North Dakota Association of Oil & Gas Producing Counties

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Research Council

North Dakota Oil and Gas Research Council
Attention: Karlene Fine
Train the Trainers-Oilfield Emergencies Grant
Final Report
January 31, 2005
Vicky Steiner

The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties Executive Director Vicky Steiner testified on January 7 in the Senate Appropriations hearing on Senate Bill 2014. Steiner explained to the committee members the fire fighting training that was held in June 2004 in which 2 North Dakota firefighters were trained in Ohio. These firefighters held a training for 31 western firefighters at TESORO in Mandan, ND to learn about oil field equipment, fire suppression and safety lessons on tank boil overs and explosions.

Steiner provided photos and text about the training to the legislative committee. Part of this grant was the education of legislators about this grant. Legislators were also invited to the training September 25 and the Bismarck media covered the event. Legislators reported viewing the news stories on the evening news.

This concludes the activities covered under this grant.

Thank you! Vicky Steiner

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October 31, 2004

Attention: Karlene Fine
ND Industrial Commission
ND Oil and Gas Research Council

The Train the Trainer- Oilfield Emergency grant is being administered by the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties.

The second phase of the grant was completed September 25, 2004. The two firefighters who were trained with part of this grant money trained 33 western North Dakota firefighters in a six-hour class in Mandan on Saturday, September 25, 2004.

The first 3 hours of the training was held at the Mandan Seven Seas for indoor classroom training. Hilary Hartman, Dickinson, taught from the Ohio manual on basic oil field fire equipment and the dangers of fire at the oil site. Oil industry trainer, Carey Longie from Amerada Hess's Tioga plant provided additional training on crude oil tank spillovers, the Sherwood fire disaster and thermal imaging cameras. John Nixon, TESORO's fire chief, discussed foam and chemical applications. He also reviewed terms and safety procedures for the 3 hour outdoor training that was held in the afternoon at the refinery.

The grant supplied workbooks to the attendees and those books will be re-used at future classes held by the North Dakota Firefighters Association.

Legislators and the local media were invited to attend the training. Four media representatives attended the outdoor fire training and interviewed the students in the class. The event was covered on KFYR-TV, KXMB-TV, Bismarck Tribune and Dickinson Press. Other state newspapers, such as the Fargo Forum, picked up the Associated Press story and printed it.

The outdoor training covered several aspects of basic firefighting plus additional skills on dealing with chemicals for oil fires. For example, John Nixon taught the students to bank the foam on top of the oil tank and let it spray out so that the foam would cover the flames more efficiently than a direct straight spray. The exercise also taught them teamwork, how to work with water to reduce the heat, how hot the fire will be as they approach a gas fire.

The trainers had positive evaluations. It was suggested to spend more time on the workbook in the classroom portion. The workbook describes oil field equipment and some of the students needed more time to absorb that information.

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The final phase for this project will be to provide information to the legislators during the legislative session about this grant. The firefighter students agreed to attend the budget hearing when notified.

The committee will have a final evaluation and review of the September 25 training on November 15 in Mandan. This evaluation will assist in planning next year's workshop.

Report submitted by,

Vicky Steiner
Executive Director

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