



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

NEW

October 23, 2012

Electrical demand expected to nearly triple in the 22 North Dakota counties according to results discovered in Electrical Load Growth Study

BISMARCK – The North Dakota Industrial Commission, acting as the North Dakota Transmission Authority, today received the results of an Electrical Load Growth Study which showed the need for nearly three times the current electric load over the next 20 years—from 971 MW to 3030 MW in 2032. Gov. Jack Dalrymple, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, along with other state and industry leaders, outlined the study’s key findings during a news conference held in conjunction with the Commission’s meeting this afternoon.

“Oil development in western North Dakota continues to grow at a strong pace, increasing the demand for electricity to power homes, businesses, and oil and gas production in the Williston Basin,” said the Industrial Commission members in a joint statement. “The results of this study will provide us with valuable information as we address our state’s rapid growth and plan for the future power demand and infrastructure needs of the region.”

Earlier this year the North Dakota Transmission Authority (NDTA) commissioned KLJ, an employee-owned, firm that delivers multi-disciplinary planning and engineering-based solutions, to develop the *Williston Basin Oil and Gas Related Electrical Load Growth Forecast (PF 12)*.

This extensive study contains expected electrical demand over the next 20 years related to 43 counties within the Williston Basin and specifically 22 key oil-producing counties in the western and north central regions of North Dakota. Additionally, the study incorporates forecasts related to employment, population growth and housing demand correlated to the study area.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) and Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric) partnered with NDTA to effectively plan, collaborate and validate industry research and requirements associated with power demand in the Williston Basin region. Both MDU and Basin Electric will utilize the information obtained in the study to adequately plan for critical infrastructure needs and development within the study area.

“We were happy to participate in this study, because it’s critical for us to understand the magnitude of challenges we face in northwest North Dakota for providing power supply to the area,” says Andrew M. Serri, Basin Electric CEO and General Manager. “This is a collaborative effort between the utilities, the state and the private sector that confirms what our internal studies have shown. All this information is now in a single study that incorporates all aspects of the growth.”

“We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important study,” said David Goodin, President and CEO of MDU. “We continually conduct internal studies and update our electric forecasts, but this provides us with another tool to help plan to meet the rapidly growing demand of the Bakken region.”

“Increased forecast demands are a complex challenge for everyone, whether you are public, private or a land owner--we all have to work together to maintain an adequate power supply and sustain a prosperous future for North Dakota,” said Niles Hushka, KLJ’s chief executive officer. “The PF 12 report represents an independent analysis which validates and supports growth opportunities and significant investment by the state as well as public and private sectors.”

“We hope this study will be just the start of an ongoing effort of the state and our partners to work together to identify the need for this critical infrastructure in this fast changing economic development,” said Sandi Tabor, Transmission Authority Director. “Transmission within North Dakota will be needed to fuel an orderly development of our valuable natural resources and it requires significant planning.”

A copy of the North Dakota executive summary and the full report are available on the North Dakota Industrial Commission website at <http://www.nd.gov/ndic/>

The North Dakota Industrial Commission is the North Dakota Transmission Authority and consists of Governor Jack Dalrymple, Chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

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