# What's going on at the PSC?

North Dakota Public Service Commission

www.psc.nd.gov

701-328-2400

#### Brian P. Kalk

#### Commissioners



Kevin Cramer



Tony Clark Chairman



Brian P. Kalk



## What does the Public Service Commission do?

- Follow the Law!
- Local
- State
- Federal
- Jurisdiction.... Jurisdiction.... Jurisdiction



#### Federal regulatory requirements

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment if there is a federal nexus
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Federal Aviation Administration lighting if towers are tall enough
- National Park Service
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



#### Additional State regulatory requirements and permits

- Department of Transportation
- Highway Patrol
- Department of Health
- Game and Fish
- Historical Society
- Geological Survey
- Parks and Recreation
- Department of Agriculture
- Land Department
- Others



# PSC has varying Regulatory Authority Over

- Electric & Gas Utilities
- Telecommunications (not cell phones)
- Electric Generation & Transmission
  - Power plants
  - Wind farms
  - Natural Gas Facilities
  - Transmission Lines
  - Pipelines
- Railroads & Grain Elevators
- Pipeline Safety
- Coal Mine Reclamation



## How does an applicant get a certificate of site compatibility or a corridor and route permit?

**Public** 

Input

Letter of intent Application Public hearing

Public Commission work session

Commission
Findings of
Fact,
Conclusions
of Law, and
Order



Preconstruction meeting

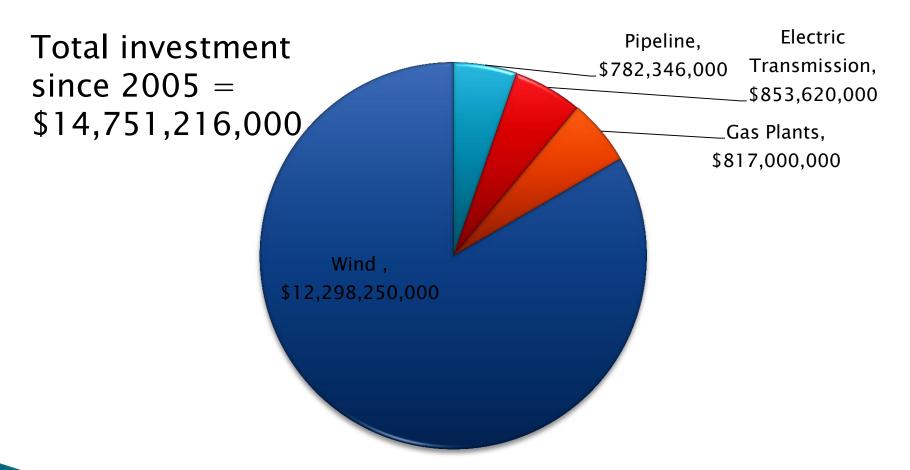
Post construction inspection

# Average time for processing applications

- From date application is deemed complete to date order is issued:
  - Gas plants 57 days
  - Pipelines 78 days
  - Transmission 83 days
  - Wind 110 days



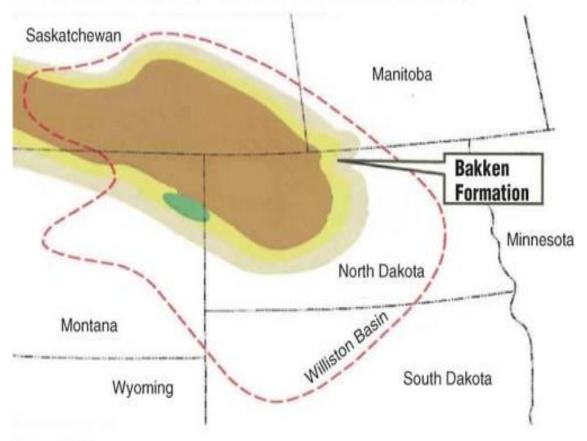
# How has the PSC been impacted by the surge in energy development?





