



NEWS RELEASE
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**PSC Approves Siting Permits for Expansion of Two Gas Processing Plants
and a New Transmission Line in Western North Dakota**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved siting permits for three separate projects being planned by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

“These projects are essential to keep the reliability of the power grid intact,” said Commissioner Brian Kalk who holds the Electric Generation and Transmission portfolio. “Projects like this need to move forward so that we can meet long-term energy needs and keep the lights on for everyone in North Dakota.”

The first permit is for the expansion of the Pioneer Generating Station in Williams County, located approximately 15 miles northwest of Williston. Basin Electric plans to add 111 megawatts (MW) of electric generation capacity to the station consisting of 12 natural gas reciprocating internal combustion engines (gas engines). The gas engines would run on natural gas supplied to the site by an existing pipeline. The new engines will be constructed adjacent to three existing turbines at the location, bringing the total capacity at the site to 246 MW. Total cost for the project is estimated at \$161.2 million.

The second permit is for the expansion of the Lonesome Creek Station in McKenzie County, located approximately 14 miles west of Watford City. Basin Electric plans to add 135 MW of electric generation capacity to the station consisting of three 45 MW simple cycle natural gas-fired combustion turbines. The turbines would be adjacent to three existing 45 MW turbines at the location, bringing the total capacity at the site to 270 MW. Total cost for this project is estimated at \$149 million.

The third permit issued today is for the North Killdeer Loop Phase I project in McKenzie County, which is approximately 28 miles of new 345 kilovolt electric transmission line. The project will also include the construction of two new substations. The line would start from the proposed Patent Gate Substation located north of Arnegard and would extend generally eastward to the proposed Kummer Ridge substation located east of Watford City. Estimated cost of the project is \$135 million.

“These are significant, vital investments in the power infrastructure needed to reliably serve families, schools and businesses in western North Dakota,” said Commission Chairman Julie Fedorchak. “They have received a thorough review by the PSC as well as local officials and, in the case of the power line, federal agencies, and the public also had an opportunity to comment through our hearing process.”

“Basin Electric’s additional investment of nearly one-half billion dollars will help meet North Dakota’s growing need for electricity,” said Commissioner Randy Christmann. “Even after these projects though, much more generation and transmission is needed.”

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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