
NOTICE OF INTENT

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Rural Utilities Service****Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.:
Notice of Intent To Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement and
Hold Public Scoping Meetings****AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Neset Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of Basin Electric's proposed Project. The Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 190 miles of new 345-kV single pole transmission line and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities to be described in the proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Portions of Basin Electric's proposed Project may affect floodplains and wetlands. This NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. RUS will hold public scoping meetings to share information and receive comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIS in areas near and affected by the proposed Project.

DATES: An open-house public scoping meetings will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension Office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4 to 7 p.m. mountain time at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640. In order to be considered, all fax or email comments or suggestions regarding the

appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS address provided in this Notice. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, *telephone:* (202) 720-1953, or *email:* dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed Project, the EIS process, and RUS financing, contact Mr. Dennis Rankin, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Mail Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, *telephone:* (202) 720-1953, or *email:* dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Parties wishing to be placed on the Project mailing list for future information and to receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS when they are available should also contact Mr. Rankin.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Based on an interconnection with the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) transmission system, Western has in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 Cooperating agencies, requested to serve as a cooperating agency for the environmental review of the proposed project.

Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric serves approximately 2.5 million customers covering 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Project Description: Basin Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased demand and to meet reliability and system stability

requirements for the region. Investigations and analyses conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads, especially in the vicinity of Williston, North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The entire project will consist of constructing approximately 190 miles of new single circuit 345-kV and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, the construction of 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities. The Project would connect to the Integrated System at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation. The proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Basin Electric has requested financial assistance for the proposed Project from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Completing the EIS is one of RUS's requirements in processing Basin Electric's application, along with other technical and financial considerations.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5(b) of the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, RUS will serve as the-lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other agencies and Native American Tribes with jurisdiction or special expertise will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies per § 1501.6.

The proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC), which has regulatory authority for siting electrical transmission facilities within the State. Basin Electric will submit an application for NDPSC Transmission Corridor and Route Permits. The NDPSC Permits would authorize Basin Electric to construct the proposed Project under North Dakota rules and regulations.

RUS intends to prepare an EIS to analyze the impacts of its respective federal actions and the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA, as amended, CEQ's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR parts 1500-1508), DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR part 1021), and RS

Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR part 1794).

Because the proposed Project may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. The EIS will include a floodplain/wetland assessment and, if required, a floodplain/wetland statement of findings will be issued with the Final EIS.

Agency Responsibilities: RUS is serving as the lead Federal agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EIS. With this notice, Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or agencies may make a request to RUS to be a cooperating agency by contacting Mr. Rankin. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6(b).

Environmental Issues: This notice is to inform agencies and the public of RUS' federal action, and the proposed Project, and to solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues that RUS has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include:

1. Impacts on protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants;
2. Impacts on avian and bat species;
3. Impacts on land use, recreation, and transportation;
4. Impacts on cultural resources or historic properties and tribal values;
5. Impacts on human health and safety;
6. Impacts on air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water impacts);
7. Visual impacts; and
8. Socioeconomic impacts and whether there would be any disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply any predetermination of impacts. Environmental issues associated with the action of RUS, and Basin Electric's proposed Project will be addressed separately in the EIS. RUS invites interested parties to suggest specific issues within these general categories, or other issues not included above, to be considered in the EIS.

Public Participation: Public participation and full disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. The

EIS process will include open-house public scoping meetings and a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal governmental agencies; public review and a hearing on the draft EIS; publication of a final EIS; and publication of a Record of Decision. Expected EIS completion date is December 2013. Additional informal public meetings may be held in the proposed Project areas, if public interest and issues indicate a need; if additional public meeting are determined to be necessary public notices will be published as appropriate.

RUS will hold open-house public scoping meetings in Williston, North Dakota, and Killdeer, North Dakota as noted above. The time and locations of these meetings will be well advertised in local media outlets a minimum of 15 days prior to the time of the meetings. Attendees are welcome to come and go at their convenience and to speak one-on-one with Project representatives and agency staff. The public will have the opportunity to provide written comments at the meeting. In addition, attendees may provide written comments by letter, fax, email.

The public scoping period begins with publication of this notice in the **Federal Register** and closes December 2, 2011. To be considered in defining the scope of the EIS, comments should be received by the end of the scoping period.

Dated: October 27, 2011.

Mark Plank,

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-28309 Filed 11-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting of the Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania Advisory Committees

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to the provisions of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (Commission) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), that a webinar briefing meeting of the Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania State Advisory Committees will convene on Monday, November 14, 2011, at 10:30 a.m.

(E.S.T.). The briefing will be at Commission Headquarters, 624 9th Street NW., Room 540, Washington, DC 20425. The purpose of the meeting is to receive a briefing from experts on Human Trafficking.

Those who are unable to attend the briefing at the Commission Headquarters in person may join through an Internet connection. Please contact the Eastern Regional Office for details on the internet connection by calling (202) 376-7533 or by email at ero@usccr.gov.

Members of the public are entitled to submit written comments. The comments must be received in the regional office by Monday, December 5, 2011. The address is Eastern Regional Office, 624 9th Street NW., Suite 740, Washington, DC 20425. Persons wishing to email their comments, or who desire additional information should contact the Eastern Regional Office at (202) 376-7533 or by email to: ero@usccr.gov.

People seeking disability accommodations should contact the Eastern Regional Office at least five (5) working days before the scheduled meeting date.

Records generated from this briefing may be inspected and reproduced at the Eastern Regional Office, as they become available, both before and after the webinar. Persons interested in the work of these advisory committees are advised to go to the Commission's Web site, <http://www.usccr.gov>, or to contact the Eastern Regional Office at the above email or street address.

The briefing will be conducted pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Commission and FACA.

Dated in Washington, DC, on October 27, 2011.

Peter Minarik,

Acting Chief, Regional Programs Coordination Unit.

[FR Doc. 2011-28383 Filed 11-1-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6335-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 1795]

Grant of Authority for Subzone Status; VF Jeanswear, (Apparel Distribution), Mocksville, NC

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, the Foreign-Trade Zones Act provides for “* * * the establishment



**APPENDIX B:
PUBLIC MEETING NEWSPAPER NOTICES**

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
)
) SS
COUNTY OF Mercer)

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the Beulah Beacon, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Beulah, that the advertisement headed:

DAKOTA GASIFICATION/BEULAH BH- RUS LEGAL NOTICE OF INTENT/LEGAL

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 2 consecutive week 11/10/2011 to wit:

Straight Matter Lines 309	\$0.67	\$207.03	11/03/2011
Straight Matter Lines 309	\$0.67	\$207.03	11/10/2011

Notary Fee \$1.00 Total Cost of Legal \$415.06

Shelley Chase


Subscribed and sworn to before me this 15th day of November A.D. 2011.

(Seal) *Darla J. Mautz*
Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires

DARLA J MAUTZ
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My commission expires July 22, 2016

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service
Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings
AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA
ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings
SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Neset Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS. The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of Basin Electric's proposed Project. The Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 190 miles of new 345-kV single pole transmission line and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities to be described in the proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.
Portions of Basin Electric's proposed



AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

OTA)
) SS
)

being first duly sworn, on my own oath,
deponent of the Beulah Beacon

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service
Basin Electric Power Cooperative,
Inc.: Notice of Intent to Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement and
Hold Public Scoping Meetings
AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service,
USDA

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare
an Environmental Impact Statement and
Hold Public Scoping Meetings

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities
Service (RUS), an agency within the
U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA),
intends to prepare an environmental
impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric
Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric)
proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS)
to Neset Transmission Project (Project)
in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this
Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the
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proposed Project, conduct a public scop-
ing process, and invite the public to com-
ment on the scope, proposed action, and
other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will address the construc-
tion, operation, and maintenance of
Basin Electric's proposed Project. The
Project includes construction, opera-
tion and maintenance of approximately
190 miles of new 345-kV single pole
transmission line and double circuit
345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new
substations, modifications to 4 exist-
ing substations, a 345-kV switchyard,
maintenance access roads, temporary
construction roads, river crossings,
temporary construction staging sites,
and other facilities to be described in the
proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed
Project would be located in portions of
Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Moun-
trail, and Williams counties in western
North Dakota.

Portions of Basin Electric's proposed
Project may affect floodplains and wet-
lands. This NOI also serves as a notice
of proposed floodplain or wetland action.
RUS will hold public scoping meetings
to share information and receive com-
ments and suggestions on the scope of
the EIS in areas near and affect by the
proposed Project.

DATES: An open-house public scop-
ing meetings will be held on November
15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central

time at the Ernie French Center, North
Dakota State University Williston Re-
search Extension office, 14120 Highway
2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on
November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00
p.m. mountain time at the at the Ameri-
can Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central
Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640.
In order to be considered, all fax or e-
mail comments or suggestions regarding
the appropriate scope of the EIS must
be received by the end of the scoping
period. Comments regarding the Project
may be submitted in writing at the public
scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS
address provided in this Notice. Mailed
comments must be postmarked no later
than midnight on December 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments
on the scope of the EIS should be ad-
dressed to Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environ-
mental Protection Specialist, USDA, Ru-
ral Utilities Service, 1400 Independence
Avenue, SW, Stop 1571, Washington,
DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-
1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.
usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
CONTACT: For information on the
proposed Project, the EIS process,
and RUS financing, contact Mr. Dennis
Rankin, Engineering and Environmental
Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 In-
dependence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571,
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, tele-
phone (202) 720-1953 or email dennis.
rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Parties wishing
to be placed on the Project mailing list for
future information and to receive copies
of the Draft and Final EIS when they are
available should also contact Mr. Rankin.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMA-
TION: RUS, is authorized to make
loans and loan guarantees that finance
the construction of electric distribution,
transmission, and generation facilities,
including system improvements and
replacements required to furnish and
improve electric service in rural areas, as
well as demand side management, en-
ergy conservation programs, and on-grid
and off-grid renewable energy systems.
Based on an interconnection with the
Western Area Power Administration's
(Western) transmission system, Western
has in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6
Cooperating agencies, requested to

serve as a cooperating agency for the
environmental review of the proposed
project.

