



NEWS RELEASE
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MEDIA ADVISORY
North Dakota PSC to Host Mid-America Regulatory
Conference Annual Meeting in Bismarck

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC) will be hosting the Mid-America Regulatory Conference (MARC) annual meeting in Bismarck next week. The conference will be attended by more than 200 utility regulators, commission staff, industry representatives, and subject-matter experts from around the country.

Commissioner Brian Kalk was elected President of MARC in June 2015. Tradition is for the president of the organization to host the conference in their home state and because of that, North Dakota is proud to be hosting the conference June 12-15, 2016, in Bismarck. Since its establishment in 1956, MARC has sponsored an annual meeting and conference to share ideas and discuss regulatory and policy issues affecting their states, region and the nation.

The conference will kick off at 9 a.m. Monday morning, June 13, with the opening session at the Belle Mehus Auditorium. Keynote speakers include David Mohler, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Clean Coal and Carbon Management with the U.S. Department of Energy; Colette Honorable, FERC Commissioner; and Travis Kavulla, NARUC President.

The three-day conference includes a packed agenda with a wide variety of panels focused on hot topics. On Tuesday, participants will have the choice to pick between three different tours highlighting energy and telecommunication industries in North Dakota. The honorable Tony Clark, FERC Commissioner and former North Dakota Public Service Commissioner, will round out the conference with remarks during the closing session on Wednesday.

MARC represents an association of regional organizations of utility and energy regulatory agencies from 14 states that include Arkansas, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas and Wisconsin.

Note to the media: a copy of the agenda is attached and information can also be found by visiting www.marc-conference.org/conference2016/conference.html. You are welcome to stop by at any time. Please check in at the registration table at the Radisson if you have any questions or need assistance.

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MARC 2016 Agenda - June 12-15, 2016, Radisson Hotel, Bismarck

Draft as of Wednesday, June 7, 2016

Sunday, June 12, 2016		
9:00am	Golf (Optional) at Hawktree Golf Course	Hawktree
12:00pm-5:00pm	Registration/Information Booth	Ballroom Foyer
5:45pm	Buses Start Departing for the Heritage Center	
6:00pm-8:00pm	President's Reception - North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum (Sponsored by Bismarck-Mandan Convention & Visitors Bureau & our Silver Level Sponsors)	Heritage Center
Monday, June 13, 2016		
7:30am - 5:00pm	Registration/Information Booth	Ballroom Foyer
7:30am- 8:45am	Breakfast - Sponsored by our Bronze Level Sponsors	Galleria Ballroom
9:00am-11:30am	Opening Session (Located across the street from the Radisson)	Belle Mehus
	<p>Speakers: Honorable Brian P. Kalk, MARC President Representative from the Office of the Governor of North Dakota David Mohler, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Clean Coal and Carbon Management Honorable Colette Honorable, FERC Commissioner Honorable Travis Kavulla, NARUC President</p> <p>Panel Discussion: Multi-State Policy Challenges Moderator: Honorable Brian P. Kalk, MARC President Panelists: Christopher Clark, President of Northern States Power Company - Minnesota Nicole Kivisto, President & CEO of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Timothy Rogelstad, President of Otter Tail Power Company</p> <p>President of the United States (Invited)</p>	
12:00pm-1:15pm	Luncheon - Hosted by Illinois	Galleria Ballroom
1:15pm - 1:45pm	Networking Break	Ballroom Foyer
1:45pm-2:45pm	Session I - Technological Advances in Nuclear & Coal Generation	Rembrandt
	<p>This discussion will highlight recent technological advances in nuclear and coal technologies. The nuclear discussion will present the latest in updates and advancements in nuclear technology. The presentation on coal will focus on the Allam Cycle, which is groundbreaking research in capturing CO2 for beneficial use.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable Ann McCabe, Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission Panelists: Wade Boeshans, President & General Manager, BNI Energy, Inc. Mary Pietrzyk, Senior Manager, Policy Development, Nuclear Energy Institute</p>	
1:45pm-2:45pm	Session II - The Next Generation of Telecom	Picasso/Davinci
	<p>In today's ever changing world of telecom, this discussion will provide insight from the CEO and General Manager of a local telecom cooperative and the chief technology officer with Midco. Both presenters will discuss technological challenges and opportunities, as well as the quagmire of ever changing regulatory authority.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable Randy Christmann, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission Panelists: Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager, BEK Communications Jon Pederson, Chief Technology Officer, Midco</p>	
2:45pm-3:00pm	Networking Break	Ballroom Foyer

