

News **Briefs**

Basin Electric Signs Contract for Wind Generation

Basin Electric signed a power purchase agreement on Dec. 20 associated with the development of a new wind project to be developed in South Dakota.

The project is co-owned by Fagen Inc. of Granite Falls, Minn., and the principals of Dakota Plains Energy, Aberdeen, S.D., and is planned to be operational by the end of 2015.

"The Campbell County Wind Farm is proud to have been selected to provide 98 megawatts (MW) of clean, affordable energy to nearly 30,000 homes in the Upper Midwest," said Rob Johnson, president and principal of Dakota Plains Energy. "We are pleased for the opportunity to showcase South Dakota's superior wind energy assets along with providing the local economy with a positive impact for years to come."

This follows Basin Electric's November announcement to enter into two power purchase agreements for an additional 278-MW of wind power from projects in North Dakota to be operational by the end of 2015.

With the addition of these new projects, the renewable portion of Basin Electric's generating portfolio will be more than 1,100 MW. "We are pleased to grow our generating portfolio with another wind project," said Andrew M. Serri, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. "We are especially happy to work with a developer in our neighboring state, where we already have a generation presence. The cornerstone of a strong generation portfolio is diversity. This project will add to our robust mix of coal, gas, wind, waste heat, nuclear and oil."

About the Companies:

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck, N.D. It generates and transmits electricity to 137 member rural electric systems in nine states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. These member systems distribute electricity to about 2.8 million consumers. **Dakota Plains Energy, Inc.**, the only South Dakota-based utility-scale wind farm developer, is based in Aberdeen with a regional office in the Brainerd Lakes, Minn., area.

Fagen Inc. was established in 1988 in Granite Falls, Minn., and is a full-service international contractor performing engineering, procurement and construction and general contracting.

Hanson Elected S.D. PUC Chair

South Dakota Public Utilities Commissioner Gary Hanson will preside as chairman of the PUC in 2014. Commissioner Chris Nelson will serve as vice chairman.

Both commissioners were elected to the posts at a Jan. 7 PUC meeting and will continue in the leadership roles they held in 2013. Kristie Fiegen is the third member of the commission.

This is Hanson's fifth time as chairman since first being elected to the commission in 2002. He is currently serving his second term as a statewide PUC commissioner.

For more on the South Dakota PUC, go to puc.sd.gov



Gary Hanson

Co-ops Launch Legislative App



South Dakota's electric cooperatives have launched an app for iPhones, iPads and other iOS devices which connect users with the state's elected officials. The app launched the first week of the 2014 South Dakota Legislative Session and is available for free download. Revisions to the application are being planned as is the launch of an app for Android devices.

"We believe this will be a useful tool for anyone seeking to connect with the state Legislature," said Ed Anderson, general manager of the South Dakota Rural Electric Association.

Wind Group Names New Leader

The South Dakota Wind Energy Association (SDWEA) has named Paul Bachman, PE, MBA, as the association's third executive director, effective Jan. 1.

"I am very excited by the opportunity to be a part of this excellent organization and look forward to the challenges facing us in wind development in South Dakota," said Bachman, who was the former department head and manager of the Sioux Falls Office of DGR Engineering.

Bachman currently serves on the S.D. Legislative Task Force on Wind Energy and the IEEE NESC (SC 4) Standards Committee. He is a registered professional engineer in eight states and is NCEES certified. He attended the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, the University of South Dakota and received his Masters in Business Administration from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. Bachman has considerable experience in financial modeling of capital investments, development of marketing plans, conducting technical / financial feasibility studies for wind projects, and the development of interconnection and power purchase agreements.

Bachman and his family currently reside in Harrisburg, S.D.

The South Dakota Wind Energy Association is a voluntary trade association that supports the development of wind energy as a sustainable, economic and environmentally friendly resource for all of South Dakota.



Paul Bachman