North Dakota Pipeline Authority

Annual Report
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Industrial Commission of North Dakota
Governor Doug Burgum, Chairman
Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem
Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring
Overview

At the request of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, the Sixtieth Legislature passed House Bill 1128 authorizing the North Dakota Pipeline Authority. It was signed into law on April 11, 2007. The statutory mission of the Pipeline Authority is "to diversify and expand the North Dakota economy by facilitating development of pipeline facilities to support the production, transportation, and utilization of North Dakota energy-related commodities, thereby increasing employment, stimulating economic activity, augmenting sources of tax revenue, fostering economic stability and improving the State's economy". As established by the Legislature, the Pipeline Authority is a builder of last resort, meaning private business would have the first opportunity to invest in and/or build additional needed pipeline infrastructure.

By law, the Pipeline Authority membership is comprised of the members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission. Upon the recommendation of the Oil and Gas Research Council, the Industrial Commission authorized the transfer of $700,000 from the Oil and Gas Research Fund during the 2019-2021 biennium for the Pipeline Authority's operations and studies. On August 1, 2008 the Industrial Commission named Justin J. Kringstad, an engineering consultant, to serve as Director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority.

The North Dakota Pipeline Authority Director works closely with Lynn Helms, Department of Mineral Resources Director, Ron Ness, North Dakota Petroleum Council President and Karlene Fine, Industrial Commission Executive Director. The Pipeline Authority has no other staff and receives no direct General Fund appropriation. The Pipeline Authority Director reports to the Industrial Commission and the Oil and Gas Research Council on a regular basis.

Statutory Authority

Statutory authority for the Pipeline Authority is found in Chapter 54-17.7 of the North Dakota Century Code (N.D.C.C.). Section 54-17.7-04 N.D.C.C. delineates the powers of the Pipeline Authority including: 1) making grants or loans or to borrow money; 2) to issue up to $800 million in revenue bonds; 3) enter into lease-sale contracts; 4) own, purchase, lease, rent and dispose of pipeline facilities or the right to capacity in any pipeline system or systems within or without the State of North Dakota; 5) enter into contracts to construct, maintain and operate pipeline facilities; 6) investigate, plan, prioritize and propose transportation corridors; and 7) participate in regional pipeline organizations.

Before the Pipeline Authority may exercise its power to construct pipeline facilities, it must follow a process defined by statute to ensure public participation and comment. In particular, the Pipeline Authority must publish a notice describing the need for the pipeline project. Entities interested in
constructing the facilities or furnishing services to satisfy the identified needs have 180 days to respond by filing a notice of intent. If the Pipeline Authority receives a notice of intent from an interested entity, it may not exercise its powers to construct unless the Pipeline Authority makes a finding that doing so would be in the public interest. In making such a finding, the Pipeline Authority shall consider the economic impact to the state, economic feasibility, technical performance, reliability, past performance, and the likelihood of successful completion and ongoing operation.

**North Dakota Pipeline Regulatory Programs**

The Pipeline Authority does not serve in any capacity as a regulatory agency for the pipeline industry. North Dakota's pipeline industry is regulated by several state and federal agencies. Roles of each regulatory entity are complex and the Pipeline Authority urges all interested parties to please contact the agencies below for more information on their jurisdiction of the pipeline industry.

- North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
- North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
- North Dakota Public Service Commission
- North Dakota Industrial Commission-Department of Mineral Resources-Oil and Gas Division
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- U.S. Department of Transportation-Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration-Office of Pipeline Safety

**Summary of Activities**

North Dakota's petroleum industry started the 2020-2021 fiscal year with activity levels at the lowest level since modern Bakken development had started. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent price collapse of 2020 caused North Dakota to average only twelve drilling rigs operating in the third quarter of 2020. North Dakota's oil production levels in the third quarter were also significantly reduced as producers cut back on well completions and curtailed output from existing wells in an effort to salvage company economics.

By the fourth quarter of 2020, majority of North Dakota's curtailed well production had been restored as prices started to stabilize above $40 WTI. Throughout the remainder of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, oil prices continued to strengthen as vaccine distribution ramped up and the demand for oil slowly returned. Oil production at the end of the fiscal year was just over 1.1 million barrels per day, still down significantly from the record of 1.5 million barrels per day set in late 2019.

Despite the continued near-term challenges facing the industry, the long-term outlook for North Dakota's petroleum industry remains robust. North Dakota's midstream industry continues to position itself to meet current production levels and continues to plan for further expansion in the long term. During the
past year, the Pipeline Authority has been fully engaged in continuing efforts to convert production and
development information into oil and natural gas transportation solutions. Working alongside industry
to produce crude oil and natural gas production forecasts to quantify future pipeline needs and time
frames continues to be one of the principle tasks of the Pipeline Authority. Pipeline companies are
conservative by nature and these forecasting exercises are very beneficial in providing the confidence
needed to move forward with expansion project planning.

During the fiscal year the Pipeline Authority contacted, met with, and shared information with numerous
interested parties including, but not limited to, the following:

- Enbridge Pipeline
- TC Energy
- MDU/WBI Energy
- ONEOK
- Alliance Pipeline
- Northern Border Pipeline
- Moody’s Analytics
- Bakken Midstream/Energy
- Whiting Petroleum
- Energy Transfer Partners
- GA Group
- Oasis Petroleum
- Nuverra
- PetroNerds
- ConocoPhillips
- Endurance Capital Partners
- Steel Reef Infrastructure
- Petral Consulting
- SunTrust Robinson Humphrey
- Mesa Solutions
- Incoho
- Mineral Tracker
- Pivotal Energy Partners
- Truist Securities
- Hudson Bay Capital
- UBS
- Minnkota Power
- SRF Consulting
- Equinor
- Continental Resources
- Resolute Engineering
- Border States Electric
- Hess Corporation
- Marathon Petroleum
- True Companies
- Crestwood
- BNSF Railway
- Basin Electric
- Sequent Energy
- Barr Engineering
- Pembina Pipeline
- Wells Fargo
- Kinder Morgan
- Marathon Oil
- BP
- Robert W. Baird & Co.
- MKM Partners
- Proton Energy
- Global Innovative Solutions
- Susquehanna Financial Group
- Morgan Stanley
- FTI Consulting
- Caterpillar Power Systems
- Ernst & Young
- Yellowstone Strategies
- Crusoe Energy
- Outrigger Energy
- CrescentPoint Energy
- Summit Carbon Solutions
- Callan
- SC Capital Corp
- RBN Energy
- Citadel Energy
- North Dakota LNG/Alkane
In addition, the Pipeline Authority worked with a number of state and federal agencies to gather information and provide expertise on pipeline issues. Those agencies and entities included:

- North Dakota Public Service Commission
- North Dakota Transmission Authority
- North Dakota Oil and Gas Division
- North Dakota Governor's Office
- North Dakota Tax Department
- EmPower North Dakota Commission
- North Dakota State Water Commission
- Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute
- North Dakota Office of Management and Budget
- North Dakota Department of Commerce
- Energy and Environmental Research Center
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
- Department of Environmental Quality
- Bank of North Dakota
- US Energy Department of Energy
- North Dakota Oil & Gas Research Program
- North Dakota Oil & Gas Research Program
- North Dakota Retirement and Investment Office

The Director of the Pipeline Authority also worked with the following trade associations/groups:

- North Dakota Petroleum Council
- North Dakota Petroleum Marketers Association
- Western Dakota Energy Association
- North Dakota Building Trades Union
- Greater North Dakota Chamber
- Lignite Energy Council
- Grand Forks Region Economic Development Corporation
- Association of Oil Pipelines

As noted above, the Pipeline Authority has been facilitating discussions between governmental agencies and companies interested in expanding North Dakota's midstream infrastructure.

In addition, the Director of the Pipeline Authority provided information to citizens and news media on issues related to pipelines.

**Bakken Restart Task Force**

The consumer demand destruction and subsequent oil price collapse associated with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 was devastating to North Dakota's petroleum industry. In an effort to find ways to support industry employment, tax generating oil production, and overall industry health, the Bakken Restart Task Force was created. The Pipeline Authority played an active role in data collection and analytics, particularly as it related to shut-in production volumes, well completions, and forecasting. The
The Bakken Restart Task Force focused its CARES Act recommendations on the areas of well plugging, reclamation, and DUC well completions.

Yearend 2020 was the initial deadline for spending of CARES Act Funding. As of December 30, 2020, 173 sites were reclaimed which supported over 1,925 full time jobs and 45,872 man-hours. These 173 sites cover approximately 880 acres of land. In April 2021, the 67th Legislative Session approved House Bill 1395 which appropriated CARES Act funding, including the reallocation of funds that were unspent. This bill appropriated $6,000,000 towards the cost of reclaiming wells previously confiscated. The $6,000,000 in funding appropriated during the legislative session must be spent by the current federal deadline of December 30, 2021.

As of May 2021, the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division had reimbursed $11,484,460.64 toward the completion of 71 DUC wells. It is estimated that the DUC well completion program has brought in $4,600,000 in sales tax and provided approximately 400 full time jobs completing wells.

The success of North Dakota’s Bakken Restart Task Force has received national recognition, with many states and the federal government implementing major initiatives mirroring the work of North Dakota’s Task Force.

2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 legislative session did not make any modifications to the Pipeline Authority statute. Five bills were passed that directly impact or relate to the pipeline industry and/or the Pipeline Authority. A brief description of each bill is below.
HB 1159: An act to provide for a legislative management study regarding natural gas infrastructure development.

HB 1452: Relating to a clean sustainable energy authority and a clean sustainable energy fund; to amend and reenact sections 17-01-01 and 17-07-01 and subsection 5 of section 54-44.4-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to low-emission technology, the energy policy commission, and an exemption from procurement services for energy programs; to provide a continuing appropriation; to provide an appropriation; to provide a transfer; and to provide a report.

SB 2065: Relating to the jurisdiction of the industrial commission to regulate the permitting and amalgamation of the underground storage of oil or gas; and to amend and reenact sections 15-05-09 and 15-05-10 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to oil and gas leases and royalties from oil leases.

SB 2217: Relating to the deduction or recovery of losses incurred in the sale or disposition of natural gas from the proceeds of oil production; and to provide for a legislative management study.

SB 2328: Relating to a credit for oil produced from a well site using an onsite flare mitigation system; to provide for application; and to provide an expiration date.

**Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production Forecasting**

The Pipeline Authority continued to develop and maintain crude oil and natural gas production forecasts for North Dakota and the United States portion of the Williston Basin. These forecasts are widely used throughout both public and private organizations. Three assumption scenarios are forecasted for the purpose of communicating the production impacts of different price and activity levels. The "Base" case was modeled as expected production assuming the Federal Energy Information Administration's (EIA) West Texas Intermediate (WTI) oil price forecasts. The "Low" case was modeled as a conservative production outlook based on lower than expected activity and/or oil prices. The "High" case scenario is intended to model production scenarios under an environment in which petroleum industry activity in North Dakota returns to near pre-pandemic levels. Figure 1 is a long-term oil production forecast for North Dakota. Figure 2 shows a long-term natural gas production forecast using the same three activity scenarios for North Dakota.
Given the continued amount of market uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pipeline Authority created a series of production forecasts based on various well completion scenarios in North Dakota. Figures 3 and 4 represent the near-term estimated oil and natural gas production levels at the stated number of new well completions per month. These scenario calculations have proven very beneficial to assist in transportation, budget, and policy planning. Additional information on this topic can be found on the Pipeline Authority website.
Crude Oil and Natural Gas Production Curtailments

During the first half of 2020, crude oil pricing and demand had dropped to a critical level causing well operators in North Dakota to begin curtailting output. Curtailment strategies came in many forms including reduced operating days, reduced pumping rates, or physically shutting down well operations (a.k.a. "shutting-in").
Figure 5 shows the Pipeline Authority’s estimated monthly shut-in volumes during the summer and fall of 2020. May 2020 represented the largest period of shut-in production with over 6,700 wells found to be severely curtailing production by a cumulative volume of almost 500,000 barrels per day. By the fourth quarter of 2020, almost all curtailed production had been restored as industry pricing stabilized. More detailed presentations and videos analyzing production curtailments can be found on the Pipeline Authority’s website.

**Natural Gas Liquids**

The Pipeline Authority continued to focus considerable attention in the 2020-2021 fiscal year to the topic of natural gas liquids (NGLs). Natural gas produced from the Bakken and Three Forks Formations is very high in NGLs such as ethane, propane, and butane. Forecast models created by the Pipeline Authority were updated to better understand the production potential and required transportation infrastructure going forward.

The forecast in Figure 6 shows three potential production cases based on different activity level assumptions. North Dakota faced a significant shortfall of gross pipeline capacity until ONEOK’s Elk Creek Pipeline went into service in late 2019. It is expected that NGL production will exceed pipeline capacity again in 2023 until further system expansions take place or a new market option is developed. Further complicating the NGL transportation dynamics is the fact that not all NGL pipelines can handle the same types of NGL products. In addition, natural gas plants around the region produce either purity products or unfractionated product, known as Y-grade.

There are several options going forward to address the growing volume of NGLs in North Dakota. One option would be to build, expand, or repurpose existing pipeline systems. A second option would be the
development of value-added industries that would use NGL products as feedstock. Another potential use for NGLs is enhanced oil recovery (EOR) in the Williston Basin as fields continue to mature. The use of NGLs as a working EOR fluid is still in the research phase with early lab results appearing promising.

In an effort to advance the opportunities of using North Dakota NGL products as a feedstock for value-added industries, funding was provided to the Energy and Environmental Research Center to study the potential of salt cavern storage in the Williston Basin. In late 2020, the research paper was released suggesting storage opportunities may be commercially viable in North Dakota. Additional funding was provided during the 2021 legislative session for development of pilot projects to confirm the study results. The Pipeline Authority will stay actively engaged on this topic, as it could have significant impacts on how North Dakota's NGL products are transported and utilized.

![Figure 6. Forecasted North Dakota NGL production and transportation options.](image)

**Natural Gas Liquids Study**

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the results of the Pipeline Authority's natural gas liquid composition study were released. Scientists at the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) conducted the research with industry partner datasets from over 7,300 wells. The immense amount of industry provided data made the study the most comprehensive look at natural gas liquids chemistry known to date.

A study summary was provided to the Industrial Commission in the third quarter of 2020. The executive summary can be found in Appendix A and the full report is available on the Pipeline Authority website.
Natural Gas Capture

While not a regulatory agency, the Pipeline Authority plays a very active support role in helping the state maximize the amount of captured natural gas. The Pipeline Authority continually monitors and reports capture statistics and provides analysis on current and future developments to industry participants, regulators, policy makers, and the public.

Several significant actions were taken by the ND Industrial Commission in past years that have had a positive impact on increasing natural gas capture. The first was the requirement for operating companies to submit a natural gas capture plan to the Oil & Gas Division to outline how produced natural gas would be sold or utilized on location. The second action was an Industrial Commission order on July 1, 2014 that provided gas capture targets to the year 2020 and provided a means of enforcement at the Oil & Gas Division through the use of production and permitting restrictions.

In November 2018, the Industrial Commission updated the natural gas capture regulations for Bakken and Three Forks production. More details on the November update can be found on the Oil & Gas Division website.

The current North Dakota gas capture target rates are as follows:
- 74% Capture – Q4 2014
- 77% Capture – Q1 2015
- 80% Capture – Q2 2016
- 85% Capture – Q4 2016
- 88% Capture – Q4 2018
- 91% Capture – Q4 2020

In July 2021, the North Dakota's petroleum industry produced 2.9 billion cubic feet per day (BCFD) with a gross capture rate of 90%. Industry estimates indicate over $20 billion has been invested in pipeline and processing assets to help reach the capture targets. In order for the industry to meet future gas capture targets, significant additional investments in gas gathering, processing, and transmission will be required.

Natural Gas Processing

For reference, a North Dakota Gas Processing and Transportation map can be found on the Pipeline Authority website and a table of all gas processing plants can be found in Appendix D

New or Expanding Natural Gas Plants
Due to the vast footprint of the Bakken resource, natural gas gathering and processing operators in North Dakota have faced difficult challenges in the past to keep pace with faster, more efficient drilling and completion techniques. Despite the daunting task, industry is rising up to reap the great economic reward contained in the rich Bakken gas.
North Dakota currently has thirty-two natural gas processing/conditioning plants operating, with the capability to process roughly 3.8 BCFD. One additional new plant is expected by year end 2021 and will add 0.2 BCFD of processing capacity (Figure 7). A detailed breakdown of the existing and proposed facilities can be found in Appendix D and on the Pipeline Authority website.

![Figure 7. North Dakota natural gas processing plant intake capacity, gas production, gas forecast, and NDIC capture targets. (Forecast starts in Aug. 2020)](image)

**Williston Basin Gas Storage**

One primary use of residue natural gas is heating residential and commercial buildings. Without the use of underground natural gas storage, the supply chain would be challenged to handle strong seasonal demand shifts. During the warm summer months, excess natural gas is stored in underground reservoirs and withdrawn during colder periods with higher demand (Figure 8). The reservoirs used for natural gas storage are typically depleted gas producing fields that are converted to serve a storage role.

The nearest residue gas storage field is located near Baker, MT and is operated by WBI Energy Transmission. Located primarily in SE Montana in the Cedar Creek Anticline, the Baker field is the largest natural gas storage field in the United States. The Baker gas storage system has a working gas capacity of over 193 BCF and has been operating the past year with a balance of less than 40 BCF (Figure 8). Regional interstate residue gas pipelines provide transportation service to and from the Baker storage field.
North Dakota Freight Advisory Committee

In the fall of 2018, the Pipeline Authority Director and a number of other private and public entities joined the North Dakota Department of Transportation in an effort to create the North Dakota Freight Advisory Committee. The primary objective of the group is to improve collaboration between transportation providers, industry sectors, and government entities in order to efficiently expand North Dakota's economy.

Along with the Pipeline Authority, member entities include:
- BNSF Railroad
- Dakota, Missouri Valley, & Western Railroad
- Magnum Trucking
- Federal Highway Administration
- North Dakota Department of Commerce
- Teamsters Local 638
- Enger Grain & Livestock
- North Dakota Aeronautics Commission
- United Sugars Corporation
- North Dakota Motor Carriers Association
- North Dakota Mill and Elevator
- North Dakota League of Cities
- North Dakota Trade Office
- North Dakota Department of Transportation
Industry and Public Communications Activities

Pipeline Authority Websites
In an effort to provide industry and public users with the most timely and complete set of information, the Pipeline Authority continues to update the agency websites as new information becomes available. The websites allow the Pipeline Authority to provide users with current Williston Basin oil production data, maps, news, publications, basic pipeline information, pipeline safety information, and links to pipeline mapping systems.

Monthly Updates
During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Pipeline Authority produced monthly transportation and production reports to allow interested parties a quick view of how much crude oil and natural gas was produced each month and how each commodity was shipped and/or processed. Information contained in the reports is presented during monthly media events in conjunction with the ND Oil & Gas Division. Monthly reports are placed on the Pipeline Authority website and an email distribution list has been created to circulate the update to interested parties.

North Dakota Drilling Inventory and Economics
In order to assist the midstream industry in understanding current and future petroleum activity levels, the Pipeline Authority routinely publishes information exploring the economics of drilling in North Dakota’s Bakken/Three Forks Formations. The research takes a detailed look at where drilling in North Dakota has been most successful in the past and then predicts where drilling may be concentrated during periods of fluctuating oil prices.

Figure 9 was generated during the drilling economics research to represent the expected after-tax rate of return at three different drilling and completion costs. While assuming $65/bbl at the wellhead, it was discovered that wells drilled in North Dakota could consistently receive a 10%-20% rate of return or higher when they were producing at least an average of 500 barrels of oil per day during the well’s peak production month. Maps were also generated to show where the wells in Figure 9 are located.
Pipeline Presentations
The Pipeline Authority has had the opportunity to make presentations at a variety of legislative, industry, and public events during the past fiscal year. Presentation topics were typically focused on North Dakota's transportation dynamics with additional material on drilling economics and production techniques. Slides from many of the major events are placed on the Pipeline Authority website as content is updated.

Williston Basin Pipeline Infrastructure

For reference, a series of North Dakota pipeline maps can be found in Appendix B

Pipeline Mileage

North Dakota's pipeline industry added 632 miles of new oil, natural gas, and produced water pipelines in 2020 (Figure 10). The majority of the new pipelines installed in 2020 operate as gathering pipelines for oil, natural gas, and produced water (Figure 11). The significant decrease in pipeline construction in 2016 through 2020 was proportional to the slowdown in well completions and a geographic concentration of activity in the core of the oil play. Data from the Federal Department of Transportation and North Dakota Oil & Gas Division indicates that North Dakota has over 29,650 miles of gathering and transmission pipelines. Further details about North Dakota's pipeline network can be found on the Pipeline Authority website.
Crude Oil Pipelines, Refining, and Rail Transportation

Enbridge/North Dakota Pipeline Company: Having completed several expansion projects over the past number of years, Enbridge now has the capacity to move 355,000 BOPD on its pipeline system to Clearbrook, MN. Enbridge completed their work to expand north bound capacity of 145,000 BOPD in early 2013 for the larger scale “Bakken Expansion Project”. Oil using the northbound route navigates the Enbridge Saskatchewan system to an interconnect with the Enbridge Mainline at Cromer, MB. Once on the Mainline system, the Williston Basin oil quickly reenters the United States and meets east bound Enbridge oil at Clearbrook, MN.

Enbridge’s plans to construct the 225,000 BOPD “Sandpiper” system were deferred during the third quarter of 2016 due to unexpected market conditions in the near-term planning horizon. Enbridge plans to monitor market conditions and reevaluate potential expansion opportunities in North Dakota.

Bridger, Belle Fourche, and Butte Pipelines: Bridger and Belle Fourche Pipelines operate as intra-regional pipeline systems moving oil to several pipeline interconnects or rail facilities in the Williston Basin. One such pipeline interconnect is with the Butte Pipeline near Baker, MT. The Butte Pipeline currently has the capacity to move 260,000 BOPD to Guernsey, WY. In Guernsey, WY, the oil is transported to Wood River, IL on the Platte Pipeline, Cushing, OK on the White Cliffs Pipeline, or loaded into rail cars for further transport.

Bridger Pipeline is actively developing a multi-segment expansion project from Johnson’s Corner, ND to Guernsey, WY to meet growing production levels. Proposed to be in service before the end of 2022, the 16", 137 mile “South Bend Pipeline” will be able to ship 175,000 BOPD to Baker, MT. Additionally, a 191-mile southern section of new 20” pipeline will move up to 200,000 BOPD of North Dakota and Rockies oil from Hulett, WY to Guernsey, WY. At Guernsey, WY the oil will have multiple shipping options by pipeline and rail.

BakkenLink: After announcing plans in 2010 to offer a pipeline system connecting the Williston Basin to the Keystone XL Pipeline in Eastern Montana, BakkenLink has altered their current project scope. Now in service, the BakkenLink system collects crude oil from various locations along its route south of Lake Sakakawea and delivers the oil to a unit train rail facility located near Fryburg, ND. In late 2015, Andeavor (formerly Tesoro Corporation) purchased the BakkenLink pipeline and rail facility from Great Northern Midstream.

In February 2018, Andeavor sought, and was granted, approval from the North Dakota Public Service Commission to add NGL service to the existing BakkenLink crude oil system. Completed in late 2018, the additional NGL service to Fryburg, ND uses three new line segments on the north and south ends of the BakkenLink system.

Energy Transfer Partners: In early 2014, Energy Transfer Partners (ETP) held an open season to solicit interest in a new 30” pipeline from North Dakota to Patoka, IL. In June 2014, ETP announced that they
had secured sufficient shipper support to move forward with the project. The project began construction in May 2016 and was placed into commercial service on June 1, 2017. When the “Dakota Access” pipeline began collecting oil north and south of Lake Sakakawea it had the ability to transport up to 520,000 BOPD.

In 2018, two successful open seasons were held for additional service on the Dakota Access pipeline. With additional shipper commitments, the pipeline was expanded to carry up to 600,000 BOPD.

In 2019, ETP began the regulatory process to expand the Dakota Access system up to 1.1 million BOPD through the use of additional pump stations and horsepower at existing pump facilities. In August 2021, ETP announced the most recent completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline system expansion to a new system capacity of 750,000 BOPD. No timelines have been announced as to when the full system expansion up 1.1 million BOPD would be complete.

In 2020, DC District Court Judge James E. Boasberg ruled that the US Army Corp of Engineers needed to conduct a full environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Lake Oahe crossing in south central North Dakota. After months of rigorous review, in May 2021 Judge Boasberg ruled that the Dakota Access pipeline could continue operations while the EIS proceeds. The EIS is anticipated to be complete in the second half of 2022.

Plains All American Pipeline: In November 2010, Plains All American Pipeline (Plains) announced plans to construct a new 103-mile, 12-inch, pipeline from Trenton, ND to an interconnect with the existing Wascana Pipeline at the United States-Canada border in northeast Montana. The “Bakken North” pipeline went into service in May 2014, with an initial capacity of 40,000 BOPD, expandable to 75,000 BOPD.

TC Energy (TransCanada) Bakken MarketLink: On September 13, 2010, TransCanada launched a successful open season for Bakken producers interested in accessing TransCanada’s proposed Keystone XL Pipeline project in eastern Montana. The proposed 100,000 BOPD interconnect would be located near Baker, MT and would require new pumps and tanks to accommodate the Bakken oil. Third party shippers would be necessary to move the crude to the Baker, MT facility from North Dakota.

In November 2015, President Obama announced that the Keystone XL Pipeline was not in the national interest of the United States and that a required Presidential Permit would not be granted. In March 2017, President Trump reversed the White House decision and granted the Presidential Permit to TransCanada for the Keystone XL Pipeline. TC Energy (formerly TransCanada) continued their work towards regulatory approval of the Keystone XL Pipeline, before ultimately cancelling the project in June 2021.

Marathon Petroleum Mandan Refinery (Formerly Andeavor/Tesoro): Expanded by 10,000 BOPD in 2012, Marathon Petroleum operates a 68,000 BOPD refinery in Mandan, ND. The refinery receives its light sweet feedstock through a network of pipelines in the Williston Basin. Products generated at the refinery are distributed directly from a truck rack at the facility or through the NuStar North Pipeline to Eastern North Dakota and Minnesota.
In 2017, Tesoro Corporation changed its name to Andeavor. In the second half of 2018, Andeavor merged with Marathon Petroleum and will operate under the Marathon Petroleum name.

**Marathon Petroleum Dakota Prairie Refinery:** In late June 2016, Tesoro Corporation purchased the Dakota Prairie Refinery from MDU Resources Group and Calumet Specialty Products Partners. The Dakota Prairie Refinery, began processing 20,000 BOPD at its facility just west of Dickinson, ND in May 2015. The "diesel topping" refinery produced around 7,000 BPD of diesel fuel for regional consumption, while the remaining product was transported for further processing or use.

In 2018, a decision was made to convert the refinery to produce renewable diesel fuel by mid-2020. Beginning in June 2020, the facility no longer used crude oil as a feedstock. Renewable diesel fuel from the facility is now primarily being shipped by rail to markets in California.

**Davis Refinery:** Meridian Energy Group is planning to construct a crude oil refinery in Billings County, east of the Fryburg Rail Facility in Belfield. The refinery is designed with an inlet oil capacity of 49,500 BPD. All refined products are expected to be marketed regionally with transportation taking place by truck and/or rail. Preliminary site preparation began in July 2018 with plant completion proposed in 2024.

*A map of North Dakota crude oil gathering systems can be found on the Pipeline Authority website*

**Rail Loading Facilities:** The transportation of crude oil by rail car has played a key role in moving growing volumes of crude oil from the Williston Basin to markets around the United States and Canada. Figure 12 shows the estimated Williston Basin market share percentages for rail, pipeline, and local refining. Figure 13 shows the estimated volume of oil moved by rail out of North Dakota. Maps, capacities, and additional information on the various facilities can be found on the Pipeline Authority website.

A significant decrease in crude by rail volumes can be identified during the 2015-2017 timeframe in Figures 12 & 13. The 2015-2017 volume decrease can be attributed to production declining in North Dakota and reduced market incentives to utilize crude by rail. Prior to the industry downturn in 2020, crude by rail volumes had been steadily increasing as production rose and egress pipelines were at capacity. The Pipeline Authority estimates ten of the twenty-plus rail facilities are still active loading crude oil, with the most active facilities being those with unit train loading capabilities and inbound/outbound marketing options.

The future of crude by rail utilization in North Dakota will be driven by oil production volumes, market pricing, pipeline capacity, and regulatory oversight.

*A map of North Dakota oil rail loading facilities can be found in Appendix C*
Alliance Pipeline: The Alliance Pipeline is a high pressure, large diameter natural gas pipeline that originates in British Colombia, Canada and terminates at the Aux Sable gas processing plant near Chicago, IL. The Alliance Pipeline transports "dense gas" or gas that still contains high BTU natural gas liquids, such as propane and butane. In February 2010, the Alliance Pipeline began transporting rich natural gas from North Dakota via a new interconnect with the Prairie Rose Pipeline near Bantry, ND (See Aux Sable below). The 36-inch diameter United States portion of the pipeline has a certified capacity of 1.513 billion cubic feet per day (BCFD). The Alliance Pipeline has one direct North Dakota delivery point in Hankinson and one interconnect with Montana Dakota Utilities to serve industrial manufacturing in Gwinner.

In response to growing natural gas production, Alliance Pipeline announced plans on June 22, 2011, to construct a new, 80-mile, natural gas pipeline from the Hess Gas Plant in Tioga, ND to an interconnection point near Sherwood, ND. Commissioned in late 2013, the "Tioga Lateral Pipeline" has the ability to deliver liquids rich, high BTU, natural gas to Chicago, IL for further processing and transportation. The Tioga Lateral has the capacity to transport up to 126 million cubic feet per day (MMCFD).

Northern Border: The Northern Border Pipeline, owned by TC Pipelines and ONEOK Partners, is a 1,249-mile pipeline originating at the Port of Morgan in Montana and terminating near North Hayden, Indiana. The pipeline has a system receipt capacity of 2.37 BCFD, with less than half of the gas supply in 2020 originating in Canada through a receipt point with the Foothills Pipeline at the Port of Morgan. The 42-inch diameter Northern Border Pipeline receives gas deliveries at a total of seventeen receipt points in the Williston Basin with fourteen of those points for North Dakota gas supply.
As volumes are projected to grow in the Williston Basin, Northern Border has proposed two expansion options to increase service for the region. One option would be to add compression along the mainline from North Dakota to Iowa with up to 525 MMCFD of additional capacity. The second option is to repurpose the Bison Pipeline and provide up to 390 MMCFD of new gas deliveries from North Dakota to the Cheyenne, WY hub. Both projects have a proposed in-service timeline between 2022-2023 and will only move forward with sufficient commercial support.

In May 2020, Northern Border submitted a proposed tariff modification to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that would limit the energy content of flows exiting North Dakota to 1,100 BTU. The FERC decision process resulted in a technical conference being held and multiple opportunities for interested party input. While the Pipeline Authority remained neutral on the proposed tariff modifications, considerable efforts were made to model and quantify the potential impacts to North Dakota's petroleum industry. FERC ultimately rejected the proposed BTU limit, but left open the opportunity for a similar proposal to be filed in the future with additional supporting evidence.

**WBI Energy Transmission:** Formerly known as Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Co., WBI Energy Transmission operates more than 3,700 miles of natural gas transmission pipelines throughout North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, and South Dakota. This network of pipelines plays a vital role in North Dakota’s natural gas industry. It contains twelve interconnecting points with other regional pipelines and can also deliver natural gas to local distribution companies or natural gas storage fields. WBI continues to make system upgrades in western North Dakota in order to meet growing customer demand.

In June 2016, WBI announced an open season to connect the eastern North Dakota portion of the system with the Viking Pipeline in western Minnesota. This project, known as the Valley Expansion, does not directly support North Dakota gas production volumes, but rather would serve to provide additional gas volumes to consuming markets in eastern North Dakota. The Valley Expansion project became operational in late 2018.

In early 2019, WBI Energy announced plans to construct a new gas pipeline system called the “North Bakken Expansion Project”. The system would consist of 60 miles of 24” pipe and 30 miles of 12” pipe. The project objective is to provide at least 250 MMCFD of capacity from Tioga, ND to an interconnect with the Northern Border Pipeline in McKenzie County. Construction began on the project in July 2021 with a projected in-service time of late 2021.

**Aux Sable:** In June 2011, Aux Sable announced the acquisition of the Prairie Rose Pipeline and condensate recovery facility near Stanley, ND. Originally constructed by Pecan Pipeline, the 75-mile, 12-inch system went into service February 2010 and has the capability to transport over 100 MMCFD of unprocessed natural gas from Mountrail County to an interconnect with the Alliance Pipeline near Bantry, ND.

**Bison Pipeline:** TransCanada placed the 302-mile, 30-inch Bison Pipeline into service in early 2011. The pipeline was built to connect natural gas production in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming to the Northern Border Pipeline in Morton County, North Dakota. The pipeline has an initial capacity of 407
MMCFD and could be expanded to 1 BCDF. From 2018 to the first half of 2020, the Bison Pipeline was idle. Limited and sporadic natural gas transportation resumed in May 2020 and ceased in September 2020.

**Dakota Natural Gas:** Dakota Natural Gas, LLC was formed in 2018 to provide natural gas service to areas of North Dakota that were currently not served by any other natural gas utility. Regulated by the North Dakota Public Service Commission, Dakota Natural Gas was authorized to provide natural gas distribution service to retail and commercial customers in North Dakota. The first project was completed in 2019 and provided gas service from the Viking Pipeline in western Minnesota to the community of Drayton, ND. The second project is scheduled to be complete in 2021 and would deliver gas from the Viking Pipeline to residential and industrial users in the communities of Mayville and Hillsboro, ND.

**Natural Gas Liquids Pipelines**

**ONEOK Bakken NGL Pipeline:** On July 26, 2010, ONEOK Partners announced plans to construct a new 12” natural gas liquids pipeline capable of moving 60,000 BPD from existing and planned facilities in the Williston Basin to an interconnect with the Overland Pass Pipeline near Cheyenne, WY. The “Bakken NGL Pipeline” was built to address the high volumes of natural gas liquids that are extracted from the rich Bakken gas during processing. The pipeline operates as a Y-grade system, with product fractionation taking place in Bushton, KS. ONEOK announced completion of the pipeline in April 2013 and an expanded capacity of 135,000 BPD in September 2014.

In February 2018, ONEOK announced a new NGL transmission system known as the Elk Creek Pipeline. The $1.4 billion project could initially connect 240,000 barrels per day of NGLs from the Williston Basin to further NGL infrastructure in Kansas. Construction of the pipeline began in 2018 and was placed in service late 2019. This project could be expanded up to 400,000 barrels per day if market conditions justify the added investment.

**Vantage Pipeline:** On July 15, 2010, Mistral Energy announced a new 430-mile liquid ethane pipeline from Tioga, ND to Empress, AB. With an initial capacity of 40,000 BPD, the new “Vantage Pipeline” was built to address the high concentration of ethane found in North Dakota’s natural gas. Placed into service Q2 2014 in conjunction with the Hess Tioga Gas Plant Expansion, the pipeline was constructed of 10” pipe. In September 2014, Pembina Pipeline Corporation purchased the Vantage Pipeline from Mistral Midstream.

On February 10, 2015, Pembina Pipeline announced that the Vantage ethane pipeline would expand to connect to ONEOK’s Stateline plants with 50 miles of 8” pipeline. The $85 million system expansion also included taking the existing mainline capacity from 40,000 bpd to 65,000 bpd. Ethane deliveries from the ONEOK Stateline plants to Vantage began in May 2017.
Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

Dakota Gasification: The Dakota Gasification Company's, 12-14 inch, 205-mile pipeline went into service in 2000 and transports roughly 150 MMCFD of carbon dioxide to oilfields near Weyburn, SK.

Denbury Resources: Denbury Resources began construction in 2021 on a pipeline to connect the Cedar Creek Anticline oilfields in eastern Montana and southwest North Dakota to the existing Greencore Pipeline at Bell Creek, MT. The 110 mile, $150 million, extension is anticipated to be complete by 2022.

Project Tundra: Project Tundra has proposed a plan to collect carbon dioxide from the Milton R. Young Station and transport it to the Williston Basin for either sequestration and/or enhanced oil recovery. If approved, a pipeline carrying carbon dioxide from the Young Station could be in service by the mid-2020’s.

Midwest Carbon Express: Summit Carbon Solutions, created by Summit Agricultural Group in early 2021, is actively developing the “Midwest Carbon Express” pipeline. Projected to be operational in 2024, the Summit Carbon Solutions project will be able to capture and permanently store more than 12 million tons of carbon dioxide annually, making it the largest such project in the world.

Summit Carbon Solutions would construct the Midwest Carbon Express system across five states, including North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota to connect more than 30 ethanol plants for long-term underground sequestration in North Dakota. Initial project costs are estimated at $4.5 billion.

The Pipeline Authority continues to work with additional interested parties on the development of new carbon dioxide pipelines for capture and sequestration, as well as enhanced oil recovery operations. The Pipeline Authority is an active member of the Plains CO₂ Reduction Partnership through the Energy and Environmental Research Center in Grand Forks, ND.

Hydrogen Development

Bakken Energy: Bakken Energy, formerly Bakken Midstream Natural Gas, and Mitsubishi Power Americas signed a strategic partnership agreement in early 2021 to create a clean hydrogen hub in North Dakota to produce, store, and transport hydrogen while capturing and sequestering associated carbon dioxide emissions.

The site of the hydrogen hub is tentatively set for the Dakota Gasification Plant near Beulah, ND. The purchase and conversion of the Dakota Gasification Plant is subject to purchase terms and expected to be completed by April 1, 2023.
The hydrogen hub is expected to be commercially operational in late 2026 with a redevelopment budget for the broader hub including carbon capture and sequestration and hydrogen storage exceeding $2 billion.

The Pipeline Authority continues to work with additional interested parties on the development of additional hydrogen related projects, including the potential for blending hydrogen into existing natural gas pipelines.

Planned Activities

Over the past year, the Pipeline Authority has continued to experience great success by working with industry to quantify future crude oil and natural gas production in order to provide the assurance needed to move forward with various expansion projects. The forecasted petroleum production levels will continue to be updated to reflect oil price projections from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The Pipeline Authority will continue to utilize new and existing development information to gain a deeper understanding of the crude oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, and carbon dioxide pipeline needs in the Williston Basin.

The Pipeline Authority Director will continue to explore the possibility of blending hydrogen into regional natural gas pipelines. The blending of hydrogen into an existing natural gas pipeline is common in some portions of the United States and could be very beneficial for North Dakota as it looks to address pipeline gas quality issues and provide a readily available market opportunity for hydrogen production in the state.

The Pipeline Authority Director is looking forward to actively engaging in his role on the new Clean Sustainable Energy Authority’s technical committee. It is anticipated that many of the proposals brought to the Clean Sustainable Energy Authority will have an impact or reliance on regional midstream energy assets in the state.

