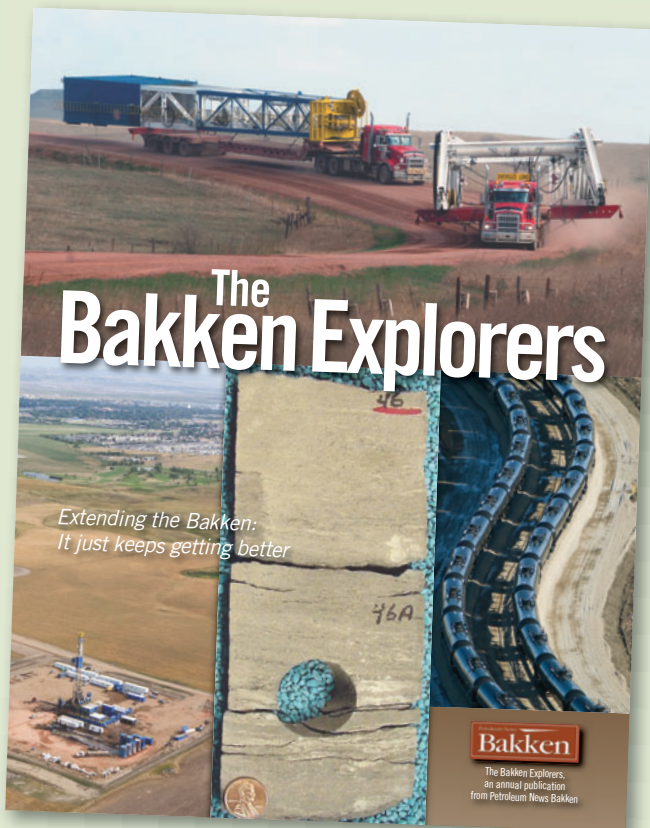




## The Bakken Explorers magazine



Working cover of upcoming annual magazine from Petroleum News Bakken, which is due to be released in August. For more information see brief below.

### Key players push boundaries of Bakken petroleum system; nominations open for magazine

Petroleum News Bakken is asking for nominations for its new annual magazine, The Bakken Explorers, in which qualified oil companies will be featured.

Extending the Bakken petroleum system's recoverable reserves is being done in one or more of the following three ways, any one of which qualifies an exploration and production company for coverage in the magazine:

1. Exploring laterally by testing the fringes of the known Bakken petroleum system.
2. Exploring vertically by evaluating relatively unproduced formations or formation members in the Bakken petroleum system, such as the upper Bakken shale member and the second, third and fourth benches of the Three Forks.
3. Looking to increase producible reserves by developing and utilizing new technology, including improved drilling and completion techniques — technology often used in combination with 1 and 2 above.

#### Companies selected to date

The companies listed below are already approved for inclusion in the magazine:

- Apache Corp.
- Brigham Oil & Gas LP (Statoil)
- Burlington Resources (ConocoPhillips)
- Continental Resources
- Crescent Point Energy
- Enerplus Resources
- Fidelity Exploration & Production (MDU)
- G3 Operating LLC (Halcon Resources)
- GMX Resources
- Hess Corp.
- Kodiak Oil & Gas
- Marathon Oil
- Newfield Exploration
- Oasis Petroleum
- Slawson Exploration

see **BAKKEN EXPLORERS** page 12

## E&P REGION

# Eagle Ford soaring

Economic impact from South Texas shale development hit \$61B in 2012

By **RAY TYSON**

For Petroleum News Bakken

The Eagle Ford shale play of South Texas is now said to be among world's largest oil and gas developments with a reported \$61 billion in total economic impact on the region in 2012.

The \$61 billion in economic impact for Eagle Ford in 2012 represents an astounding 144 percent increase over a reported \$25 billion for the area in 2011, according to a recent study conducted by the University of Texas' Institute for Economic Development.

"The Eagle Ford now ranks as the largest single oil and gas development in the world based on capital expenditures," the study declared.

The report estimates that of the total economic

*"The Eagle Ford now ranks as the largest single oil and gas development in the world based on capital expenditures."*  
— University of Texas economic study

impact generated by the Eagle Ford in 2012, close to \$19 billion can be attributed directly to capital expenditures.

Comparative statistics and analysis for North Dakota's prolific Bakken petroleum system were available for 2011, but unavailable for 2012.

#### Bakken impact \$30.4 billion

A recent study by North Dakota State see **EAGLE FORD** page 10

## FINANCE & ECONOMY

# Bakken tumbles Voyageur

Oil sands project shelved; loses economic battle to light sweet crude boom

By **GARY PARK**

For Petroleum News Bakken

The Bakken has officially claimed its biggest victim, having toppled joint plans by Suncor Energy and France's Total to build an upgrader to convert Alberta oil sands bitumen into synthetic crude for refining into transportation fuels.

The C\$11.6 billion Voyageur project was shelved indefinitely on March 27, ending months of gathering signals from Suncor Chief Executive Officer Steve Williams that the partially completed facility to process 200,000 barrels per day had lost the economic battle with a gusher of light sweet crude across North America, led by the Williston Basin's Bakken petroleum system.

*"We have too much light, sweet crude, which is what upgraded synthetic crude effectively is, and if anything we have too little heavy crude."*

— Suncor CEO Steve Williams

In addition to more than C\$4 billion invested on Voyageur and taking a C\$1.5 billion write-down in February, Suncor has paid C\$515 million for Total's 49 percent stake, while Total booked a US\$1.65 billion loss on the venture.

Reaching for the positives, Williams said oil sands giant Suncor will "now be able to exclu-

see **VOYAGEUR** page 11

## GEOLOGY

# Bakken: True or False?

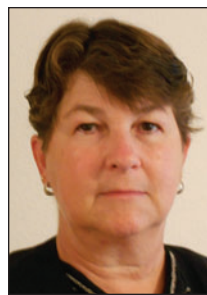
'False Bakken' limestone looks a lot like the UBS; possible interest in Montana

By **MIKE ELLERD**

For Petroleum News Bakken

Near the bottom of the Lodgepole formation along the southern flanks of the Bakken petroleum system in North Dakota and Montana lies an organic-rich limestone interval that can appear very similar to the Upper Bakken shale, to the extent the two have sometimes been confused. That confusion is what led drillers to dub the interval the "False Bakken."

Julie LeFever, director of the North Dakota Geological Survey's Wilson M. Laird core and sample library, describes the False Bakken as a "very, very organic rich" limestone that "looks like the Bakken when it's wet," except that the False Bakken



JULIE LEFEVER

is dark brown whereas the Upper Bakken shale is generally black. While the beds are highly organic-rich, LeFever says they are generally much thinner than in the shales, typically in the range of one foot.

Drillers, LeFever says, would encounter that organic rich limestone and originally think they had hit the Upper Bakken shale. "But the False Bakken fizzes when you put acid on it and it can't be the actual Bakken shale because that

doesn't fizz."

#### False Bakken organic matter

The organic matter in the False Bakken lime-

see **FALSE BAKKEN** page 12

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Headlines from the magazine cover include: 'WLL gets bum rap', 'Riverbed draws top bids', 'Galt: MPA ever vigilant', 'Helm's slams U.S. Fish & Wildlife', 'Bakken threatens Alberta upgrade', 'Rail will survive pipeline additions', 'Crude on rails in for long haul', and 'Hills get ready for oil boom'.

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● GOVERNMENT

# Infrastructure advocate in Montana Senate

After retiring from Maryland real estate career, in 2002 Rosendale bought ranch in Montana, today watches out for eastern district

By MIKE ELLERD

For Petroleum News Bakken

After a successful career in real estate development in Maryland, Matt Rosendale bought a ranch between Sidney and Glendive, and 11 years ago moved his family across the country to far eastern Montana. A few years later, Rosendale saw the coming of the oil boom in the area, knew it would require substantial upgrades to the infrastructure and wanted to get involved as an advocate for those upgrades at the state level. So in 2011, Rosendale ran for and won a seat in the Montana House of Representatives and in 2012 won a Senate seat. He now represents a district dealing first-hand with the impacts of oil and gas development in Montana's slice of the Bakken.

