



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Jan. 23, 2015**

**For Immediate Release, Contact:**  
Randy Christmann, (701) 328-4091  
Julie Fedorchak, (701) 391-1140  
Brian Kalk, (701) 261-0373

### **PSC Issues Cease and Desist Order Against Grand Forks Bean Company**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) has issued a cease and desist order against Grand Forks Bean Company and has requested a judge name them trustee in insolvency proceedings against the company after complaints from producers about not being paid for beans delivered to the warehouse.

The PSC first received a call in November from a producer who had delivered dry edible beans to Grand Forks Bean Company in Grand Forks, N.D., and requested redelivery of the beans because the company was not able to market the product. Between Dec. 19 and Dec. 23, 2014, the PSC received claims from eight producers, all alleging that Grand Forks Bean has not been able to market or pay for the beans delivered to the company.

On Dec. 23, 2014, Grand Forks Bean and Commission Staff executed a stipulation agreeing that the bean inventory would not be sold, redelivered, or moved from the facility without the Commission's approval. After further investigation, PSC staff reported that attempts to resolve the matter outside of a formal insolvency had not been successful. On Jan. 16, 2015, the Commission issued an Ex Parte Cease and Desist order and a notice of opportunity for hearing, ordering Grand Forks Bean cease and desist from receiving or purchasing grain, moving any grain out of the facility that may be an asset of the trust, or failing to maintain control of potential trust assets.

The Commission yesterday approved a motion to file for appointment as trustee and for an Ex Parte Order to preserve trust assets until the court issues its order granting or denying the Commission's application.

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 and buyers, auctioneers and clerks, 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](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

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