

Regional Haze SIP Hearing  
January 7, 2010  
9:00 a.m.

Good Morning. Welcome to the Environmental Training Center. First of all, thank you for challenging North Dakota's frigid air temperatures this morning to attend the hearing. My name is Terry O'Clair and I will be acting as hearing officer for this public hearing. It is approximately 9:05 a.m., January 7, 2010 in the North Dakota State Health Department's Environmental Training Center. This public hearing has been called for the purpose of allowing all interested individuals an opportunity to submit information concerning the Department's draft State Implementation Plan revision addressing Regional Haze. Information gathered at the hearing will be transmitted to the Department's Division of Air Quality for deliberation and final decision. The Department will not be responding to comments at this hearing. Comments received at the hearing will be considered with any written comments that are received and the Department will present its consideration of all comments in writing. You may request a copy of the written response and one will be provided to you.

This hearing is being taped and we ask everyone offering testimony to use the podium so that the tape will be of good quality for transcribing purposes. Please identify yourself for the record before you speak. Everyone present will be given an opportunity to speak. If you have a prepared statement, a written copy of the statement is appreciated.

A registration sheet has been placed next to the door. I ask that everyone present please sign the sheet before they leave.

Before we begin accepting testimony, I would like to add a point of clarification pertaining to the MDU Heskett Station Unit 2 addressed in Section 7.3.4 of the draft SIP. Prior to commencing the public comment period, the Department had received comments from EPA and the Federal Land Managers suggesting that the MDU Heskett Station Unit 2 was not exempt from the Best Available Retrofit Technology review. The Department agreed to reassess our determination. MDU agreed to remodel the Heskett Station Unit 2 in accordance with the EPA preferred model settings and the methodology suggested by the Federal Land Managers that combines all three units of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park for modeling purposes. The Department has reviewed the original modeling as well as the revised modeling submitted by MDU and concluded that Heskett Station Unit 2 is exempt from the BART process. The information has been submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Federal Land Managers. The revised modeling is on the Department's web site at: [www.ndhealth.gov/aq/regionalhaze](http://www.ndhealth.gov/aq/regionalhaze). This document is formally incorporated into the hearing record.

Although the modeling demonstrated that the MDU Heskett Station was exempt from BART requirements, the Department conducted additional modeling to determine the impact on visibility if BART-like emissions control equipment were to be installed. This BART-like control equipment would reduce sulfur dioxide emissions by 95% and nitrogen oxides emissions by 40%. The results of that modeling indicate only a 0.009 deciview improvement at Theodore

Roosevelt National Park and only a 0.003 deciview improvement at Lostwood Wilderness Area during the most impaired days. The Department considers this amount of visibility improvement to be inconsequential.

At this point I open the hearing for testimony. *At this point there was no one interested in providing oral testimony and the hearing was left open for 10-15 minutes to allow incoming people to arrive due to the weather conditions.*

### Closing

Thank you all for coming. All information gathered at the hearing will be provided to the Department of Health which is the decision-making body. The record will be held open for written comment until January 8, 2010. At this point I close the hearing on the State Health Department's proposed State Implementation Plan revision for Regional Haze. *The hearing was closed at 9:20 a.m.*

*After closing the hearing Jim Kambeitz arrived and stated he was late due to car problems and expressed his interest in providing oral testimony. The hearing was reopened at 9:30 a.m. to allow Mr. Kambeitz to give his testimony.*

My name is James Kambeitz and I am an educator and teacher for 10 years and resident of North Dakota. I would like to represent the young in the State and I would like to push for stronger air quality controls given that our eight power plants have been mostly grandfathered in and they already emit higher emissions than most of the power plants in the United States. According to the Clean Air Act, we require that we have Class I air in national parks and this protects us from manmade pollution. There is haze coming from the coal plants; it has been photographed, I have photographed it and a lot of people have seen it. It has also been tested. We know that we are burning about 30 million tons of coal each year and this does affect us. So, I would like the Health Department to try to make stricter goals and to move us further along in the future toward cleaner air and protecting us. That small river valley basin for the Knife River and coming down the Missouri River is a very heavily, densely, industrialized river valley and people in North Dakota don't realize it. So, we get by with polluting a lot more than we really should under the Clean Air Act. I hope that we will review, revise and strengthen our air quality plan here in North Dakota for the young, for all of our health and for the economy. The jobs in North Dakota are 3 to 1 green jobs which are outdoing normal job growth in North Dakota. It is also where the jobs are happening, that is a Pew study that I am citing there. There are a lot of studies based on what the trends are going to be and what will help us in the State. Also, tourism must be considered here since it is such a large part of our economy. So many millions of dollars and our state tourism department is putting so much money in trying to promote more hunting and more people to visit our national parks. So, we really need to protect these natural resources for us, for our economy and for our children. I also think that people who are polluting, the power plants, need to be the ones held responsible for the pollution they are emitting instead of just the public and us paying for our health problems as a result. Thank you all for listening so politely and I am not against energy and not against the coal industry. I would just like it to diversify so that it can survive and market itself better in the future.

Mr. O'Clair stated that that is one of the things that regional haze is attempting to do is reduce emissions from some of the older facilities that may be causing visibility issues. Mr. O'Clair thanked Mr. Kambietz and stated that if he would like to provide comments in writing that they would be accepted until close of business Friday, January 8. Mr. O'Clair once again closed the hearing.