



NEWS RELEASE
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PSC Approves More Than \$2 Billion in Projects for 2015

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) reported today that almost \$2.1 billion (\$2,096,390,000) worth of siting permits for energy-related projects were approved in 2015. That number is slightly down from over \$2.7 billion in 2014, but still significantly higher than 2013 where just over \$1 billion was approved.

"Despite low oil prices, companies continue to invest in major new projects that provide critical infrastructure such as pipelines, gas plants and electric generation facilities to serve energy development and growth," said Commission Chairman Julie Fedorchak. "We listen to public input and review these projects carefully to make sure they have high standards for construction, safe operation, thorough emergency response and effective reclamation."

Projects approved in 2015 included:

- 16 transmission pipelines totaling more than 495 miles (includes new and conversions).
- Approximately 245 megawatts of gas-fired generation.
- Two natural gas processing plant expansion projects.
- Two new electric transmission lines.
- Two wind farms with approximately 250 megawatts of generating capacity.

"These are the projects that will make our energy systems safer, more efficient, and less of a burden for the general public," said Commissioner Randy Christmann.

When an application is received by the Commission, the process includes reviewing the application and holding public hearings in communities near the project. The hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to express support or concerns about the project to the Commission. Any comments from members of the public must be received at the public hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support/opposition to the project are encouraged to attend hearings.

"The Commission continues to follow the siting process while we make sound and timely decisions," said Commissioner Brian Kalk. "We must always remain focused on protecting this infrastructure once it's developed. I can't stress enough the importance of the Call Before You Dig Program."

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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