

City of Groton

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February 27, 2007

RECEIVED

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SD Public Utilities Commission
Attn: Kara Van Bockern
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Ms. Van Bockern:

Enclosed please find copies of the minutes of the local review board and Local Review Assessment completed at our February 20, 2007 meeting. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Gerald L. Rix, Chairman
Mayor of Groton, SD

February 20, 2007

The Local Review Committee for the Public Utilities Commission on the proposed Energy Conversion Facility from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. met on the above date at 1:30pm at City Hall in Groton, SD with the following members present: Gerald Rix, Groton City Mayor; James Berg, Basin Electric Power Cooperative Water Quality/Waste Management Coordinator; Dennis Feickert, Brown County Commissioner; and Dorene Nelson, Groton School Board President. Also present: Anita Lowary, Groton City Finance Officer and Harlan Radke, Jr., Groton Police Chief.

Mayor Rix called the meeting to order and requested Anita Lowary act as secretary for the Committee.


Mr. Berg reported on the public hearing which was held at Coco's in Groton on Feb 5, 2007.

Mr. Berg reviewed the present and proposed plants, services, planned operations. Tax revenues were discussed. Other positive impacts were noted.

Chief Radke reported on police coverage during the first construction period and present coverages.

The committee completed the assessment of the twelve factors which might temporarily or permanently affect the area.

Meeting adjourned.


Anita Lowary, Secretary.

REVIEW ASSESSMENT OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS ON LOCAL AFFECTED AREA FOR A PROPOSED ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY BY BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE.

Reported by the Local Review Committee comprised of Gerald L. Rix, Dennis Feickert, Dorene Nelson, James Berg.

- 1) Housing supplies - During construction the manpower needed to build the facility would be able to find housing in rentals in Groton. There will be no change to the two employees permanently employed and there would be ample housing available for the employees to choose from.
- 2) Educational facilities and manpower - There will be no negative impacts on the schools or their staff. Both Conde and Groton have school districts able to grow and meet the needs of the permanent families for the facility. Additional tax revenues from the plant will be welcomed.
- 3) Water supply and distribution - Water needs for the plant are minimal and are supplied by WEB Water which has a main line three miles south of the facility and has two service lines for the City of Groton and James Valley Ethanol bordering the property. WEB Water assures the plant of a fully supplied contract from their plant on the Missouri River.
- 4) Waste water treatment and collection - There would be no run off (release) from plant. SD Dept of Environment and Natural Resources has approved the Certificate of Compliance. An evaporation pond is constructed for excess water.
- 5) Solid Waste disposal and collection - No cumulative amounts of solid waste are expected. Anything waste generated will be collected in sealed containers and hauled to the appropriate land fill sites.
- 6) Law enforcement - The plant could increase homeland security issues for protection, but Groton City Police and Brown County Sheriff would be equipped to handle this. The Groton Police Department will continue to make addition rounds to monitor the site.
- 7) Transportation - The location provides convenient and direct access to SD Highway 37 and the electric grid. The water and gas pipelines are along the property boundaries.
- 8) Fire Protection - The plant is in the Groton Community Fire Dept., Inc. district. Special foam dispensing equipment is needed to protect the present plant and can be used for this expansion. A periodic tour of the facility for new firemen to help them familiarize themselves with the lay out and internal fire prevention equipment will be conducted. A fire hydrant at the water pipeline/service line connection was requested.
- 9) Health - Health care for employees is easily met with area services. With monitored emissions

and previous existing transmission lines, health concerns by area residents will not change. Noise levels for the nearby farm have fallen under the acceptable noise level. The second unit is projected to increase the noise by only 3 decibels at the site. A shelter belt of trees as a possible buffer was installed on the north edge of the 1st plant and another such tree stand will be placed on the south edge of the property.

10) Recreation - There is no impact expected to any recreation. Although the area of the plant is no longer be available for hunting, other sites are plentiful. The snowmobile trail passing the site will not be disturbed.

11) Government - The facility would have no impact on local governments, except for possible increases in tax revenues.

12) Energy - Natural gas is readily available from main pipeline eleven and one half miles south and two service lines for the City of Groton and James Valley Ethanol border the property. The plant is conveniently located for electricity. The conversion will increase availability for the area with a positive impact.

The conclusion of the committee was that the proposed energy conversion facility would have little or no impact on the area and should be approved. The impacts discussed would be positive.