Rosendale visited with Petroleum News Bakken on April 1 and shared his thoughts on important oil and gas-related issues facing his district and how the current Montana legislative session is addressing those needs.

## Issues specific to eastern Montana

*Petroleum News Bakken: Your district covers all of Wibaux County, most of Dawson County, and the southern part of Richland County, which has seen as much oil and gas impact as any area in the state. What do you see as the most pressing issues facing your district as a result of oil and gas development?*

Rosendale: Infrastructure. Infrastructure, infrastructure, infrastructure, and that's what I've preached for four years and will continue to until we have a proper plan and funding in place to accommodate it.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Are you getting the funding and getting that plan in place?*

Rosendale: Yes, absolutely. When we finished up the last session, I started working on a plan to raise the awareness throughout the legislature. With the assistance of the Montana Petroleum Association and others, I put together a one-day bus trip from Billings to Miles City, Glendive, Sidney, Culbertson, Bainville and Williston and then all the way back around again. We had 19 legislators from around the state and speakers throughout the day on the bus and at different stops along the route. And it wasn't just oil and gas industry officials speaking, it was also the communities speaking to the legislators, and I had school officials and Montana Department of Transportation officials.

It received so much recognition that I was invited to speak in front of the Montana Association of Counties at their winter meeting. I was invited to speak before the Montana League of Cities and Towns, the Crime Prevention Bureau, and the Montana Taxpayers Association. I've gone around the state speaking in front of these organizations to raise the awareness.

Now all of that foundation and groundwork was laid going into this session. Then the governor in his state-of-the-state said we need to make an investment in eastern Montana. So now I feel like this has been successful. The awareness campaign has worked.

*Petroleum News Bakken: How is the legislature addressing the infrastructure needs?*

There are no less than three bills that

are directed to invest in infrastructure — Senate Bill 396, House Bill 594 and HB 218. All three of these bills are designed to create an impact fund.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Are you optimistic that one or more of these bills will pass the legislature?*

Rosendale: One of these bills will go through, and there will be a fund created to address the infrastructure needs of oil and gas-impacted communities.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Will there be enough money to meet those needs?*

Rosendale: That's sort of a subjective question. Everything becomes a discussion about priorities, and it is very necessary for us to make some investment, but the industry isn't generating the revenue in Montana like it is in North Dakota. So is it enough? It's enough to get us started. It's enough to get us through this next interim. If the production continues to move west into Montana, we'll have to go back again, and we'll have to direct some more revenue.

It's that balancing act because we also have Medicaid expansion and reform that we have to deal with. We have pay plans that we have to deal with. We have pension plans that are unfunded liabilities that we have to deal with. So it becomes a balancing act.

## Montana's oil and gas tax structure

*Petroleum News Bakken: That all requires money and several bills have been introduced this session addressing in one way or another Montana's oil and gas tax structure. Some would effectively lower taxes on the industry, while others would increase oil and gas taxes. How do you view Montana's current tax structure as it relates to the oil and gas industry in the state?*

Rosendale: Is our tax structure set up properly? Well I think that it is. When I look at our rig count right now, it's floating at about five to seven, and North Dakota's is 175 to 185 — how are we going to attract additional development in our state? Not by raising the taxes. The resource has proven to be more expensive to develop in Montana and not as prolific once it is developed — why in the world would you raise the taxes on people when they're already reluctant to make the additional investment here? Everything at the end of the day, the development of property or the development of resources, is about risk versus reward.

We have one bill that would raise oil and gas taxes, SB 295. I don't see that bill going anywhere, and I think it's probably tabled already. There is HB 589 which proposes to set up a trust fund. Now on face value you say well that it sounds like it's a reasonable proposal, but the problem is that it starts taking revenue straight off the top of the oil and gas production tax. And it ramps up the percentage that it would retain or direct to this trust fund over the next several years.

Each county is different in the percentage of money it receives, but as a rule of thumb, 24 percent comes off the



MATT ROSENDALE

top of the production tax and goes to the school district it was produced in, 24 percent goes to the county it was produced in, and 52 percent is retained by Helena to be utilized in the general fund. If you take 10, 15, 20 or 30 percent right off the top of that production tax and you start diverting it into this trust fund, you immediately have impacts on the exact counties and school districts that need the additional revenue the most.

So, until our production gets to the point that the counties and the schools are whole and they are able to accommodate the impacts that are being generated, I just don't see how we can implement this trust fund.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Other than those two bills, do you think the current tax structure reasonable or do you think additional incentives are necessary?*

Rosendale: In my conversations that I've had with industry, they feel like the tax code as it currently exists is fair. They're not looking for additional incentives, but they're also asking for no changes to generate a higher rate.

And in my conversations with industry, they feel the regulatory environment is pretty sound right now as opposed to some other states.

*Petroleum News Bakken: So it really doesn't need fixing?*

Rosendale: From the feedback I've received, industry feels things are sound.

## Landowner rights

*Petroleum News Bakken: You're a landowner in the middle of the Bakken play, so you know landowner concerns firsthand. Several bills have been introduced in the current session that address property rights and eminent domain. What are your thoughts on these issues?*

Rosendale: Eminent domain, as far as I'm concerned, is a necessary piece of legislation. There's absolutely no way that we'll be able to develop our resources, whether it's coal, oil, gas and quite frankly even our timber if eminent domain is not available to the developers of those resources. But as a staunch property right advocate, eminent domain has to be used sparingly, and I do

believe that it is incumbent upon industry to make sure that they do everything within their power to negotiate with landowners without using eminent domain. It's better for all parties involved because if industry does not treat property owners fairly, property owners start coming to the legislature, and we have to start imposing different regulations or modifying statute, and that's just not going to work out well for industry.

The eminent domain laws remain intact so that common carrier pipelines will be able to continue to utilize eminent domain, but it should be a last

see ROSENDALE Q&A page 9



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• MOVING HYDROCARBONS

# Rail gets wake-up jolt

Raymond James report: Using rail to move crude will likely continue to grow even if more pipeline capacity introduced

By GARY PARK

For Petroleum News Bakken

It might have been small, but it was still a warning that moving crude by rail carries risks.

A Canadian Pacific Railway train carrying a mixed load of crude oil from Canada and other cargo derailed near Parkers Prairie, Minn., on March 27, spilling an estimated 20,000 gallons of crude from one car onto frozen prairie soil.

Canadian Pacific spokesman Ed Greenberg said the cleanup process moved quickly, allowing the line to formally reopen on March 28 after track repairs and mandatory inspections, although the reasons for the accident are still not clear.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency said it will ask the railway to test the soil further to ensure ground water wasn't affected.

## Spill fodder for anti-pipeline group

But the incident gave an added push to a state coalition of 29 conservation groups and former public officials, along with 26 landowners, who opened a new battlefield against pipeline expansion projects in Minnesota.

They are petitioning two federal agencies to impose tougher pipeline regulations in advance of proposed upgrades to Enbridge pipelines carrying crude through Minnesota, Michigan and other states, with the aim of eventually blocking development of the Alberta oil sands, but not shutting down existing pipelines.

Enbridge opposes the petition, arguing that oil has been safely transported by pipelines "for decades."

## Rail use likely to grow

Using rail to move crude will likely continue to grow even if more pipeline capacity is introduced, said a new report by Raymond James, the financial services firm.

Company analyst Steve Hansen said crude-laden trainloads have grown by more than 50-fold since 2009 and there is no end in sight to the growth, with

*"In just three years, the crude-by-rail, or CBR, business model has evolved from one of relative obscurity into what is now regarded as one of the most dynamic business opportunities for North American Class I railroads."*

—Raymond James analyst Steve Hansen

Canadian National Railway and its domestic Canadian rival, Canadian Pacific, playing an important role in the years ahead.

