

ND Industrial Commission approves additional Allam Cycle funding

Basin Electric - 05/24/16

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The [North Dakota Industrial Commission](#) approved a grant request of \$3.5 million to continue research on the Allam Cycle at its meeting May 23 in Bismarck, ND.

The decision followed a unanimous May 19 recommendation by the [Lignite Research Council](#) to fund the grant request.

The request was made by the [Energy & Environmental Research Center](#); Basin Electric; [8 Rivers](#); and [ALLETE, Inc.](#), along with ALLETE subsidiaries [BNI Coal](#) and [Minnesota Power](#). Basin Electric and ALLETE have each committed to contributing matching funds and in-kind services supporting the work.

The Industrial Commission approved \$1.48 million in funding for the project in 2015.

The vision for the Allam Cycle consists of gasifying lignite coal to produce synthetic natural gas, which would then be used along with oxygen and carbon dioxide (CO₂) to drive a turbine generator.

The technology could provide [Dakota Gasification Company](#) another source of [marketable CO₂](#) to be used for enhanced oil recovery or other purposes, and provide Basin Electric a more efficient and CO₂ emission-free way of generating electricity using lignite coal.

A first-of-its-kind plant using natural gas will start up in Texas in 2017, along with a more in-depth study using lignite to make synthetic natural gas in North Dakota. Basin Electric will monitor the technology's development and participate in the North Dakota study.