#### The Bakken

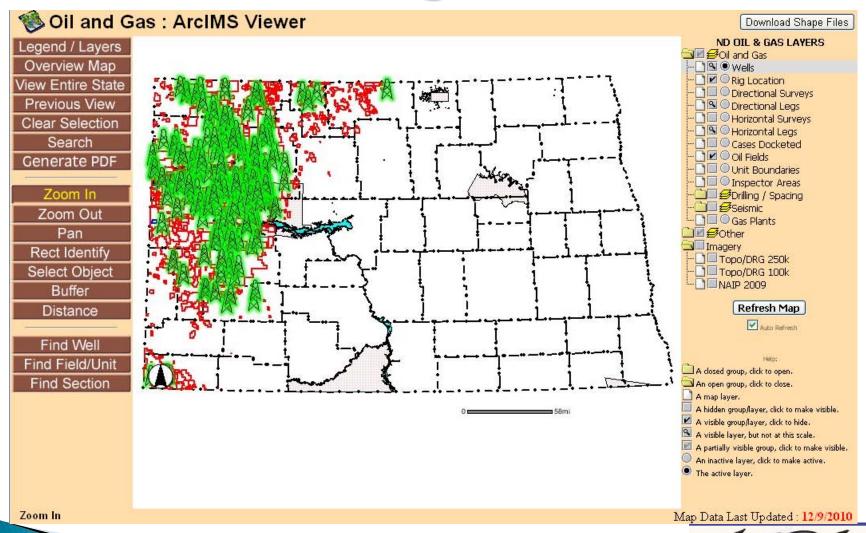
**The Bakken Formation** was deposited in the more central and deeper portion of the Williston Basin.



Source: USGS



### Oil fields and rig locations



Public Service Commission

#### NORTH DAKOTA OIL PRODUCTION

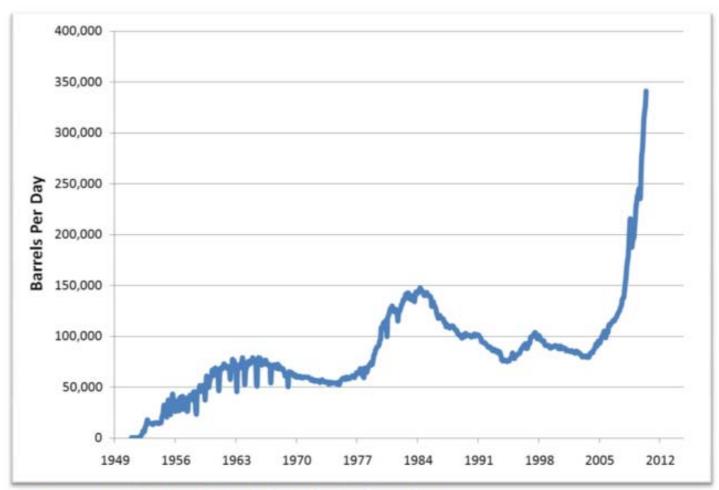


Figure 1. Historic oil production for North Dakota in barrels of oil per day.

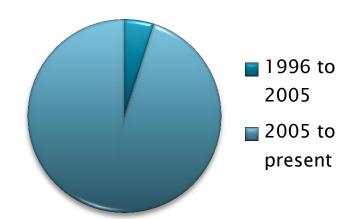
Source: North Dakota Pipeline Authority December 2010



### **Pipelines**

- Total estimated investment in pipelines from 1996 to present – \$822,361,000
- Total estimated investment in pipelines from 1996 to 2005 – \$40,015,000 (2 projects)
- Total estimated investment in pipelines from 2005 to present – \$782,346,000 (32 projects)