Basin Electric is a regional wholesale
electric generation and transmission
cooperative owned and controlled by
its member cooperatives. Basin Elec-
tric serves approximately 2.5 million
customers covering 430,000 square
miles in portions of nine states, including
Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana,
Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota,
South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Project Description: Basin Electric
has identified the need for additional
electric transmission capacity in north-
western North Dakota as a result of
increased demand and to meet reliability
and system stability requirements for
the region. Investigations and analyses
conducted for the overall power delivery
systems found that without improve-
ments, the flow of power along existing
lines may result in local line overloads,
especially in the vicinity of Williston,
North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Elec-
tric is proposing to construct, own and
operate a new 345-kV transmission line
and associated supporting infrastruc-
ture. The entire project will consist of
constructing approximately 190 miles
of new single circuit 345-kV and double
circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines,
the construction of 2 new substations,
modifications to 4 existing substations,
a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access
roads, temporary construction roads,
river crossings, temporary construction
staging sites, and other facilities. The
Project would connect to the Integrated
System at several locations, including
Western's Williston Substation. The
proposed Project would be located in
portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie,
Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties
in western North Dakota.

Basin Electric has requested finan-
cial assistance for the proposed Project
from the U.S. Department of Agriculture,
Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Complet-
ing the EIS is one of RUS's requirements
in processing Basin Electric's applica-
tion, along with other technical and
financial considerations.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5(b)
of the Council of Environmental Quality's

Regulation for Implementing the
Procedural Provisions of the National
Environmental Policy Act, RUS will serve
as the lead agency in the preparation
of the EIS. Other agencies and Native
American Tribes with jurisdiction or spe-
cial expertise will be invited to participate
as cooperating agencies per §1501.6.

The proposed Project is subject
to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota
Public Service Commission (NDPSC),
which has regulatory authority for siting
electrical transmission facilities within
the State. Basin Electric will submit
an application for NDPSC Transmis-
sion Corridor and Route Permits. The
NDPSC Permits would authorize Basin
Electric to construct the proposed
Project under North Dakota rules and
regulations.

RUS intends to prepare an EIS to
analyze the impacts of its respective
federal actions and the proposed Project
in accordance with NEPA, as amended,
CEQ's Regulation for Implementing
the Procedural Provisions of the Na-
tional Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR
1500-1508), DOE NEPA Implementing
Procedures (10 CFR 1021), the, and RS
Environmental Policies and Procedures
(7 CFR 1794).

Because the proposed Project may
involve action in floodplains or wetlands,
this NOI also serves as a notice of pro-
posed floodplain or wetland action. The
EIS will include a floodplain/wetland as-
sessment and, if required, a floodplain/
wetland statement of findings will be
issued with the Final EIS.

Agency Responsibilities: RUS is
serving as the lead Federal agency, as
defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for prepara-
tion of the EIS. With this notice, Native
American Tribes and agencies with juris-
diction or special expertise are invited to
be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or
agencies may make a request to RUS to
be a cooperating agency by contacting
Mr. Rankin. Designated cooperating
agencies have certain responsibilities to
support the NEPA process, as specified
at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Environmental Issues: This notice
is to inform agencies and the public of
RUS' federal action, and the proposed
Project, and to solicit comments and
suggestions for consideration in prepar-
ing the EIS. To help the public frame its
comments, this notice contains a list of
potential environmental issues that RUS
as tentatively identified for analysis.
These issues include:

- Impacts on protected, threatened,
endangered, or sensitive species of
animals or plants;
- Impacts on avian and bat species;
- Impacts on land use, recreation, and
transportation;
- Impacts on cultural resources or
historic properties and tribal values;
- Impacts on human health and safety;
- Impacts on air, soil, and water re-
sources (including air quality and surface
water impacts);
- Visual impacts; and
- Socioeconomic impacts and whether
there would be any disproportionately
high and adverse impacts to minority
and low-income populations.

This list is not intended to be all-
inclusive or to imply any predetermina-
tion of impacts. Environmental issues
associated with the action of RUS, and
Basin Electric's proposed Project will be
addressed separately in the EIS. RUS
invites interested parties to suggest
specific issues within these general
categories, or other issues not included
above, to be considered in the EIS.

Public Participation: Public partici-
pation and full disclosure are planned for
the entire EIS process. The EIS process
will include open-house public scoping

meetings and a scoping comment period
to solicit comments from interested par-
ties; consultation and involvement with
appropriate Federal, State, local, and
tribal governmental agencies; public
review and a hearing on the draft EIS;
publication of a final EIS; and publica-
tion of a Record of Decision. Expected
EIS completion date is December 2013.
Additional informal public meetings may
be held in the proposed Project areas,
if public interest and issues indicate a
need; if additional public meeting are
determined to be necessary public
notices will be published as appropriate.

RUS will hold open-house public
scoping meetings in Williston, North
Dakota, and Killdeer, North Dakota as
noted above. The time and locations of
these meetings will be well advertised
in local media outlets a minimum of 15
days prior to the time of the meetings.
Attendees are welcome to come and go
at their convenience and to speak one-
on-one with Project representatives and
agency staff. The public will have the
opportunity to provide written comments
at the meeting. In addition, attendees
may provide written comments by letter,
fax, e-mail.

The public scoping period begins
with publication of this notice in the
Federal Register and closes December
2, 2011. To be considered in defining
the scope of the EIS, comments should
be received by the end of the scoping
period.

Dated: 10/27/11
-SIGNED-
MARK PLANK
Director, Engineering and Environ-
mental Staff
Rural Utilities Service
(11-3-11 11-10-11)

MAUTZ
Public
North Dakota
Printed July 22, 2016

Classified Advertising Invoice

Bismarck Tribune
PO BOX 4001
LaCrosse, WI 54602-4001
In State 701-250-8218
Toll free 800-472-2273

BASIN ELECTRIC-LOCAL

1717 E INTERSTATE AV
BISMARCK ND 58503

Customer: 60001824
Phone: (701) 223-0441
Date: 11/07/2011

Date	Order #	Type	Order Amt
11/07/11	20549867	INV	879.00

Amount Paid: _____ CK #: _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (circle one)



Card #: _____
Exp Date: _____
Signature: _____
Credit card users: Fax to 701-223-6584

Cash Amt _____

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TOP PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Date	Date	Times Run	Description	Lines	Class Code	Order Amt	Net Amt Due
10/31/11	11/07/11	2	607340/Rural Utilities Bismarck Tribune PO:Notice of Intent	293.00	Legals	879.00	879.00

Affidavit of Publication
State of North Dakota) SS County of Burleigh
Before me, a Notary Public for the State of North Dakota
personally appeared OK who being duly sworn, deposes
and says that he (she) is the Clerk of Bismarck Tribune Co.,
and that the publication(s) were made through the
Bismarck Tribune on the following dates:
10/31, 11/7 Signed Carrie Burtz
sworn and subscribed to before me this 9th
day of NOVEMBER 2011
Gregory P. Ziegler
Notary Public in and for the State of North Dakota

GREGORY P. ZIEGLER
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires July 22, 2015

Please return invoice or put order number on check. Thank You.

Remarks	Total Due: 879.00
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Bismarck Tribune
www.bismarcktribune.com
PO BOX 4001
LaCrosse, WI 54602-4001

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Neset Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

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Portions of Basin Electric's proposed Project may affect floodplains and wetlands. This NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. RUS will hold public scoping meetings to share information and receive comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIS in areas near and affect by the proposed Project.

DATES: An open-house public scoping meetings will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. mountain time at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640. In order to be considered, all fax or e-mail comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS address provided in this Notice. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed Project, the EIS process, and RUS financing, contact Mr. Dennis Rankin, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, telephone (202)720-1953 or email dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Parties wishing to be placed on the Project mailing list for future information and to receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS when they are available should also contact Mr. Rankin.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Based on an interconnection with the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) transmission system, Western has in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 Cooperating agencies, requested to serve as a cooperating agency for the environmental review of the proposed project.

Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric serves approximately 2.5 million customers covering 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Project Description: Basin Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased demand and to meet reliability and system stability requirements for the region. Investigations and analysis conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads, especially in the vicinity of Williston, North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The entire project will consist of constructing approximately 190 miles of new single circuit 345-kV and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, the construction of 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities. The Project would connect to the Integrated System at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation. The proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams

Basin Electric has requested financial assistance for the proposed Project from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Completing the EIS is one of RUS's requirements in processing Basin Electric's application, along with other technical and financial considerations.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5(b) of the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, RUS will serve as the lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other agencies and Native American Tribes with jurisdiction or special expertise will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies per §1501.6.

The proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC), which has regulatory authority for siting electrical transmission facilities within the State. Basin Electric will submit an application for NDPSC Transmission Corridor and Route Permits. The NDPSC Permits would authorize Basin Electric to construct the proposed Project under North Dakota rules and regulations.

RUS intends to prepare an EIS to analyze the impacts of its respective federal actions and the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA, as amended, CEQ's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021), the, and RS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1794).

Because the proposed Project may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. The EIS will include a floodplain/wetland assessment and, if required, a floodplain/wetland statement of findings will be issued with the Final EIS.

Agency Responsibilities: RUS is serving as the lead Federal agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EIS. With this notice, Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or agencies may make a request to RUS to be a cooperating agency by contacting Mr. Rankin. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Environmental Issues: This notice is to inform agencies and the public of RUS' federal action, and the proposed Project, and to solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues that RUS has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include:

1. Impacts on protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants;
2. Impacts on avian and bat species;
3. Impacts on land use, recreation, and transportation;
4. Impacts on cultural resources or historic properties and tribal values;
5. Impacts on human health and safety;
6. Impacts on air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water impacts);
7. Visual impacts; and
8. Socioeconomic impacts and whether there would be any disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply any predetermination of impacts. Environmental issues associated with the action of RUS, and Basin Electric's proposed Project will be addressed separately in the EIS. RUS invites interested parties to suggest specific issues within these general categories, or other issues not included above, to be considered in the EIS.

Public Participation: Public participation and full disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. The EIS process will include open-house public scoping meetings and a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal governmental agencies; public review and a hearing on the draft EIS; publication of a final EIS; and publication of a Record of Decision. Expected EIS completion date is December 2013. Additional informal public meetings may be held in the proposed Project areas, if public interest and issues indicate a need; if additional public meeting are determined to be necessary public notices will be published as appropriate.

RUS will hold open-house public scoping meetings in Williston, North Dakota, and Killdeer, North Dakota as noted above. The time and locations of these meetings will be well advertised in local media outlets a minimum of 15 days prior to the time of the meetings. Attendees are welcome to come and go at their convenience and to speak one-on-one with Project representatives and agency staff. The public will have the opportunity to provide written comments at the meeting. In addition, attendees may provide written comments by letter, fax, e-mail.

The public scoping period begins with publication of this notice in the Federal Register and closes December 2, 2011. To be considered in defining the scope of the EIS, comments should be received by the end of the scoping period.

