



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Doug Goehring
Agriculture Commissioner

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Industrial Commission backs state regulation of fracturing

BISMARCK – Members of North Dakota’s Industrial Commission have endorsed state rather than federal oversight and regulation of hydraulic fracturing operations in the state’s oil fields.

In a statement released Wednesday, the commission said it “believes monitoring oil and gas drilling and fracturing operations to ensure they are conducted in an environmentally sound manner is best regulated at the state level through statutes passed by the North Dakota Legislature and administrative rules promulgated and enforced by the Oil and Gas Division of the Department of Mineral Resources.”

“North Dakota agencies have a proven record of excellence in the regulation of oil and gas processes while protecting the environment,” said Gov. Jack Dalrymple, commission chairman. “We want the record to be clear that the Industrial Commission supports the use of hydraulic fracturing in North Dakota with regulation at the state level,”

“North Dakota law states that the Industrial Commission is to foster and encourage the development of our oil and natural gas resources,” said Attorney General Stenehjem. “We believe the use of hydraulic fracturing as overseen by our North Dakota state agencies – the Department of Mineral Resources and the State Health Department – fulfills that directive and protects our North Dakota citizens.

“Thanks to new technology such as hydraulic fracturing we can now recover previously in accessible reserves of oil, reducing U.S. dependence on foreign energy,” said Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring. “Regulation conducted at the state level provides for the most environmentally sound manner of the necessary development of these resources.”

The commission directed Lynn Helms, director of the Department of Mineral Resources, to present the statement on its behalf at Wednesday’s public forum of the Bureau of Land Management in Bismarck.

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