

are satisfied and has adopted the Final EIS.

### **Proposed Federal Action**

Western's proposed Federal action is to allow Basin Electric's Project to interconnect to Western's Williston Substation and Williston to Charlie Creek 230-kV transmission line.

### **Basin Electric Proposed Project**

Basin Electric is proposing to construct, own and operate a new 345-kV transmission line and associated supporting infrastructure. The Project will consist of approximately 278 miles of transmission line, including 265 miles of new 345-kV transmission line and 13 miles of new 230-kV transmission line, five new substations and equipment additions, but no expansion to four existing substations. The proposed Project would connect to the Integrated System, the high-voltage transmission grid in the upper Great Plains managed by Western, at several locations, including Western's Williston Substation and a point along its Williston to Charlie Creek 230-kV transmission line. This Project is referred to as Alternative C in the Final EIS. Alternative C combines Alternative A, McKenzie County portions of Alternative B from the Draft EIS, and three new substations (Red, White, and Blue substations).

The new 345-kV transmission line would start at the AVS Electric Generation Station located near Beulah, North Dakota, and extend west where it would connect with Basin Electric's existing Charlie Creek 345-kV Substation located near Grassy Butte. The line would then extend north where it would connect with Basin Electric's proposed Judson Substation near Williston and terminate at Basin Electric's newly proposed Tande Substation. Additional 230-kV transmission lines would be constructed between the new Judson 345-kV Substation and Western's existing Williston Substation, between a new 345/230/115-kV substation referred to as the Blue Substation and Western's existing 230-kV transmission line, and also between the Tande 345-kV Substation and Basin Electric's existing Neson 230-kV Substation located near Tioga, North Dakota. Additionally, the White Substation would be constructed along with the Red Substation to the Blue Substation transmission line segment to interconnect with the local 115-kV system for load-serving purposes.

### **Description of Alternatives**

Three transmission line alternatives, two transmission line variations in the Little Missouri National Grasslands (LMNG), and the No Action alternative were evaluated. Alternative C is described above; Alternative D is similar to Alternative C with the primary difference being the construction of a double-circuit 345-kV line north of Killdeer for 63 miles to the Blue Substation. Alternative E is similar to Alternative D with the primary difference being the construction of two parallel 345-kV transmission lines north of Killdeer rather than a double-circuit line. The variations across the LMNG include double-circuiting the 345-kV line with Western's existing 230-kV transmission Line. RUS has identified Alternative C as its preferred alternative because it best meets the purpose and need and minimizes or mitigates potential impacts.

### **Mitigation Measures**

For the transmission facility component of the proposed Project, Basin Electric has committed to best management practices and mitigation measures as outlined in Appendix A of the Final EIS. Western will abide by the Biological Assessment as it pertains to the interconnection at Western's existing Williston Substation and Williston to Charlie Creek 230-kV transmission line.

In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, RUS/Western/USFS has executed a Programmatic Agreement with the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office along with Basin Electric (as an invited signatory). Western has reviewed the October 17, 2014, letter to RUS from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (AHP) concerning the Killdeer Mountain Battlefield (KMB) core and study areas; and has also reviewed the October 24, 2014, response letter from RUS to the Advisory Council, including the AHP's ability to participate in consultation meetings, and that the more limited area was determined to be National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligible. Of significance to the ROD is that neither interconnection to the Williston Substation nor to the Williston to Charlie Creek 230-kV transmission line are in or close to the limited NRHP core area, nor the even larger KMB study area, and will have no effect on any of these areas.

Western requires its construction contractors to implement standard environmental protection provisions. These provisions are provided in

Western's Construction Standard 13 and will be applied to the proposed interconnection.

The best management practices and mitigation measures in the Final EIS reflect all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the proposed Project and Western's proposed action.

### **Decision**

Western's decision is to allow Basin Electric's request for interconnection to Western's Williston Substation and its Williston to Charlie Creek 230-kV transmission line.<sup>2</sup> Western's decision to grant this interconnection request satisfies the agency's statutory mission and Basin Electric's objectives while minimizing harm to the environment. Full implementation of this decision is contingent upon Basin Electric obtaining all other applicable permits and approvals as well as executing an interconnection agreement in accordance with Western's General Requirements for Interconnection.

This decision is based on the information contained in the Antelope Valley Station to Neson Transmission Project Final EIS. This ROD was prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR parts 1500–1508) and DOE's Procedures for Implementing NEPA (10 CFR part 1021).

Dated: November 21, 2014.

**Mark A. Gabriel,**  
*Administrator.*

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### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION**

#### **Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Submission for OMB Review**

**AGENCY:** Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**ACTION:** Final Notice of Submission for OMB Review—Extension Without Change: Employer Information Report (EEO-1).

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC or Commission) hereby gives notice that it has submitted to the Office of Management and Budget

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<sup>2</sup> On November 16, 2011, DOE's Acting General Counsel delegated to Western's Administrator all the authorities of the General Counsel respecting environmental impact statements.

