

Industrial Commission Tours Core Library

On September 10, 2009 all three members of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, Governor John Hoeven, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring toured the Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library in Grand Forks. This was the first time in recent memory that all three members of the Industrial Commission were in the core library at the same time. This is not unusual given their very busy and diverse schedules. Core was laid out on work tables in the laboratory for the Commissioners to inspect.

The 20,000 square foot facility was built in 1980 and houses more than 160,000, three-foot-long boxes. Approximately 125,000 of these boxes contain core and 35,000 contain cuttings. We archive cuttings from 13,300 of the 15,800 oil and gas wells that have been drilled in North Dakota, along with 380,000 feet of core that was obtained from 4,000 wells. The core library sees extensive use by industry geologists and engineers from throughout the country as well as graduate students. In 2008, scientists studied more than 51,000 feet of core in this facility. For a more detailed article on the Wilson M. Laird Core and Sample Library, see DMR Newsletter vol. 36, no.1.



The Industrial Commission tours the warehouse portion of the core library. In the warehouse they were able to see the 10-20% space savings we have obtained by reboxing the old, damaged core boxes and the recently completed sample (drill cuttings) reboxing project that resulted in a 50% space savings. From left to right: UND graduate student Ben Mooney, Core Library Director LeFever, Governor Hoeven, Attorney General Stenehjem, DMR Director Helms, Agriculture Commissioner Goehring, and Industrial Commission Executive Director and Secretary Karlene Fine.



From left to right: Governor John Hoeven, Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring, DMR Director Lynn Helms, Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, and Core Library Director Julie LeFever inspect core from XTO Energy Inc.'s Miller 34X-9 well in Mercer County. The core extends from the base of the Lodgepole, through the Bakken, and into the top of the Three Forks Formation and was obtained from a depth of 9,410 to 9,593 feet below the surface.



Participants of the core library tour in front of aisle three where old core boxes have been replaced in the first three bins of the aisle. Left to right: State Geologist Ed Murphy, Attorney General Stenehjem, Governor Hoeven, Agriculture Commissioner Goehring, Core Library Director LeFever, and DMR Director Helms.