



Six North Dakota legislators honored for work on easing transmission plan filing requirement

Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) recognizes state Senators Jerry Klein (R-Fessenden), Philip Murphy (D-Portland), and Larry Robinson (D-Valley City) and Representatives Jeff Delzer (R-Underwood), David Monson (R-Osnabrock), and Don Vigesaa (R-Cooperstown), for their work in authoring North Dakota Senate Bill 2139, which changed the 10-year transmission plan filing requirement to every other year.

As a CapX2020 participant, MRES is a first-time owner/participant in a large, multi-state high-voltage transmission line. As such, MRES is subject to the requirements of North Dakota law 49-22-04 which requires each utility that owns or operates a transmission facility to develop a 10-year transmission plan and submit it to the Public Service Commission each year.

As a small municipal power agency serving only six cities in North Dakota, MRES found that the 10-year plan filing went well beyond the 34 miles of transmission MRES owns in North Dakota and extended to resource planning, requiring a 19-page filing every year, including exhibits and graphs. SB 2139 streamlined this requirement by allowing utilities to file on a bi-annual basis instead of yearly. It will reduce the red-tape and redundancy that is rampant throughout the utility industry and will make the reporting mean more to the public. Additionally, it was amended in the Senate to make the filing deadline consistent with South Dakota's, which also will streamline our work by making similar state filings due at the same time.

We again thank these Senators and Representatives for their work in assisting MRES in streamlining regulatory rules and saving our members money by eliminating redundancy.