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News Release

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Basin Electric encourages Americans to “Find a Better Solution” Cooperative launches regional climate change campaign

Bismarck, N.D. – The world cannot ignore the problem of global climate change. But can every American afford the solution?

That’s what Basin Electric is asking Americans in a regional ad campaign that begins Monday, May 26. The print and radio campaign will run in North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Montana.

“The U.S. Senate will soon be considering the Lieberman-Warner Climate Bill,” says Ron Harper, Basin Electric CEO and general manager. “This single piece of legislation could have detrimental effects on not only our electric consumers, but to the economy as whole. Can we really afford thousands more in electric bills and in goods and services when we’re facing the possibility of \$5 gasoline? Is this the responsible solution for Americans? Basin Electric whole-heartedly supports reasonable climate change legislation, but Congress must find solutions that keep costs down and electricity available and reliable.”

Basin Electric is urging Americans to go to www.findabettersolution.com – going live May 26 – to contact their U.S. Senators and urge them to develop a climate change plan that allows for a clean and healthy environment without further hurting the economy. “With reasonable timetables and investments in technology, we can solve the problem without unreasonable costs to Americans,” Harper says.

Basin Electric is urging Americans to ask their congressional delegations three questions when considering climate change legislation:

- Experts say our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
- What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?
- Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

Harper says, “This campaign is about all of us working together to come to a well-planned, responsible solution to this energy challenge. The people of this world deserve that much. Our mission has always been to serve our members with reliable, clean and affordable energy. That mission stands firm today. Is it possible to deal with climate change and have a healthy economy? We need to tell Congress, it has to be.”

Go to www.findabettersolution.com for more information.

ABOUT BASIN ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

Basin Electric is a consumer-owned, regional cooperative headquartered in Bismarck. It generates and transmits electricity to 126 member rural electric systems in nine states: Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. These member systems distribute electricity to about 2.6 million consumers.

Basin Electric's generating resources include: two coal-based power plants in North Dakota – the Antelope Valley Station, Beulah, and the Leland Olds Station, Stanton; a coal-based power plant in Wyoming – the Laramie River Station, Wheatland; three peaking stations – the Spirit Mound Station, Vermillion, S.D.; the Groton Generation Station 1, Groton, S.D., and the Wisdom Unit 2 Station, Spencer, Iowa; nine combustion-turbine generators (natural gas) in the Gillette, Wyo., area; four wind turbines – two near Minot, N.D., and two near Chamberlain, S.D.; the energy produced from four baseload waste-heat stations owned and operated by Ormat Technologies Inc. along the Northern Border Pipeline, and the output of three wind farms owned and operated by FPL Energy, Juno Beach, Fla. The wind farms are located near Wilton and Edgeley/Kulm, N.D.; the other is near Highmore, S.D. For more information, go to www.basinelectric.com.

