



**Dakota Resource Council**  
**“Organizing North Dakotans Since 1978”**  
P.O. Box 1095 ~ Dickinson, ND ~ 58602-1095  
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May 8, 2009

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E Boulevard Avenue  
Department 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: Public Service Commission Case No. PU-09-20**  
**Federal 2007 EISA Standards Investigation**

Sent via email to [dnitschk@nd.gov](mailto:dnitschk@nd.gov) and by U.S. mail

Dear Mr. Nitschke,

Attached, please find the comments of Dakota Resource Council regarding the above Case.

We apologize for the late submission but we only just received notice of the workshop and comment deadline.

Best Regards,

Mary Mitchell  
Energy Coordinator

9 **PU-09-20** Filed: 5/11/2009 Pages: 2  
**Comments**

Dakota Resource Council  
Energy Coordinator, Mary Mitchell

**"Members of Dakota Resource Council use grassroots actions to influence public opinion and shape public policy to protect agriculture, natural resources, livelihoods and community well-being."**



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Public Service Commission Case No. PU-09-20  
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Investigation

### Comments of Dakota Resource Council

Dakota Resource Council urges the North Dakota Public Service Commission to adopt strong energy efficiency standards for utilities that save ratepayers money through reduced consumption and reduce utilities' overall demand.

Energy efficiency is the easiest, fastest and least cost method of reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gases and slowing the need for new generation facilities.

North Dakota's per capita energy consumption is high, which is not surprising in a state with annual temperatures ranging from 45 below zero to 107 above. But we also rank near the bottom nationally in energy efficiency efforts. This provides us with an incredible opportunity, because it means that we have enormous potential to greatly reduce our energy use and drastically lower commercial and household utility costs.

Dakota Resource Council believes that that the people of North Dakota expect the state to be looking out for their best interest. This goes beyond concerns of the individual and extends into the realm of “public good.”

Therefore, we think that it is entirely appropriate that all utilities regulated by the PSC should be required to submit an annual, integrated plan, setting a goal for energy savings and indicating how they plan to reduce overall demand using a combination of incentives, educational programs and materials, and energy audits. These plans, as well as a report showing how the utilities did in meeting the previous year's goal, should be released to the public annually.

This concludes our comments.

"Members of Dakota Resource Council use grassroots actions to influence public opinion and shape public policy to protect agriculture, natural resources, livelihoods and community well-being."