Dated: 10/27/11

-SIGNED-

MARK PLANK

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service

10/31 & 11/7 - 607340

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold

Affidavit of Publication
The Dickinson Press
 Dickinson, North Dakota

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
 County of Stark) ss

Sonya Sacks being first duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am the bookkeeper of The Dickinson Press, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published at Dickinson, in said county and state, and the advertisement headed:

Environmental Impact Statement

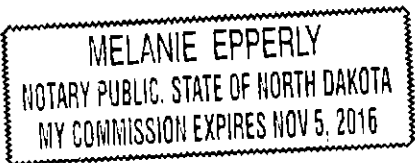
a printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was printed and published in The Dickinson Press, and in the regular and entire issue of each and every number for 2 consecutive weeks, commencing on the 30 day of October A.D. 2011 and ending on the 6 day of November A.D. 2011, both inclusive.

Straight Matter Lines	<u>299</u>	<u> </u> ,2011
First Time Line Rates	<u>0.70</u>	<u>30-Oct</u> ,2011
Subsequent Line Rates	<u>0.70</u>	<u>6-Nov</u> ,2011
Column Inches	<u> </u>	<u> </u> ,2011
First Time Inch Rate	<u>\$7.78</u>	<u> </u> ,2011
Subsequent Inch Rate	<u>\$7.78</u>	<u> </u> ,2011
Total Cost of Legal	\$ <u>418.60</u>	

Sonya Sacks
 Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of November A.D. 2011.

(Seal) Melanie Epperly
 Notary Public, State Of North Dakota

My Commission Expires



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 Rural Utilities Service
 Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.:
 Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings
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DATES: An open-house public scoping meetings will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. mountain time at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640. In order to be considered, all fax or e-mail comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS address provided in this Notice. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information on the proposed Project, the EIS process, and RUS financing, contact Mr. Dennis Rankin, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1953 or email dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Parties wishing to be placed on the Project mailing list for future information and to receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS when they are available should also contact Mr. Rankin.

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Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission

**DUNN COUNTY HERALD
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
)SS.

COUNTY OF DUNN

Carie Boster of said State and County being duly sworn on his oath says:
That she is the editor of the The Dunn County Herald, a weekly newspaper of
general circulation published in the City of Killdeer, in said County and
State, that said newspaper is now the official newspaper for the County of Dunn,
North Dakota, and during the time hereinafter mentioned and headed.

Basin Electric - BEPC Display

printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was published in the regular
and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication,
and that notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,
for 2 consecutive week(s) _____ to wit:

Straight Matter Lines	_____	
First Time Line Rate	\$.68	_____ 2011
Second Time Line Rate	\$.68	_____ 2011
Subsequent Line Rate	\$.68	_____ 2011

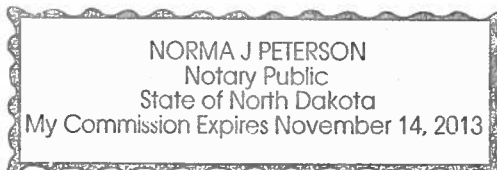
Column Inches	<u> 2x5.5 </u>	
First Time Inch Rate	\$5.65	<u> 62.15 </u> <u> November 4 </u> 2011
Second Time Inch Rate	\$5.65	<u> 62.15 </u> <u> November 11 </u> 2011
Subsequent Inch Rate	\$5.65	_____ 2011

Notary Fee: _____ Total Cost of Legal: \$ 124.30

 Carie Boster Editor

Sworn and subscribed to before me 17 day of November AD, 2011

 Norma Peterson
Norma Peterson
Notary Public, State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires November 14, 2013



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Basin Electric - BE

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and entire issue of said newspaper c
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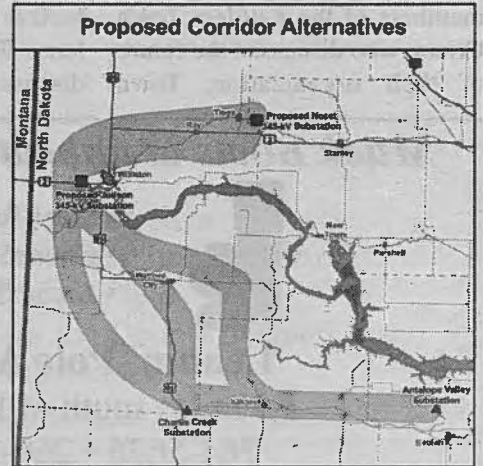
NORMA J PETERSON
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires November 14, 2013

YOU ARE INVITED!

PUBLIC MEETINGS

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The public meetings are being held to obtain your input as well as to fulfill the primary principle of full disclosure and public participation in the National Environmental Policy Act scoping process. You are encouraged to attend either public meeting to learn more about the proposed project and provide your comments.



PLEASE JOIN US!

November 15, 2011
Ernie French Center
NDSU Williston Research Extension Center
Williston, North Dakota
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Central Standard Time

November 16, 2011
American Legion Hall, Post 46
Killdeer, North Dakota
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

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2011

**DUNN COUNTY HERALD
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)

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Basin Electric - RUS Legal Notice of Intent

printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement, for 2 consecutive week(s) _____ to wit:

Straight Matter Lines		<u>323 lines</u>		
First Time Line Rate	\$.68	<u>\$219.64</u>	<u>November 7</u>	<u>2011</u>
Second Time Line Rate	\$.68	<u>\$219.64</u>	<u>November 11</u>	<u>2011</u>
Subsequent Line Rate	\$.68			<u>2011</u>

Column Inches		_____		
First Time Inch Rate	\$5.65			<u>2011</u>
Second Time Inch Rate	\$5.65			<u>2011</u>
Subsequent Inch Rate	\$5.65			<u>2011</u>

Notary Fee: _____ Total Cost of Legal: \$ 439.28

Carie Boster

Editor

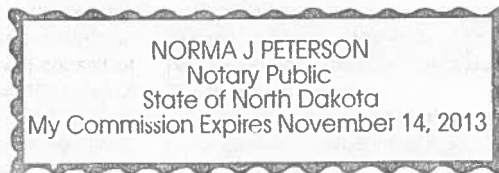
Sworn and subscribed to before me 17 day of November AD, 2011

Norma J. Peterson

Norma J. Peterson

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires November 14, 2013



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Neset Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of Basin Electric's proposed Project. The Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 190 miles of new 345-kV single pole transmission line and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities to be described in the proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Portions of Basin Electric's proposed Project may affect floodplains and wetlands. This NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. RUS will hold public scoping meetings to share information and receive comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIS in areas near and affect by the proposed Project.

DATES: An open-house public scoping meetings will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. mountain time at the at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640. In order to be considered, all fax or e-mail comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS address provided in this Notice. Mailed comments must be post-marked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011.

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Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric serves approximately 2.5 million customers covering 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Project Description: Basin Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased demand and to meet reliability and system stability requirements for the region. Investigations and analyses conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads, especially in the vicinity of Williston, North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The entire project will consist of constructing approximately 190 miles of new single circuit 345-kV and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, the construction of 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities. The Project would connect to the Integrated System at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation. The proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Basin Electric has requested financial assistance for the proposed Project from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Completing the EIS is one of RUS's requirements in processing Basin Electric's application, along with other technical and financial considerations.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5(b)

of the Council of Environmental Quality's

Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, RUS will serve as the-lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other agencies and Native American Tribes with jurisdiction or special expertise will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies per §1501.6.

The proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC), which has regulatory authority for siting electrical transmission facilities within the State. Basin Electric will submit an application for NDPSC Transmission Corridor and Route Permits. The NDPSC Permits would authorize Basin Electric to construct the proposed Project under North Dakota rules and regulations.

RUS intends to prepare an EIS to analyze the impacts of its respective federal actions and the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA, as amended, CEQ's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021), the, and RS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1794).

Because the proposed Project may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. The EIS will include a floodplain/wetland assessment and, if required, a floodplain/wetland statement of findings will be issued with the Final EIS.

Agency Responsibilities: RUS is serving as the lead Federal agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EIS. With this notice, Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or agencies may make a request to RUS to be a cooperating agency by contacting Mr. Rankin. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Environmental Issues: This notice is to inform agencies and the public of RUS' federal action, and the proposed Project, and to solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues that RUS has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include:

1. Impacts on protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants;
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Public Participation: Public participation and full disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. The EIS process will include open-house public scoping meetings and a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal governmental agencies; public review and a hearing on the draft EIS; publication of a final EIS; and publication of a Record of Decision. Expected EIS completion date is December 2013. Additional informal public meetings may be held in the proposed Project areas, if public interest and issues indicate a need; if additional public meeting are determined to be necessary public notices will be published as appropriate.

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The public scoping period begins with publication of this notice in the Federal Register and closes December 2, 2011. To be considered in defining the scope of the EIS, comments should be received by the end of the scoping period.

Dated: 10/27/11

-SIGNED-

MARK PLANK
Director, Engineering and
Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service
(11/4, 11/11)

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Rural Utilities Service

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Dated: 10/27/11

MARK PLANK

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff

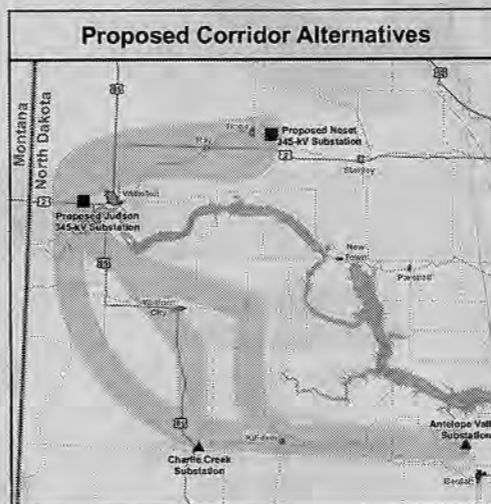
Rural Utilities Service

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Affidavit of Publication

State of North Dakota, County of Williams,ss:
I, Stacey Sundhagen, being first duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am the advertising sales manager of The Tioga Tribune, a weekly newspaper of general circulation and official newspaper of Tioga, State of North Dakota, published in the city of Tioga, ND, and that the advertisement headed

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND HOLD PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS (RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE, USDA, AND BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.)

a printed copy of which is here attached, was published in The Tioga Tribune on the following dates:

- November 2, 2011.....52 inches @ \$5.65 per inch \$293.80
- November 2, 2011.....12 inches @ \$6.00 per inch \$72.00
- November 9, 2011.....52 inches @ \$5.65 per inch \$293.80
- November 9, 2011.....12 inches @ \$6.00 per inch \$72.00