3:00pm-4:00pm	Session I - Emergency Response Planning	Rembrandt
	<p>Ensuring public safety will always be priority. This discussion will provide perspective from the viewpoint of a North Dakota county sheriff, who has served as "onsite commander" during incidents ranging from floods to train derailments. Additional perspective will be provided from a supervisor from one of the largest pipeline companies in the country. Both speakers will discuss the importance of planning, execution and ensuring you have the appropriate equipment in place before the incident occurs.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable Julie Fedorchak, Commissioner, North Dakota Public Service Commission Panelists: Sheriff Paul Laney, Cass County, North Dakota Art Haskins, Support Services Supervisor, ND Region, Enbridge</p>	
3:00pm-4:00pm	Session II - Critical Water Issues - Whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting.	Picasso/Davinci
	<p>As the population of the U.S. and the world continues to grow, many believe that water will become the limiting factor in agriculture development, energy development, and the general needs of the public. This discussion will provide a legal overview of numerous cases in the Midwest involving water litigation. Additionally, the panel will provide perspective from a local water utility and the challenges they are facing today.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable Nick Wagner, Commissioner, Iowa Utilities Board Panelists: Jennifer Verleger, Assistant Attorney General, ND Attorney General's Office Darrin Barker, General Manager, Corix Texas Craig Blanchette, President, Aqua Illinois, Inc.</p>	
4:00pm-5:00pm	Commissioner Only Business Meeting	Renoir-Russel
5:00pm	Buses Start Departing for Fort Lincoln State Park	
5:00pm-9:00pm	Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Night at Fort Lincoln State Park - Sponsored by our Platinum Level Sponsor USIC	Fort Lincoln St. Park
7:00am - 4:30pm Registration/Information Booth		
7:00am - 4:30pm	Registration/Information Booth	Ballroom Foyer
7:00am- 8:15am	Breakfast - Sponsored by our Bronze Level Sponsors	Galleria Ballroom
8:30am-9:30am	Session I - Grid Security - Can it be done? At what cost?	Rembrandt
	<p>Security of the power grid is everyone's responsibility. Challenges exist in physical security and cyber security that have never been contemplated. This panel will present perspective from three agencies key to the security of the power grid. Additionally, the panelists will offer suggestions to a pathway forward to keep the grid secure.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable Norman J. Saari, Commissioner, Michigan Public Service Commission Panelists: Darcy Neigum, Dir. Of System Operations & Planning, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. Don Ronsberg, Protective Security Advisor, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Andrew Ott, President & CEO, PJM Interconnection</p>	
8:30am-9:30am	Session II - How to Secure Project Financing in 2016 and Beyond	Picasso/Davinci
	<p>Regulators often hear about the importance of certainty in their decisions as it relates to project financing. Today's discussion will highlight some of the policies being implemented at the state level, as well as perspective on what it takes to fund new generation given the uncertainty of the energy portfolio mix of the future.</p> <p>Moderator: Honorable William Kenney, Commissioner, Missouri Public Service Commission Panelists: Tom Stanton, Principal Researcher for Energy and Environment, NRRI Erik Malinowski, Attorney/Shareholder, Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.</p>	

10:00am-5:00pm	Tour 1 - Data Security and UAV Applications:	
	This fascinating tour will include two exhilarating stages personally hosted by MARC President Brian Kalk. Stage 1 will be a tour of Dakota Carrier Network (DCN), a carrier grade hardened communication facility. This tour will allow you to see first-hand DCN's fortress-like facility, which is able to withstand F4 tornado-force winds. The second stage of this once in a lifetime tour will include a demonstration of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) surveying energy facilities in the Bismarck area. The day will conclude with a tour of Commissioner Kalk's favorite local establishments served by low-cost reliable energy.	
10:00am-5:00pm	Tour 2 - CO2 Sequestration and Mine Reclamation Tour:	
	This two-part tour will feature a visit to North American Coal's Freedom Mine to learn about modern mining and reclamation practices, including a lunch you won't soon forget! You will also tour Basin Electric's Dakota Gasification Company (DGC) where lignite coal is gasified and turned into synthetic natural gas as well as a growing list of byproducts. DGC, America's largest carbon sequestration project, ships CO2 by pipeline to Canada where it is used for enhanced oil recovery. This tour is guaranteed to leave you wanting to spend an extra day! Hosted by Commissioner Randy Christmann.	
10:00am-5:00pm	Tour 3 - Bakken Up Close:	
	Head west for an in-depth look at North Dakota's oil and gas industry. Highlights include interactive lessons on Williston Basin geology and the science of fracking, a visit to a producing well site, and tours of a gas processing facility, a diesel refinery and a rail loading facility. Participants will engage in discussions with top Bakken experts, gain a greater appreciation of the many diverse aspects of shale oil and gas development, and even walk away with their own piece of the Bakken. Hosted by Commissioner Julie Fedorchak.	
5:00pm-6:00pm	Social Hour - Featuring Honorable Tony Clark, FERC Commissioner, Former ND PSC Commissioner	Galleria Ballroom
6:00pm	Explore Downtown Bismarck for the Evening	
8:00am - 9:30am	Registration/Information Booth	Ballroom Foyer
8:00am- 9:15am	Breakfast - Sponsored by our Bronze Level Sponsors	Galleria Ballroom
9:30am-11:00am	MARC 2016 General Session and Closing Remarks	Galleria Ballroom
	<p style="text-align: center;">Speaker: Honorable Tony Clark, FERC Commissioner, Former ND PSC Commissioner</p> <p>General Session Topics: Technological Improvements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wind Energy: Steve Gaw, Attorney and Consultant to AWEA •Energy Storage: Paul Steffes, CEO of the Steffes Corporation •LED Lighting: Brian Asher, V.P. Energy Services, JAYKAL LED Solutions <p>Closing Remarks by Commissioner Brian Kalk, MARC President</p>	