As a result, Hansen raised his price target for CN to C\$115 a share from C\$92 previously, and set a target for CP of C\$130 a share, up C\$10 from previously.

"In just three years, the crude-by-rail, or CBR, business model has evolved from one of relative obscurity into what is now regarded as one of the most dynamic business opportunities for North American Class I railroads," he wrote.

Hansen said it is not the case that the model is underpinned by transit short-term fundamentals that will erode as new pipeline capacity comes on line.

## Pipeline role in CBR demand

"We do believe that new pipelines will play an important role in determining future CBR demand. However, we also believe that CBR's broader value proposition, most notably its deft ability to capitalize on regional pricing disparities — a phenomenon we expect to persist — has become an equally important arbiter that is gaining value," he said.

He said CN is "superbly positioned" to leverage an expected wave of Canadian heavy crude seeking access to U.S.-based refineries because of its network stretching from northern Alberta to the U.S. Gulf Coast, while CP has the best overall "torque" because of its unique ability to capitalize on Western Canadian heavy volumes heading south and North Dakota Bakken that Hansen expects will move eastward. ●

Contact Gary Park through publisher@petroleumnews.com



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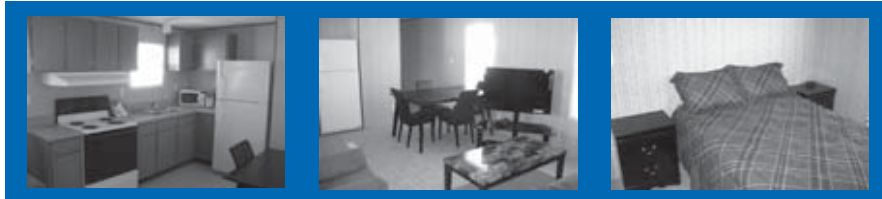


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● COMPANY UPDATE

# Middle Bakken success at Spyglass

American Eagle confirms 'high commercial potential' of Bakken formation member just south of Saskatchewan-North Dakota border

By RAY TYSON

Petroleum News Bakken

American Eagle Energy Corp., a small E&P independent based in Littleton, Colo., said the final well completed on its Spyglass property just south of the U.S.-Canadian border in Divide County, N.D., during the 2013 first quarter confirmed "the high commercial potential" of the Middle Bakken formation in the area.

Crescent Point Energy, the largest Bakken explorer in Canada, and Husky Oil Co. have been successful in developing the Middle Bakken member of the Bakken petroleum system on the north side of Spyglass, across the international border in Saskatchewan.

American Eagle's Hardy Bakken project, also in Saskatchewan, is one of the company's two core property holdings, along with the Spyglass prospect on the U.S. side of the border.

*"Projected drilling plans for the remainder of 2013 call for picking up a second rig early in the third quarter and possibly adding a third rig later in the year."*

— American Eagle Energy Corp.

## Six wells in first quarter

American Eagle, operating two rigs, drilled, completed and brought on stream six wells in Spyglass during the first quarter, the company reported, noting that three were infill wells on locations already producing from the lower Three Forks formation.

Two other wells, in addition to being successful producers, also extended the company's Three Forks productive acreage several sections to the west and south, providing multiple new infill drilling locations, the company said.

The sixth was American Eagle's first successful commercial well completed in Middle Bakken on the company's Eagle's Spyglass property.

"Having a commercial producer in the Middle Bakken is extremely vital because it results in a significant increase in the total number of producing wells that we can drill on acreage that is under our control," said Brad Colby, president of American Eagle.

## Four additional wells drilled

Four additional wells were drilled and cased during the first quarter and were awaiting stimulation operations, which were expected to begin March 29.

When these four wells are brought on line, the company will have an interest in 65 producing wells in North Dakota, 18 of which are company operated. Last year American Eagle began its own operated development drilling program.

The six wells brought on line during the 2013 first quarter had a combined gross initial production, IP, rate of about 2,600 barrels of oil per day, over 900 bpd net to the company.

Wells completed in the Three Forks formation continue to exhibit consistent production results with average IP oil rates ranging from 360 bpd to 490 bpd, the company said.

## Lateral shorter than usual

The Christianson Bros. 15-33, which was drilled and completed in the Middle Bakken, features a 5,420-foot lateral, which is shorter than usual because it was drilled across a correctional section adjacent to the Canadian border, the company said.

That well was placed on pump in early March after a 31 stage hydraulic fracture stimulation was completed, and has produced a daily average of 503 barrels of oil and 220,000 cubic feet of gas for the first week of production.

"The high production rates combined with the good oil cut confirms the good reservoir quality that was mapped by the company in the area," the company said.

Colby said the early wells results support American Eagle's three-prong development strategy for this year — continue infill drilling in the Three Forks formation, add significant Middle Bakken reserves in the area and expand productive acreage into the West Spyglass area.

## Drilling for less cost

"I am pleased with the consistent production results from the Three Forks formation across our acreage, as well as our growing ability to drill the wells quicker and for less cost, a trend we hope to continue," he added.

"Extending the potential productive area is especially important because it adds a number of relatively low-risk infill drilling locations to our inventory."

American Eagle said it is planning to release one rig but would continue to drill with one rig during the second quarter of the year. This should allow the company to minimize non-productive time during the spring breakup and allow for building an inventory of permitted locations in the Spyglass and West Spyglass areas.

"Projected drilling plans for the remainder of 2013 call for picking up a second rig early in the third quarter and possibly adding a third rig later in the year," the company said.

## Producing 1,620 boe per day

Total company production, as of Jan. 22, stood at 1,620 barrels of oil equivalent per day, 90 percent of which was oil. Output from company-operated wells

alone jumped more than six-fold to 750 boe per day from 105 boe per day about a year earlier. Volumes from acquisition of additional working interests in American

see SPYGLASS page 6

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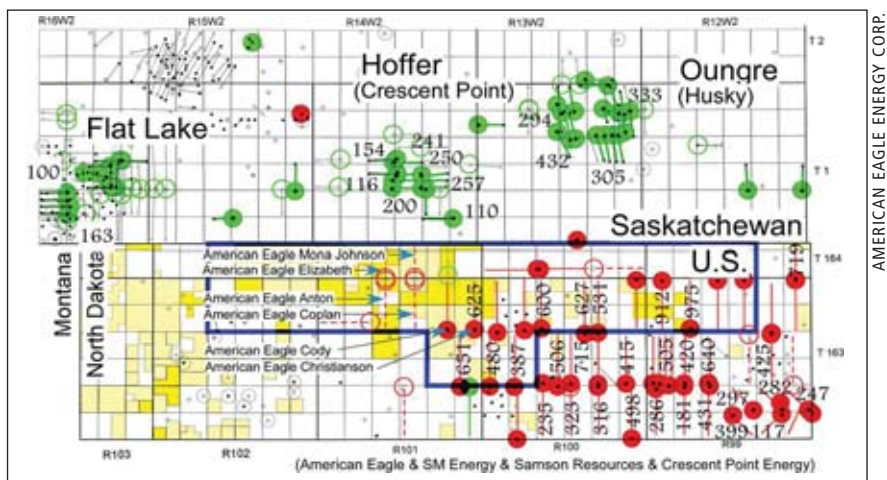
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AMERICAN EAGLE ENERGY CORP.

continued from page 5

## SPYGLASS

Eagle-owned wells contributed to the increase.

Two year-end acquisitions also added about 45 percent to the company's net proved developed reserve base. Total net proved developed reserves for the Spyglass project from the September report were 1,126,000 barrels of oil and 514,000 mcf of gas. The acquisitions added an estimated total

net proved developed reserves to about 1,636,000 barrels of oil and 1,064,000 mcf of gas.

Adjusting for reserves developed by 2012 fourth-quarter drilling less production during the quarter would increase the company's estimated proved developed reserves to more than 2.1 million barrels of oil and 1,200,000 mcf of gas. ●

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## PEOPLE TALK

# Enerplus CEO retires; Norstra gets Landry

By RAY TYSON

For Petroleum News Bakken

**GORDON J. KERR**, president and chief executive officer of Enerplus Corp. since 2001, has elected to retire from the Calgary, Alberta-based E&P independent effective June 30. Kerr also will be retiring as a board director.

