



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

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INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION FILES LARGEST CIVIL AND CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS IN THE OIL INDUSTRY

BISMARCK - The North Dakota Industrial Commission today announced the filing of a civil complaint against Halek Operating ND, LLC and a criminal complaint against Nathan Garber of Executive Drilling, LLC. Both complaints stem from an alleged willful violation of North Dakota Industrial Commission salt water disposal well regulations. The Commission is seeking the maximum penalty allowable by state law in both the civil and criminal case.

“We will not stand by when operators blatantly disregard our rules and regulations,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple. “Continued use of an injection well after receiving notice that the well is in violation must result in strict enforcement action.”

The civil case alleges the use of a salt water disposal well in violation of its permit, as well as use of the disposal well after being notified of a violation. Total fines levied equal 1.525 million dollars. The criminal case alleges that Mr. Garber knowingly directed a service company to modify the salt water disposal well in way that violated Commission rules.

“This is the first ever criminal case in conjunction with a civil complaint in the oil and gas industry in North Dakota,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “This is the largest civil complaint ever sought against an operator. My office will vigorously prosecute this case.”

“The Commission is committed to protecting our environment through the aggressive enforcement of our rules and regulations,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “As the number of wells continues to grow in our state we will continue to increase staffing to maintain vigilance in the oil patch.”

Halek Operating has 21 days to respond to the civil complaint and a hearing on the criminal complaint is anticipated in 30 to 60 days.

The regulation of oil and gas development in North Dakota is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota, consisting of Gov. Jack Dalrymple as chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring.

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