

Dakota Counsel

ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 28

Livestock activist and entrepreneur Mike Callicrate will be the keynote speaker at DRC’s 29th annual meeting in Fargo October 28 in Fargo.



Callicrate

Callicrate was the lead plaintiff in a class action lawsuit against the world’s largest meatpacker, IBP, now part of Tyson Foods, for discriminatory marketing practices.

The plaintiffs won the case and damages in a jury trial, but the judge later nullified the decision.

Along with partners, Callicrate also runs a Colorado Springs value-added meat company, Ranch Foods Direct, selling all-natural beef over the internet at www.ranchfoodsdirect.com.

Callicrate spoke at the first annual McKenzie County Energies and Taxation Association No Bull BBQ in July 2003.

The business meeting begins at 1:30 at the American Legion Club in downtown Fargo with election of statewide DRC officers and at-large representatives, an update on DRC issue and affiliate work during the year and resolutions on topics of interest to DRC members.

Callicrate will speak following the 6:00 p.m. banquet.

The meeting and evening meal are free of charge for members, but please register by calling Office Manager Aleta Hendricks at 483-2851.

As usual, a silent auction will run throughout the day, featuring a wide variety of items. If you have something to contribute, please call Aleta.

If you plan to stay in Fargo overnight, DRC has a block of rooms at a special rate at the Howard Johnson, 232-8850. Be sure to tell the hotel you’re with DRC.

GM WHEAT: STILL A BAD IDEA

Genetically modified (GM) wheat remains a bad idea from a marketing standpoint, according to a recent report update by Iowa State University Economics Professor Dr. Robert Wisner.

GM wheat would not reverse the market share of U.S. wheat exports, and would not reverse the downward trend of wheat acres planted, Wisner concluded.

In fact, introduction would still risk the loss of one-fourth to one-half of U.S. hard red spring and durum wheat export markets and up to a one-third drop in price, as earlier reports have found.

“This week Japan suspended imports of U.S. rice, and the European Union imposed mandatory testing of all rice entering the E.U. after Bayer Corporation announced that traces of GMO Liberty Link rice were detected in commercial supplies,” noted DRC Food Safety Task Force Chair Todd Leake, Emerado.

“This demonstrates the resolve of Japan and the E.U. to keep food grains like rice and wheat GM-free,” said Leake.

“It’s a warning to U.S. wheat producers—this easily could have been wheat.”

The price for September-delivered unmilled rice dropped 7% in less than a week in response to the contamination report August 18—a potential loss of \$66.7 million to Arkansas rice farmers, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

With the rice harvest beginning, farmers are desperate for information, according to the Arkansas *Democrat-Gazette*.

“Is this problem isolated? How many varieties are affected?” Arkansas Rice Growers Association president John Alter told the newspaper. “We’re the ones whose pocketbook is being hit.”

Register today
for the annual
meeting, banquet
and speaker.
Call 483-2851
or e mail
aleta@drcinfo.com.

See GM Wheat p. 3

The Dakota Counsel is published six times a year by Dakota Resource Council, a nonprofit, grassroots activist organization. The mission of Dakota Resource Council is to form enduring, democratic local groups that empower people to influence decision-making processes that affect their lives. DRC is committed to preserving sustainable agriculture and natural resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dean Remboldt, Roger Brenna, Dean Hulse, Terrence Kardong, Dianne Aull, R.J. Stohler, Bob White, Tom Irgens, Ramona Redding Lopez, Brad Mills, Gail Wiley and two representatives from each affiliate

AFFILIATES

Badlands Area Resource Council

Linda Weiss, Chair

Grand Forks County Citizens Coalition

Daryl Bragg, Chair

McKenzie County Energies & Taxation Association

Roger Brenna, Chair

Missouri Valley Resource Council

Ramona Redding Lopez, Chair

South Agassiz Resource Council

Nicki Hulse, Interim Chair

Souris Valley Chapter

Ted Reinert, Chair

South Central Citizens Coalition

Lori Carlson, Chair

Staff

Dickinson Office

P.O. Box 1095, 113 1st St. West
Dickinson, ND 58602

Phone: (701) 483-2851; Fax (701) 483-2854

Mark Trechock, Staff Director
mark@drcinfo.com

Aleta Hendricks, Office Manager
aleta@drcinfo.com

Cindy Klein, Organizer
cindy@drcinfo.com

Kathy Brackel, Adm. Asst.