"Gord has been a central figure in Enerplus' success over our 27 year history," Enerplus Chairman **DOUG MARTIN** said, noting that under Kerr's leadership, Enerplus has grown into a \$3 billion oil and gas company while distrib-



GORDON KERR

## People Talk

uting over \$5 billion in dividends to investors.

"Today, Enerplus is well positioned with substantial assets in a number of North America's most sought after plays," Martin added.

**IAN C. DUNDAS**, currently executive vice president and chief operating officer of the company, will replace Kerr.

Dundas, who joined Enerplus in 2002, has led many of Enerplus' most significant and profitable transactions over the past decade, Martin said.

"Ian's participation in a broad range of functional leadership roles and increasing levels of executive responsibility give the board confidence that he is the right choice," he added.

Dundas also will assume a director role.



IAN DUNDAS

## Norstra eye on Alberta Bakken Fairway

**GLEN LANDRY** has been named president and chief executive officer of Norstra Energy Inc., which is in the process of acquiring a "significant land position" in northwest Montana with the intent to explore the Alberta Bakken Fairway, also referred to as the Southern Alberta Bakken. Across the border in Alberta, it is generally referred to as the Exshaw.

Landry is a seasoned, third generation geologist. His grandfather was involved in the development of the Kevin Sunburst oil field in Montana.

Landry received his degree from the University of Montana more than 30 years ago, and his main exploration and development focus has been Montana and North Dakota, Norstra said.

During the 1980s, he consulted for Occidental Petroleum, which was active in exploring and shooting seismic throughout northwestern Montana. These efforts were focused on finding crude oil in deep formations, but were not economically feasible at the time.

"My 30 years of experience in this region have convinced me that northwest Montana holds a significant amount of oil," Landry said.

Based in Lored, Texas, Norstra has a land position in Kansas. ●

Contact Ray Tyson  
at [rtyson@petroleumnews.com](mailto:rtyson@petroleumnews.com)



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# Bakken Stats

## • DRILLING & COMPLETION

# Montana oil activity report, March 22-28

### Abbreviations & parameters

With a few exceptions, such as the Heath shale play in the central part of the state, the Montana weekly oil activity report includes horizontal well activity in the Bakken petroleum system in the eastern/northeastern part of the state within the Williston Basin. It also includes what is referred to as the South Alberta Bakken fairway in northwestern/west-central Montana, which is at least 175 miles long (north-south) and 50 miles wide (east-west), extending from southern Alberta, where the formation is generally referred to as the Exshaw, southwards through Montana's Glacier, Toole, Pondera, Teton and Lewis & Clark counties. The Southern Alberta Bakken, under evaluation by several oil companies, is not part of the Williston Basin.

Following are the abbreviations used in the report and what they mean.

- BHL:** bottomhole location
- BOPD:** barrels of oil per day
- BWPD:** barrels of water per day
- IP:** initial production
- MCFPD:** thousand cubic feet per day
- PBHL:** probable bottomhole location
- SHL:** surface hole location
- TD:** total depth

COMPILED BY DARRYL L. FLOWERS

For Petroleum News Bakken

### New locations — horizontal wells

All three new horizontal wells will fly the Continental Resources Inc. banner in Richland County, and will tap into the

Bakken.

The Fitzsimons 1-26H has a SHL at NE NW 26-23N-54E (260 FNL/2165 FWL) and a PBHL of 14,562 feet at SE SW 26-23N-54E (200 FSL/1980 FWL); the Mabel 1-14H has an SHL at NW NE 14-26N-56E (292 FNL/1855 FEL) and a PBHL of 19,917 feet at SW SE 23-26N-56E (200 FSL/1980 FEL) and the Williamson 1-34H has an SHL at SW SE 34-23N-54E (275 FSL/2030 FEL) and a PBHL of 14,383 feet at NW NE 34-23N-54E (200 FNL/1980 FEL).

### Re-issued locations

Statoil Oil & Gas LP was granted a permit for the Antelope 8-5 1H. The Bakken well, in Richland County, has an SHL at NE NW 17-26N-57E (240 FNL/2128 FWL) and a PBHL of 20,761 feet at NE NW 5-26N-57E (250 FNL/1740 FWL). Statoil entered the Bakken and Three Forks plays in 2011 with the acquisition in 2011 of Brigham Exploration Co.

### New laterals or extensions, existing horizontal wells

In Richland County, Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. was issued a permit for the Scoundrel 1-8H. The Scoundrel has an SHL at SE SE 8-23N-53E (350 FSL/650 FEL) and two lateral legs: 13,704 feet at NW NE 8-23N-53E (700 FNL/2200 FEL) and 13,612 feet at SW

SW 8-23N-53E (750 FSL/250 FWL). Both laterals will tap into the Bakken formation.

### Completions

There were four completions reported in Richland County.

Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. reported the completion of the Cleaver 1-30H. The Cleaver has an SHL at SW SW 30-21N-60E (550 FSL/200 FWL) and a BHL of

14,959 feet at SE SE 30-21N-60E (805 FSL/250 FEL). The Bakken well reported an IP of 296 BOPD, 59 MCFPD and 1,213 BWPD.

Continental Resources Inc. turned in a completion report for the Mott 1-16H. The Bakken producer has an SHL at SW SE 16-26N-54E (200 FSL/2025 FEL) and two laterals, 16,764 feet at NW SE 9-26N-54E (2916 FNL/2062 FEL) and 24,821

see ACTIVITY page 8

## CORRECTED CHART



### Top 10 Bakken wells by IP rate March 16 – March 25, 2013

<b>Burlington Resources (ConocoPhillips)</b> 23261; Mesa Verde 34-22TFH; McKenzie; 3,880 bbl	<b>Whiting Oil and Gas</b> 24242; Fladeland 14-33H; Mountrail; 2,971 bbl
<b>Oasis Petroleum</b> 22740; Larry 5301 44-12B; McKenzie; 3,863 bbl	<b>Burlington Resources (ConocoPhillips)</b> 23249; Lovaas 11-1TFH; McKenzie; 2,946 bbl
<b>Brigham Oil and Gas (Statoil)</b> 23320; Porter 35-26 #2; McKenzie; 3,611 bbl 23089; Jarold 25-36 1H; Williams; 3,164 bbl	<b>Newfield Production</b> 21591; Sand Creek Federal 153-96-23-14-2H; McKenzie; 2,662 bbl
<b>Oasis Petroleum</b> 23462; Elery H 5200 44-20T; McKenzie; 3,054 bbl	
<b>Burlington Resources (ConocoPhillips)</b> 21057; Hilman 31-29H; McKenzie; 2,982 bbl 23263; Mesa Verde 44-22TFH; McKenzie; 2,978 bbl	

Note: This chart contains initial production rates, or IPs, from the March 31 edition IP chart for active wells that were filed as completed with the state of North Dakota from March 16 to March 25, 2013 in the petroleum system, as well as active wells that were released from tight-hole status during the same period. The well operator's name is on the upper line, followed by individual wells the NDIC file number; well name; county and IP oil flow rate in barrels of oil.



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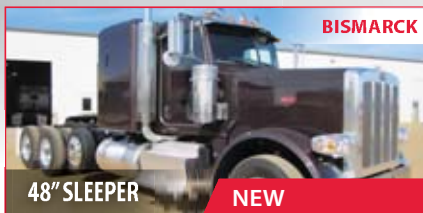
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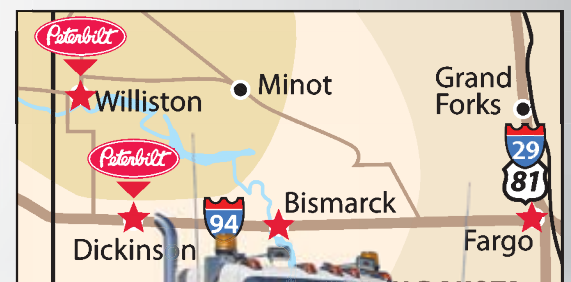
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continued from page 7

## ACTIVITY

feet at NW NE 4-26N-54E (205 FNL/2006 FEL). The reported IP for the Mott was 514 BOPD, 432 MCFPD and 658 BWPD.

