



NEWS RELEASE
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Public Service Commission Gives MDU the Approval to Move Forward with Project to Provide Natural Gas Service to Bobcat Plant in Gwinner

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) today approved two steps necessary for Montana Dakota Utilities (MDU) to move forward with a project that would provide natural gas service to Ransom and Sargent Counties, including service to Clark Equipment and Company’s Bobcat manufacturing facility in Gwinner. MDU will be providing the service through the construction of a 12-inch, 21-mile long pipeline that will tap into the Alliance Pipeline northeast of Milnor and then run to Gwinner.

“The proposed infrastructure project is an excellent example of two prominent companies operating in North Dakota, working collaboratively together to further support industry and jobs within our state’s borders,” said Commissioner Brian Kroshus, who holds the Gas Economic Regulation portfolio. “When completed, the line also has the potential to expand natural gas service to other key industries in that region including agricultural, as well as providing consumers with yet another energy source option to heat homes and businesses.”

MDU plans to construct and operate a natural gas system in Ransom and Sargent Counties that will initially provide natural gas service to the Bobcat facility, but has the capacity to expand to other potential customers located along the proposed route. Gwinner is home to Bobcat’s 700,000 square foot manufacturing and product engineering complexes and is Bobcat’s largest facility in the U.S.

“Bobcat has been a bright spot in our economy for decades, with great people producing great equipment that is in demand worldwide,” said Commission Chairman Randy Christmann. “Availability of natural gas will help solidify the presence of Bobcat in Gwinner for many years to come.”

The certificate issued today takes into consideration whether there is a need for the service, whether the utility is able to provide the service, what the effect on other utilities will be, and whether the proposed service is adequate. Currently, there are no other utilities offering natural gas service in that area.

“Providing natural gas service to our state’s largest manufacturer, Bobcat, has been a goal for Gwinner, Bobcat and economic development officials for many years. Today’s decision is a huge step forward to addressing this need, improving the competitiveness of this Bobcat facility and paving the way for new economic development opportunities in southeast North Dakota,” Commissioner Julie Fedorchak said. Fedorchak is currently vice-chair of a national task force on Natural Gas Expansion to Rural Areas. “Getting natural gas to unserved areas requires companies, utilities and communities to be innovative and willing to try a different approach. This project is a good example of that. Congratulations to those involved who made it happen.”

The service agreement approved today is for 15 years and contains provisions to allow for additional customers to be served by the natural gas line. The estimated cost of the project is \$13.8 million. This project will not result in a rate increase for other MDU customers. Bobcat will be covering the cost of building the project and the project will also result in increased revenues for MDU.

MDU has filed a request to determine if the pipeline falls under the siting jurisdiction of the PSC, which would require a permit for the location of the pipeline.

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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