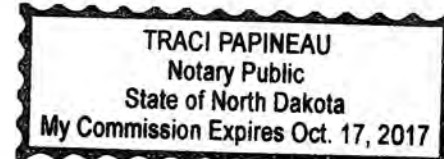
TOTAL CHARGE.....\$731.60

Signed Stacey Sundhagen
Stacey Sundhagen

Subscribed and sworn to before me 11-28-11

Traci Papineau
Traci Papineau

Notary Public, State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires October 17, 2017



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) :ss.
COUNTY OF WILLIAMS)

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

Veronica Arrowsmith being first
duly sworn, deposes and says: That (he) (she) is the Agent to the Publisher of the
WILLISTON HERALD a newspaper printed and published six days a week in the
County of Williams, State of North Dakota, and of general circulation in the city of
Williston, County of Williams, State of North Dakota and elsewhere, and the hereto
attached

*Notice of Intent to Prepare an
Environmental Impact Statement
and Hold Public Scoping meetings*

was printed and published correctly in the regular and entire issue of said WILLISTON
HERALD for *2* issues, that the first was
made on the *31st* day of *October* 20 *11*
and the last publication thereof was made on the *6th* day of
November 20 *11* that said publication

was made on each of the following dates, to wit:

10/31/11
11/6/11

Request of

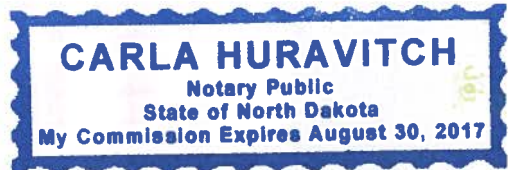
Basin Electric

Williston  Herald

By

Veronica Arrowsmith

Subscribed sworn to before me this _____ day of _____
20 _____



Carla Huravitch

Notary Public in and for the County of Williams, State of North Dakota

#4

PIA

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Utilities Service**

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.:
Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings**

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement and Hold Public Scoping Meetings

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Nessel Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. RUS is issuing this Notice of Intent (NOI) to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of Basin Electric's proposed Project. The Project includes construction, operation and maintenance of approximately 190 miles of new 345-kV single pole transmission line and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities to be described in the proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Portions of Basin Electric's proposed Project may affect floodplains and wetlands. This NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. RUS will hold public scoping meetings to share information and receive comments and suggestions on the scope of the EIS in areas near and affect by the proposed Project.

DATES: An open-house public scoping meetings will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. mountain time at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58840. In order to be considered, all fax or e-mail comments or suggestions regarding the appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting or mailed to the RUS address provided in this Notice. Mailed comments must be postmarked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Written comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250-1571, telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

For information on the proposed Project, the EIS process, and RUS financing, contact Mr. Dennis Rankin, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1571, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571, telephone (202) 720-1953 or e-mail dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Parties wishing to be placed on the Project mailing list for future information and to receive copies of the Draft and Final EIS when they are available should also contact Mr. Rankin.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: RUS, is authorized to make loans and loan guarantees that finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacements required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Based on an interconnection with the Western Area Power Administration's (Western) transmission system, Western has in accordance with 40 CFR 1501.6 Cooperating agencies, requested to serve as a cooperating agency for the environmental review of the proposed project.

Basin Electric is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric serves approximately 2.5 million customers covering 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states, including Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Project Description: Basin Electric has identified the need for additional electric transmission capacity in northwestern North Dakota as a result of increased demand and to meet reliability and system stability requirements for the region. Investigations and analyses conducted for the overall power delivery systems found that without improvements, the flow of power along existing lines may result in local line overloads, especially in the vicinity of Williston, North Dakota.

To resolve these issues, Basin Electric is

proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The entire project will consist of constructing approximately 190 miles of new single circuit 345-kV and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, the construction of 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities. The Project would connect to the Integrated System at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation. The proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Basin Electric has requested financial assistance for the proposed Project from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Completing the EIS is one of RUS's requirements in processing Basin Electric's application, along with other technical and financial considerations.

In accordance with 40 CFR 1501.5(b) of the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulation for implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, RUS will serve as the lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. Other agencies and Native American Tribes with jurisdiction or special expertise will be invited to participate as cooperating agencies per §1501.6.

The proposed Project is subject to the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC), which has regulatory authority for siting electrical transmission facilities within the State. Basin Electric will submit an application for NDPSC Transmission Corridor and Route Permits. The NDPSC Permits would authorize Basin Electric to construct the proposed Project under North Dakota rules and regulations.

RUS intends to prepare an EIS to analyze the impacts of its respective federal actions and the proposed Project in accordance with NEPA, as amended, CEQ's Regulation for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1500-1508), DOE NEPA Implementing Procedures (10 CFR 1021), the, and RS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR 1794).

Because the proposed Project may involve action in floodplains or wetlands, this NOI also serves as a notice of proposed floodplain or wetland action. The EIS will include a floodplain/wetland assessment and, if required, a floodplain/wetland statement of findings will be issued with the Final EIS.

Agency Responsibilities: RUS is serving as the lead Federal agency, as defined at 40 CFR 1501.5, for preparation of the EIS. With this notice, Native American Tribes and agencies with jurisdiction or special expertise are invited to be cooperating agencies. Such tribes or agencies may make a request to RUS to be a cooperating agency by contacting Mr. Rankin. Designated cooperating agencies have certain responsibilities to support the NEPA process, as specified at 40 CFR 1501.6 (b).

Environmental Issues: This notice is to inform agencies and the public of RUS' federal action, and the proposed Project, and to solicit comments and suggestions for consideration in preparing the EIS. To help the public frame its comments, this notice contains a list of potential environmental issues that RUS has tentatively identified for analysis. These issues include:

1. Impacts on protected, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species of animals or plants;
2. Impacts on avian and bat species;
3. Impacts on land use, recreation, and transportation;
4. Impacts on cultural resources or historic properties and tribal values;
5. Impacts on human health and safety;
6. Impacts on air, soil, and water resources (including air quality and surface water impacts);
7. Visual impacts; and
8. Socioeconomic impacts and whether there would be any disproportionately high and adverse impacts to minority and low-income populations.

This list is not intended to be all-inclusive or to imply any predetermination of impacts. Environmental issues associated with the action of RUS, and Basin Electric's proposed Project will be addressed separately in the EIS. RUS invites interested parties to suggest specific issues within these general categories, or other issues not included above, to be considered in the EIS.

Public Participation: Public participation and full disclosure are planned for the entire EIS process. The EIS process will include open-house public scoping meetings and a scoping comment period to solicit comments from interested parties; consultation and involvement with appropriate Federal, State, local, and tribal governmental agencies; public review and a hearing on the draft EIS; publication of a final EIS; and publication of a Record of Decision. Expected EIS completion date is December 2013. Additional informal public meetings may be held in the proposed Project areas, if public interest and issues indicate a need; if additional public meeting are determined to be necessary public notices will be published as appropriate.

RUS will hold open-house public scoping meetings in Williston, North Dakota, and Killdeer, North Dakota as noted above. The time and locations of these meetings will be well advertised in local media outlets a minimum of 15 days prior to the time of the meetings. Attendees are welcome to come and go at their convenience and to speak one-on-one with Project representatives and agency staff. The public will have the opportunity to provide written comments at the meeting. In addition, attendees may provide written comments by letter, fax, e-mail.

The public scoping period begins with publication of this notice in the Federal Register and closes December 2, 2011. To be considered in defining the scope of the EIS, comments should be received by the end of the scoping period.

Dated: 10/27/11

/s/ MARK PLANK

Mark Plank

Director, Engineering and Environmental

Staff

Rural Utilities Service

(October 31, November 6, 2011)



APPENDIX C:
PUBLIC MAILER AND RADIO BULLETIN TEXT

About the project

Basin Electric Power Cooperative has proposed construction of a 345-kilovolt transmission line in northwestern North Dakota that will run approximately 200 miles from Antelope Valley Station (AVS) near Beulah, North Dakota, connect to substations near Grassy Butte and Williston, and end at the Naset 345-kV Substation near Tioga, North Dakota.

Why is the line needed?

Increasing demand for electricity is driving the need for additional transmission capacity. Transmission studies have indicated that the current system is reaching its limit, and additional lines are needed. This new 345-kV line will also improve the reliability of the existing system, making a stronger infrastructure throughout the region.

What does the project include?

The AVS to Naset 345-kV Project includes three major components: approximately 200 miles of 345-kV transmission line, new substations near Williston and Tioga as well as additions to Basin Electric's Charlie Creek and AVS Substations.



Building the transmission line

Four major elements are required for transmission lines to be constructed. They include regulatory approvals, surveying, line design, and right of way.

Regulatory Approvals Required

Western Area Power Administration and the Rural Utility Service, both federal agencies, will evaluate the 345-kV project thru an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Approval from the North Dakota Public Service Commission is required to site the project. Both the federal and state processes require public notification and public meetings to gather input into their decision making processes. Formal notices of the public meetings will be given through newspapers and radio ads in the future.

Surveying

Landowners will be contacted to request their permission for property boundary, biological, terrain mapping, and archeological surveys. Each of these surveys is required for the project. The survey permit form is NOT an easement and does not obligate the landowner to grant an easement.

Biologists will complete the biological survey, thoroughly reviewing the route. Survey work will be done by registered land surveyors to determine the location of section and property corners so easement descriptions can be prepared. Mapping includes high resolution photography and laser mapping of the terrain. Archeologists will inspect for archeological sites by walking the preferred route's right of way, once it is determined.

Line Design

Engineering has started work on the project's design, which includes determination of electrical and physical details. Design work will meet or exceed all applicable codes and standards and will continue until the fall of 2013. The exact locations for structures will be determined at that time. Landowner's requests for structure placement will be accommodated if possible.

Right of way

The right of way width is 150 feet which is approximately 18.18 acres per mile. The line will consist of mainly single pole steel structures. Terrain will determine how many structures there will be in a mile, but will likely be 5 to 7 per mile. H-frame structures will be used in areas of high relief.

After land values are determined, landowners will be contacted to start the easement acquisition process. Basin Electric staff will give landowners ample time to review and comment on the easement location. Payment for the easement will be made ASAP or at a later time if requested by the landowner.

