



# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven  
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

October 30, 2009

For Immediate Release

## **NDIC appoints Mike Jones as Lignite R&D Director**

The North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) has appointed Mike Jones as research, development and marketing director for the Lignite Energy Council and technical representative to the commission.

Jones succeeds Jeff Burgess, who died in a traffic accident, Sept. 26. Former R&D director Clifford Porter is filling the position on an interim basis until Jones takes the position Nov. 16.

Jones has been senior research advisor at the Energy & Environmental Research Center and an adjunct professor of physics at the University of North Dakota (UND). A graduate of Bemidji (MN) State University, he earned a master's degree and a doctorate in physics from UND.

The Industrial Commission, consisting of Gov. John Hoeven as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, oversees the Lignite Research, Development and Marketing Program, which has provided more than \$65 million in state funds for more than 165 lignite-related R&D projects since 1987.

"Mike's career with the EERC has focused on many issues important to the lignite industry, North Dakota and the nation, including the capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> from lignite-based power plants," said Gov. John Hoeven.

"Mike has been the chief investigator on a number of important Lignite R&D projects and this experience will serve him well as the administrator of the program and technical advisor to the NDIC," said Stenehjem.

"Mike's career with the EERC has included both combustion and environmental system research dedicated to reducing emissions and increasing energy efficiency," said Goehring. "He brings a lot of expertise to his new position."

"As our new R&D director, Mike will provide valuable insight to numerous Lignite R&D projects currently under contract with the state," said John Dwyer, Lignite Energy Council president. "He will be a great asset to our industry as we advance toward better technologies to maximize the energy stored in the state's lignite resources."

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. The state dollars are matched with both private and public investments. R&D investments to date for all projects total more than \$700 million.

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