



## Utilities, Coal Interests to Pay for Lawsuit

Six coal companies and utilities will pay up to \$500,000 toward the cost of a lawsuit challenging a Minnesota law relating to import restrictions on electricity from newly constructed coal-fired power plants. Filed by North Dakota's Industrial Commission, and financially supported by the North Dakota State Legislature, lawsuit costs are estimated to exceed \$1 million. [Read the Jamestown Sun story.](#)



## Basin Electric Plans New Transmission Line

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is seeking state regulatory approval to proceed with constructing a 200-mile transmission line that would be operational in 2016. The project includes the construction of a transmission line stretching from the Antelope Valley Power Station near Beulah to a substation located near Grassy Butte and the construction of two new substations. The project must receive approval from the ND Public Service Commission to proceed. [Read the Grand Forks Herald story.](#)



## State Officials Order Fracking Fluid Disclosure

New rules are proposed in North Dakota that would require companies to disclose, on a public website, the contents of fluids used in the process of hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking"). State Department of Mineral Resources director Lynn Helms says that fracking, if done properly, is a safe procedure and that the fluids are mostly water and some household chemicals. The new rules could take effect in April 2012. [Read the Dickinson Press story.](#)



## Companies Make Contributions to Housing Fund

The North Dakota Housing Finance Agency is accepting contributions of up to \$15 million to the Housing Finance Incentive Fund, which could help address affordable housing needs in the oil patch. Contributions made by December 31 can be reflected on 2011 tax year returns or carried forward for a period of ten years. Businesses and individuals carrying a state income tax liability can contribute to the fund. US Bank recently contributed \$1.2 million to the fund and MBI Energy Services contributed \$225,000 to the fund. The companies can apply the donations to a tax write-off this year. [Read the Bismarck Tribune story.](#)



## Calendar of Events

January 11-13	<a href="#">Midwest Energy Solutions Conference</a>	Chicago, IL
January 24-26	<a href="#">2012 Energy Generation Conference</a>	Bismarck
May 22-24	<a href="#">Williston Basin Petroleum Conference</a>	Bismarck
June 4-7	<a href="#">Fuel Ethanol Workshop</a>	Minneapolis, MN
July 24	WEST! Event	Williston



## Great Plains Energy Corridor

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