

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

NEWS RELEASE

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Commissioners Clark and Cramer and Kalk

For Immediate Release*

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North Dakota moves into Top 10 Wind Power States

For the first time, North Dakota has moved into tenth in Wind Energy Producing States in the nation in 2009, according to a report released by the American Wind Energy Association.

“North Dakota continues to demonstrate our strong position as the nation’s premier state for both traditional and renewable energy development. Landmarks like this can only be achieved when citizens, industry and government leaders work together toward a common goal,” Commission Chairman Kevin Cramer said.

“North Dakota produces enough wind power today to supply the annual electricity needs for approximately 360,000 homes,” said Commissioner Tony Clark. “It is rather remarkable considering we have gone from virtually no commercial wind power less than a decade ago, to one of the top ten producing states today.”

North Dakota’s wind capacity stood at 1,203 megawatts (MW) as of December 31, 2009. According to AWEA that makes ND the tenth largest wind energy producing state in the nation. North Dakota moved into the top ten due to the addition of 488 MW in 2009, which outpaced the growth in our neighboring states. North Dakota’s 2009 addition was the eighth largest in MW.

“I’m extremely excited about the news. This is great for North Dakota and will move our nation one-step closer to energy independence,” Commissioner Brian Kalk said.

The U.S. wind industry broke all previous records by installing close to 10,000 MW of new generating capacity in 2009. The total installed capacity in the U.S. is now over 35,000 MW.

Recovery Act incentives spurred the growth of construction, operations and management jobs in 2009 in the wind industry.

In 2009 wind farms were added near Minot, Rugby, Luverne, Wilton and Lake Ashtabula.

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