



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

For Immediate Release

February 15, 2012

Industrial Commission Approves Funding for CO₂ Research Program

Bismarck - The North Dakota Industrial Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to study the feasibility of using carbon dioxide to increase oil production from North Dakota wells.

With \$475,000 in Oil and Gas Research Program funding approved by the commission the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC) will study the viability of using CO₂ gas to increase oil production in North Dakota's Bakken Formation.

"This technology has the potential to significantly increase our oil recovery and further reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil," Gov. Jack Dalrymple said. "If this process is proven effective in western North Dakota, we could also reduce CO₂ emissions and lessen the effects of greenhouse gases."

According to the EERC, the estimated primary oil recovery from the Bakken formation ranges anywhere from 3 percent to 5 percent and with small technological improvements productivity could increase recoverable oil by billions of barrels.

"The Industrial Commission approved \$475,000 in funding towards this project, with \$25,000 of that amount to be used as funding for a new co-op program between the EERC and UND to hire UND students to work on the project," says Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. "We look forward to not only the results of the project in 15 months but receiving regular updates on this cooperative effort which we hope will encourage our North Dakota students to work in the petroleum industry."

"It's important to promote the use of this technology in the Bakken," said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. "Depending on the results of this work, we may be able to utilize CO₂ that is available here in North Dakota to enhance oil recovery well beyond that from primary production."

Other participants of the study include the U.S. Department of Energy, Marathon Oil Company, Denbury Resources Inc. and TAQA North Ltd.

"The EERC looks forward to further advancing its long-term vision of beneficial uses of CO₂ in partnership with the State of North Dakota's Oil and Gas Research Program, DOE, and these visionary oil & gas producers," said John Harju, EERC Associate Director for Research.

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