



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Jan. 29, 2015**

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### **PSC Approves More Than \$2.7 Billion in Projects for 2014**

BISMARCK, ND – The Public Service Commission (PSC) approved more than \$2.7 billion worth of siting permits for energy-related projects in 2014. That number is up from just over \$1 billion in 2013.

“The projects we reviewed and approved in 2014 will provide more pipelines, energy generation, transmission lines, and gas processing facilities to serve the needs of our growing state and energy sector,” said Commission Chairman Julie Fedorchak. “At the same time, we provided a thorough review of each project with public input to minimize the impact to our environment and cultural resources, plan for effective reclamation and achieve a balance that helps preserve our state’s natural beauty and community resources.”

Projects approved in 2014 included:

- 90 megawatts of gas-fired generation.
- Two gas processing plant expansion projects.
- Several new electric transmission lines totaling over 300 miles.
- Three pipelines totaling more than 350 miles.
- Two wind farms with approximately 280 megawatts of generating capacity.

“Citizens of North Dakota have been very helpful by providing great comments at our many public hearings, which have helped us to assure that these projects are built as safe as possible while minimizing the amount of disruption,” said Commissioner Randy Christmann. “Although the Commission’s workload has grown exponentially, we are still able to process cases quickly and fairly.”

When an application is received by the Commission, the process includes a review of the application and a chance for resident participation through public notices and public hearings. The hearings provide an opportunity for members of the public to contribute to the PSC’s official record. Any comments from members of the public must be received at the hearing to be part of the record. People with concerns, questions or support for the project are encouraged to attend hearings.

“A lot of the Commission’s work happens within the state, but we also keep an eye on things happening outside of our borders that might affect North Dakota,” said Commissioner Brian Kalk. “We continue to engage in regional and national issues that have a direct impact on North Dakota such as the reliability of the electric power grid and pipeline safety concerns.”

In addition to the siting process for new projects, the PSC also completed the following activities in 2014:

- Held symposium on EPA Carbon Regulations in Bismarck and Electric Reliability Conference in Fargo.
- Submitted comments to EPA in opposition of proposed regulations on carbon emissions.
- Processed 18 damage prevention cases and levied fines totaling over \$33,000 and continued efforts to educate about the importance of calling 811 before digging.
- Completed recommendations on four grain insolvencies with total claims slightly over \$3 million.
- Approved 29 million bushels of new grain storage capacity.
- Submitted letter to the U.S. Board of Surface Transportation regarding rail delays and testified during a STB field hearing held in Fargo.
- Hosted pipeline safety operator training in Bismarck.
- Received high marks from the Office of Surface Mining on the agency's coal permitting and reclamation programs.
- Completed four-year rate settlement agreement with Xcel Energy.
- Completed gas rate settlement agreement with MDU.

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](http://www.psc.nd.gov).

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