



---

## ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSMISSION COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Betty Hagel Memorial Civic Center, 312 North Lincoln Avenue  
Center, North Dakota

- 9:00 a.m. Call to order  
Roll call  
Consideration of the [minutes of the November 6, 2025, meeting](#)
- 9:05 a.m. Opening remarks from Mr. Dave Berger, Vice Chairman, Oliver County Board of Commissioners
- 9:10 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Matt Perdue, President, North Dakota Farmers Union, regarding the role and experience of North Dakota Farmers Union in development projects involving landowners, including public outreach, public comment processes, and considerations of landowner rights
- 9:35 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Thomas Bodine, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, regarding the department's ombudsman programs
- 9:50 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Brant Johnson, Senior Vice President, Development, Grid United, regarding the role and experience of Grid United in development projects involving landowners, including public outreach, public comment processes, and considerations of landowner rights
- 10:15 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Danette Welsh, Director, Government Relations, and Mr. Tom Giltner, Senior Manager, Real Estate Services, ONEOK, Inc., regarding the role and experience of the organization in development projects involving landowners, including public outreach, public comment processes, and considerations of landowner rights
- 10:40 a.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Mike Murray, Director of Property and Right of Way, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, regarding the role and experience of Basin Electric Power Cooperative in development projects involving landowners, including public outreach, public comment processes, and considerations of landowner rights
- 11:05 a.m. Presentation by Mr. Steve Cottingham, Vice-Chairperson, McLean County Commission, regarding local ordinances, early engagement in project development, and the benefits of appropriate industrial siting
- 11:30 a.m. Public comments
- 11:45 a.m. Recess
- 12:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Levi Andrist, Attorney, GA Group, representing Wind Industry of North Dakota, regarding an overview of the wind industry in North Dakota
- 12:45 p.m. [Presentation](#) by the Legislative Council staff of a background memorandum regarding the committee's study on geothermal energy
- 12:50 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Tyler Hamman, Assistant Vice President for Strategic Partnerships, Energy & Environmental Research Center, regarding the feasibility of generating power from geothermal resources in the state

- 1:30 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Dr. Moones Alamooti, Teaching Assistant Professor, Energy and Petroleum Engineering, University of North Dakota, regarding the state's geothermal geology, repurposing nonproductive oil and gas wells, and opportunities for economic growth and innovation
- 2:10 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Ms. Jessica Eagle-Bluestone, Tribal Community Engagement Manager, Geothermal Rising, regarding geothermal energy in the state
- 2:45 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Joe Hoppe, Manager of Legislative Affairs, Otter Tail Power Company, regarding an update on the Abercrombie Solar project
- 3:00 p.m. [Presentation](#) by Mr. Clay Cameron, Executive Director of Development, NextEra Energy Resources, regarding an overview of the siting process at NextEra Energy Resources
- 3:25 p.m. Public comment
- 3:40 p.m. Committee discussion
- 3:45 p.m. Adjourn

**A livestream of the meeting will be available to the public at: <https://video.ndlegis.gov>.**

#### **Committee Members**

Representatives: Anna S. Novak (Chairman), Dick Anderson, Mike Brandenburg, Austin Foss, Pat D. Heinert, Dustin McNally, Alisa Mitskog, Todd Porter  
Senators: Brad Bekkedahl, Keith Boehm, Ryan Braunberger, Mark Enget, Kathy Hogan, Greg Kessel, Kent Weston, Desiree van Oosting

Staff Contact: Austin Gunderson, Counsel