

Burgess to Assist Lignite Vision 21 Program

BISMARCK – Gov. John Hoeven, Chairman of the Industrial Commission, and John Dwyer, President of the Lignite Energy Council, announced today that Jeff Burgess will serve as Manager of Environmental Services for the Lignite Vision 21 Program.

The Lignite Energy Council manages the Lignite Vision 21 Program for the Industrial Commission of North Dakota.

“North Dakota is committed to developing new coal-based power generation while ensuring the industry continues to be good stewards of the environment,” said Hoeven. “Jeff’s leadership will help move our Lignite Vision 21 Program forward.”

Earlier this year, the Industrial Commission of North Dakota approved Great River Energy and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. grant applications for up to \$10 million each. In addition, a third grant application from Great Northern Power will be considered by the Lignite Research Council in mid-September 2001.

“Jeff’s knowledge of environmental issues will be of great assistance as we move forward. We welcome him to our partnership, and look forward to his participation in this program,” said Dwyer.

Burgess has occupied various positions in the Department of Health for the past several years and serving as the Division Director of Air Quality since 1999. According to Hoeven, Burgess will assist Clifford Porter, Director and Technical Advisor, Lignite Research Council, in managing the Lignite Vision 21 Program.

“I am really looking forward to assisting industry and the state in growing the lignite industry and in developing solutions to the environmental issues for the Lignite Vision 21 Program,” said Burgess.

Burgess has a Master of Science degree in Environmental Engineering and is presently completing a Masters in Public Administration from the University of North Dakota.

The Lignite Vision 21 Program is a state / industry partnership designed to encourage construction of the next “state-of-the-art” baseload power plant in North Dakota so it is available in the 2008-2010 timeframe. As proposed, the Lignite Vision 21 Program is designed to meet growing regional electrical needs and revitalize the lignite industry by producing 3 million more tons of coal, creating 1,300 new jobs and generating an additional \$6 million annually in tax revenue.

The Lignite Research Program is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Governor John Hoeven as Chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.