TransCanada Keystone Pipeline construction



#### CURRENT CRUDE OIL INFRASTRUCTURE

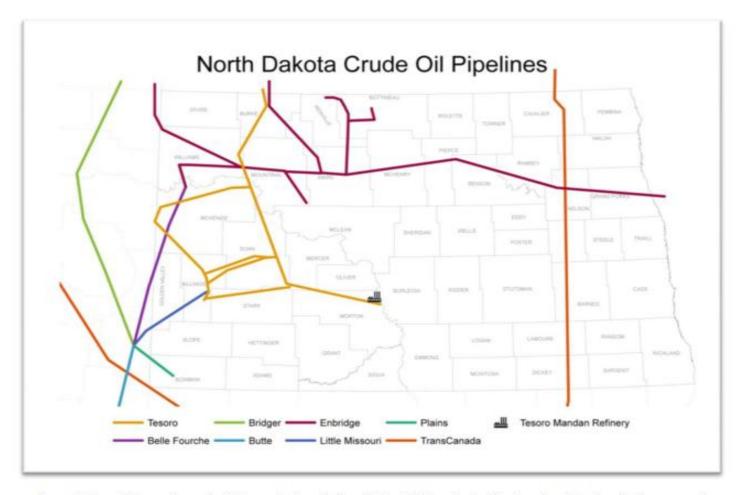
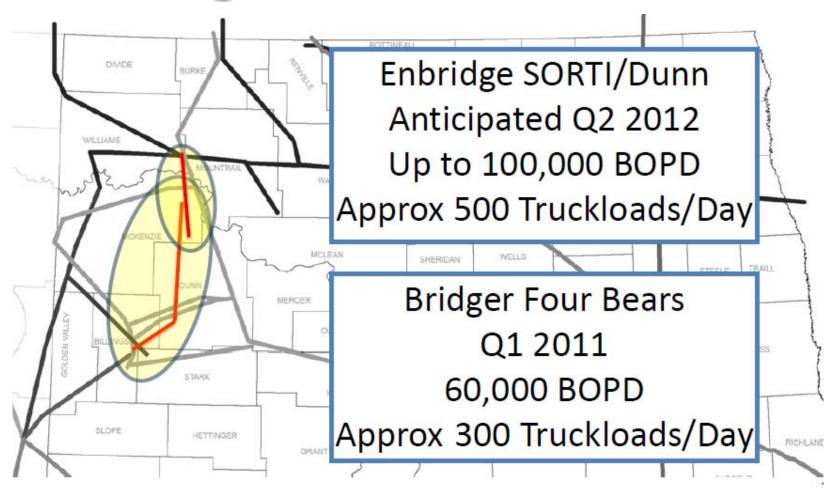


Figure 3. Map of the major crude oil transmission pipelines in the Williston Basin. Small scale gathering pipelines are not included.