Construction

Construction on the AVS to Naset 345-kV line is scheduled to begin in 2014. If any damages to public and private roads are incurred during construction, they will be repaired. Landowners will be compensated for all crop damage caused by construction activities.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, concerns or would like a map showing the line route in your area, please contact:

Valeree King

Basin Electric Watford City office
701-557-5146

Mike Murray

Basin Electric Headquarters
701-557-5454

Duey Marthaller

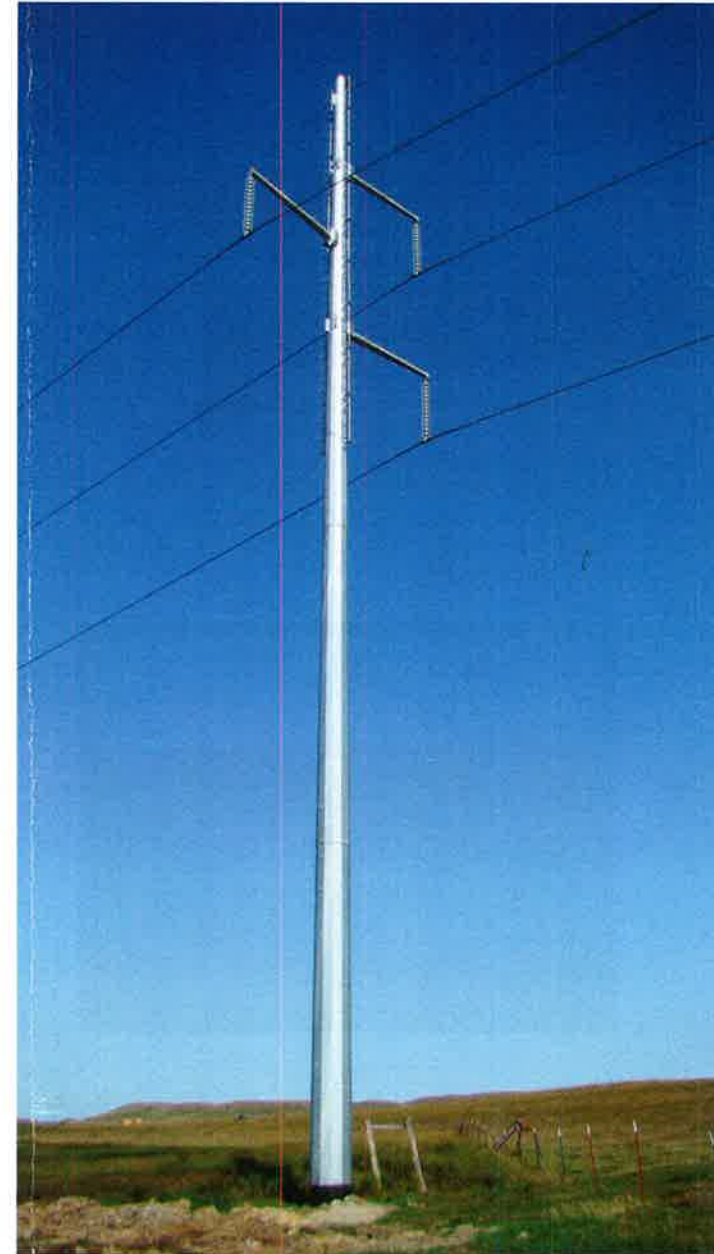
Basin Electric Headquarters
701-557-5658



1717 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503-0564

Antelope Valley Station to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project

Strengthening Power Delivery in
Western North Dakota



Project information for landowners along the proposed AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Line.



APPENDIX D:
AGENCY SCOPING LETTERS AND MAILING LIST



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

October 31, 2011

Recipient Name
Recipient Address
Recipient Address

Proposed Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Antelope Valley Station to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project

Dear Recipient,

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the programs of the US Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs, is the lead agency preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with a proposal by Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric). Basin Electric proposes to construct approximately 190 miles of 345-kV transmission line, two new substations and a potential switchyard in northwestern North Dakota. The project would extend from near Beulah to Williston and then proceed on to Tioga.

In accordance with RUS environmental regulations, 7 CFR 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures, RUS will be the lead agency for preparing the EIS. As part of the scoping process and prior to any public scoping meetings, RUS is distributing and making available specific planning documents prepared for review and comment by Federal, State, and local agencies and the public. Enclosed is a compact disk that contains the Macro-Corridor and Alternatives Report for the AVS to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project in Adobe Acrobat portable document file (pdf) format. Copies of the document are also available on RUS' website at:
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-eis4.htm>

As part of the scoping process, you are invited to an interagency scoping meeting at 1:30 pm on November 14, 2011, at Basin Electric Power Cooperative, 1717 E. Interstate Ave. Bismarck, North Dakota. RUS and Basin Electric representatives will be at this meeting to discuss the project, answer questions, and accept your comments regarding the proposal. If you are interested in attending the interagency meeting, please contact Mr. Dennis Rankin at dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

In addition, open-house public scoping meetings will be held from 4-7 p.m. CST November 15, 2011, at the Ernie French Center, NDSU Williston Research Extension, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota and from 4-7 p.m. MST November 16, 2011 at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue North, Killdeer, North Dakota.

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250

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**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact RUS representative Dennis Rankin at the email address listed above or telephone number 202-720-1953 or Basin Electric representative Cris Miller (cmiller@bepc.om) at 701-557-5635.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mark S. Plank
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service

October 31, 2011

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250

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**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

Recipient Name
Recipient Address
Recipient Address

Re: Proposed Basin Electric Power Cooperative
Antelope Valley Station to Neseet 345-kV Transmission Project

Dear Senator Hoeven,

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin Electric) proposed Antelope Valley Station (AVS) to Neseet 345-kV Transmission Project (Project) in North Dakota. Basin Electric's project will ensure electrical transmission system reliability in Northwestern North Dakota. RUS has issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register and notices have been published in regional and local newspapers to inform the public and interested parties about the proposed Project, conduct a public scoping process, and invite the public to comment on the scope, proposed action, and other issues to be addressed in the EIS.

The EIS will address the construction, operation, and maintenance of approximately 190 miles of new 345-kV single pole transmission line and double circuit 345/115-kV transmission lines, 2 new substations, modifications to 4 existing substations, a 345-kV switchyard, maintenance access roads, temporary construction roads, river crossings, temporary construction staging sites, and other facilities to be described in the proposed EIS. Basin Electric's proposed Project would be located in portions of Billings, Dunn, McKenzie, Mercer, Mountrail, and Williams counties in western North Dakota.

Two open-house scoping meetings are scheduled. An open-house public scoping meeting will be held on November 15, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. central time at the Ernie French Center, North Dakota State University Williston Research Extension office, 14120 Highway 2, Williston, North Dakota 58801; and on November 16, 2011, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. mountain time at the American Legion Hall Post 46, 42 Central Avenue, Killdeer, North Dakota 58640. RUS and Basin Electric representatives will be at this meeting to discuss the project, answer questions, and accept your comments regarding the proposal

RUS has prepared a Macro-Corridor Report and Alternatives Report that is available for review at local libraries or at RUS' website at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-eis4.htm>. In order to be considered, all fax or e-mail comments or suggestions regarding

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**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development**

the appropriate scope of the EIS must be received by the end of the scoping period. Comments regarding the Project may be submitted in writing at the public scoping meeting, mailed to the RUS address below and be postmarked no later than midnight on December 2, 2011 or sent by email to the address below.

Written or email comments on the scope of the EIS should be addressed to:

Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist
USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571
Telephone: (202) 720-1953 or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark S. Plank". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark S. Plank
Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250

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**Basin Electric AVS 345-kV Transmission Line Project
Agency Contact List**

