



**NEWS RELEASE**

Jan. 15, 2014

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**PSC APPROVES OVER ONE BILLION DOLLARS  
IN PROJECTS FOR 2013**

BISMARCK, ND – The North Dakota Public Service Commission approved siting applications for more than \$1 billion worth of energy-related projects in North Dakota last year. These included 90 megawatts of gas-fired generation station, several route changes for electric transmission lines, eight pipelines totaling nearly 100 miles, and three wind farms with 560 megawatts of total generating capacity.

“2013 was a brisk year for siting and saw steady and orderly progress on the development of infrastructure to serve the state’s growing energy industry,” Commissioner Julie Fedorchak, who holds the pipeline siting portfolio, said. “We provide opportunities for public input on every project and carefully examine every application for compliance with state laws and to ensure that environmental and cultural impacts are minimized.”

Some of the siting projects were started as early as 2011 and were not finally approved until 2013, showing the thoroughness of the review required of the PSC approval process. However, the average processing time once applications are complete is about 60 days.

Commissioner Kalk, chairman of the Commission, said, “2013 was certainly a busy year for the PSC. It’s important that we continue to develop our resources wisely while ensuring our state’s proud heritage is preserved.”

Commissioner Randy Christmann said, “This infrastructure development is giving long-term strength to our economy and making the state a safer and more pleasant place to live.”

In addition to the siting process, the PSC in 2013 also completed recommendations on two grain insolvencies, approved a gas rate increase settlement, held hearings and received a settlement on an electric rate increase request, processed 31 damage prevention complaints, held public hearings on Basin Electric’s application for a 345 kV transmission line, received high marks from the Office of Surface Mining on the agency’s coal permitting and reclamation programs, enhanced the gas pipeline safety program and developed a quality assurance program for the weights and measures division.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is a constitutionally created state agency with authority to permit, site and regulate 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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