Source: North Dakota Pipeline Authority December 2010

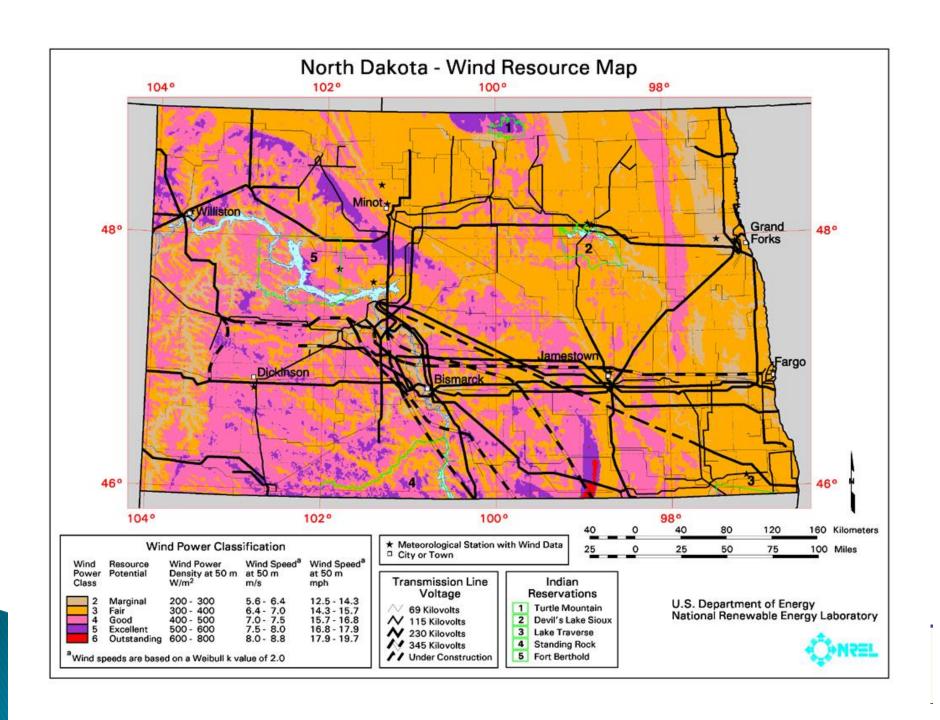


### Reducing truck traffic

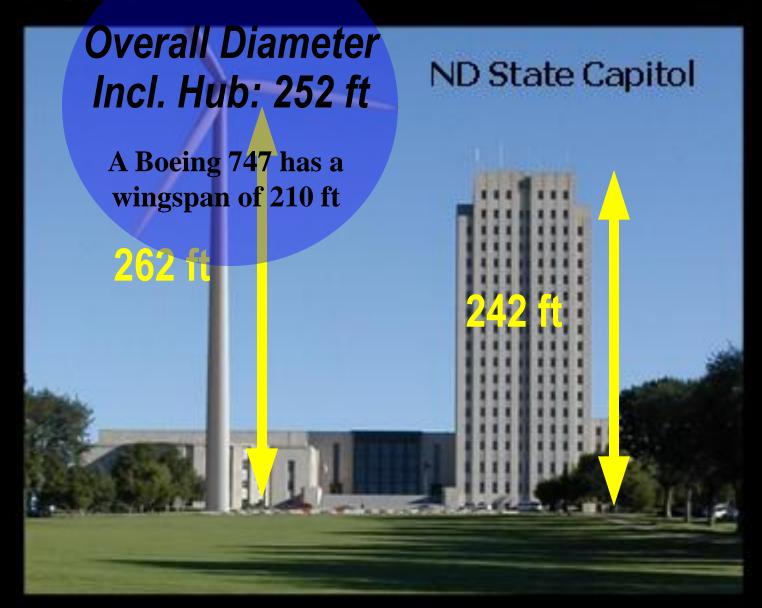


Source: North Dakota Pipeline Authority December 2010









### **Typical Turbine Layout**

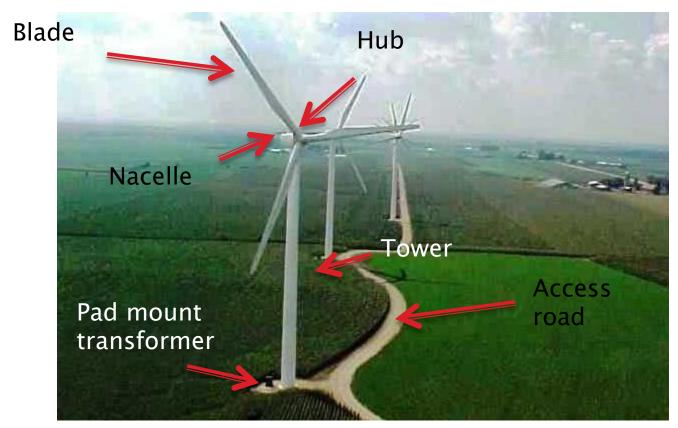


Photo Source: Langdon Wind Energy Center PSC Application, Figure 8 by Tetra Tech EC, Inc.



## Energy conversion facility siting criteria

- Exclusion areas
- Avoidance areas
- Selection criteria
- Policy criteria



#### Questions?

North Dakota Public Service Commission Kevin Cramer, Commissioner Tony Clark, Commissioner Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner

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