= Agency Coordination Letters

First Name	Last Name	Title	Agency	Address 1	Address 2	City	State	Zip Code
Mr. Jeffrey	Towner	Field Supervisor	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	North Dakota Field Office	3425 Miriam Avenue	Bismarck	ND	58501
Col. David	Press	District Commander	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Omaha District	106 South 15th Street	Omaha	NE	68102
Mr. Todd	Lindquist	Project Manager	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Lake Sakakawea Project	201 1st Street	Riverdale	ND	58565
Mr. Lonny	Bagley	Field Manager	U.S. Department of the Interior-Bureau of Land Management	North Dakota Field Office	99 23rd Avenue West, Suite A	Dickinson	ND	58601
Mr. Steve	Hardegen	Regional Environmental Officer	Federal Emergency Management Agency	Denver Federal Center, Building 710-B		Denver	CO	80225
Mr. Wendall	Meyer	Division Administrator	Federal Highway Administration		1471 Interstate Loop	Bismarck	ND	58503
Mr. Michael	Black	Regional Director	U.S. Office of the Interior-Bureau of Indian Affairs	Great Plains Regional Office	115 4th Avenue Southeast	Aberdeen	SD	57401
Mr. Larry	Svoboda	Regional NEPA Coordinator	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency		1595 Wynkoop Street	Denver	CO	80202
Mr. Mark	Palmer	Director, External Affairs	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Farm Service Agency-Public Affairs Staff	1400 Independence Ave., SW STOP 0506	Washington	DC	20250
Mr. Jeff	Wright	Director	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Office of Energy Projects	888 First Street, NE	Washington	DC	20426
Mr. John	Fowler	Executive Director	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	Old Post Office Building, Suite 803	1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW	Washington	DC	20004
Ms. Melissa	Hammond	Director, Public Affairs	U.S. Department of Agriculture	Natural Resources Conservation Service	1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 6121-S	Washington	DC	20250
Mr. Mark	Plank	Director	U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Utilities Service	Engineering and Environmental Staff	Room 2242-S, Mail Stop 1571, 1400 Independence Ave, SW	Washington	DC	20250
Mr. Jim	Keefer	District Office Manager	U.S. Department of Transportation	Federal Aviation Administration-Great Lakes Region	Chicago Airports District Office, 2300 East Devon Avenue	Des Plaines	IL	60018
Mr. Irwin	Russell	Acting State Conservationist	North Dakota NRCS State Office	Federal Building	220 East Rosser Avenue, Room 270	Bismarck	ND	58501
Mr. Aaron	Krauter	State Executive Director	U.S. Department of Agriculture	North Dakota Farm Service Agency	1025 28th Street S	Fargo	ND	58103
Mr. Doug	Goehring	Agriculture Commissioner	North Dakota Department of Agriculture		600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 602	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Larry	Kotchman	State Forester	North Dakota Forest Service	Molberg Forestry Center	307 First Street East	Bottineau	ND	58318
Mr. Bruce	Hicks	Assistant Director, Oil & Gas Division	North Dakota Industrial Commission	Department of Mineral Resources	600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Kent	Luttschwager		North Dakota Game and Fish Department	Williston Office	13932 West Front Street	Williston	ND	58801
Mr. Terry	Steinwand	Director	North Dakota Game and Fish Department		100 N. Bismarck Expressway	Bismarck	ND	58501
Mr. Merlan	Paaverud, Jr.		North Dakota State Historical Society	North Dakota Heritage Center	612 E. Boulevard Ave.	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Scott	Davis	Executive Director	North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission	1st Floor Judicial Wing-Room 117	600 East Boulevard Avenue	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Mike	Haupt		North Dakota State Land Department		1707 North 9th Street	Bismarck	ND	58506
Mr. Paul	Govig	Director	North Dakota Department of Commerce	Division of Community Services-Century Center	1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 2	Bismarck	ND	58503
Mr. Francis	Ziegler	Director	North Dakota Department of Transportation		608 East Boulevard Avenue	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Tony	Clark	Chairman	North Dakota Public Service Commission		600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408	Bismarck	ND	58505
Ms. Sandi	Tabor		North Dakota Transmission Authority	State Capitol, 14th Floor	600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 405	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Dave	Glatt	Chief	North Dakota Department of Health	Environmental Health Section	918 East Divide Avenue	Bismarck	ND	58501
Mr. Mark	Zimmerman	Director	North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department		1600 E. Century Avenue, Suite 3	Bismarck	ND	58503
Mr. Thomas	Hanson		ND Assoc. of Soil Conservation District		3310 University Drive	Bismarck	ND	58504
Mr. Ed	Murphy		North Dakota Geological Survey		600 East Boulevard Avenue	Bismarck	ND	58505
Mr. Dale	Frink	State Engineer	North Dakota Water Commission		900 East Boulevard	Bismarck	ND	58505
		Chief of Resource Management	Theodore Roosevelt National Park		315 2nd Avenue/P.O. Box 7	Medora	ND	58647
Ms. Valerie	Naylor		Theodore Roosevelt National Park		315 2nd Avenue/P.O. Box 8	Medora	ND	58647
Mr. Steve	Williams		United States Forest Service		240 W. Century Ave	Bismarck	ND	58501
		District Chief	United States Geological Survey		821 E. Interstate Ave	Bismarck	ND	58501
		District Ranger	USFS Little Missouri National Grassland (McKenzie)		1901 S. Main Street	Watford City	ND	58854
Ms. Sherrie	Schwenke	Planning and Public Affairs Staff Officer	USFS Dakota Prairie Grasslands		240 W. Century Ave	Bismarck	ND	58503
Mr. Alvin	Nelson	Chairman	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	McKenzie County	HC2, Box 11	Grassy Butte	ND	58634
Mr. Merle	Clark	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	Slope County	P.O. Box 49	Marmarth	ND	58643
Mr. John	Combs	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	Dunn County	P.O. Box 455	Killdeer	ND	58640
Mr. John	Hild	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	Billings County	P.O. Box 386	Medora	ND	58645
Ms. Pam	Hestekin	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	Bowman County	9410 169th Avenue SW	Rhame	ND	58651
Mr. Ray	Clouse	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	Golden Valley County	5511 3 V Road	Sentinel Butte	ND	58654
Mr. Mike	Sauer	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	North Dakota Department of Health	P.O. Box 5520	Bismarck	ND	58505
Ms. Linda	Weispfenning	Member	Little Missouri Scenic River Commission	State Water Commission	900 East Boulevard Ave.	Bismarck	ND	58504
Ms. Denise	Nelson	Environmental Protection Specialist	Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail		601 Riverfront Drive	Omaha	NE	68102
Senator John	Hoeven		North Dakota State Legislature	Federal Building	220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 312	Bismarck	ND	58501
Senator Kent	Conrad		North Dakota State Legislature	Federal Building	220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 228	Bismarck	ND	58501
Congressman Rick	Berg		North Dakota State Legislature	Federal Building	220 E. Rosser Avenue, Room 328	Bismarck	ND	58501
Mr. David	Leith	County Executive Director	Mountrail County Farm Service Agency		21 1st Street SE	Stanley	ND	58784
Mr. Corey	Paryzek	County Executive Director	Williams County Farm Service Agency		1106 West 2nd Street	Williston	ND	58801
Ms. Marcy	Feilmeier	County Executive Director	McKenzie County Farm Service Agency		109 5th Street SW	Watford City	ND	58854
Ms. Clare	Messmer	County Executive Director	Dunn County Farm Service Agency		105 Rodeo Drive	Killdeer	ND	58640
Ms. Alison	Hoffer	County Executive Director	Mercer County Farm Service Agency		1400 Hwy 49 N. STE 101	Beulah	ND	58523
Mr. Arlo	Borud	Commissioner	Mountrail County		PO Box 542	Stanley	ND	58784
Mr. David	Hynek	Commissioner	Mountrail County		9148 59th St. NW	Ross	ND	58776
Mr. Greg	Boschee	Commissioner	Mountrail County		7566 34th Street NW	Parshall	ND	58771
Ms. Joan	Hollekim	County Auditor	Mountrail County	Mountrail County Courthouse	PO Box 69	Stanley	ND	58784
Mr. Wayne	Aberle	Commissioner	Williams County		1003 Sioux St.	Williston	ND	58801
Mr. David	Montgomery	Commissioner	Williams County		222 14th Street E	Williston	ND	58801
Mr. Raymond	Schmidt	Commissioner	Williams County		10788 68th Street NW	Tioga	ND	58852
Mr. Martin	Hanson	Commissioner	Williams County		7783 141st Ave. NW	Zahl	ND	58856
Mr. Daniel	Kalil	Commissioner	Williams County		13295 51st NW	Williston	ND	58801
Ms. Beth	Innis	County Auditor	Williams County	Williams County Courthouse	PO Box 2047	Williston	ND	58801
Mr. Roger	Chinn	Commissioner	McKenzie County	McKenzie County Courthouse	201 5th Street NW	Watford City	ND	58854
Mr. Ronald	Anderson	Commissioner	McKenzie County	McKenzie County Courthouse	PO Box 543	Watford City	ND	58854



**APPENDIX E:
AGENCY AND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEETS**



AVS to Neseet 345-kV Transmission Project
Agency Scoping Meeting
Basin Electric Headquarters
Sign-In Sheet
November 14, 2011 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Agency/Name/Address/email

1	✓ Basin Electric	Cris Milled	1717 E Interstate Ave, Bismarck, ND	cmiller@bec.com
2	✓ Louis Berger	Bob Hughes	1250 23rd St. NW	Washington DC r.hughes@louisberger.com
3	✓ Louis Berger Group	David Rakorus	535 16th St, Denver, CO	dprakorus@louisberger.com
4	Corps of Engineers	Linda Phelps	201 1st St. Riverdale, ND	linda.m.phelps@usace.army.mil
5	ND SHPO	Susan Quinell	612 E Boulevard Ave Bismarck ND 58505	squinell@nd.gov
6	National Park Service	Valerie Naylor	Box 7 Medora ND 58645	valerie_naylor@nps.gov
7	ND SHPO / SHSNP	Paul Picha	612 E Blvd. Bismarck, ND	ppicha@nd.gov
8	✓ Louis Berger	Lisa McDonald	535 16th St. Suite 600, Denver, CO 80015	lmcdonald@louisberger.com
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USDA



Rural
Development

AVS to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project
 Agency Scoping Meeting
 Basin Electric Headquarters
 Sign-In Sheet
 November 14, 2011 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Agency/Name/Address/email

- 1 David Kluth / WAPA / 200 4TH ST. SW, HURON, SD 57350, kluth@wapa.gov
- 2 Mike SAUER ND Dept of Health Bismarck, ND MSAUER@ND.GOV
- 3 Pam Hestekin / Little Missouri Scenic River Comm. RHAME, ND
- 4 Michael Haupt ND Dept of Forest Lands Bismarck ND mhaupt@nd.gov
- 5 Mishi Salkiner Wesken (WAPA) Lakewood, CO mscalkiner@wapa.gov
- 6 Carol Aron USFWS Bismarck, ND carol-aron@fws.gov
- 7 TIM BOHMAN RUS BISMARCK timothy.bohman@wdc.usda.gov
- 8 Clayton Derby WEST Bismarck ND cderby@west-nd.com
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USDA



Rural
Development

AVS to Neset 345-kV Transmission Project
Agency Scoping Meeting
Basin Electric Headquarters
Sign-In Sheet
November 14, 2011 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Agency/Name/Address/email

- 1 USDA-NRES / DONALD E. FELCH / 1458 E. ROSSETT AVE / donald.felch@nd.usda.gov
- 2 BMcD John Dunham 9700 Ward Pkwy. KC, MO. 64114 jdunham@burnsmcd.com
- 3 BMcD Steve Thornhill 9400 Ward Parkway, KC MO 64114 sthornh@burnsmcd.com
- 4 BMcD Greg Knauer 9400 Ward Parkway, KC MO 64114 gknauer@burnsmcd.com
- 5 NDTA Sandi Taber 1016 E. Owens Ave Bismarck ND Sanditabore@ignite.com
- 6 US Forest Service Sherri Schwenke 240 W. Century Ave, Bismarck, ND sschwenke@fs.fed.us
- 7 US FOREST SERVICE, JOBY P. Timm WATFORD, CITY jtimmm@FS.fed.us
- 8 _____
- 9 _____
- 10 _____
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AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project
Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
Ernie French Center, Williston, ND
November 15, 2011 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Name/Address

- 1 Levi Jacobson. 13732 w. front st. williston ND 58801
- 2 Richard Ryan 4819 Southview Drive Williston ND 58801
- 3 Carolyn Menard 4831 Hwy 85 S Williston ND 58801
- 4 Wes STRAIN 14288 Parked Woods Williston N.D. 58801
- 5 MATT HANNATTA 4983 142 AVE NW Williston N.D. 58801
- 6 Alison Klause PO Box 204 Watford City ND 58854
- 7 Carol Morrison 14057 Southview St Williston ND 58801
- 8 John Han 4963 18700 Ave NW Williston ND 58801
- 9 Charles Zervas, 2551 130th Ave, Welch, MN 55089
- 10 David DeWitt 4820 Southview Drive, Williston ND.
- 11 [unclear] 1100th Ave Williston ND
- 12 David + Beth Rod 14064 Southview St. Williston, N. DAK. 58801
- 13 Cal Rasmussen 2415 13th Ave W Williston ND 58801
- 14
- 15



**AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project
 Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
 Ernie French Center, Williston, ND
 November 15, 2011 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

