

Chairman Johnson, Commissioners Hanson and Kolbeck, PUC Staff, members of the public, the South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) supports Basin Electric Power Cooperative's (Basin) proposal to construct an additional 100MW General Electric LMS 100 simple-cycle gas turbine in Brown County.

South Dakota's member-owned and controlled electric cooperatives are incorporated under South Dakota law as non profit cooperative business corporations with the basic responsibility of delivering electricity and other vital services.

South Dakota's electric cooperatives – like other cooperatives in the country – adhere to the seven cooperative principles of voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community. These principles comprise the creed by which cooperative business decisions are made.

As separate, independent businesses, these 31 South Dakota electric cooperatives joined together to create a statewide association to be their voice in legislative and other matters. SDREA is headquartered in Pierre, S.D. and is devoted to unifying, promoting and protecting the interests of member electric cooperatives in South Dakota by providing leadership, safety, employee and director training, communication, legislative representation and other member services.

Basin Electric is owned by South Dakota's electric cooperatives and cooperatives in eight other states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota and Wyoming.

The state's electric cooperatives provide electricity to more than 90 percent of South Dakota's geographic area and directly serve over 110,000 homes, farms and businesses in the state. Electric cooperatives are the only utility in the state that serves customers in each of the state's 66 counties.

In an effort to meet the growing needs for its members, Basin Electric is constantly seeking out innovative ways to develop their power portfolio. Basin Electric has always demonstrated their commitment to their members and to the environment.

We applaud Basin's efforts in the development of and the success of Groton Station I and we support Basin's efforts to develop Groton Station II.

The Commission has both the authority and the obligation to review this proposal. We therefore support Basin's endeavors to develop Groton Station II and respectfully request the support and endorsement from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission.

Respectfully Submitted  
Audry Ricketts  
SDREA Executive Manager

