
SHALLOW GAS PROGRAM RECEIVES RECENT ND MEDIA COVERAGE

Recently, James MacPherson of the Associated Press in Bismarck interviewed State Geologist Ed Murphy and Geologist Fred Anderson about recent activities related to shallow gas investigations in North Dakota.

MacPherson's interest focused on some of the more colorful stories submitted by the general public in the form of shallow gas stories or "anecdotes" that are being collected as a part of the ND shallow gas investigative program.



Collection of recent newspaper articles from North Dakota newspapers, penned by AP writer James MacPherson, featuring some of the stories of shallow gas occurrences and observations collected by the Survey from the public.

These stories often provide descriptions of farmers and landowners who have been able to light their faucets, bathtubs, and garden hoses on fire. Many of these types of wells have been completed in shallow water-bearing zones where shallow natural gas is present. The natural gas present accompanies the well water to the surface during pumping and subsequent use.

MacPherson's article was picked up by the North Dakota newsmedia and featured in the Bismarck Tribune, Fargo Forum, Minot Daily News, Grand Forks Herald, and Dickinson Press. The article also caught the attention of Grand Forks area KNOX radio news host Dakota Huseby. Huseby interviewed Survey geologist Fred Anderson on a recent radio broadcast of the *Voice of Dakota*, which provided an opportunity for the Survey to discuss some of the more recent stories that were submitted since the publishing of MacPherson's AP article.

The NDGS in Bismarck has received over 60 stories (or anecdotes) of shallow natural gas occurrences or observations from across the state since the publishing of the AP article, some that are fairly "colorful." Most of these stories have originated primarily in the north-central and southeastern regions of the state, coinciding with areas that historically have been associated with shallow gas. These stories have been added to the NDGS shallow gas anecdotal occurrence database and will serve as additional points of interest during field work this summer and fall.

Those that may be interested in reading some of these stories, or perhaps would like to contribute one of their own, can find them on the Survey's shallow gas program website at: <https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/shallowgas/sgasstories.asp>