

May 29-30, 2008

ITEM 139-2008-R0508

Authorization to Grant an Easement to the United States Department of Energy on the Northern Agricultural Research Center; Montana Agricultural Experiment Station (MAES)-Montana State University-Bozeman

THAT:

The Board of Regents of Higher Education authorizes the Dean and Director, Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, Montana State University, to execute the necessary easement agreement granting an easement on the Northern Agricultural Research Center in Hill County, Montana to the United States Department of Energy

EXPLANATION:

US Department of Energy seeks a perpetual easement and right-of-way for electric power and transmission purposes across the Northern Agricultural Research Center at Montana State University. Board of Regents Policy 1003.6 allows for approval of easements by the Board of Regents upon a showing of fair value received. The federal government is required to compensate landowners for the fair value of the land. The payment negotiated by the MSU officials in this case exceeds the usual federal per acre payment for the easement because of additional expense related to the relocation of irrigation equipment necessitated by the use of the land in question. The easement's value has been set at \$28,000, which campus officials believe represents a fair value for the easement.