



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

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For Immediate Release

NDIC appoints Mike Holmes as Lignite R&D Vice President

The North Dakota Industrial Commission has appointed Michael J. Holmes, as vice president of research, development and marketing for the Lignite Energy Council and technical advisor to the commission. The appointment is effective December 12, 2016.

Holmes will succeed Mike Jones, who has elected to retire at the end of the year.

Holmes has been the director of Energy Systems Development at the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) in Grand Forks, where he oversaw fossil energy research areas. His principal areas of interest and expertise include CO₂ capture; fuel processing; gasification systems for coproduction of hydrogen, fuels, and chemicals with electricity; process development and economics for advanced energy systems; and emission control technologies.

Prior to his work at EERC, Holmes spent 15 years working on coal-related research and development and commercial projects for Babcock & Wilcox, a major supplier of advanced energy and environmental technologies for the power industry.

He received a master's of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of North Dakota and a bachelor's of science degree in chemistry and mathematics from Mayville State University. He is a member of the National Coal Council and has been an Executive Member and served on the Board of Directors of the Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Energy Association.

He has been the recipient of the Lignite Energy Council Distinguished Service Awards for both Government Action Program and Research and Development. He has also authored or coauthored more than 120 professional publications and is responsible for 12 U.S. patents.

The North Dakota Industrial Commission, consisting of Gov. Jack Dalrymple as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, oversees the Lignite Research, Development and Marketing Program.

The program receives approximately \$4.3 million annually from a 10-cent-per-ton R&D allocation from the coal severance tax and a percentage of the coal conversion tax. State dollars are matched with both private and public investments. The Lignite R&D Program has provided more \$63.5 million in state funds for more than 200 lignite-related R&D projects since 1987. The total investment to date for all projects is more than \$650 million.

Members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission said, "Mike's career with the EERC has focused on many issues important to the lignite industry including the capture and storage of CO₂ from new and existing lignite-based power plants. Reducing the carbon footprint from coal is clearly the chief challenge facing lignite R&D today."

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“As our new R&D director, Mike will be able to provide valuable insight to numerous Lignite R&D projects currently under contract with the state,” said Jason Bohrer, president and CEO of the Lignite Energy Council. “He will be a great asset to our industry as we advance toward better technologies to maximize the energy stored in the state’s abundant lignite resources.”

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For further information contact Jason Bohrer at 258-7117