Industry and public information distribution will continue with the use of web events, presentations, monthly updates, and agency websites. The Pipeline Authority will continue to conduct information presentations to public audiences, legislative groups, and industry representatives at various events throughout the coming year.
APPENDIX A

Natural Gas Composition Study Executive Summary
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of a study conducted by the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) for the North Dakota Pipeline Authority (NDPA) to assess how the chemical composition of natural gas liquids (NGLs) produced from the Bakken and Three Forks (TF) Formations varies spatially across the play and temporally through the life of a typical well. In November of 2019, natural gas production in North Dakota reached an all-time high of over 3.1 billion cubic feet per day and is expected to increase with ongoing development of the Bakken petroleum system (BPS). Better understanding of the NGL content of produced gas from the BPS and how NGL content varies spatially and temporally across the play is essential to forecasting future NGL production in the BPS. This information is fundamental for planning and optimization of gas pipelines and gas-processing facilities, as well as for evaluation of future petrochemical development opportunities in North Dakota.

The work performed through this effort comprised several key components: literature review, collection and analysis of gas composition data, geographic information system (GIS)-based mapping, and modeling and simulation. The key objectives were to:

1) Review and summarize existing literature on predicted or observed changes in natural gas chemistry over time in shale plays and/or tight reservoirs.
2) Collect and compile existing gas composition data from the EERC, the North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC), EERC partners, and other public sources.
3) Evaluate spatial trends in NGL content across the BPS, and assess the key geochemical and geologic factors that affect gas composition using data analytics and machine learning.
4) Develop a reservoir model to match historical measured data and to forecast gas composition from a typical Bakken and TF well after 1, 10, 20, and 30 years of production.
5) Perform simulations using the reservoir model to evaluate how produced gas enhanced oil recovery (EOR) efforts in the BPS could impact gas composition over time.

The data used in this effort included industry-supplied gas composition data from 7316 data points across 12 counties in the North Dakota and Montana portion of the BPS. The data set contained measurements of C1–C5 hydrocarbons (HCs), other heavier liquids, and non-HC gases. Geologic and geochemical data for the BPS were derived from the EERC’s internal database comprising publicly available data and in-house analyses. Pressure, volume, temperature (PVT) data and associated production data for two wells were provided by EERC partners and used to perform compositional forecasting.

Based on the data used in this effort, the average composition of the gas produced from the BPS (expressed in mole percent [mol%]) is as follows: 58 mol% methane (C1), followed by 20 mol% ethane (C2), 11 mol% propane (C3), 4.9 mol% butane (C4), and 1.6 mol% pentane (C5), while concentrations of other components are very small except for N₂ (2.7 mol%). The average
initial wetness of gas produced from the BPS (defined as \( \frac{\{C_2+C_3+C_4+C_5\}}{\{C_1+C_2+C_3+C_4+C_5\}} \times 100 \)) was estimated at 39.9%. Distinct spatial patterns in gas compositions were observed across the Bakken region; in the core area, the wetness is typically less than 40%, and some areas outside of the core have wetness values above 45%. A temporal analysis of gas content showed that, in most locations, methane content increases within the first 5 years of production then remains stable out to 7 years of production. Evaluation of changes over longer production periods were limited by data availability. Ethane content was shown to decrease slightly during the first 3 to 5 years of production, after which it levels off or begins increasing slightly in some areas. Propane content, as with butane and pentane, is variable during the first 6 months of production, after which all three components generally decline until about 18 months to 3 years of production. Starting from 18 months to 3 years of production, the propane, butane, and pentane concentrations generally remain stable throughout 7 years of production.

An evaluation of correlations between gas content and the geochemical and geologic characteristics of the BPS show that initial gas composition and gas composition throughout production correlate significantly with the thermal maturity of the Bakken shales and other associated geologic parameters, such as temperature and depth. The more thermally mature areas of the BPS tend to have drier gas, and conversely, the less thermally mature areas have wetter gas.

A series of reservoir simulation activities were performed to investigate the long-term gas composition change based on models of two wells: one located in McKenzie County and one in Williams County. An evaluation of different production scenarios showed that the long-term changes in gas composition are strongly influenced by production rates and reservoir pressure. The simulation results show that methane content generally increases within the first 5 years of production and then decreases with long-term production. Concentrations of ethane and propane remain unchanged or decrease during the first few years of production, then increase gradually over time. The long-term changes in gas composition in the simulation scenarios with normal or accelerated production from the BPS were evaluated and suggest that methane content from individual wells could decrease significantly after approximately 10 years of production, at which point NGL content could increase significantly. A comparison of the simulation data with the long-term gas composition trend data from 32 wells suggests that while the timing of the predicted changes in gas composition is consistent with measured data, the magnitude of the long-term predicted changes may be high.

Without performing more extensive basinwide modeling and forecasting of future BPS development trends, it is difficult to determine what the long-term supplies of NGLs might look like. While it is encouraging that the long-term simulation results suggest trends of significant increases in NGL content within individual wells over time, the magnitude of that NGL contribution and the impact of the gas contribution from new wells coming online were not evaluated as part of this effort.

The reservoir model was also used to simulate changes in gas composition that may occur during CO\(_2\)-based or produced gas EOR efforts. The simulation results suggest that during produced gas EOR, the composition of the produced gas follows the composition of the injected gas. During CO\(_2\)-based EOR, the concentrations of the various produced gas components gradually decrease over time and follow similar trends.
APPENDIX B

North Dakota Pipeline Maps
North Dakota CO₂ Pipeline
APPENDIX C

North Dakota Crude Oil Rail Loading Map
North Dakota Crude Oil Rail Loading Facilities In Service
North Dakota Pipeline Authority – July 2021

[Map showing crude oil rail loading facilities in North Dakota, with annotations for rail lines, Bakken Extent, Mature Bakken Extent, and Three Forks Extent.]
APPENDIX D

North Dakota Gas Processing Plant Table
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Natural Gas Processing Capacity, Million Cubic Feet Per Day