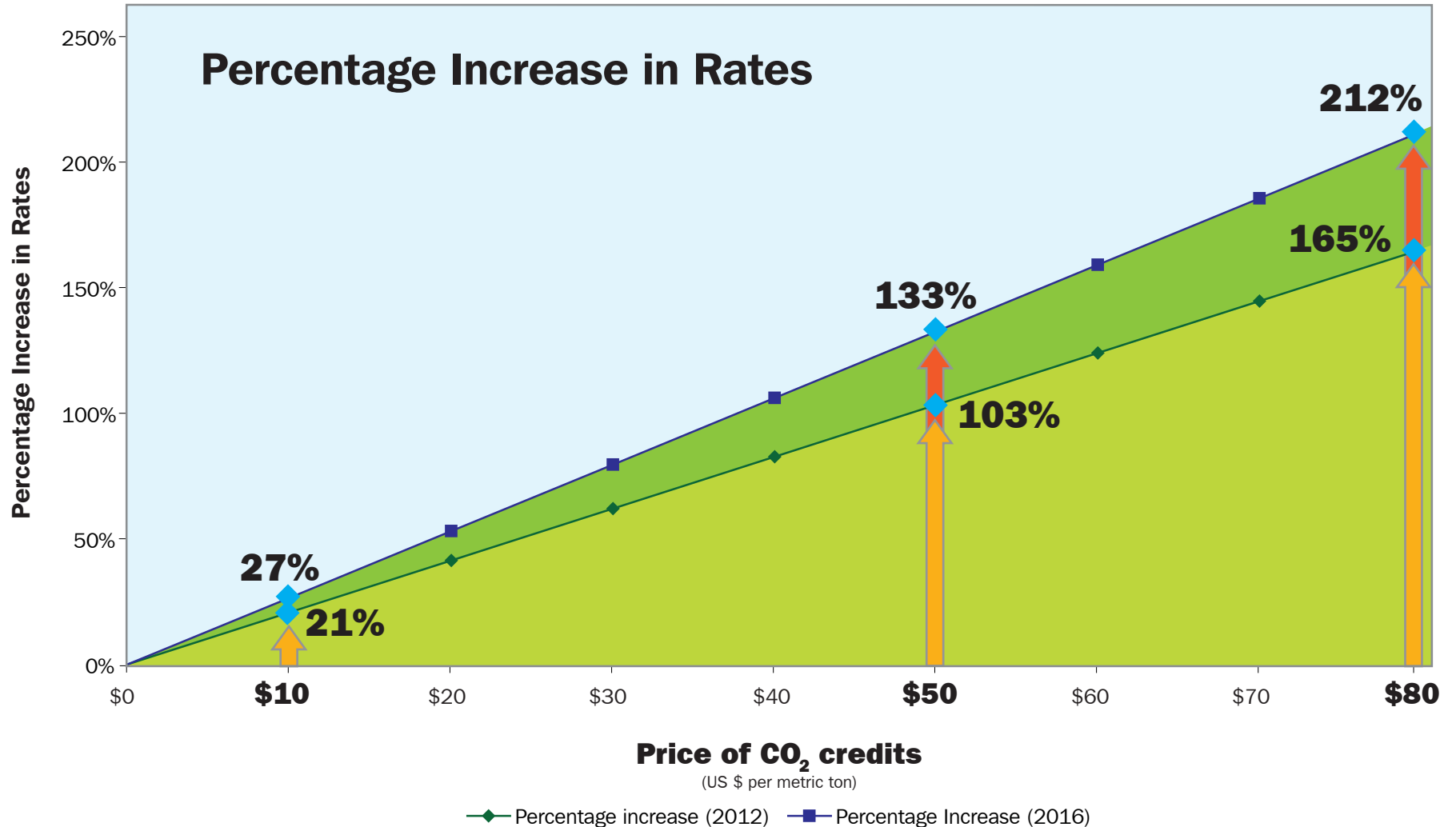


"Find a Better Solution" talking points

- In December 2007, the Lieberman-Warner Climate Bill was passed by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. If this bill passes through Congress and is signed into law, there will be costly consequences.
- The bill essentially taxes carbon dioxide, which among other things is a byproduct of coal-based power production. More than 50 percent of the nation relies on electricity produced using coal because it's a domestic, reliable fuel.
- However, this bill would have immediate impacts on all Americans. Initial analysis of the bill estimates dramatic increases to the wholesale rates to Basin Electric's members. Ultimately, the financial burden will be borne by the end consumer.
- Basin Electric is not opposed to reasonable climate legislation. The Lieberman-Warner bill, as proposed, calls for unrealistic goals and timetables that may dramatically increase costs to consumers. With reasonable timetables and investments in technology, we can solve the problem without unreasonable costs to Americans.
- Basin Electric stands ready to help solve the issue of climate change. We are responsible for the largest carbon capture project in the world and have proposed one of the most aggressive new technology programs anywhere in the world. We believe that through the development of new technology we can keep our energy supply clean and reliable, we can have a strong economy, and we can solve the issue of climate change.
- Right now, members of Congress as well as state elected officials are hearing from many different interest groups who have ideas about how to address climate change. No one is talking to consumers, however. We need a plan people can live with today while we create a real solution to the problem of climate change. Start today by asking your elected officials these three questions:
 - Experts say that our nation's growing electricity needs will soon go well beyond what renewables, conservation and efficiency can provide. What is your plan to make sure we have the electricity we'll need in the future?
 - What are you doing to fully fund the research required to make emissions-free electric plants an affordable reality?
 - Balancing electricity needs and environmental goals will be difficult. How much is all this going to increase my electric bill and what will you do to make it affordable?

www.findabetersolution.com

Climate Change Legislation Potential Impact to Basin Electric Power Cooperative



This chart is based on Senator Barbara Boxer's proposed amendment to the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act (S. 3036). It assumes that Basin Electric will receive 25% of the allowances to cover our total emissions of CO₂ in 2012 and 23% in 2016. The bottom line represents the estimated increase in rates in 2012. The top line represents the total estimated increase in rates in 2016. The chart assumes an average rate of 4.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

The chart assumes Dakota Gasification Company will receive allowances equal to 100% of its CO₂ emissions in each year from 2012 through 2015, based on Early Action Credits for carbon capture and sequestration contained in the bill. Starting in 2016, those early action credits disappear, and DGC will need to purchase credits equal to 100% of its CO₂ emissions. Finally, the chart assumes the Dry Fork Station in Wyoming and the NextGen Plant in South Dakota will be on line in 2012 and 2016 respectively. Both new plants do not currently receive any free allowances under the proposed bill.