Whiting Oil and Gas Corp. reported the completion of two wells in Richland County. The Iverson Bros 14-33H has an SHL at SW SW 33-26N-58E (350 FSL/1300 FWL) and three laterals, all tapping the Bakken: 10,788 feet at SE SW 33-26N-58E (758 FSL/1603 FWL); 15,832 feet at SE SW 28-26N-58E (569 FSL/1690 FWL) and 20,325 feet at NE NW 28-26N-58E (241 FNL/1933 FWL). The Iverson Bros reported an IP of 776 BOPD, 628 MCFPD and 2,809 BWPD.

Whiting's Watts 42-21-1HR is located at SE NE 21-24N-59E (1720 FNL/530 FEL) and has three laterals, all boring into the Bakken: 12,991 feet at NE NW 21-24N-59E (653 FNL/2271 FWL); 18,271 feet at NE NW 20-24N-59E (678 FNL/2266 FWL) and 20,286 feet at NW NW 20-24N-59E (683 FNL/255 FWL). The Watts reported an IP of 755 BOPD, 591 MCFPD and 2,751 BWPD.

In Sheridan County, Vaalco Energy (USA) Inc. brought in two wells, both tapping the Bakken. The Bolke 11-01H has an SHL at NE NE 11-37N-56E (350 FNL/350 FEL) and a BHL of 11,754 feet at SW SW 2-37N-56E (1270 FSL/661 FWL) and turned in an IP of 27 BOPD and 830 BWPD; the Bolke 07-01H, located at NE SE 7-37N-56E (1580 FSL/350 FEL) with a BHL of 12,075 feet at NE SE 8-37N-56E (1345 FSL/661 FEL) reported an IP of 22 BOPD and 651 BWPD. ●

*Darryl L. Flowers, a contributor to Petroleum News Bakken, is the publisher of the Sun Times in Fairfield, Mont., [www.fairfieldsuntimes.com](http://www.fairfieldsuntimes.com), and can be reached at [publisher@fairfieldsuntimes.com](mailto:publisher@fairfieldsuntimes.com)*

# Petroleum News Bakken

## North Dakota well operator transfers March 16 – 29, 2013

### LEGEND

Date of well operator transfer

Well(s) transferred from

Well(s) transferred to

NDIC well file number — well name — well type — pool — field — IP (initial production) test date — IP oil rate in barrels — location — county

### March 27, 2013

From: Petro-Hunt, LLC.

To: BTA Oil Producers, LLC

08677 - Hanson 2-34-4A; vertical; Madison; Little Knife; 11/23/1981; 56 bbl; NWSW 34-144N-98W; Billings Co.

11360 - Kasper 1-14-4C; vertical; Madison; Little Knife; 3/12/1985; 287 bbl; SESW 14-143N-98W; Billings Co.

### March 28, 2013

From: Petro-Hunt

To: G3 Operating LLC (Halcon Resources Corp.)

24825 - Berg 157-100-7C-6-2H; on confidential status; N/A; Marmon; N/A; N/A; SESW 7-157N-100W; Williams Co.

23382 - Fort Berthold 147-94-1B-12-3H; on confidential status; N/A; Gregory Buttes; N/A; N/A; NWNW 1-147N-94W; Dunn Co.

24418 - Fort Berthold 148-94-17C-08-3H; on confidential status; N/A; Eagle Nest; N/A; N/A; SWSW 17-148N-94W; Dunn Co.

24417 - Fort Berthold 148-94-17C-08-4H; on confidential status; N/A; Eagle Nest; N/A; N/A; SESW 17-148N-94W; Dunn Co.

24150 - Fort Berthold 148-94-27C-22-3H; on confidential status; N/A; Gregory Buttes; N/A; N/A; SWSW 27-148N-94W; Dunn Co.

23383 - Fort Berthold 148-94-36C-25-3H; on confidential status; N/A; Gregory Buttes; N/A; N/A; NWNW 1-147N-94W; Dunn Co.

24737 - Fort Berthold 152-94-15A-22-7H; on confidential status; N/A; Antelope; N/A; N/A; NWNE 15-152N-94W; McKenzie Co.

24731 - Fort Berthold 152-94-15B-22-3H; on confidential status; N/A; Antelope; N/A; N/A; NWNW 15-152N-94W; McKenzie Co.

24738 - Fort Berthold 152-94-15B-22-6H; on confidential status; N/A; Antelope; N/A; N/A; NENW 15-152N-94W; McKenzie Co.

24739 - Fort Berthold 152-94-15B-22-5H; on confidential status; N/A; Antelope; N/A; N/A; NENW 15-152N-94W; McKenzie Co.

24824 - Pasternak Trust 157-100-18B-19-2H; on confidential status; N/A; Marmon; N/A; N/A; SESW 7-157N-100W; Williams Co.

20063 - State 157-100-32C-29-1H; on confidential status; N/A; Marmon; N/A; N/A; SWSW 32-157N-100W; Williams Co.

24679 - Storhaug 157-100-2B-11-2H; on confidential status; N/A; Dublin; N/A; N/A; LOT3 2-157N-100W; Williams Co.

From: Samson Resources Company (KKR & Co.)

To: Bakken Hunter, LLC

21220 - Cougar 26-35-163-97H; horizontal; Bakken; Paulson; 5/15/2012; 299 bbl; NWNE 26-163N-97W; Divide Co.

21137 - Pheasant 14-23-163-96H; horizontal; Bakken; Bounty School; 4/14/2012; 291 bbl; SWSE 11-163N-96W; Divide Co.

15905 - Points 2-11H; horizontal; Bakken; Paulson; 1/4/2006; 73 bbl; SESW 2-163N-97W; Divide Co.

21221 - Prowler 23-14-163-97H; horizontal; Bakken; Paulson; 5/12/2012; 239 bbl; NWNE 26-163N-97W; Divide Co.

21136 - Starling 11-2-163-96H; horizontal; Bakken; Bounty School; 4/10/2012; 37 bbl; SWSE 11-163N-96W; Divide Co.

From: Helis Oil and Gas Company, LLC

To: QEP Energy Company

22363 - Kirkland 15E-23/14H; on confidential status; N/A; Grail; N/A; N/A; SWSE 23-149N-95W; McKenzie Co.

23278 - Paul 1-26/35H; on confidential status; N/A; Grail; N/A; N/A; NENE 26-150N-95W; McKenzie Co.

