



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**PSC TO HOLD SYMPOSIUM ON EPA CARBON REGULATION JAN. 22**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission is hosting a symposium to discuss the potential impacts proposed EPA regulations on carbon could have on North Dakota consumers and industries next Wednesday, January 22 in Bismarck.

The symposium will be held in the Brynhild Haugland Room at the State Capital, 600 E. Boulevard, beginning at 9 a.m. Commissioners Brian Kalk, Randy Christmann and Julie Fedorchak will kick off the event and oversee the agenda that includes EPA Region 8 Regional Administrator Shaun McGrath outlining proposed rules and timelines for public input, and North American Energy Reliability Commission’s Director of Reliability Assessment John Moura who will discuss reliability factors relating to the transformation of the electric industry.

Electricity providers and generators in North Dakota will outline the effects of potential carbon regulation on their service to customers during a utility roundtable. Executive Director of the Energy & Environment Initiative (e2i) Charles D. Mc Connell will provide a status report on clean coal technology research and development, and the North Dakota Department of Health will report on North Dakota’s air quality and the potential state response to EPA carbon regulations.

Members of the public and groups interested in the issue are invited to offer comments during a public input session from 11:30 to 1 p.m.

Commissioner Julie Fedorchak, who holds the portfolio for electric rate regulation, expressed concern about new rules that could force the early retirement of coal generating facilities. “Any new EPA rules must take into consideration how those rules affect the reliability and costs of the electric system and the consumers who depend on it,” she said.

Chairman Brian Kalk holds the portfolio for electric generation siting. He said, “If the new EPA rules force the early retirement of coal generation facilities, electricity reliability and increased consumer costs will become a major concern for North Dakota.”

Commissioner Randy Christmann, who holds the portfolio for coal mining, reclamation and abandoned mine lands expressed concern about impacts to that industry. “New EPA rules could have a significant effect on mining in this state and result in mine closures or the movement to export coal to other countries where coal can be used,” Christmann said. “This poses a huge threat to our state’s lignite industry and the more than 20,000 hard-working people employed by it.”

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate business activities in the state including electric and gas utilities, telecommunications companies, power plants, electric transmission lines, pipelines, railroads, grain elevators, auctioneers, commercial weighing devices, pipeline safety and coal mine reclamation. For more information, contact the Public Service Commission at 701/328-2400 or [www.psc.nd.gov](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

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