Bismarck Office

103 1/2 S. 3rd St., Bismarck, ND 58504

Phone (701) 224-8587; Fax (701) 224-0198

Mary Mitchell, Energy Coordinator
mary@drcinfo.com

Barb Price, Organizer
barb@drcinfo.com

Fargo Office

118 Broadway, Ste. 801, Fargo, ND 58107

Phone: (701) 298-8685; Fax (701) 298-9044

Lynn Wolff, Organizer
lynn@drcinfo.com

Terry Schaunaman, Organizer
terry@drcinfo.com

THE RAZOR'S EDGE

By DRC Board Chair Dean Remboldt

Exactly what does “free trade” mean?

From the standpoint of most of the world’s workers and producers it means failure. It is a mechanism the multinational corporations use to enrich themselves and their shareholders at the expense of the only thing of value that common people have—their livelihoods.



Free trade is an idea that is devoid of any working model that floats all boats like it is supposed to do. It is a paradox, mere verbal acrobatics, another way that the corporate champions of ambiguity use to laugh at us—all the way to the bank. Are we really supposed to pretend that the idea of free trade is a sterile enterprise, with all winners?

Reality is moving forward at an accelerated pace, and if the latest breakdown at the Doha Round Talks are an indicator, there is still hope. There is hope from the political arena lately also.

I just finished reading Senator Dorgan’s book: *Take This Job And Ship It—How Corporate Greed and Brain-Dead Politics Are Selling out America*. What an eye-opener. The insight and grasp of the issues involved is outstanding. Dorgan did our country a great service by writing this book. It is a must read for everyone.

Dorgan explains the problems associated with free trade and then gives some examples of needed remedies. I don’t want to ruin the book for you by telling you too much of what is in it, but one of my favorite quotes is; “And when it comes to the American Farmer, tough luck”. “Our borders are wide open to Canadian wheat and Australian cattle”. “Some days I feel like half the administration is ready to saddle up and have a Mad Cow cattle drive from Canada to the United States in the name of free trade”.

Before you read *Take This Job And Ship It* you should read Ted Nace’s book, *Gangs Of America*, to get a grasp of how corporate America works. Both authors were raised in North Dakota in the spirit of values and ethics that we take as commonplace and the rest of the world marvels at their insight.

I’m not so sure in today’s political climate that the ravages of so called “free trade” can be reversed, but with the stand that we’ve taken at DRC on these issues, we may be able to help turn things around. No one can say that we’ve been spectators standing on the sidelines.

The people of this world are starting to collectively retch at these trade policies that are tearing at the fabric of their economical and social lives. For most people involved “free trade” has been playing out like a B-movie. It would be a sad indictment on our generation if we let this go on for much longer. We may be leaving a legacy that perhaps cannot be forgiven.

Let’s keep voicing our opinion, writing our congressmen, writing letters to the editor and educating ourselves so we can make a difference.

AG ROUNDUP

HOGS. Ramsey County’s zoning authority is on the line.

Viking Feeders, armed with a Prospect Township permit and a non-opinion by the state’s Attorney General, has begun construction of its pig factory near Edmore, but the story may not be over.

Ramsey County State’s Attorney Lonnie Olson asked for Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem’s opinion June 1 on whether a township could trump county zoning by enacting its own zoning with weaker provisions.

The Attorney General’s office declined to issue an opinion, citing earlier opinions that township zoning “takes precedence over any contrary or inconsistent county regulations.”

But Joseph Lawson of the Ramsey County Zoning and Planning Committee points out that Prospect Township can

issue a permit under its “zoning” on the basis of nothing but a state permit.

“Since both the state and Prospect Township are silent as to soil monitoring, waste pond leakage monitoring, and financial guarantees concerning closure and unlawful discharge...there is no inconsistency...on these issues” between the township and county, wrote Lawson in a letter to the Devils Lake *Journal*.

OMAN. Congress approved yet another bilateral trade agreement—this one with Oman—in late July.

The Senate vote was 60-34, the House 221-205. The entire North Dakota delegation voted against the agreement.

The close vote may delay action on the Peru-U.S. agreement until after the fall elections. Peru’s new President, Alan Garcia, supports the deal.

Meanwhile, the Doha Round of World Trade Organization talks broke down again in July and have been suspended indefinitely.

A summary of recent polling released July 22 by Lake Research Partners found that voters strongly opposed free trade—and had much more concern about job loss than opinion leaders.

