



Big thanks and big checks went to two Mercer County fire departments. (From left) Floyd Robb of Basin Electric; Dan Wettstein and Tom Beery of Hazen; Dallas Maas of Stanton; Dick Sorenson, Mercer County emergency manager; and Bob Weir, LOS scrubber construction supervisor.

## Basin Electric thanks Stanton, Hazen volunteer fire departments

By Erin Huntimer

**T**here are many ways to say, “Thank you,” and on the Monday before Thanksgiving, Basin Electric tapped all of them: grateful words, hearty handshakes, and big checks. The chiefs of the Stanton and Hazen rural fire departments happily accepted a donation from Basin Electric in appreciation for their efforts to contain a recent fire at the Leland Olds Station.

The Stanton Rural Fire Protection District received \$4,000, and Hazen Fire and Rescue received \$10,000. The presentation was made by Basin Electric Spokesman Floyd Robb in a brief ceremony at the Hazen Fire Hall on Nov. 24.

“While words certainly can express our appreciation for the work of the Stanton and Hazen fire departments, we know that it takes investment to maintain and purchase equipment. That is why we are pleased to make these cash donations,” Robb said.

The incident occurred the night of Oct. 14 when a fire broke out in a contractor’s building at the Leland Olds Station scrubber construction site near Stanton, ND. Volunteers from the Stanton Rural Fire Protection District under the direction of chief Dallas Maas were the first on the scene. Tom Beery and other volunteers from Hazen Fire and Rescue also responded. Beery served as incident commander on site. No one was injured, and the fire was suppressed.

Beery and Maas both reflected on the positive outcome of what could have been a dangerous situation. At the time

the fire was discovered, it was assumed there may have been hazardous emissions from the fire because of various chemicals stored in the building, which was being used to construct fiberglass liners for Leland Olds’ new chimney.



Fire fighters from Stanton and Hazen responded to quickly suppress the fire at the scrubber construction site.

The primary concern for chemicals was focused on a tanker trailer that contained resins needed to build the fiberglass liners. Thanks to the fast action by the Stanton and Hazen fire departments, the tanker was protected and did not burn.

Investigators from the North Dakota Department of Health have reviewed the incident. Based upon their analysis, it’s been determined there were insignificant impacts resulting from the

fire. There was no release of any contaminants that would pose a potential impact to health or safety.

Dan Wettstein of Hazen Fire and Rescue thanked Basin Electric for the support. He said the donation from Basin Electric will help the fire department purchase new equipment and set it up.

Despite the fire, the Leland Olds scrubber construction remains on schedule. A replacement fabrication building was relocated from West Virginia to the Leland Olds Station. The Unit 2 scrubber is scheduled to be operational in the fall of 2009, and Unit 1 in the fall of 2010.

*Editor’s note: Basin Electric also made a donation to the Campbell County Fire Department in Wyoming. See page 13 for details.*