

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	NOTICE OF APPLICATION;
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE,)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE
INC. FOR AN ENERGY CONVERSION)	OF PUBLIC INPUT
FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION)	HEARING; NOTICE OF
OF THE GROTON GENERATION STATION)	OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY
UNIT 2 PROJECT NEAR GROTON, SOUTH)	FOR PARTY STATUS
DAKOTA)	EL07-002

On January 5, 2007, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (Basin Electric) filed an application with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) seeking an energy conversion facility permit to construct a second peaking resource generator at the existing Groton Generation Station near Groton, South Dakota. The project is proposed to serve projected member load growth and is known as the Groton Generation Station Unit 2 Project. The proposed project will include a second 80 to 100 megawatt simple cycle natural gas combustion turbine generator.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the Commission will hold a public hearing on Basin Electric's application on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. CDT at Coco's Steak and Seafood, Junction of Highways 12 and 37, Groton, South Dakota. The purpose of the hearing will be to hear public comment regarding Basin Electric's application. At the public input hearing, Basin Electric will present a brief description of the project, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments and questions regarding the application. A copy of the application is on file with the Brown County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and the Commission's office in the Capitol Building in Pierre, and the application and all other documents in the case may be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Actions," "Commission Dockets," "2007 Electric Dockets," "EL07-002."

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently Basin Electric and the Commission. Further, 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. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before March 6, 2007.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule one or more subsequent formal evidentiary hearings conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1 and 49-41B and ARSD 20:10:01 and 20:10:22. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

For approval, Basin Electric must show that the proposed energy conversion facility will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

The parties will have the right to appeal the final decision in this case to the appropriate Circuit Court by serving and filing a notice of appeal of the decision in accordance with SDCL 1-26-31, within thirty (30) days after the date of service of the notice of entry of decision in this case.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1, a party may receive all material filed in this matter by making a specific request to the Commission for personal service of the material. Absent such a specific request, the County Auditor for Brown County is the designated agent for service of process upon all other parties to this proceeding; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Commission shall hold a public input hearing on Monday, February 5, 2007, at 6:00 p.m., at Coco's Steak and Seafood, Junction of Highways 12 and 37, Groton, South Dakota; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, that applications for party status be filed within 60 days from the date Basin Electric's application was filed with the Commission. Therefore, an application for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before March 6, 2007.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of January, 2007.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
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, electronically.	
By:	<u>Richard Kolbe</u>
Date:	<u>1/29/07</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner