



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
600 EAST BOULEVARD
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0360



Representative Anna S. Novak

District 33
1139 Elbowoods Drive
Hazen, ND 58545-4923
anovak@ndlegis.gov

COMMITTEES:

Education
Energy and Natural Resources

March 17, 2023

Concurrent Resolution 3014

Mr. Chairman, members of the committee - for the record, my name is Anna Novak, Representative for District 33. You have before you Concurrent Resolution 3014. This resolution will be sent to the Regional Transmission Organization's that service North Dakota, which are MISO and SPP, FERC, North Dakota's Transmission Authority and PSC, and our congressional delegation.

Unfortunately, we live in a time and in a country that incentivizes electricity that isn't reliable and tends to be more expensive in the long-term for ratepayers. As you know, the state of Minnesota passed a law last month that says all electricity in their state, whether it's produced in Minnesota or imported from the surrounding states, must be carbon-free by 2040. I've included an article for your review about the bill. Sadly, the rural cooperatives in Minnesota opposed the bill and were upfront in saying that this will cost the ratepayers dearly, whether it costs them financially or by not having reliable electricity.

The North American Electric Reliability Corporation, otherwise known as NERC, recently put together their 2022 long-term reliability assessment. This document shows that both MISO and SPP have experienced maximum generation alerts in recent years and there are concerns at both organizations about having enough reliable electricity during times that we use more electricity than usual, because of very cold or very hot weather or when weather conditions don't allow for intermittent sources to produce electricity. MISO and SPP have told us time and time again that they are policy takers and not policy makers. I am hopeful that Concurrent Resolution 3014 sends a strong message that North Dakota is concerned about reliability. I urge you to give this a Do Pass Recommendation, and I'll stand for any questions you may have. Thank you.

ADVERTISEMENT

GREAT DEAL ON NEW F150'S
2023 FORD F150 SUPERCAB STX

MSRP \$49,455
DEALER DISCOUNTS - \$5,456
 LUTHER FAMILY PRICE
\$43,999

2.7L Ecoboost Turbo V6
 FordPass Connect Remote Start
 8" Touchscreen w/ Wireless Apple CarPlay/ Android Auto



Luther Family Ford
 www.lutherfamilyford.com
 701-282-2350
 800-307-4813
 3302 36th St. SW

Price good through April 3, 2023

Minnesota utilities must transition to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040



Democratic Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz displays a bill he signed into law at the St. Paul Labor Center on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, in St. Paul, Minn. The bill requires Minnesota utilities to get 100% of their electricity from carbon-free sources by 2040. (AP Photo/Steve Karnowski) (Steve Karnowski | AP)

By Gretchen Hjelmstad

Published: Feb. 8, 2023 at 9:36 AM CST



ST. PAUL (Valley News Live/KARE11) - Gov. Tim Walz signed a bill Tuesday designed to cut carbon emissions statewide while creating more clean-energy jobs.

With the signing of the bill, Minnesota utilities are now obligated to [transition to 100% carbon-free electricity by 2040](#) to step up the fight against climate change.

"What this bill does and makes it very clear that no longer is this debate about moving towards clean energy future on sustainability of the planet and our economic future are no longer divided, they run hand in hand," said Gov. Walz prior to Tuesday's signing.

According to the Clean Energy States Alliance, 21 other states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have [already established](#) some kind of 100% clean-energy standards or goals, most with target dates between 2040 and 2050.

ADVERTISEMENT

Minnesota's previous standard, set in 2007 by a Democratic-controlled Legislature and Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty, set a goal of reducing overall statewide greenhouse emissions to at least 15% below 2005 levels by 2015, 30% by 2025 and 80% by 2050.

State regulators reported last week that [Minnesota's greenhouse gas emissions declined](#) by 23% between 2005 and 2020 and said the state was on track to achieve 30% by 2025. The biggest drop was in power generation, where emissions fell 54% amid the switch from coal to renewable energy.

"The 100% Clean Energy bill is a great example of how we can address one of our largest sources of climate pollution while creating jobs and ensuring Minnesotan's energy remains reliable and affordable," said Conservation Minnesota's Executive Director Paul Austin in a press release. "We applaud Governor Walz and chief authors Senator Nick Frentz and Representative Jamie Long for their steadfast commitment to protecting our air, climate, and Great Outdoors. This bill shows how states can continue to move climate goals forward, and we look forward to continuing to advocate for the climate solutions Minnesotans need."

The bill aims to further shift utilities away from fossil fuels to wind and solar, but it also allows them to use hydropower, biomass, hydrogen and existing nuclear plants to go carbon-free. Utilities that can't quit coal or gas on their own could ask regulators to let them use "off ramps" to delay compliance, or they could use renewable energy credits to make up the difference.

ADVERTISEMENT

"Minnesota is not going to wait any longer, Minnesotans are not going to wait any longer," said Walz. "They've made it clear — they make it clear with their voices, they make it clear with their advocacy, they make it clear with their votes — that they expect movement around climate change to happen and it is happening today."

Minnesota's biggest utility, Xcel Energy, supports the legislation, saying it fits with the company's own goals, even though officials say they're not exactly sure yet how they'll get all the way to carbon-free by 2040. But the state's smaller rural electric cooperatives and municipal power systems say it will be a lot harder for them and that the costs to their customers will be high.

"In the years ahead, we will replace coal generation with wind and solar, extend the use of carbon-free nuclear energy, and explore new energy storage technologies," said Chris Clark, president, Xcel Energy–Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota. "As we continue the energy transition, we remain committed to supporting the communities our facilities are located in and providing all of our customers with safe, reliable and affordable energy."

Republican North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum and other top officials in his state threatened last week to sue Minnesota if the bill is enacted, saying it would prevent North Dakota utilities from continuing to export power generated from coal and gas to Minnesota.

ADVERTISEMENT

GOP critics in Minnesota have dubbed it a "blackout bill," saying that it will undermine the reliability of the state's power grid — especially on the coldest winter nights and hottest summer days — in addition to forcing consumers to pay higher energy costs.

"What the Governor criticizes as 'Gridlock' is the constitutional restraint on unlimited government power — what our Founders described as the tyranny of the Majority. Broad far-reaching legislation, such as the Governor's 'Clean Energy Bill', should not be adopted on slim partisan majorities," said Minnesota GOP Chairman David Hann in a statement. "Republicans, and all Minnesotans, support clean energy but trying to force the entire economy to function on 100% renewable energy overnight is foolishness of the highest order. Republicans offered an ['all of the above' approach](#) to provide cleaner energy in Minnesota while making sure we have a safety net of reliable and proven energy sources. Every single Democrat voted against it.

"By signing the 'Blackout Bill' into law, Governor Walz and the DFL are putting one of the coldest states in the nation on a path to rolling blackouts and energy uncertainty. Our economy depends on affordable, reliable energy. Minnesotans want common sense bi-partisan solutions to the challenges we face. Governor Walz and Democrats are failing to listen to all Minnesotans."