

Celebrating 25 years



Dakota Gasification Company

The diligence, work ethic and standard of excellence of employees throughout the years have made Dakota Gas a star in the international spotlight. In the 1980s American Natural Gas (ANG) began construction on a synfuels plant to reduce our country's dependence on foreign energy. The plant began commercial operation in 1984, but natural gas prices crashed, and ANG abandoned the project, leaving it to the U.S. Department of Energy. Dakota Gas purchased the plant in 1988 as the plant still faced financial uncertainties. Through it all, directors, management and employees stood fast, increased operational efficiencies, and adjusted financial strategies. Today the Synfuels Plant is an international leader in coal gasification. The plant is one of only a few in the world to capture and transport its carbon dioxide for geologic sequestration.



ANG and Basin Electric sign a co-generation agreement where Basin Electric would build a power plant (Antelope Valley Station) at the gasification site. Plants would use joint facilities. Agreements were renegotiated in late 1978.

1976

1978

1980

Antelope Valley Station

For the past 25 years, Antelope Valley has been the number-one destination for tours in Basin Electric's power plant fleet. In the 1970s, studies projected annual load growth of more than 9 percent into the 1980s. Construction began on the two unit, 900-megawatt Antelope Valley Station in 1978. The plant provides 120 megawatts of energy to the Great Plains Synfuels Plant and shares both water treatment and coal handling facilities with them. In addition, coal fines from the Synfuels Plant are burned at Antelope Valley. Since 1986, the two units at Antelope Valley have set numerous generation, continuous run and availability records. The power plant is the site for a planned demonstration project to capture and sequester carbon dioxide. The project could lead to the commercialization of carbon capture technology.

Construction moves forward on Unit 1 in the winter.



Turbine base is set for units 1 and 2.



Construction begins. North Dakota Gov. Allen Olson (left) and Sen. Mark Andrews (right) host Energy Department Secretary James Edwards on a tour.



In September, Basin Electric forms Dakota Gasification Company, which assumes ownership of the Great Plains Synfuels Plant on Oct. 31. Kent Janssen became Dakota Gas's chief operating officer and Al Lukes the plant manager.



Great Plains Gasification Associates announces the consortium will abandon the gasification project and default on the federal loan.



First carbon dioxide enters pipeline from the Synfuels Plant to Canada.

1981

1984

1985

1988

2000

2002

2006



Spokesman Daryl Hill (pointing) guides a tour. Unit 1 was declared commercial on July 1, 1984.



A distributed control system is installed in Unit 2; Unit 1's was installed in 2001.

Antelope Valley set two more all-time records: 7,106,993 net megawatts in total generation and 98.18 percent plant availability.

