

OGRP Quarterly NEWSLETTER



This newsletter is the first of a series of quarterly newsletters produced by the Oil and Gas Research Program 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 North Dakota tax dollars to further promote North Dakota resources for economic benefit of the state.

From the Director's Desk

Welcome! I'm happy to have this opportunity to convey some of the great work being accomplished by the North Dakota Oil and Gas Research Program (OGRP) with North Dakota tax dollars derived from oil and gas production. Those of us engaged in the oil and gas business in North Dakota are so focused on maximizing effective utilization of this relatively new resource called "the Bakken" that we often forget to keep the public informed on developments relating to this resource sitting under our state. This is also a chance for us to convey the story of how state government and industry are teaming to do all they can to promote efficient utilization of this unique and world-class resource. I hope this quarterly newsletter format becomes an effective way to reach out to the public and bring them along on this ride.

Brent Brannan

Brent Brannan, OGRP Director

What Is the Oil and Gas Research Program?

North Dakota's OGRP, established by the Legislature in 2003, is a state-industry program designed to:

- Demonstrate to the general public the importance of the state's oil and gas exploration and production industry.
- Encourage and promote the wise and efficient use of energy.
- Promote environmentally sound exploration and production methods and technologies.
- Develop the state's oil and gas resources.
- Support research and educational activities concerning the oil and natural gas exploration and production industry.

The Program is funded from the state's share of the oil and gas production tax and oil extraction tax. Two percent of the state's share of the oil and gas gross production tax and oil extraction tax revenues, up to \$10 million, is available to the OGRP each biennium.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Oil and Gas Research Council (OGRC) is to promote the growth of the oil and gas industry through research and education.

OGRP Leadership

The OGRP is administered by the OGRC, a team of seven citizens appointed by the Governor of North Dakota, including the Executive Director of the North Dakota Petroleum Council (NDPC), plus two nonvoting members serving as advisors. The OGRC serves the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC).

	Name	Position
NDIC	The Honorable Jack Dalrymple	Governor of North Dakota
	The Honorable Wayne Stenehjem	Attorney General of North Dakota
	The Honorable Doug Goehring	Agriculture Commissioner of North Dakota

	Member Name	Position	Appointment Date	Term Ends	Organization Affiliation
OGRC	Ron Anderson	Chair	10/15/2003	10/15/2015	McKenzie County Commission
	John Berger	Appointed	05/01/2008	10/15/2015	Tesoro Petroleum Refinery
	Anthony Duletski	Appointed	07/24/2006	10/15/2015	Bowman and Rhame School Districts
	Lynn Helms	Ex officio			North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources
	Ryan Kopseng	Vice Chair	10/15/2003	10/15/2016	Missouri River Royalty
	Terry Kovacevich	Appointed	12/01/2011	10/15/2014	Marathon Oil Company
	Jeff Kummer	Appointed	09/15/2012	10/15/2015	MBI Energy Services
	Ed Murphy	Ex officio			North Dakota Geological Survey
	Ron Ness	Appointed	10/15/2013	10/15/2016	NDPC

A Sampling of OGRP Projects

The OGRP has provided over \$20 million in funding for over 60 projects since its inception in 2003. The total value of the projects was over \$200 million, resulting in productive leveraging of state funds at a ratio of greater than 16:1. Each project selected by the OGRC for participation in the OGRP has the potential to positively impact the promotion of North Dakota oil and gas resources in environmentally responsible and economically beneficial ways.

Funded Project	Organization	Project Goal
Improved Directional Drilling Technology for the Bakken Formation	Laserlith Corporation	Increase efficiencies of horizontal drilling in the Bakken Formation through a redesign of drilling tools by including the use of miniature gyroscopes in the drilling assembly.
Program to Determine the Uniqueness of Three Forks Bench Reserves, Determine Optimal Well Density in the Bakken Pool, and Optimize Bakken Production	Energy & Environmental Research Center and Continental Resources	Investigate new approaches to increase understanding of potential petroleum reserves in the Bakken–Three Forks system and decrease recovery costs in an environmentally sound manner.
Vertical Seismic Profiling Test of Seismic Fault and Fracture Detection in the Bakken Formation	Marathon Oil Company	Acquire vertical seismic profile data from a Bakken well to enable correlation of seismic signature and proper time–depth relationships to understand the Bakken seismic acoustic nature better.
Oil Can!	NDPC	Provide education and outreach to industry members, landowners, royalty owners, policymakers, and the general public.
Commercial Drivers License Training Program	Train ND-Northwest, Williston State College	Purchase two simulators and a trailer for the simulators to allow commercial drivers license training to be delivered at various locations.
Wellhead Gas Capture via CNG Technologies	BakkenExpress, LLC	Evaluate the viability of applying compressed natural gas technologies to economically capture and transport produced natural gas and gas liquids to market.
Education of Oilfield Fire Safety	North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties	Educate 3000 volunteer and staff firefighters in western and central North Dakota and other state officials about oilfield fire safety, and encourage them to learn more about oilfield fire safety by attending training at the Dickinson-based Williston Basin Oilfield Fire Training facility.

Application Process, Deadline, and Web Site

Applications for research grants are received June 1 and November 1 of every year. The grant application process is outlined in OGRC policies, found at www.dmr.nd.gov/ogr/statutegoalspolicies.aspx.

How Can You Learn More about Us?

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



OGRPQuarterly

North Dakota
oil & gas research program

A Look Ahead . . .

Future quarterly newsletters from the OGRC will focus on highlighted projects and progress on those projects. The goal of these highlights will be 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 summer 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.

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