



INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF NORTH DAKOTA

John Hoeven
Governor

Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General

Roger Johnson
Agriculture Commissioner

News Release

June 13, 2008

For Immediate Release

Oil Production Breaks Historic High

BISMARCK, ND – North Dakota’s monthly oil production hit a new record in April, reaching 150,578 barrels a day (BOPD). The previous high mark of 147,774 BOPD was set in August 1984.

North Dakota is using innovative directional drilling along with fracture stimulation technologies to tap new oil formations and increase its petroleum production, although the state still trails producing states like Texas, which produces 1.059 million BOPD; Alaska, which produces 726,000 BOPD; and California, which produces 584,000 BOPD.

“The increasing oil activity in North Dakota creates good high-paying jobs for our citizens,” said Gov. John Hoeven. “North Dakota’s diversified economy is continuing to grow with more job opportunities throughout the state.”

“Not just North Dakotans benefit from this increased production, but having a ‘homegrown’ source of oil is beneficial for all Americans,” said Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem. “We are fortunate in North Dakota to have these valuable natural resources and we are committed to developing them in a sound and prudent manner.”

“The Industrial Commission is committed to extracting these oil resources in a manner that has the least impact on nearby agricultural activity,” said Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson. “New technologies reduce the footprint of the oil and gas development on our land.”

Lynn Helms, Director of the Department of Mineral Resources, said “setting a new production record is exciting, but even more exciting is seeing the results of our resource assessments borne out in the expansion of drilling and production throughout the Williston Basin in the Bakken and other formations. This means a very promising future for the oil and gas industry in North Dakota.”

“With these record numbers North Dakota will soon move from the 8th to the 7th largest oil producing state in the nation. Only Texas, Alaska, California, Louisiana, Oklahoma and New Mexico produce more,” said Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. “Our industry has successfully overcome many challenges to achieve this record and is dedicated to the hard work and good neighbor policies required to sustain this industry’s growth in North Dakota.”

The Department of Mineral Resources is overseen by the Industrial Commission of North Dakota consisting of Gov. John Hoeven, chairman, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem and Agriculture Commissioner Roger Johnson.

FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Lynn Helms 328-8020

Karlene K. Fine, Executive Director and Secretary
State Capitol, 14th Floor - 600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 405 - Bismarck, ND 58505-0840
E-Mail: kfine@nd.gov
Phone: (701) 328-3722 FAX: (701) 328-2820
"Your Gateway to North Dakota": www.nd.gov