Name/Address

- 1 CHRIS BROSTUEN 2035 9th AVE E WILLISTON, ND 58801
- 2 Donald Preust Upper M. S. Hwy 101 Sidney, MT 59270
- 3 Chris H. Hosland Loan Yellowstone REH Sidney, MT 59270
- 4 Don Link McKenna Elec Watford City
- 5 DALE HANSEN MWEC PO Box 1346 Williston ND 58802-1346
- 6 Clayton Hanson McKenna Elec Watford City
- 7 Patricia Gurest PO. Box 1346 Williston ND
- 8 Kent Luttschwager ND Game & Fish Dept 13932 West Front St. Williston 58801
- 9 Wayne Aberle MWEC P.O. Box 1346 Williston ND
- 10 Lisa NENED 14962 22nd St NW Alexander, ND
- 11 Iain Johnson Ellis 718 1st Ave East Williston ND 58801
- 12 John Johnson 14057 Southview St Williston, ND 58801
- 13 Kyle Sorongon 615 Hazel Ave #C Laurel, MT 59044
- 14 melody (ambly) ~~(1022 42nd St West)~~ 1820 Southview Drive Williston ND
- 15



**AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project
 Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
 American Legion Hall Post 46, Killdeer, ND
 November 16, 2011 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

	Name/Address
1	Myron C. Anderson 2930 Garnet Pl. B.S. N.D.
2	Tom Volk 900 Highway D. HARRIS ND
3	MELODI FOUR BEAR 227 MAIN STREET NEW TOWN
4	Larry Melland McKenzie Electric WC
5	Sherry Nelson McKenzie Electric WC
6	Darryl Berg Killdeer McKenzie Electric KLD
7	Alvin Nelson Murray Bette Mack Electric
8	Steve Finneas (NDFS) South Hunt ND.
9	Carl Bosth Halliday ND
10	Tom Larry Berg Halliday ND
11	Bill Flagstad Halliday ND
12	Mal Bosth Killdeer
13	Lauree Richardson Theodore Roosevelt Nat Park
14	Wanda Gustaf Killdeer ND
15	Elmer W. Holtz



**AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project
 Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
 American Legion Hall Post 46, Killdeer, ND
 November 16, 2011 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

	Name/Address
1	Alicia Nalund 101 109 th Ave. S.W. Killdeer
2	Brod Overette 800 Hwy Drive Hazen ND 58545 Rough-ten Electric
3	Anna Felix-Wells 227 Main St New Town ND 58763
4	Jelicia Felix THAT Encasement Program 227 Main Street New Town ND
5	John Skurupcy McKenzie Electric
6	Steve Lauter's chlager McKenzie Electric
7	Ang Hoots Box 462 Killdeer
8	Frank H. Buttersman Meeker County Commissioner
9	Chris Gessale Home Star Fargo ND
10	Jan Swenson Badlands Conservation Alliance Bismarck
11	Daryl Nebout Deuel County Commissioner 170 96 th Ave SW Dim Center
12	John Wadena ND
13	Lorand Zabi Dickinson ND 58601
14	Mariah Lancaster 9291 13 th St SW Halliday, ND 58636
15	



**AVS to Naset 345-kV Transmission Project
Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
American Legion Hall Post 46, Killdeer, ND
November 16, 2011 4 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

Name/Address

1	Bob Lancaster	9291 134 th St SW	Halliday ND	58636
2	Rob Sand	93 112 th Ave NW	Killdeer	58640
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**APPENDIX F:
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS**



**United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service (RUS)**

***Public Scoping Meeting for the
AVS to Neseet 345-kV Transmission Project***

WELCOME

United States Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

Public Scoping Meeting for the Proposed AVS to Neseet 345-kV Transmission Project

- **Registration**
- **Comments Sheets**
- **Open House 4 – 7 p.m.**



COMMENTS

- ✓ Visit the RUS website for more information
<http://www.usda.gov/rus.water/ees/eis.htm>
- ✓ Contact RUS
Dennis Rankin, 202-720-1953
email: Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov
- ✓ Submit your comments on the provided sheets tonight by mail or email to RUS within the next 30 days



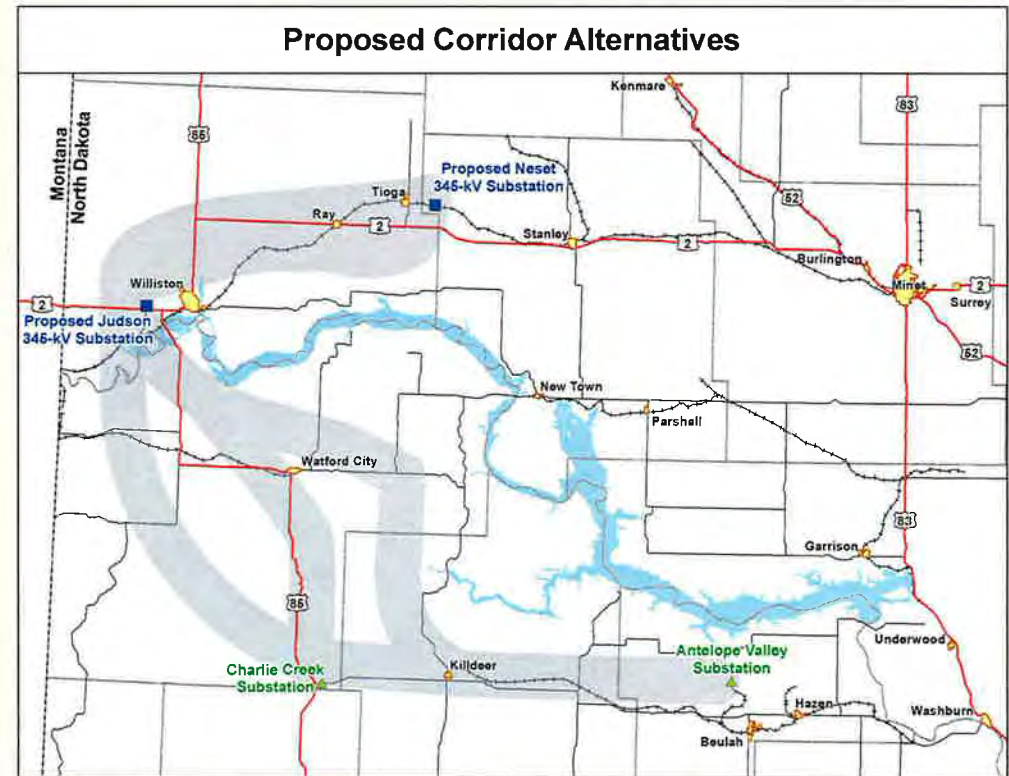
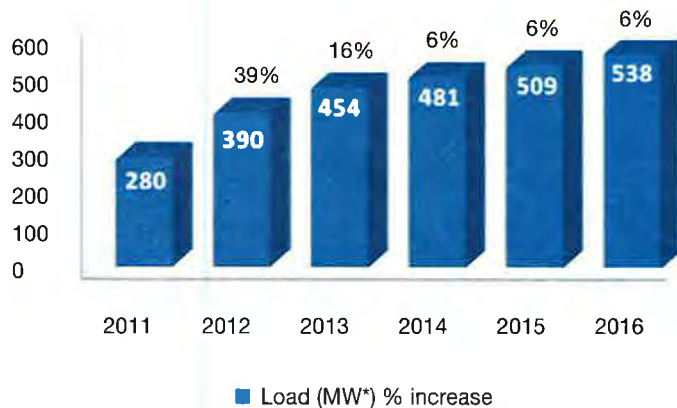
PROJECT OVERVIEW

AVS to NESET 345-kV Transmission Project

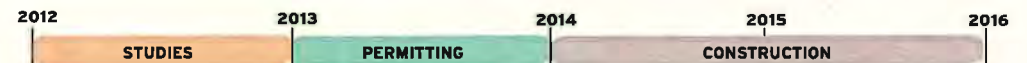
Basin Electric's Purpose and Need

- Northwestern North Dakota is experiencing rapid growth
- Increased development is a result of oil extraction activities from the Bakken oil shale
- Studies have identified the long-term need for increased transmission capacity and reliability
- Recommended solution is a new 345 kV transmission line

Load Forecast for Transmission Lines in the Williston/Tioga Region



Project Timeline



NEPA PROCESS

AVS to NESET 345-kV Transmission Project

What is NEPA?

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is a law that requires all federal agencies to consider the effects of their proposed actions.
- It promotes better agency decision-making by ensuring that high-quality information is available to officials and the public before the agency decides whether and how to undertake a major federal action.
- For major federal actions that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is prepared.
- An EIS is a detailed analysis of the effects of a proposed action and the range of reasonable alternatives, including a no-action alternative.
- The EIS also examines ways to avoid or reduce adverse effects.
- Through the NEPA process, the public has an opportunity to learn about the proposed action and provide information and comments.

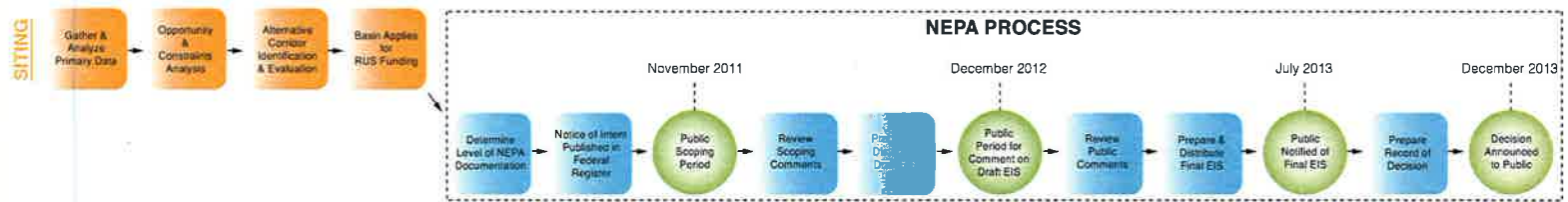
NEPA Process

A macro corridor study identifies potential areas for the alternate transmission line corridors. The NEPA process includes:

- Public scoping open house and a period to solicit comments from interested parties
- Consultation and involvement with appropriate federal, state, local and tribal governmental agencies
- Public review and hearings on the draft EIS
- Publication of a final EIS and record of decision

RUS's Role

The project would receive financing from the Rural Utilities Service and in order to meet their requirements for NEPA under 7 CFR part 1794, RUS will prepare an EIS.



Who is USDA-Rural Utilities Service?

The Rural Utilities Service (formerly REA, the Rural Electrification Administration), as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. USDA provides funding opportunities in the form of payments, grants, loans, and loan guarantees, for the development and commercialization of vital utility services. Their financial programs support essential public facilities and services. These investments support our long-term national prosperity by ensuring that rural communities have the basic infrastructure to become self-sustaining with the ability to compete in the global economy.