“A majority of two-thirds of Americans oppose every trade agreement, including NAFTA and CAFTA,” according to the summary.

A Pew poll in November 2005 found that the 84% rated protecting American jobs as important—nearly as high as the rating for protecting the country from terrorism. But the poll found few opinion leaders who “consider jobs a top tier foreign policy goal.”

GM WHEAT from p. 1

Wisner’s new wheat study points out that there has been no technological breakthrough that would facilitate segregation in handling GM crops.

The study also responds to recent claims made by some U.S. wheat growers that wheat acres are being shifted to genetically modified corn and soybeans because they are cheaper to plant than wheat and thus more appealing to farmers.

These growers say that commercializing a biotech variety of wheat would increase wheat acres lost to corn and soybean production.

Wisner’s report finds that wheat acreage is declining because of changing U.S. agricultural policy—and increased production of crops suitable for ethanol and biodiesel production, especially corn and soybeans.

Monsanto shelved plans to commercialize Roundup Ready wheat in 2004, saying the basis for its decision was the lack of farmer and consumer acceptance.

The only variety of GM wheat currently being developed for possible commercial release is being modified to increase resistance to fusarium head blight.

Wisner’s report says that consumer rejection of this genetically modified wheat in sensitive markets in Asia and Europe is likely to be just as strong as rejection of Monsanto’s Roundup Ready wheat.



Wisner

“Fusarium is yesterday’s problem,” said Leake, noting that North Dakota State University’s fusarium resistant Alsen wheat variety was released in 2000 and quickly became the most widely planted wheat variety in the state.

“Since then several more varieties with excellent fusarium head blight resistance have been released,” said Leake, “and proponents of GM fusarium resistant wheat publicly ignore this fact. Fusarium is not an important enough issue anymore to warrant the market risks of a GM wheat introduction.”

The Wisner report is the latest update of his October 2003 report, Market Risks of Genetically Modified Wheat, prepared for the Western Organization of Resource Councils and can be viewed at www.worc.org.

REFINERY NOT FINE

DRC joined Fort Berthold Reservation refinery opponents July 20 in filing comments expressing concern over air and water quality, and urging oil refinery backers to consider renewable fuel instead.

The comments responded to a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed Makoti area facility. The Bureau of Indian Affairs and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency jointly issued the EIS June 21.

Refinery proponents plan to use piped-in, synthetic crude oil extracted from oil sands in Alberta, Canada to make a low-sulfur diesel fuel.

DRC asked that the final EIS include analysis of the environmental and economic impacts of a plant that would make biodiesel using locally grown oil seed crops such as canola.

Hearings across the reservation in early August disclosed sharp divisions among tribal members. Water protection is the biggest local concern about the facility.

“We need jobs, but we should think of other things that are good for the environment,” tribal member Kathy Samuels told the *Bismarck Tribune*.

“Over time, it is expected that there would be some contamination of the soils and groundwater immediately underneath the refinery site due to leaks and spills,” according to the EIS.

Groundwater depth in the area is between five and 15 feet.

“We should be using our ingenuity to move away from outmoded plants like this toward more efficient and secure energy sources,” said DRC Chair Dean Remboldt.

“A biodiesel plant would cost less and be cleaner and best of all, it would bring greater economic benefits to the region,” he added.

The comment period on the draft EIS ends September 15. Comments must be considered in preparation of the final EIS, which could be ready next spring.



FRESH OIL

Charbonneau Creek Clean-Up

The state released its final remediation plan July 24 for Zenergy’s Charbonneau Creek saltwater spill last winter.

Area landowners think the plan should address the impact of loss of water in the lower creek due to the state’s strategy of drawing off and disposing of contaminated water from a beaver pond upstream.

They also think the state’s sampling procedures are inadequate to determine the physical extent of groundwater contamination.

The State Department of Health refused to give DRC a copy of the draft remediation plan in time for affected parties to give their input.

The state’s Oil and Gas Division has fined Zenergy \$88,304 for the spill. The Department of Health may also fine the company, but has not made an announcement.

In Your Face

Continental Resources ruffled feathers this summer when it drilled a well about 400 feet from the residence of Bruce and Paula Kaye of rural Belfield—without even notifying them.

State law allows drilling 330 feet or further from homes and does not require notification.

The Kayes estimate the distance from their house to the

well pad at 170 feet.

