



Oil and Gas Division

Lynn D. Helms - Director Bruce E. Hicks - Assistant Director
Department of Mineral Resources
Lynn D. Helms - Director
North Dakota Industrial Commission
www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

July 13, 2018

For More Information, Contact:

Katie Haarsager
Public Information Officer
Phone: 701.328.8036
E-mail: kahaarsager@nd.gov

North Dakota Sets New Production Records in May

BISMARCK, N. D. - North Dakota has reached new records in both oil and gas production. May preliminary data released by the Oil and Gas Division indicates North Dakota is now producing 1,244,629 barrels of oil per day - an increase of 17,146 barrels from the last record set in December 2014.

“This is a very encouraging time for North Dakota as oil and gas operators and service companies have developed drilling rigs that are twice as efficient as they were in 2014 to drill and complete permitted wells,” stated Lynn Helms, Director of the Department of Mineral Resources. “Closing the gap between current wells producing and the wells capable of producing will add to 2018 production numbers so we should continue to reach new highs.”

North Dakota also continues to set record numbers for gas production reaching 2,318,754 MCF per day according to May data. Increasing gas production has increased pressure on operators to meet requirements of the North Dakota Industrial Commission’s Gas Capture policy. This month the Oil and Gas Division also announced gas capture was at 83% in May. The current capture goal is 85% and is scheduled to increase to 88% in November 2018. This is the first time since October 2017 that industry has not met the commission goal.

“Missing the gas capture goal for May is disappointing, but can be attributed in large part to gas plant maintenance,” Helms said. “The Department is meeting with operators and midstream companies to encourage working together to divert gas when needed to use 100% of available capacity and to think creatively on how they plan to meet future goals.”

Production data for the close of the second quarter is scheduled to be released August 15.

###

To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division information center at <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/informationcenter.asp>.