Providing electricity is essential to the economic well-being and quality of life for all of the nation's rural residents. The Electric Programs provide leadership and capital to upgrade, expand, maintain, and replace America's vast rural electric infrastructure. Under the authority of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, the Electric Programs make direct loans and loan guarantees to electric utilities to serve customers in rural areas. Through the Electric Programs, the Federal government is the majority noteholder for approximately 700 electric systems borrowers in 46 states.

Who is Basin Electric Power Cooperative?

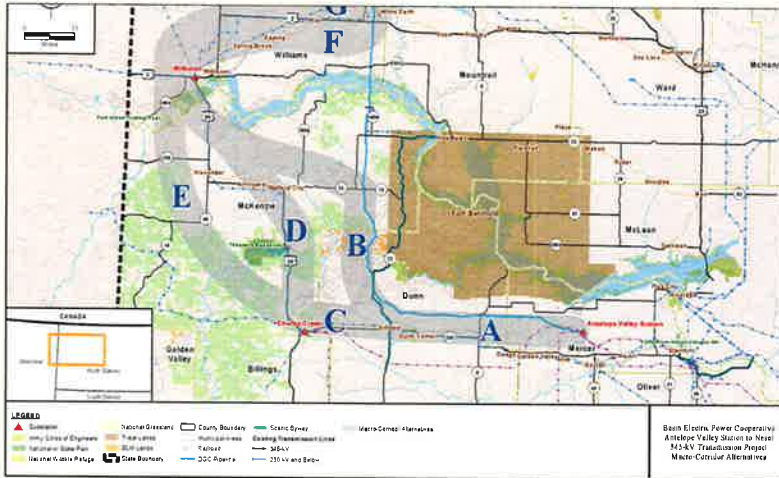
Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a regional wholesale electric generation and transmission cooperative owned and controlled by its member cooperatives. Basin Electric's service territory includes approximately 2.5 million customers and covers 430,000 square miles in portions of nine states: South Dakota, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota and Wyoming.



PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

AVS to NESET 345-kV Transmission Project

PRELIMINARY MACRO-CORRIDORS



THE PROJECT

To meet future demand for electricity and increase transmission line reliability, Basin Electric is proposing the AVS to Neaset 345-kV Transmission Project in Northwestern North Dakota. The Project would consist of electrical transmission lines, new substations and modifications to existing substations, and potentially a new switchyard.

The Project would extend from near Beulah to Williston to Tioga.

MACRO-CORRIDORS

The initial generalized macro-corridors are approximately 6 miles wide. These macro-corridors were developed using primary-level siting criteria that included major features to avoid and major opportunities:

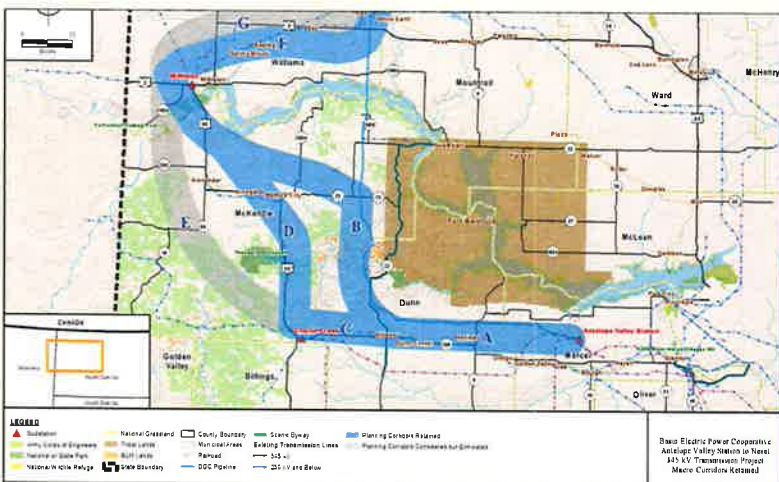
- Communities
- Lake Sakakawea
- Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Little Missouri River National Grasslands
- Steep Terrain along the Missouri River and Little Missouri River
- Pipeline Corridors
- Highway Routes

Through a screening process involving a review of the opportunities and constraints for each corridor, one of the macro-corridors was eliminated from further study.

NEXT STEP

- Develop specific transmission line route alternatives within macro-corridors
- Obtain input from the scoping process
- Conduct field work to review potential transmission lines
- Refine transmission line route alternatives
- Prepare environmental analysis of route alternatives

MACRO-CORRIDORS TO BE EVALUATED



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

AVS to NESET 345-kV Transmission Project

RESOURCES TO BE ANALYZED

Water

- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- River/Streams



Biology

- Threatened, endangered and special-status species, migratory birds and wetlands
- General wildlife, vegetation and habitat surveys



Visual

- Location of visual resources
- Visibility of the proposed project relative to the existing landscape

Geology & Soils

- Geological surface features and the locations of potential seismic risk, mass movements and historical earthquakes
- Locations of mineral, oil and natural gas deposits



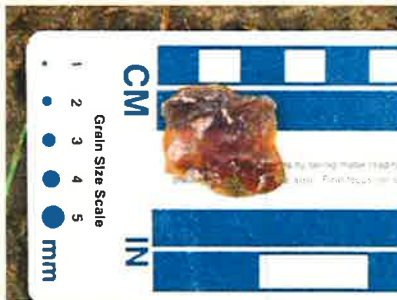
Land Use & Recreation

- Project compatibility with local land use plans, county codes and ordinances, state parks, recreation areas and wilderness areas
- Rural life, farming activities/practices
- USFWS Easements
- National Grasslands



Cultural Resources

- Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act
- Review of historic, archaeological and sensitive sites



Socioeconomics

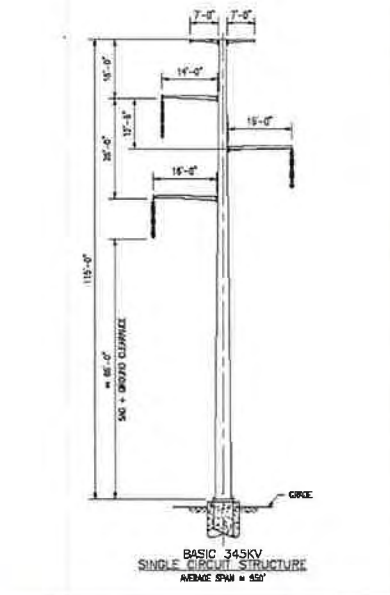
- Project area demographics, including population, income and employment
- Regional economic effects of construction and operation
- Environmental Justice



LAND & EASEMENT ACQUISITIONS

AVS to NESET 345-kV Transmission Project

Typical Single-Pole Structures



Project Land Requirements

To meet project objectives, Basin Electric would need to acquire long-term easements for the new transmission line rights-of-way. Normally, access by landowners within the easement is not restricted and agricultural activities can continue.



What Is an Easement?

An easement is a right to use land to construct, operate and maintain utilities. For the linear facilities, the typical right-of-way would be up to 150 feet wide for transmission lines. Basin Electric would require easements for construction of the lines and access for maintenance.

The Easement Acquisition Process

Survey Permission

Basin Electric would meet individually with each landowner to ask permission to survey a centerline right-of-way for transmission lines. Basin Electric would use this information to prepare the necessary easement documents. It would also contact landowners when access is needed for resource surveys.

Compensation

Basin Electric would use market data from recent sales of similar properties to determine fair and appropriate compensation. Basin Electric would discuss the value of the easement for the right-of-way crossing each landowner's property and make every effort to reach a fair and reasonable settlement with landowners.

Construction and Operation

In addition to the easement agreement, Basin Electric would provide compensation for damage to crops, pasture land or other property affected during construction or resulting from the maintenance of the transmission line. A Basin Electric inspector would monitor construction activities, and a right-of-way agent would be available to help resolve questions, concerns or problems during or after construction.



**APPENDIX G:
INDEX OF PUBLIC AND AGENCY COMMENTS BY CATEGORY**

CommentID	FIRSTNAME	LASTNAME	CATEGORIES	COMMENTCARDDATE
6263	Susan	Dickey	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Dec 23 2011 12:00AM
6262	Robert	Fode	Other; State Commission	Nov 30 2011 12:00AM
6261	Kent	Luttschwager	Keep Informed; Other; State Commission; Water; Wildlife	Jan 3 2012 12:00AM
6234	Jerome	Schaar	Conservation; Other	Dec 8 2011 12:00AM
6232	Corinne	Lee	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6231	Suzanne	Bohan	Conservation; Other; Vegetation Management; Water; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6230	Deb	Lancaster	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6225	Jon	Rask	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6224	Anne	Coyle	Other; Vegetation Management; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6223	Patricia	Dressler	Keep Informed; Other; Wildlife	Dec 16 2011 12:00AM
6222	Mark	Weekly	Aesthetics; Conservation; Other	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6221	Michael	Haupt	Other	Dec 8 2011 12:00AM
6220	Jan	Swenson	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Nov 29 2011 12:00AM
6219	Doug	Nenow	Property Values	Nov 17 2011 12:00AM
6218	Valerie	Naylor	Aesthetics; Other; Wildlife	Nov 23 2011 12:00AM
6217	L. David	Glatt	Other; Vegetation Management; Water	Nov 8 2011 12:00AM
6216	Jeffrey	Towner	Other; Water; Wildlife	Nov 23 2011 12:00AM
6213	Laska	Nygaard	Aesthetics; Conservation; Keep Informed; Wildlife	Dec 3 2011 12:00AM
6211	N/A	N/A	Other	Nov 2 2011 12:00AM
6209	Donald	Prevost	Need	
6208	Richard	Ryan	Aesthetics	Nov 15 2011 12:00AM
6207	John	Herr	Other	
6201	Bill	Kingsbury	Aesthetics; Conservation	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6200	Nancy	Peak	Keep Informed	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6199	Rodney	McVey	Historic / Cultural	Nov 30 2011 12:00AM
6155	Gary	Cummisk	Conservation; Wildlife	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6150	Al	Dominek	Keep Informed; Property Values	Nov 8 2011 12:00AM
6137	Lillian	Crook	Conservation; Other; Recreation; Wildlife	Dec 2 2011 12:00AM
6136	Erik	Sorensen	Conservation; Other	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6135	Mariah	Lancaster	Conservation	
6134	Barbara	Hatfield	Conservation	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6133	Gia	Cummisk	Conservation; Wildlife	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6131	Mike	McEnroe	Conservation; Other; Wildlife	Dec 1 2011 12:00AM
6130	Rob	Sand	Conservation; Other	Nov 30 2011 12:00AM
6129	Mary	Sand	Conservation; Recreation; Wildlife	Nov 30 2011 12:00AM
6128	Roberta	Baker	Conservation	Nov 29 2011 12:00AM