Oil and Gas Division Director Lynn Helms told the *Bismarck Tribune* he urged Continental to move further from the house once he realized what had happened, but the company refused.

No Word on Water Hearing

DRC is still waiting to hear whether the state will hold a public hearing on a Zenergy water well permit in McKenzie County.

The company plans to use the water to dilute salty water produced with the oil.

DRC challenged the permit earlier this year on the basis that it would diminish an aquifer critical for both drinking water and livestock.

Another question for the AG

Rep. Shirley Meyer (D-Dickinson) has asked for an Attorney General’s opinion on the state’s practice of issuing oil companies temporary water well permits and then extending them.

The practice eliminates the opportunity for public comment on the permits.

State law sets a one-year limit on temporary permits. Meyer noted that because of extensions, some of the temporary permits have been in effect for three years.

FREE GREEN ENERGY

Nodak Electric Cooperative ratepayers no longer have to pay extra for wind energy.

The utility informed members June 26 it was dropping the added charge because of better than hoped for production from its two Infinity Wind Energy Program wind turbines, coupled with reduced need to purchase more expensive energy from the regional market.

That is, the wind turbines often provide needed additional electricity at times of peak demand, saving money.

Minnkota, which supplies the green energy to Nodak, originally charged customers three cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh) extra for choosing green energy—or six times the rate Moorhead, Minnesota charges for subscription to its “green-pricing” program, Capture the Wind.

It later dropped the fee to 1.5 cents.

Minnkota isn’t alone in reaping unexpected benefits from wind energy originally developed for “green-pricing” markets.

Wind Power Monthly reported in May that Xcel Energy’s wind purchases saved its customers \$4.21 million in fuel costs in 2004 and \$9.75 million in 2005, mainly by displacing increasingly expensive natural gas.

Earth Policy Institute reported in March that Austin Energy in Texas has 388 corporate GreenChoice subscribers, which are partners in the utility’s 10-year fixed-price contracts for wind energy. Advanced Micro Devices alone expects to save \$4 million over the next decade through this arrangement.

Minnkota is still a small player in the wind industry. The utility produces wind energy from two commercial-scale generators—one near Oriska and the other near Petersburg. The original combined cost of the generators was about \$2 million.

Nodak supplies electricity to REC customers in Grand Forks, Nelson, Pembina, Steele, Traill and Walsh Counties and parts of several others.



COSTLY COAL

While the cost of wind keeps dropping, seven utilities and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission had an unpleasant surprise when the projected costs of the proposed 600-megawatt Big Stone II power plant near Milbank went up 60% overnight in late July (see page 7).

The increase hit the news just 12 days after South Dakota approved construction of the plant, and the PUC wants some answers.

The Commissioners asked two of the seven utilities involved to redraft their “resource plans”—the portion of their permit application that specifies the most cost-effective mix of energy sources.

At least one Minnesota group had already questioned the business plan of the seven utilities, saying in written testimony they “showed a strong bias in favor of coal” and “have not shown that Big Stone II is the lowest cost option.”

“They dismissed wind alternatives based on arguments that had been debunked by many sources, including the Minnesota Department of Commerce,” the Izaak Walton League said.

The BSII resource plan assumed that wind turbines would have no capacity value and would require 100% backup by a fossil fuel-burning plant. The experience of Minnesota and Xcel Energy, however, have shown that wind in the area has a capacity factor of 27 to 34%.

The League also said wind would create more jobs—an estimated 172 to BSII’s projected 35 for the same amount of power.

Cold feet were in evidence within at least one of the seven Big Stone II partners even before the latest announced cost increase.

Austin Utilities voted July 11 to urge Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, of which it is a member,

not to continue participation in the project, according to Minnesota news reports

SMMPA currently holds a 7.8% interest.

Two utilities with service areas in North Dakota are also partners in the project—Otter Tail Power and Montana-Dakota Utilities—as is Great River Energy, which operates two power plants here. Each holds a 19.3% interest.

In addition to the South Dakota permit to construct, BSII will need a Minnesota permit for power lines to bring the electricity to market.

Apart from construction costs, recently adopted Minnesota law requires utilities to take into account the cost risks of increased environmental regulation and costs over the lifetime of a proposed facility.

Minnesota groups estimate that carbon limitations could increase electricity costs by nearly 50% by 2030.

EPA ON DIRTY AIR: “SO WHAT?”