(OMB) a request for a three-year extension without change of the Employer Information Report (EEO-1). **DATES:** Written comments on this notice must be submitted on or before January 7, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** A copy of this ICR and applicable supporting documentation submitted to OMB for this review may be obtained from: Ronald Edwards, Director, Program Research and Surveys Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M Street NE., Room 4SW30F, Washington, DC 20507. Comments on this final notice must be submitted to Chad A. Lallemand, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW., Room 10235, New Executive Office Building, Washington, DC 20503 or electronically mailed to *Chad\_A\_Lallemand@omb.eop.gov*. Copies of comments should be sent to Bernadette Wilson, Acting Executive Officer, Executive Secretariat, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M Street NE., Washington, DC 20507. As a convenience to commenters, the Executive Secretariat will accept comments totaling six or fewer pages by facsimile ("FAX") machine. This limitation is necessary to assure access to the equipment. The telephone number of the fax receiver is (202) 663-4114. (This is not a toll-free number). Receipt of FAX transmittals will not be acknowledged, except that the sender may request confirmation of receipt by calling the Executive Secretariat staff at (202) 663-4070 (voice) or (202) 663-4074 (TTY). (These are not toll-free telephone numbers.) Instead of sending written comments to EEOC, you may submit comments and attachments electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, which is the Federal eRulemaking Portal. Follow the instructions online for submitting comments. All comments received through this portal will be posted without change, including any personal information you provide. Copies of comments submitted by the public to EEOC directly or through the Federal eRulemaking Portal will be available for review, by advance appointment only, at the Commission's library between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time or can be reviewed at <http://www.regulations.gov>. To schedule an appointment to inspect the comments at EEOC's library, contact the library staff at (202) 663-4630 (voice) or (202) 663-4641 (TTY). (These are not toll-free numbers.)

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Ronald Edwards, Director, Program

Research and Surveys Division, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, 131 M Street NE., Room 4SW30F, Washington, DC 20507; (202) 663-4949 (voice) or (202) 663-7063 (TTY).

Requests for this notice in an alternative format should be made to the Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs at (202) 663-4191 (voice) or (202) 663-4494 (TTY).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** A notice that EEOC would be submitting this request was published in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2014 (79 FR 36802), allowing for a 60 day public comment period. One comment was received. This comment was in favor of the continued use of the EEO-1, and also suggested making a change to the reporting procedures that currently prevent parent companies from electronically submitting EEO-1 reports for different subsidiary companies operating at the same physical location within the same industry classification. EEOC has contacted the organization that made the comment and is in the process of setting up a meeting to determine how this suggestion can be implemented by the next reporting cycle.

#### Overview of Information Collection

**Collection Title:** Employer Information Report (EEO-1).

**OMB Number:** 3046-0007.

**Frequency of Report:** Annual.

**Type of Respondent:** Private employers with 100 or more employees and certain federal government contractors and first-tier subcontractors with 50 or more employees.

**Description of Affected Public:** Private employers with 100 or more employees and certain federal government contractors and first-tier subcontractors with 50 or more employees.

**Number of Responses:** 307,103.

**Reporting Hours:** 1,044,150.

**Respondent Cost:** \$19.83 million.

**Federal Cost:** \$650,000.<sup>1</sup>

**Number of Forms:** 1.

**Abstract:** Section 709(c) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 2000e-8(c), requires employers to make and keep records relevant to a determination of whether unlawful employment practices have been or are being committed, to preserve

<sup>1</sup> The burden and cost estimates in this notice represent the most current figures through the 2013 EEO-1 filing period. The above estimates differ from those published in the **Federal Register** on June 30, 2014 (79 FR 36802); that notice was inadvertently submitted for publication with inaccurate cost and burden estimates included. This was in error and the above numbers reflect the estimates that should have been included in the June 30, 2014 **Federal Register** notice.

such records, and to produce such reports as the Commission prescribes by regulation or order. Accordingly, the EEOC issued regulations prescribing the EEO-1 reporting requirement.

Employers in the private sector with 100 or more employees and some federal contractors with 50 or more employees have been required to submit EEO-1 reports annually since 1966. The individual reports are confidential. EEO-1 data is used by EEOC to investigate charges of employment discrimination against employers in private industry and to provide information about the employment status of minorities and women. The data is shared with the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), U.S. Department of Labor, and several other federal agencies. Pursuant to § 709(d) of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, EEO-1 data is also shared with state and local Fair Employment Practices Agencies (FEPAs).

**Burden Statement:** The estimated number of respondents required to submit the annual EEO-1 survey is 70,070 private employers. The annual number of responses is approximately 307,103. The form is estimated to impose 1,044,150 burden hours annually or 3.4 hours per response. In order to help reduce survey burden, respondents are encouraged to report data electronically whenever possible.

Dated: November 25, 2014.

For the Commission.

Jenny R. Yang,

Chair.

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#### EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

##### Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements Under Title VII

**AGENCY:** Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

**ACTION:** State and Local Government Information Report (EEO-4): Cancellation of hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Commission is cancelling the public hearing on the above proposed information collection—extension with change: The State and Local Government Information Report (EEO-4). (79 FR 51155, August 27, 2014). No requests to present oral testimony at a hearing concerning the information collection were received from the public. Therefore, it will not be necessary to hold the hearing.