



**EMPOWER NORTH DAKOTA COMMISSION RECENT ACTIVITIES
NOVEMBER 24, 2015, 1:30 P.M.
ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE
HARVEST ROOM, STATE CAPITOL
SENATOR RICH WARDNER, CHAIRMAN**

ALAN ANDERSON – COMMISSIONER, ND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Al Anderson, Commissioner of the North Dakota Department of Commerce and chairman of the EmPower North Dakota Commission.

About a month ago, Julio Friedmann, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy for the US Department of Energy, was joined by officials from the Iraq Ministry of Oil and Ministry of Electricity in a tour of North Dakota. Their visit was to learn from North Dakota regarding approaches to evaluating and developing policies and regulations for overall energy development and the capture and utilization of associated natural gas. I believe this visit speaks to the reputation that North Dakota is gaining for tackling difficult issues such as the flaring of natural gas.

When I last spoke to you last in late July, I mentioned that the EmPower ND Commission would continue to focus on five key issues areas that impact all energy industries. Since that time, the EmPower ND Commission has narrowed the focus even further to three key areas: Regulatory, Research & Development, and Infrastructure. We have formed subcommittees to delve deeper into these areas and the Commission itself will be discussing them at their meetings over the next few months.

Our Regulatory discussion will focus a lot on federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulatory efforts and the impact to North Dakota's energy industries. This will include discussion about the Clean Power Plan, which you've heard a lot about this morning. I anticipate that the EmPower ND Commission will follow the lead of the Lignite Energy Council and the utilities most directly impacted by the regulations. We will also discuss the EPA's Waters of the United States and other efforts related to oil & gas regulation. The EmPower ND Commission strongly supports state agencies maintaining primacy over regulatory functions and I anticipate discussion about ways to help insure that primacy continues.

Continued Research & Development activities are key to assuring the continued and expanding use of our valuable natural resources. The Commission's discussion will focus on the development of new technologies, such as the Allam Cycle, Enhanced Oil Recovery, and improved renewables; the need for energy research funding; and value-added energy.

Infrastructure discussion will include easements and right-of-way with land owners; issues concerning siting, permitting, and zoning; water; natural gas transmission; and tax policy.

The EmPower ND Commission continues to support workforce development and education efforts as well as community infrastructure. However, we will not be spending time this interim to develop specific recommendations in these areas.

The EmPower ND Commission is scheduled to meet five times in the upcoming months. Committee member are always welcome to attend EmPower ND Commission meetings. The upcoming schedule of meetings include:

- December 14, 2015, in Bismarck
- January 19, 2016
- March 1, 2016
- April 12, 2016
- May 18, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Energy Development and Transmission Committee, thank you for allowing me the time to visit with you today. That concludes my testimony and I am happy to entertain any questions.