



# INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple  
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner

NEWS

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## Commission Dedicates Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library

Grand Forks, ND- The North Dakota Industrial Commission today dedicated the North Dakota Geological Survey Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library on the campus of the University of North Dakota.

The 13.6 million dollar expansion was authorized by the 2015 Legislature and was paid for with monies from the Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund. Under law, the fund may be used for one-time expenditures relating to improving state infrastructure or for initiatives to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of state government.

Crucial to the understanding of North Dakota's oil and gas resources, the Core and Sample library was the brainchild of State Geologist Wilson M. Laird in 1941. Laird understood the need to have proper rules and regulations in place prior to the discovery of oil and gas.

"W.M. Laird laid the framework for oil and gas permitting as well as developing a repository for cutting and core samples in the library that today bears his name," said the Commission members in a joint statement. "This core library contains approximately 85% of the oil and gas cores and samples generated in North Dakota, making it the most complete core and sample library in the nation."

Those who attended the dedication included UND President Mark Kennedy, Board of Higher Education President Kathleen Neset, Mark Sonnenfeld representing Whiting Petroleum, Jack Stark, Continental Resources President and COO, members of the Laird family and legislators.

Core Library expansion by the numbers:

- The Core Library had many locations at UND. The current location first opened and was dedicated to W.M. Laird in 1980.
- One study conducted in the old core library resulted in production of 28 million barrels of oil over the last six years, generating enough tax income that could have paid for this core library expansion more than five times.
- From 2002-2013 the core library staff upgraded 90 percent of the boxes that hold the core and 75 percent of the boxes that hold core samples (some 150,000 boxes) generating a space savings that added five years to the current warehouse capacity.
- The original warehouse was 13,000 square feet. The new warehouse adds 28,000 square feet.
- New labs give industry and students two to five times the amount of space (depending on the lab) to lay out and study core samples.
- A total of 1,900 feet of core can be laid out in the three core labs on the first floor.
- Core boxes can weigh up to 30 pounds.

- Each aisle from the old warehouse contains 260 tons of rock. The old warehouse contains 2,200 tons of rock or 4.4 million pounds of rock.

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For more information contact Alison Ritter [amritter@nd.gov](mailto:amritter@nd.gov)