After nine years of ongoing North Dakota air quality violations, Washington shrugged.

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency August 17 refused to take action to reduce high concentrations of sulfur dioxide in North Dakota and Montana parks and wilderness areas.

The agency previously determined the sulfur dioxide concentrations were in violation of the Clean Air Act. That was before lobbyists for the lignite industry pushed the state and EPA to reverse course.

The August 17 decision from EPA was in response to a petition filed in 2004 by DRC. EPA said it was exercising its discretionary authority to do nothing about the sulfur concentrations.

“In other words, EPA claims to be within its right to ignore ongoing air quality violations if it chooses,” said

Terrence Kardong, Richardton, DRC Energy Policy Committee Chair.

EPA finally responded to the petition after DRC took the agency to court.

The EPA decision, however, did clarify that the jury is still out on North Dakota’s novel Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) measurement practices (see below), despite its 2004 memorandum of understanding with the state.

PSD standards set limits on new pollution added to specific geographical areas since the Clean Air Act amendments went into effect nearly 30 years ago.

“EPA is continuing to evaluate whether the modeling practices employed in North Dakota are appropriate and has not reached a final decision on those issues,” according to its letter denying DRC’s petition.

“It’s important that the state’s bogus

measurement techniques aren’t used throughout the country,” said Kardong.

EPA air quality professionals from around the nation issued a letter sharply criticizing the state’s PSD measurement techniques in 2004.

DRC’s controversy with EPA goes back to 2003 when it sued the agency for failing to call for a Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision to address numerous PSD sulfur dioxide violations originally found by the State Department of Health in 1998, and later confirmed by EPA Region VIII.

As mentioned in EPA’s letter, current initiatives to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions at aging North Dakota plants will, if successful, go a long way toward eliminating existing violations.

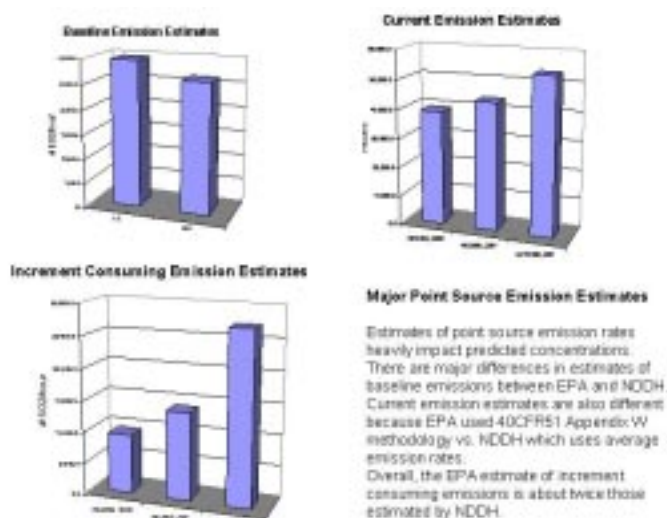
“EPA should make these reductions mandatory,” said Kardong. “Their timidity about enforcing their own laws is exasperating.”

POLLUTION VANISHING ACT

This state’s way of measuring PSD (see above) made 1998 violations disappear artificially because its methods differ radically from accepted federal standards, according to an independent study released this month by DRC.

“Clearly, this was done with one goal in mind,” said Terrence Kardong. “The state wants to build more coal-fired power plants and our most special areas will become sacrifice zones for their political shenanigans.”

In 2001 EPA told the Health Department that there was too much sulfur dioxide pollution coming from North Dakota power plants and other sources in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Lostwood Wildlife Refuge, as well as areas in Montana. The Health Department then changed how it measured the pollution in order to be in compliance.



TIME TO RETHINK COAL AND WIND

by Terrence Kardong

The race is on to build new coal-fired power plants on the cheap before the nation wakes up and demands controls on the carbon dioxide emissions that cause global warming.

But the engines are sputtering a bit, as witnessed by the recent sticker shock caused by an overnight 60% cost increase for the proposed Big Stone II plant in South Dakota.

And Chuck MacFarlane of Otter Tail Power was probably right when he told the Associated Press that South Dakota's woes don't give any comfort to those who want to develop coal in North Dakota. Everybody's costs are going up.

Tellingly, Big Stone II's price tag is not going up because it is a high-dollar state-of-the-art clean coal project. It isn't. It's an off-the-shelf el cheapo.

