

Montana teachers invited to coal seminar for credit

Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the Lignite Energy Council and the American Coal Foundation are sponsoring a teacher seminar titled *Lignite - Our Regional Resource: Energy, Economics and Environment* at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, ND, June 14-16, 2005 according to Sheryl Massey, Basin Electric government relations assistant. The cost of the seminar and travel to it will be paid by Basin Electric Power Cooperative for South Dakota, Minnesota, and Montana teachers.

Now in its 20th year, Massey says the seminar provides teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite coal industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to consumers, farmers and businesses. The seminar includes discussions on how lignite coal is mined and converted into energy. The industry's economic impact on the region will also be discussed.

The seminar includes tours of a lignite mine, a power plant fueled by lignite, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The Synfuels Plant converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts. A tour of the visitor's center at Fort Mandan is included. Fort Mandan is the location where the Lewis & Clark Expedition spent its first winter. The visitor's center was constructed with the use of coal combustion byproducts.

The seminar is being held in cooperation with Bismarck State College and the Center for Economic Education at the University of North Dakota. Teachers can earn one semester graduate credit (economics – University of North Dakota) by successfully completing the seminar requirements.

Teachers from all grade levels are encouraged to apply to the program but earth science, social studies and energy education teachers will be placed first. Teachers will also receive an education program for their classrooms.

Registration information will be available soon on the Basin Electric Web site at www.basinelectric.com/lignite/index.htm. The Lignite Energy Council is sponsoring North Dakota teachers. Teachers can find more details on the seminar at www.lignite-energy-council.org/teachers/information/index.html.

Selected teachers will be required to send in a \$60 deposit that will be held and returned when registering on the first day of the seminar June 14, 2005. They should not send the \$60 deposit until they have been confirmed to attend.

For further information or to register contact Sheryl Massey at 1717 E. Interstate Ave., Bismarck, ND 58503. You may also call her at 1-800-242-2372 or e-mail her at smassey@bepc.com.