

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

NEWS RELEASE

October 10, 2006

Commissioners Clark, Wefald, and Cramer

****For Immediate Release****

Phone 701-328-2400

PSC to hold meetings in Fargo

The North Dakota Public Service Commission will be in Fargo on Thursday, Oct. 12, where it will hold its regular meeting, an informal hearing and a renewable energy forum.

The PSC's regular meeting begins at 11 a.m. in the lower level conference room of the Cass County Annex Building, located at 1010-2nd Ave. South in Fargo. Following the regular meeting, the commission will hold an informal hearing at 1:30 p.m. and a forum on renewable energy initiatives from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the same location.

The PSC normally meets in the State Capitol in Bismarck.

A proposal from Xcel Energy regarding the connect/disconnect process in rental units is one reason the PSC is meeting in Fargo.

Under a proposed change by Xcel Energy, landlords would have two choices in setting up electricity and natural gas service in their rental units. They can either sign a contract agreeing to pay for utility bills between the time an old tenant moves out and a new one moves in, or by default they will pay connect/disconnect fees to start and stop service each time a tenant moves in or out. The landlord would be assessed \$20 for connecting electrical service, \$20 to disconnect electrical service, \$40 to disconnect natural gas service and \$65 to reconnect natural gas service.

The PSC's informal hearing process allows the commission to hear issues in an informal setting. The commission cannot make a ruling during an informal hearing.

At the 3 p.m. renewable energy forum, the commissioners, Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker, supporters of the initiative and electric industry representatives will discuss a renewable energy initiative that voters in Fargo and Grand Forks will decide on in November.

If the initiatives are approved, they would require that at least 20 percent of the electricity delivered into each city be generated from qualifying renewable energy sources by 2020 and increased to 30 percent by 2030.

For more information about Thursday's meetings, contact the PSC at 328-2400.

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