Cleaner coal would be even more expensive. The coal industry has been talking for years about Integrated Gas Combined Cycle (IGCC) plants with carbon sequestration capabilities. But the truth is that such plants cost a lot more than the el cheapo model and will not be built any time soon without massive taxpayer subsidies.

Not only is the proposed Big Stone II not an IGCC plant, it will not control its mercury emissions. It has no capacity to sequester carbon dioxide. It isn't even using the best available control technology to hold down sulfur dioxide emissions. And it still may be too expensive to build.

The same is true of the proposed South Heart plant in western North Dakota, which recently submitted its air quality permit applications.

Our nation's coal-fired infrastructure was overbuilt in the last



generation to take advantage of public subsidies and to sneak in under the Clean Air Act wire with plants whose pollution allowances could be "grandfathered." Some of these, like Basin Electric's Leland Olds Station, are only getting scrubbers now.

The same kind of scam is again afoot. Even energy industry executives acknowledge that carbon dioxide limitations are almost certain within the lifetime of any coal plant built today.

That's why utilities want to build them on the cheap now and 1) delay required environmental upgrades as long as possible, and 2) stick ratepayers with the bill in the end.

Projects like Big Stone II and South Heart are not moving our region in the direction we need to go. The northern Great Plains has a prosperous future in the energy business, but to do so it must take advantage of its world-class wind energy potential.

Wind has no environmental liabilities and no variable fuel costs, making it an excellent hedge against the increasing future costs for coal, transportation and environmental compliance that will beleaguer coal plants, old or new.

Moreover, integrating larger amounts of wind energy into the present regional grid is probably easier than coal interests have been claiming. A 2004 study by the University of

Minnesota showed that for Xcel Energy to accommodate 1,500 new megawatts of wind energy capacity, it

See Time to Rethink p. 8

I'D LIKE TO SUPPORT DRC ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND:

- General Membership
- ___ \$200 • "200 Club" Membership
- ___ \$100 • Patron Membership
- ___ \$ 75 • Contributing Membership
- ___ \$ 45 • Family Membership
- ___ \$ 25 • Individual Membership
- ___ \$ 10 • Student/Low Income

BARC/DRC Membership
Family \$50___ Individual \$30___

GFC3/DRC Membership
Family \$50___ Individual \$30___

MCETA/DRC Membership
Family \$55___ Individual \$ 35___

MVRC/DRC Membership
Family \$50___ Individual \$30___

SARC/DRC Membership
Family \$55___ Individual \$ 30___

SVC/DRC Membership
Family \$50___ Individual \$30___

SC3/DRC Membership
Family \$55___ Individual \$35___

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

TIME TO RETHINK from p. 7

only needed to squeeze an extra eight megawatts of baseload out of other sources.

Unfortunately, the utilities investing in Big Stone II—including such familiar North Dakota faces as Otter Tail, Montana-Dakota Utilities and Great River Energy—are so intent on slipping a new coal plant under the regulatory wire that they haven't taken a serious look at large-scale wind. It's time they did.

(Terrence Kardong, Richardton, is DRC's Energy Policy Committee Chair.)

POLLUTION from p.6

The national park and Lostwood refuge are at issue because federal air quality standards for these "Class I" areas are stricter than those for more developed areas.

Pat Hanrahan, an independent air quality modeler from Oregon, is the author of the DRC report.

Under pressure from the state and the industry, EPA may now be considering formal rule changes to adopt North Dakota's weaker methods. "This could mean that there will be more new sources of pollution permitted because of less rigorous standards," said Hanrahan.

The state created its "pollution vanishing act" mainly by

underestimating current pollution and overestimating the "baseline" pollution that establishes the limits on added pollution.

Hanrahan said the state's estimates of current pollution are 19% too low because it based those estimates on average rather than "worst case" pollution rates.

The state underestimated baseline pollution by 13%, according to Hanrahan, by failing to utilize actual pollution rates from the required years, 1976 and 1977, and substituting later years with higher pollution instead.

SARC members turn in petition signatures to Fargo City auditor August 1. Both Fargo and Grand Forks voters will vote this fall on ballot measures calling for 20% renewable electricity by 2020, 30% by 2030.



Non Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Dickinson, ND 58601
Permit #43

Dakota Resource Council
P.O. Box 1095
113 W. First Street
Dickinson, ND 58602-1095
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED