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Presentation of Oil Activity in Western North Dakota

Helms Briefs Leaders on the Future of Oil Activity

KILLDEER- Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, today updated County Commissioners, auditors and other state and local officials on his oil activity forecast during his 16th annual address to the North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties.

“I always enjoy meeting with, and updating stakeholders in the oil and gas producing counties,” explained Helms. “This talk is by far one of the most important talks that I give every year and I think folks are eager to understand what could be considered the new normal for their communities”

In his talk, Helms provided estimates of activity for each oil and gas producing county for the next two years at different pricing scenarios. Each price point included annual averages for categories such as active well count, rig count and production.

“I really wanted to deliver the most useful information for these communities given the price uncertainty that looms over the state for the next two years. I wanted to relay several oil price scenarios and what the anticipated activity could be per county, as well as anticipated production,” Helms said.

Director Helms explained regulatory changes that have evolved over the past year as a result of the Legislature passing House Bill 1358. Helms discussed increased regulatory oversight on gathering pipeline infrastructure and a forthcoming rule making on the topic.

“We are eagerly awaiting the results of the gathering pipeline study being conducted by Energy and Environment Research Center. We will carefully review the results of the study and get to work on pipeline rules that are necessary, cost-effective and feasible in order to improve on the foundation of pipeline rules we established two years ago,” said Helms.

Finally, Helms laid out the progress industry has made in capturing natural gas, as well as conditioning oil at the well site to produce a stable, reliable product entering the transportation system.

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