

**Special Meeting Regarding Great Northern Power Development South Heart Coal
Gasification Plant & Mine Project
Days Inn – Grand Dakota Lodge, Dickinson, North Dakota**

A meeting attended by approximately 35 local officials and other invitees was held at the Days Inn – Grand Dakota Lodge in Dickinson organized by Great Northern Power Development to provide information about their proposed coal gasification and coal mine project to be located a few miles south and west of South Heart, North Dakota. City Commission members in attendance were: President Johnson and Commissioners Dukart, Frenzel, Reitmeier, and Steiner.

The meeting was called to order by Governor John Hoeven, who introduced Richard Voss representing Great Northern Power Development. Mr. Voss presented a Powerpoint presentation and oral report describing their project and in some cases comparing and contrasting it to the coal gasification plant located at Beulah, North Dakota. Mr. Voss reported at present there are only a few such plants operating in the world. They are in Beulah, ND, South Africa, and Germany. The technology was developed in Sweden. The proposed plant only would use 10% of the water used by a traditional coal fired power plant. Mr. Voss reported the proposed plant will pay an estimated \$500,000 per year in coal conversion and production taxes each year to local governments in Stark County in lieu of property taxes in accordance with North Dakota Codified Law. The proposed location of the plant is four miles south and two miles west of South Heart, North Dakota. Reasons this site was selected are availability of coal and proximity to an existing 14 inch diameter natural gas pipeline, which runs through the site. It is anticipated the project will create about 250 regular full time jobs between the plant and the mine once in production. Great Northern Power Development is the largest holder of coal reserves in the United States. Allied Syngas is Great Northern Power Development's main partner in this project. It is anticipated the company would mine 4.88 million tons of coal per year, which would require about 200 acres of land to be disturbed. The coal vein is about 17 feet thick and is located about 70 feet under the surface. It is anticipated the plant will produce about 100 MMCF of natural gas per day. The next steps in making the project a reality are: obtaining an air permit, a mine permit, pre-feed and feed completion, and selection of a contractor. When compared to the Beulah plant, this plant would produce less steam, use less water, produce totally inert slag that can be used as an aggregate, and will recycle tars and phenols to reduce odors. The plant will control dust on the haul roads. It is anticipated as many as 1,000 construction workers will be needed through construction of the facility. One issue mentioned as a need during construction will be providing housing opportunity for construction workers. One means discussed as meeting housing needs is identification of trailer parks in the area.

The presentation was followed by a question and answer period during which participants were encouraged to ask questions regarding the subjects raised during the presentation.

Because this was a meeting attended by City Commissioners, but not chaired by President Johnson or another city commissioner, the meeting was closed by Mr. Voss and Governor Hoeven following the question and answer period.

OFFICIAL MINUTES PREPARED AND APPROVED BY:

Greg Sund, City Administrator

Dennis W. Johnson, President
Board of City Commissioners

Date: _____