



NEWS RELEASE
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**Public Hearing Scheduled for Proposed Expansion
of the Pioneer Generating Station in Williams County**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will hold a public hearing in Williston on Monday, March 2, regarding a proposal to expand the capacity of the Pioneer Generating Station in Williams County.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative has submitted an application to construct and operate up to 12 reciprocating internal combustion engines (gas engines). The gas engines would run on natural gas supplied to the site by an existing pipeline. The project would have the capability of generating up to 111 megawatts of electricity. The new engines would be constructed adjacent to three existing turbines at the location. Total cost for this project is estimated at \$161.2 million.

The Pioneer Generating Station is located approximately 15 miles northwest of Williston. The new gas engines would occupy approximately 8.2 acres within the existing facility area, which includes a total of 120 acres. (Note to the media: A map showing the location of the Pioneer Generating Station has been provided to you for use with any announcements/stories you print.)

Details for the public hearing are as follows:

- **When: Monday, March 2, 2015 – 9:30 a.m. CST**
- **Where: Ernie French Center, NDSU Williston Research Center
14120 Highway 2, Williston, N.D.**

The hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the PSC's official record. Any comments from members of the public must be received at the hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support for the project are encouraged to attend the hearing and present the information. Information received after the hearing will not be part of the official record and cannot be used as a basis for the Commission's decision unless certain additional procedures are followed.

The hearing schedule provides for the company to present its case and answer questions from the Commissioners first, after which the Commission will take comments from other parties and the public.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate certain 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.

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