

Workforce Issues & Needs Panel Discussion

The purpose of this panel is to provide teachers with an open forum to discuss workforce issues, needs and concerns with representatives from the industry.

I. Introductions (See biographical sketches on following page)

- Moderator
- Panel Members

II. Opening Statements

- Panel members make opening statements explaining their involvement with lignite-related issues

III. Questions and Answers

- Seminar participants ask panel members questions on lignite-related issues and concerns

IV. Closing Statements

- Panel members make brief closing remarks

V. Conclusion

- Moderator makes closing remarks

Environmental Issues Panel Discussion

Moderator

Jason Bohrer's background as an attorney, a communications director for the Idaho Republican Party and, most recently, chief of staff to U.S. Rep. Raul Labrador (R-Idaho) provide a diverse skillset in his role as president and chief executive officer of the Lignite Energy Council. He is a graduate of North Dakota State University and earned his law degree from George Mason University. For the past nine years he has lived in Washington, D.C. Besides his work with Rep. Labrador, he also is a former legislative counsel for U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho).

Panel Members

Dan Dorfschmidt is Operations Manager for Butler Machinery in Western ND. Butler is your Caterpillar equipment dealer for North and South Dakota. During his career Dan has held various engineering and management positions in both the oil and gas and mining industries. Prior to joining the Butler Team, Dan was a Butler Machinery customer holding the position of Mine Superintendent at Goldcorp's Wharf gold mine in Lead SD. Dan has a degree in Geological Engineering from SD School of Mines.

Bruce Emmil is the Associate Vice President of the National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College. In this position, Bruce is responsible for the overall day-to-day operations of the NECE which consists of twelve Program Certificate and/or Associate in Applied Science degreed energy programs, one Bachelor of Applied Science in Energy Management degreed program and various non-credit energy training initiatives and apprenticeship programs. Before joining Bismarck State College in 2001, Bruce spent 13+ years working in the generation sector of the energy industry for Northeast Utilities.

David Farnsworth is the Manager of Power Generation and Engineering Services for the North Dakota lignite-fired power stations for Great River Energy, a Generation and Transmission utility company serving much of Minnesota and a small portion of Wisconsin. In his role, Mr. Farnsworth has overseen numerous large outages and construction projects, as well as major plant efficiency improvements, such as the retrofit of a large power plant with the patented DryFining technology. David Farnsworth has spent 38 years in the operation, maintenance, construction, and upgrades of nuclear and coal-fired power plants in the United States. Mr. Farnsworth is a Professional Engineer, has his Master's of Business Administration Degree, and is a Chairperson for a program with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). He has been deeply involved over the past 15 years in expanding the training programs, skill sets, and labor supply for those serving the Energy industry in North Dakota. For the past five years David has served as the Chair for the ND Governor's Workforce Development Council.

Jay Volk is the environmental manager for BNI Coal where he has been employed for the last 11 years. His department's responsibilities include permitting, environmental compliance, land management, geology, and leasing. Prior to his mining career, Jay was involved in consulting and research. Jay earned a Ph.D. from North Dakota State University and is a native of Bismarck/Mandan.