*Note: The information in this chart was compiled by Petroleum News Bakken from the online daily activity reports of the North Dakota Industrial Commission, or NDIC. The operator names in this report are as they appear in State of North Dakota records, even though some of the companies, or their Bakken assets, might have been purchased by other companies. Samson Resources, for example, is now part of KKR & Co.*

# Petroleum News Bakken

## Bakken producers' stock prices

Closing prices as of April 3, along with those from previous Wednesday

Company	Exchange	Symbol	Closing price	Previous Wed.
Abraxas Petroleum Corp.	NASDAQ	AXAS	\$2.15	\$2.29
American Eagle Energy Corp.	AMZG	OTC	\$2.08	\$2.00
Arsenal Energy USA, Inc.	TSE	AEI	\$0.45	\$0.48
Baytex Energy Corp.	NYSE	BTE	\$41.34	\$42.27
Brigham Exploration Co. (Statoil)	NYSE	STO	\$24.17	\$24.40
Burlington Resources Co. (ConocoPhillips)	NYSE	COP	\$59.27	\$60.38
Continental Resources, Inc.	NYSE	CLR	\$81.44	\$87.56
Crescent Point Energy Corp.	TSE	CPG	\$36.92	\$38.36
Enerplus Resources USA Corp.	NYSE	ERF	\$13.92	\$14.73
EOG Resources, Inc.	NYSE	EOG	\$126.10	\$128.20
Fidelity Exploration and Production (MDU)	NYSE	MDU	\$23.68	\$24.54
G3 Operating LLC (Halcon Resources Corp.)	NYSE	HK	\$7.46	\$7.79
GMX Resources, Inc.	PINK	GMXRQ	\$0.34	\$2.45
Hess Corp.	NYSE	HES	\$72.06	\$72.03
Kodiak Oil and Gas (USA), Inc.	NYSE	KOG	\$8.41	\$9.26
Legacy Reserves Operating LP	NASDAQ	LGCY	\$27.16	\$27.27
Liberty Resources, LLC	LBV	ASX	\$0.05	\$0.06
Marathon Oil Co.	NYSE	MRO	\$33.19	\$34.01
Newfield Production Co.	NYSE	NFX	\$21.99	\$22.38
Oasis Petroleum Inc.	NYSE	OAS	\$35.35	\$38.46
OXY USA (Occidental Petroleum Corp.)	NYSE	OXY	\$81.06	\$78.13
QEP Energy Co.	NYSE	QEP	\$29.76	\$31.65
Resolute (Resolute Energy Corp.)	NYSE	REN	\$10.32	\$11.41
Samson Resources Co. (KKR & Co.)	NYSE	KKR	\$18.61	\$19.34
SM Energy Co.	NYSE	SM	\$56.91	\$59.22
Sundance Energy, Inc.	SEA	ASX	\$1.06	\$1.09
Triangle USA Petroleum Corp.	NYSE	TPLM	\$6.02	\$6.77
Whiting Oil and Gas Corp.	NYSE	WLL	\$47.13	\$50.84
WPX Energy Inc.	NYSE	WPX	\$15.00	\$16.24
XTO Energy Inc. (ExxonMobil)	NYSE	XOM	\$89.93	\$90.58

# Petroleum News Bakken

## Looking for a rig report?

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### North Dakota

The best list for North Dakota is updated daily by the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division at [www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/riglist.asp](http://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/riglist.asp)

### Saskatchewan

Weekly drilling activity report from the government of Saskatchewan:  
[www.economy.gov.sk.ca/Daily-Well-Bulletin-Weekly-Drilling-Reports](http://www.economy.gov.sk.ca/Daily-Well-Bulletin-Weekly-Drilling-Reports)

### Manitoba

Weekly drilling activity report from the government of Manitoba:  
[www.manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/wwar/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/iem/petroleum/wwar/index.html)



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TRANSPORTATION

# Idaho port seeks Bakken oil business

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Port of Lewiston in northern Idaho is advertising in Montana and North Dakota hoping to attract business from companies working in oil fields.

At the end of March port commissioners approved spending \$5,800 on ads that will appear in newspapers in Sidney, Mont., and Williston, N.D.

"It's advertising," said Port Manager David Doeringsfeld. "The measurement will be the phone and what we receive in inquiries."

The Port of Lewiston is billed as the West Coast's farthest inland port, connected to the Pacific Ocean by the Columbia and Snake rivers.

To reach even more potential customers, Port Commissioner Mike Thomason recommended sending a copy of the ad to economic development groups in Montana and North Dakota.

"This is a good first step," said Port Commission President Mary Hasenoehrl. "I think we need to do more than this."

Doeringsfeld said oil companies could save money sending equipment through their facility rather than having equipment that's built overseas travel through the Panama Canal before entering the United States in Houston. Some of the equipment used at the oil fields is made by companies on the Pacific Rim.

Port Commissioner Jerry Klemm said many people probably aren't aware Idaho even has a port.



PORT OF LEWISTON

"We've got to do the outreach," he said. "No one is going to look in a phone book for a port."

The Port of Lewiston was formed in 1958 by the voters of Nez Perce County. The port oversees harbor operations, terminal facilities, international trade, and industrial and economic development.

Working in cooperation with the Nez Perce County, the City of Lewiston, and Valley Vision, a primary objective of the Port is to encourage economic growth to make the valley a competitive force in the regional marketplace.

Its website can be found at [www.portoflewiston.com](http://www.portoflewiston.com)



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continued from page 3

## ROSENDALE Q&A

resort. And if industry does what it's supposed to, then the legislature doesn't have to get involved. So whenever I talk to industry folks I tell them they need to make sure that the people they send out as landmen are well informed and trained, and treat those landowners with the utmost respect because that's who the landowner knows. That's why the land people that go out, they are the front line, they are the first person that our landowners meet. So corporations need to spend some time and energy making sure that those front people treat the landowners properly.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Are you seeing that?*

Rosendale: I am. All you have to do is have a conversation with anyone who dealt with Oneok when they put their natural gas liquids pipeline through. I don't think they had to use eminent domain except with only a couple of parties throughout the entire length of it. That speaks volumes of how they handled the public relations on that project.

And that gets us to another subject and that is utility corridors. I think they are a very good concept, and it's going to help producers and landowners alike. Now, when you're doing your collection of your natural gas, obviously you're going to have to have a certain amount of pipelines that are spider webbed throughout the countryside to get to the individual wells and do your collection. But once you start getting into your main trunk lines or transmission, we need to start establishing some corridors so that

we don't have these things going everywhere.

### Statewide issues

*Petroleum News Bakken: What other oil and gas-related issues do you see as important, not only to your district, but to the state in general?*

Rosendale: Like any raw product that is generated in the state, I would really love for us to be able to start doing some type of processing because anytime you process any raw product and move it on down the line it generates that much more revenue, job opportunities and tax base for the area.

*Petroleum News Bakken: Are you talking about more refining capacity?*

Rosendale: I would love to see more refining capacity, but once again in the conversations I've had with industry, between the expense, the Clean Air Act, the freight to move the refined product out of here, that's a numbers deal. It's cheaper to move the raw product to where the refineries are and distribute the refined product from there. You know we're not close to anything.

I'm not sure at this point what product and byproduct we should be targeting, but I've heard conversations about ammonia plants using natural gas for the agricultural industry. It doesn't have to be a full-blown refinery, but more like Oneok just taking out their NGLs and sending them to Oklahoma for further refining. It doesn't have to be a complete, final product. Every time that we can process something, then it's a good thing. ●

Contact Mike Ellerd  
at [mellerd@petroleumnewsbakken.com](mailto:mellerd@petroleumnewsbakken.com)

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- John Felmy, Ph.D, Chief Economist American Petroleum Institute
- Eric Schaeffer, Business Services Manager Enbridge
- Dr. Nancy Hodur, Research Scientist North Dakota State University
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- "Market Access and Development Initiatives"
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- Operating Area Updates
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## EAGLE FORD

University attributed \$30.4 billion in total economic impact to the Bakken in 2011, actually about \$5 billion more than Eagle Ford for the same year. Still, just to keep pace with Eagle Ford in 2012, the Bakken would have had to generate roughly twice as much economic activity than the previous year.

On the job front in 2011, the Bakken accounted for nearly 41,000 full-time jobs, or about 9 percent of the state's

*The 14-county economic impact estimate for 2022 is \$61.1 billion and 89,803 jobs. Under the 20-county scenario, \$89.4 billion supporting 127,919 jobs is projected.*

workforce, compared to 47,097 full-time jobs for the Eagle Ford. In 2012, employment attributed to the Eagle Ford rocketed to more than 116,000 full-time workers.

Authors of the 2012 Eagle Ford economic impact study presented one scenario based on a 14-county core area and another on a broader 20-county region. Their analysis was subdivided into six industry categories: oil and gas, drilling oil and gas wells, support activities for oil and gas operations, oil and gas pipelines and related structures construction, oil refineries, and petrochemicals.

