



Department of Mineral Resources

Lynn D. Helms – Director

North Dakota Industrial Commission

www.dmr.nd.gov

Tuesday, April 30th 2013

For Immediate Release

Contact: Alison Ritter at 701-328-8036

Department of Minerals Resources Pleased with USGS Assessment

Bismarck, N.D.- The United States Geological Survey today released the updated assessment of the Bakken and Three Forks Petroleum System. The Department of Mineral Resources was pleased with the results.

“We are happy to see the numbers released in this assessment have gone up from 2008,” said Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources. “Assessments like these are typically more conservative because technology changes so rapidly. We agree with the range of numbers and think the high estimate of 11 billion barrels is a reasonable target as technology and exploration of the Three Forks continues.”

The release of the 2013 assessment includes the Three Forks Formation, which was not included in 2008, and will be useful information to all stakeholders.

“This assessment gives the state and counties, as well as operators a better idea of what we can expect from development. This will assist in further planning of all the necessary components of oil and gas development, from regulation to roads and housing,” added Helms.

State Geologist Ed Murphy acknowledges the significance of including the Three Forks this time around.

“This assessment shows the importance of Three Forks development, something that companies are just beginning to explore. This is an evolving oil play, and we will continue to evaluate the results as more wells are drilled into the deeper Three Forks benches.”

In 2008, the DMR released its own assessment of the Bakken System at 2.1 billion barrels, followed by a 2010 assessment of the top 50 feet of the Three Forks at 1.87 billion barrels, for a total of technically recoverable oil just shy of 4 billion barrels. The department has no immediate plans to update its 2010 assessment, but has been collecting pertinent data should state policy makers feel an update is needed. The department will continue to evaluate the results of today’s USGS announcement.

###