



NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release, Contact:
Julie Fedorchak, (701) 391-1140

Commissioner Julie Fedorchak Joins Leadership of National Gas Regulatory Panel, Helps Dedicate New Tioga Gas Plant

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak is assuming a leadership position on a national regulatory board focusing on natural gas issues.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) President Colette D. Honorable of Arkansas named Commissioner Fedorchak a co-vice chair of the Association's Gas Committee. NARUC is the national organization representing the country's state utility regulators.

The Gas Committee fosters awareness and understanding of issues affecting the transportation, distribution, and sale of natural gas safely, efficiently, and economically. Committee members work closely with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the U.S. departments of Energy and Transportation.

"I am grateful that Commissioner Fedorchak is stepping up to serve her fellow regulators," President Honorable said. "The industry is undergoing revolutionary changes with the growth of shale gas. Regulators must make sure we have as much information as possible about these issues so we can make well-informed decisions that serve the public interest."

As oil production has grown in North Dakota, so too has associated natural gas production. In 2006, natural gas production was at 190 million cubic feet (MCF)/day. By the end of 2013, North Dakota reached an all-time production high of more than 1 billion cubic feet per day.

Fedorchak was in Tioga today for the official dedication of the Hess Corporation Tioga Gas Plant, a billion-plus dollar investment that more than doubles the plant's capacity to process gas and helps reduce the amount of natural gas that is being flared in the state.

"Bakken crude oil is the top prize for drillers in North Dakota, but the associated gas produced is a significant and very valuable resource as well," Fedorchak said. "I look forward to working with the NARUC gas committee and companies like Hess on smart regulatory policies that maximize the benefits natural gas can have for consumers."

Commissioner Fedorchak was appointed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission in December 2012. Within NARUC she is a member of the Association's Subcommittee on Pipeline Safety. Before joining the PSC, Commissioner Fedorchak served as State Director of Sen. John Hoeven's State operations. She has also run her own consulting business and served as Communications Director under former North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer.

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.

Photo caption: State officials joined executives from Hess corporation to dedicate the new 250 MCF gas/day processing facility that more than doubles the plant's gas processing capacity and will reduce flaring.

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