

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )	ORDER GRANTING PARTY
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, )	STATUS
INC. FOR AN ENERGY CONVERSION )	
FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION )	EL04-041
OF A COMBUSTION TURBINE GENERATOR )	
NEAR GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA )	

On December 22, 2004, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Basin Electric) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for a permit for an energy conversion facility from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota. Basin Electric proposes to construct a new 100 MW (nominal) General Electric LMS100 simple cycle gas turbine in Brown County, approximately five miles south of the city of Groton. The proposed site is located five miles south of the city of Groton, three miles north of the community of Ferney and 18 miles southeast of the city of Aberdeen, all of which is in Brown County. The proposed natural gas supply pipeline will originate from the existing Northern Border Pipeline located in the SE1/4 of Section 11, Township 120 North, Range 61 West in Spink County, South Dakota. The turbine will be fired by natural gas supplied by the nearby Northern Border Pipeline's existing 42" diameter interstate transmission line. This proposed project location will require approximately 12 miles of new pipeline to be installed to interconnect the gas turbine site with the major pipeline. The proposed site has an existing Western Area Power Administration (Western) 115-kV substation and a Basin Electric 345-kV substation. An existing 345-kV transmission line owned by Basin Electric and a 115-kV line owned and operated by Western currently pass within 1/2 mile of the site. This site will be operated remotely with daytime support personnel for operating and maintenance activities. The construction phase of the project will take place over a period of 12-15 months. A maximum of approximately 30-40 construction personnel will be on site at any given time.

On January 13, 2005, the Commission issued its Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status in this docket. The notice provided that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the facility is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission on or before February 21, 2005.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of March 8, 2005, the Commission reviewed an application for party status received from Northern Natural Gas Company. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17 and further finds that Northern Natural Gas Company's application for party status shall be granted. It is therefore:

ORDERED, that Northern Natural Gas Company shall, hereafter, be considered a party in this matter.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2005.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u><i>Adeline Kalkb</i></u>
Date:	<u>3/18/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

*Robert K. Sahr*  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

*Dustin M. Johnson*  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner  
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