

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**NEWS RELEASE**

**November 10, 2010**

**Commissioners Clark, Cramer and Kalk**

**\*For Immediate Release\*\***

**Phone 701-328-2400**

**Investigation into Pipeline incident near Tioga underway**

On Monday, November 08, 2010 a pipeline incident occurred near Tioga when employees of Aevenia Energy Electric Construction were performing work installing underground electric line for Mountrail-Williams Electric Company. During extraction Aevenia struck a Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline high pressure natural gas line, resulting in a release of natural gas that was quickly contained, shut down, isolated up and down stream, and has been blown down of natural gas. Regrettably one fatality and two injuries occurred.

As a result of this incident the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) will be the lead agency conducting a full investigation of the incident. The North Dakota Public Service Commission and local agencies will be assisting.

Commissioner Brian Kalk, who holds the ND pipeline safety portfolio said, "We look forward to the results of the full investigation from PHMSA, but it does appear that the failure to utilize the ND One-Call was one of the contributing factors." Kalk further urged all those involved in excavation to review their standard operation procedures.

All members of the NDPSC offer their thoughts and prayers for the affected family.

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