

# Your Questions Answered:

## The Toronto Power Plant & June 2 Election

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### What are we voting on?

In Deuel County, the June 2 election will include a ballot question about whether to rezone a piece of land near Toronto.

- The Deuel County Commission APPROVED rezoning this land from **Agricultural** → **Commercial/Industrial** so Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) can build a backup dual-fuel natural gas power plant.
- This project is **NOT affiliated** with any proposed data centers.
- The plant's purpose is to keep energy reliable for homes, farms and businesses across the region.

### On June 2, Deuel County voters will decide whether to uphold the County Commission's rezoning decision:

- A **"YES" vote** approves the rezoning and allows the Toronto Power Plant to move forward.
- A **"NO" vote** rejects the rezoning decision.

### How would the Toronto Power Plant benefit Deuel County?

**If approved by voters, the plant is expected to bring the following local benefits:**

- **Local tax revenue:** Add about \$750,000 in tax revenue each year for Deuel County schools, roads and services.
- **Economic impact:** Increase activity and spending at local businesses. Create 5-6 permanent, long-term operations jobs filled by people who live in the area.
- **Community partnership:** MRES is committed to being a good long-term neighbor. That means listening to residents, staying responsive and continuing to support local priorities like scholarships, school backpack programs, EMS-training sponsorships and library programs.

### Who is MRES?

**MRES is a South Dakota-based not for profit, community-owned public power provider** owned by 61 member communities — not shareholders or outside investors.

In South Dakota, we serve the communities of Watertown, Brookings, Flandreau, Big Stone City, Beresford, Vermillion, Fort Pierre, Pickstown, Pierre, Burke, Faith and Winner.

For over 60 years, we have earned trust through transparency, presence and long-term partnership with the communities where we operate.

## What kind of power plant is this?

The proposed Toronto Power Plant is a peaking natural gas plant designed to provide dependable backup power when it's needed most — such as during extreme weather, or when solar and wind power are not available.

- **Small footprint:** It would be located close to an existing natural gas pipeline near Toronto to limit new construction, reduce land impacts and minimize the overall footprint.
- **Limited operations:** It would only run during periods of high demand to help prevent outages and keep energy reliable. The plant is expected to run about 20% of the time — not around the clock like large industrial projects in the area.

## Is the Toronto Power Plant related to any data centers?

**No.** The natural gas power plant would help meet the long-term electricity needs of the 61 existing MRES member communities – not new projects like data centers.

## What is being done to protect quality of life in the area?

The project is carefully designed to protect quality of life in Deuel County and keep the overall footprint as small as possible, including:

- Limited operating hours (not continuous use)
- Enclosed equipment to help reduce noise
- Directed lighting to limit light spill
- Restoration of wetlands and natural grasses surrounding the facility

A study by the *South Dakota First Association of Local Governments* found the plant can be developed without major social, economic or environmental impacts — while providing local tax benefits and supporting reliable energy for the region.

## Where and when can I vote?



**Tuesday, June 2, 2026**



**7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**



**In person at your regular Primary Election polling place**

*If you're unsure where to vote, contact the Deuel County Auditor.*

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## Connect with Us!

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