



North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

MEDIA RELEASE

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North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
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Steering committee names consultant for refinery study

Mandan, N.D.—A steering committee of oil industry leaders formed to analyze whether it's feasible to increase oil refinery capacity in North Dakota has selected The Corval Group, with offices in St. Paul, Minn., and Beulah, N.D., to conduct the study.

The Corval Group teamed with Purvin & Gertz, Inc. (PGI) and Mustang Engineering, both based in Houston, Texas, as partners in the study.

“The steering committee selected The Corval Group and their partners because of their keen understanding of the North Dakota oil industry,” said Dennis Hill, spokesperson for the study, who also serves as general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), Mandan. “The Corval Group also best responded to the committee’s top priority of determining if there’s a business case that can be made to increase refining capacity in our state, before work is done on building or expanding refinery capacity.”

NDAREC was authorized last year to conduct a study on the feasibility of increasing oil refinery capacity in the state. The funding for this oil refinery capacity study was provided by the U.S. Department of Energy, through the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) and was secured by Sen. Byron Dorgan. NDAREC is project administrator for the \$415,000 study, which is scheduled to be completed by July 2010.

The study will be conducted in two parts, according to Hill. In Phase I, the study will analyze whether a business case can be made to increase oil-refining capacity in North Dakota. If that result is promising, Phase II of the study would describe refinery logistics, configuration, capital costs and potential site locations.

The study is being led by an oil industry steering committee, co-chaired by Sen. Rich Wardner, Dickinson, and Rep. Kenton Onstad, Parshall. The steering committee includes representatives from the production, pipeline, refinery and petroleum marketing companies doing business in North Dakota. An advisory committee of leaders and officials representing industry associations, state government, economic development agencies, energy providers and higher education has also helped with the study design and decision making.

“The Corval Group is very proud to have been selected for this important work,” said Jim Simon, executive vice president of Corval Group. “Our team offers extensive refinery-based engineering,

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marketing, construction and maintenance expertise needed to provide a useful analysis for potential refining capacity expansion in the state of North Dakota. This study will be headed by Kurt Swenson, vice president of Northwest Region at Corval's Beulah office."

Purvin & Gertz is an independent energy consulting firm that provides technical, commercial and strategic advice. Purvin & Gertz specializes in serving clients involved in the production, processing, transportation and marketing of oil, natural gas and gas liquids, and petroleum products. With headquarters in Houston, the firm operates through an international network of offices in Buenos Aires, Calgary, Dubai, Long Beach, London, Moscow and Singapore. Purvin & Gertz is an employee-owned consulting company, independent of any parent company, engineering firm, equipment manufacturer or process licensor. For more information, please contact Rob Vermette at rovermette@purvingertz.com or 713-331-4000, or visit www.purvingertz.com.

Mustang provides services to the global oil, gas, chemical and manufacturing industries, specializing in design, engineering, procurement, project management and construction management and offers these services through its six business units: upstream oil and gas, midstream, pipeline, automation and control, refining and petrochemicals, and process and industrial. Mustang, a Wood Group company, has offices in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, India and the Middle East. For more information, visit www.mustangeng.com.

Corval Group, based in St. Paul, Minn., has served customers since 1921. Corval Group is a fully integrated construction, fabrication and solutions management company that provides specialized expertise in project development, engineering, technology application, construction, maintenance and facilities management that drives bottom-line results. Corval Group serves customers in a wide variety of industries from strategically located offices across North America. For more information, please contact Kurt Swenson kswenson@corvalgroup.com at 701-873-2290, or visit www.corvalgroup.com

NDAREC is the statewide trade association for 16 local electric cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives operating in North Dakota. The local cooperatives provide electricity to nearly 250,000 North Dakotans via 130,000 meters. NDAREC services include legislative advocacy, lineworker safety training and professional development services, and cooperative business development. It also publishes the *North Dakota LIVING* magazine.

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