The 14-county region produced nearly \$46.6 billion in total economic impact and supported 86,000 workers in 2012, while \$61 billion supporting 116,508 jobs

was produced under the 20-county scenario, which includes the 14 counties most actively producing, as well as six counties that are experiencing substantial indirect and "induced" activity, according to the study.

### Upstream biggest contributor

The upstream sector spread around the most cash in 2012. Based on analysis of the 14-county core area only, drilling and completions accounted for \$22.3 billion in revenues and more than \$9.9 billion in

see **EAGLE FORD** page 11

## Petroleum News Bakken

## Oil Patch Bits



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### Larson releases lumen light tower with pneumatic mast

Larson Electronics said March 29 that it has added to its extensive range of industrial grade lighting equipment with the newly announced release of a metal halide light tower that features 330,000 lumen light output combined with pneumatic tower operation. Built to provide a high power lighting solution that requires minimal setup time or effort, the PLM-18-3X1000W Pneumatic Light Tower provides operators with an ideal lighting solution that features air powered tower extension and 3,000 watts of metal halide lighting.

The Larson Electronics PLM-18-3X1000W Pneumatic Light Tower offers operators a powerful yet easy to deploy lighting system that takes the work out of producing large scale site illumination. This powerful lighting system is designed to withstand the demanding conditions found on industrial and commercial work sites and as result can effectively serve in a wide variety of applications from road construction to event lighting. This is a high output tower system that provides 330,000 lumens of illumination capable of covering three-plus acres with bright white light in a wide flood pattern. The three metal halide lamps on this tower offer efficient operation and good contrasting and color rendering, making them ideal for work sites where revealing fine details and performing close work is critical to job performance.

For more information visit <http://Larsonelectronics.com>.



## Bakken Players

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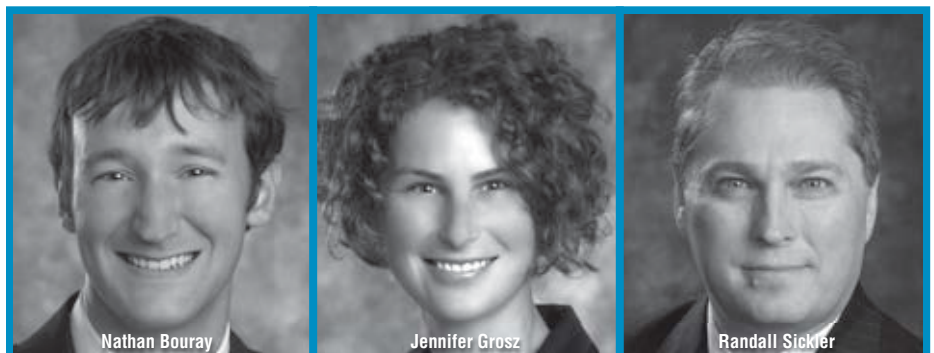
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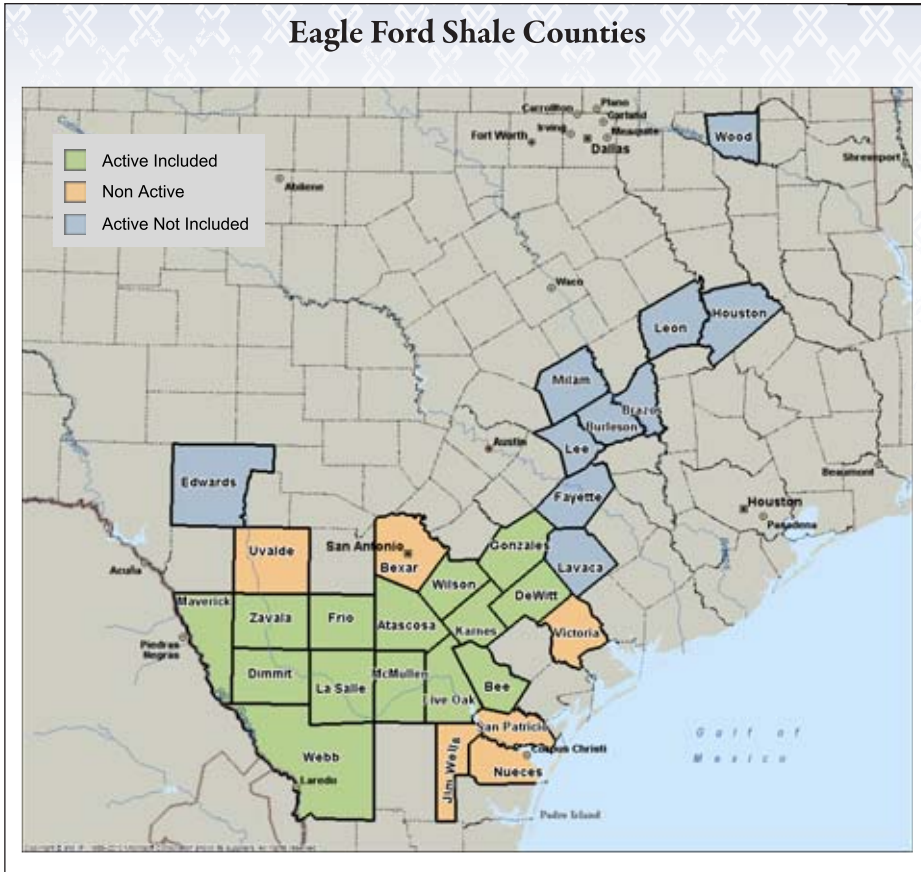


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## EAGLE FORD

gross regional product (value added) impact supported by 46,500 full-time jobs. Oil and gas extraction generated an additional \$16.9 billion in revenues and value added activities close to \$10.7 billion.

Midstream development companies last year continued to spend millions in developing and expanding pipeline infrastructure needed to move oil and gas produced in the Eagle Ford to refineries and processing plants.

Pipeline-related construction in four counties represented close to \$800 million in expenditures in 2012, the study said, adding that these activities resulted in close to \$2.4 billion in total revenue impact, more than \$1.1 billion in value added product, and supported 16,927 full-time jobs.

“In Eagle Ford, there are multiple, small diameter gathering systems being constructed,” the study said, noting that Plains All American Pipeline LP is close to completing four, 6-10 inch gathering pipelines, totaling 90 miles with a capacity, to gather 115,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

### Double Eagle Pipeline

The study also noted that Copano Energy and Magellan Midstream Partners have teamed up to construct the Double Eagle Pipeline, a major 140-mile long transmission line connecting existing pipelines in Karnes, Live Oak, McMullen and La Salle County to Magellan’s terminal in Corpus Christi. Additionally, DCP Midstream is in the middle of building the 20-inch, 720-mile Sand Hills Pipeline, which will move natural gas liquids from Midland County’s Permian Basin, through Eagle Ford, to Mount Belvieu, near Houston. The project is expected to be fully operational by mid-2013.

And in addition to new pipelines within Eagle Ford, older pipelines are being converted, reversed, expanded and leased to companies seeking new routes for their products.

“Drilling companies have shown no indication of halting their operations within the Eagle Ford shale,” The study said. “As producers continue to extract this oil and gas, midstream companies will be called upon for transporting and processing. Construction of the pipeline network for the Eagle Ford shale is expected to continue through 2014.”

*And in addition to new pipelines within Eagle Ford, older pipelines are being converted, reversed, expanded and leased to companies seeking new routes for their products.*

### Downstream activities

Meanwhile, 2012 downstream activities from two refineries in the area produced close to \$4.7 billion in revenue impact, according to the study. Valero’s Three Rivers refinery is processing close to 100,000 barrels a day of oil from the Eagle Ford, and the Nixon refinery in Gonzales County is processing nearly 15,000 barrels a day. Due to refining operations, Eagle Ford activity generated \$941 million in total gross regional product in 2012 and supported 1,894 full-time jobs.

The University of Texas study also attempted to paint an economic picture of the Eagle Ford oil patch in the year 2022. Projected impacts include oil and gas extraction, oil and drilling and completion, royalties, and lease payments. Projections are in 2012 U.S. dollars.

