

OGRP Quarterly NEWSLETTER



This quarterly newsletter is produced by the Oil & Gas Research Program (OGRP) to provide periodic information and updates on Program activities to the citizens of North Dakota. It is the objective of this newsletter to report on the use of ND tax dollars to further promote ND resources for the economic benefit of the state.

From Director's Desk

As industry continues to puzzle its way through oil market forecasts and budgets, this oil play will continue to evolve. Our program is an essential tool focusing on continued research and development that will push the envelope of today's technologies to benefit tomorrow's North Dakota.

OGRP recently announced funding awards for a variety of new technologies currently under development. We hope these updates help to convey the ways in which we are serving as facilitators of technological innovation.

On another topic, we would like to thank Terry Kovacevich with Marathon Oil for his past 3 years' service as a council member. We also welcome Steve McNally from Hess Corporation as the newest member of the Oil & Gas Research Council (OGRC). The service of all the OGRC members demonstrates their commitment to responsibly developing this North Dakota resource. Their time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Brent Brannan
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OGRP Director

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA OIL & GAS RESEARCH PROGRAM

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Jack Dalrymple

Attorney General
Wayne Stenehjem

Agriculture Commissioner
Doug Goehring

Director
Brent Brannan

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Oil and Gas Research Council is to promote the growth of the oil and gas industry through research and education.

Recent Program Achievements

OGRP Awards Research Funding to Several Projects

For more information on any of the following awards, please go to <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ogr/>.

Oil Can! Program **North Dakota Petroleum Council**

The objective of the North Dakota Petroleum Council's Oil Can! Program is to open the lines of communication and improve understanding between the petroleum industry of North Dakota and key stakeholder groups such as property owners, royalty owners, policymakers, community leaders, media, and the general public. This grant proposal consists of three objectives: education, outreach, and marketing and promotion. Specific components of these three objectives include educational sessions, CookFest, Pick Up the Patch!, Teachers Education Seminar, Energy Career Awareness Partnership (ECAP), Oil Can! Power Kids' Futures Program, advertising, branding and promotion, media and policymaker education and outreach, and Web site and social media. Discretionary funding is also set aside for potential hot topics or issues that may arise in the next few years.

Reduction of Flares and Capture of Natural Gas Liquids with Vortex Tools Bakken Frontier, LLC

The project will seek to build upon past successes achieved in Texas with the use of the Vortex tool to capture natural gas liquids and reduce the amount of flaring in the Bakken. The Vortex tool can aid in the following objectives:

- Increase productivity and efficiency on current oil and gas wells with minimal intervention.
- Increase revenues and provide long-term benefit for North Dakota by increasing productivity and profitability of its oil and gas resources.
- Improve year-round operations by eliminating vapors at high-ambient daytime temperatures in summer and low temperatures (below zero) in winter, proving the viability of this process in the tough ND weather conditions.
- Increase product values that were previously lost to flaring, and ensure candidate wells will be in compliance with current and future environmental standards.

Demonstration of the Mini-GTL® Zero Flare Solution™ **GasTechno Energy and Fuels (USA), LLC**

The objective of this demonstration is to validate an innovative, profitable solution to eliminate the growing problem of associated gas flaring. With this project, GasTechno® will implement a full life cycle Zero Flare Solution™ to eliminate associated gas flaring via conversion to commercially salable liquid chemicals. This project will achieve the following objectives:

- Implement GasTechno Energy and Fuels' patented Miniature Gas-to-Liquids (Mini-GTL®) technology known as the GasTechno® process that eliminates associated gas flaring at the wellhead in North Dakota to meet increasingly stringent regulatory requirements.
- Utilize the GasTechno® Mini-GTL® process to convert associated gas into easily transportable, commercially salable, biodegradable, and environmentally friendly liquid fuels and chemicals.
- Quantify the full life cycle Zero Flare Solution™ economic and emission reduction benefits from the elimination of associated gas flaring.

Waterline Crossing Wrap Pilot Project **BOE Midstream, LLC**

The objective of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of protecting water supply lines from potential crude oil contamination where the pipelines overlap by wrapping the water supply pipelines with VISCOTAQ®PVC Outer Wrap (VISCOTAQ) as an alternative to casing water supply pipelines with polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe or casing crude pipeline in steel.

Rotorcraft Aerial Pipeline Inspection **Double M Helicopters, Inc., and 10-Code, LLC**

Double M Helicopters, Inc., and 10-Code, LLC, are partnering to use a helicopter aerial platform and advanced visual identification and monitoring equipment to improve accuracy of aerial inspection and reconnaissance of hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipelines in North Dakota. The proposed project will increase the frequency of detection as compared to current fixed-wing aerial and ground practices; produce baseline computer enhanced visual and thermal imaging data of transmission pipeline infrastructure and surrounding environments; reduce investigation, mitigation, and remediation responses and costs based on more accurate initial fugitive emission detection and data; and enable more accurate enforcement of criminal and environmental regulations based on improved visual investigative techniques and intelligence data.

THE DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE NEXT OGRP ROUND IS JUNE 1, 2015.

Additionally, on September 15, 2014, OGRP voted to recommend \$200,000 in funding to C3 Corporation for a research project that intends to develop an automated system that can rapidly segregate nonradioactive oilfield waste from radioactive oilfield NORM (naturally occurring radioactive material) wastes. This system is being developed by C3 Corporation. C3 Corporation believes the project will demonstrate that a low-cost, low-staffing solution to on-site waste segregation can be made available and implemented quickly in North Dakota oil fields.

How Can You Learn More about Us?

Scan the QR code, or visit our Web site at
www.dmr.nd.gov/ogrp



A Look Ahead . . .

Quarterly OGRP newsletters focus on project updates, emerging priorities for OGRP, and key insights from leaders of our Program council. The goal of these newsletters is to translate how OGRP projects are impacting oil and gas exploration and recovery in our state and why that matters to the reader. Look for the next issue at the start of our fall season!

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter on a regular basis, please send your e-mail address to brentbrannan@gmail.gov. We would be happy to include you on the mailing list.

OGRPQuarterly


North Dakota
oil & gas research program

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