Industrial Commission Amends Gas Capture Policy

BISMARCK - The North Dakota Industrial Commission today approved amendments to the April 17, 2018, Guidance Policy in relation to North Dakota Industrial Commission Order 24665 regarding gas capture. The amendments include additional action items that support federal efforts to streamline right-of-way processes and efforts to encourage investment in value-added projects.

The updated policy provides flexibility for operators to manage their operations and gas capture plans within the gas capture goals established by the Commission to better reflect present-day conditions including infrastructure, well completion technology and more-productive wells.

Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, and Justin Kringstad, director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, presented an overview of the current state of gas capture at the Oct. 25 Commission meeting.

"After hearing that overview, we challenged Mr. Helms to review the state’s gas capture policy," Commission members said in a joint statement. "Due to the staggering pace of gas production we are seeing out of new wells, it was time to revisit our policy. The goal of this policy is to increase the volume of captured gas and reduce the percentage of flared gas, in addition to encouraging investment in gas capture infrastructure. This policy must also be balanced with what infrastructure is in place and how the industry is evolving."

The Industrial Commission consists of Gov. Doug Burgum, as Chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

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