The 14-county economic impact estimate for 2022 is \$61.1 billion and 89,803 jobs. Under the 20-county scenario, \$89.4 billion supporting 127,919 jobs is projected.

“In 2022, the industry of extracting oil and natural gas will still be much more dominant than any other,” the study said, noting that this industry alone will generate \$32 billion in the Eagle Ford. Moreover, the top three industries within the Eagle Ford in 2022 will be directly associated with the oil and gas sector “involving thousands of workers.”

### Enormous growth curve

Like North Dakota, South Texas has undergone enormous growth over the past several years due to economic activity surrounding an unconventional shale play.

For example, Eagle Ford drilling permits jumped from 94 in 2009 to 1,010 in 2010, and from 2,826 in 2011 to 4,145 in 2012.

Daily oil production went from 358 barrels in 2008, to 844 barrels in 2009, to 11,986 barrels in 2010, and to 127,965 barrels in 2011, and to 352,127 barrels in 2012, a whopping 175 percent increase over 2011. ●

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## VOYAGEUR

sively utilize its assets to continue driving value from our base business and to support our profitable oil sands growth.”

“It’s very clear the economics on it weren’t going to justify the capital expenditures,” said Robert Mark, a research analyst at the Toronto law firm of MacDougall, MacDougall & MacTier.

### Rapid reassessment

Those economics are forcing a rapid reassessment of where the North American oil market is headed, amid a swirl of uncertainty.

In the build up to a final verdict on Voyageur, Williams said the unanticipated volumes of light oil flowing from tight formations in North America have eroded the economic argument for the upgrader.

“If you go out in the five-year-and-beyond timeframe, clearly we have a mixed challenge on the continent,” he said.

“We have too much light, sweet crude, which is what upgraded synthetic crude effectively is, and if anything we have too little heavy crude. Our view is that will cause a squeeze on upgrading margins.”

The Voyageur decision reaffirms what has become increasingly evident over the past two years — the rise in volumes from the Bakken in North Dakota, Montana and Saskatchewan through the application of technology has resulted in a disconnect in crude prices that has put upgraded Canadian heavy crude in a losing position behind tight oil production.

Production the Bakken and its near relatives has undercut the demand for upgraded barrels from Alberta.

### Price volatility

A new report by research firm Wood Mackenzie warns that Canadian crude prices could remain volatile for the rest of this decade.

The firm estimates the Bakken will nearly double output to 1.3 million barrels per day in 2015, as strong economics allow the Parshall and Sanish fields — the most productive areas — to break even below US\$50 per barrel, a level the oil sands cannot compete with.

New infrastructure projects could potentially alleviate constraints on the pipeline system, securing firmer prices for Canadian and North Dakota crudes, the report said.

*A new report by research firm Wood Mackenzie warns that Canadian crude prices could remain volatile for the rest of this decade.*

However, many of these projects are at an early stage and significant challenges, both operationally and politically, lie ahead, Wood Mackenzie said, indicating that TransCanada’s Keystone XL and Enbridge’s Northern Gateway pipelines could circumvent transportation bottlenecks if they could overcome those obstacles.

“U.S. approval of the Keystone XL northern leg (which could carry 100,000 bpd out of the Bakken) is still pending and a continued delay will result in XL’s southern leg acting as a clearing mechanism for light oil from Cushing until the northern leg is approved and constructed,” said Skip York, a principal analyst in Wood Mackenzie’s oils research team, adding his firm the northern leg will ultimately go ahead, even of the timing slides.

The report said the strong outlook from U.S. tight oil plays warrants diversification for Canadian crudes away from the traditional U.S. Midwest export market, noting that projects are moving forward in varying stages to transport Western Canadian barrels to coastal markets, where stronger Brent-linked prices can be realized.

### More oil sands pullback

Having bailed out of Voyageur, Total has indicated its pullback from the oil sands may not be over yet.

The company’s Canadian President Andre Goffart said Total can no longer guarantee its commitment to spend C\$20 billion to achieve 200,000 bpd of oil sands production by 2020.

With so many U.S. refineries being reconfigured to process more Canadian heavy crude, there is a surplus of light oil on the North American market and less interest in Canadian synthetic crude, making upgrading less attractive, said Glen Booth, a former chief economist with the National Energy Board and now the principal of Calgary-based Veracity Plus Consulting.

Those U.S. refinery configurations are achieving the same results as Canadian upgraders by adding cokers to break down hydrocarbon molecules, but at far lower prices than building new plants from scratch. ●

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## FALSE BAKKEN

stone is just like the organic matter in the underlying shales, LeFever says, and at a high enough content to generate oil. Even though that oil is in limestone rather than shale, she says the oil generated from the limestone would be indistinguishable from the oil generated in the shale.

LeFever says the late U.S. Geological Survey geochemist Dr. Leigh Price used to refer to the False Bakken as the “last gasp of the Bakken petroleum system” because in the origin of the organic-rich deposits, it was the last depositional environment with any restriction to get organic matter to accumulate. In other words, as one moves up through the Three Forks, Bakken and Limestone formations, the False Bakken “is the last time we see that kind of organic matter.” Everything above the False Bakken, she says, is predominantly carbonate deposits.

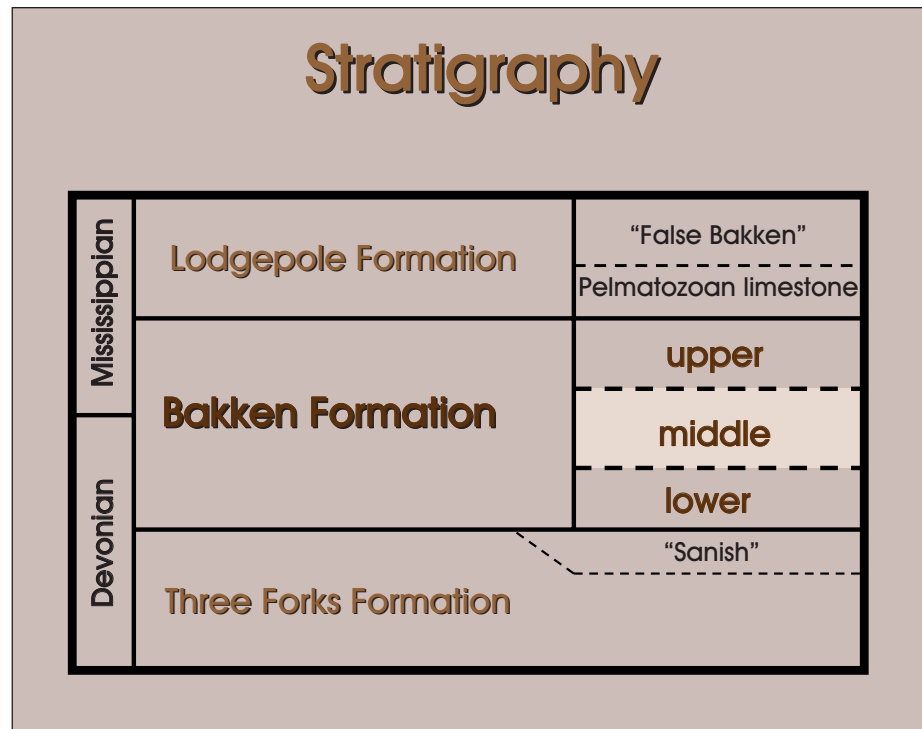
### The Scallion member

The False Bakken is separated from the Upper Bakken shale by a thin crinoidal or pelmatozoan limestone interval known as the Scallion member. LeFever says the Scallion is not organic-rich but has always shown some staining. She says several attempts have been made over the years to tap the Scallion, and while that limestone only “gave up a little bit of oil,” the wells were not capable of sustaining production.

### How widespread and how thick?

Although she says she has “kept track” of the False Bakken over the years, LeFever has never formally mapped it. But she does know that it extends beyond the Bakken petroleum system.

“Usually by the time you get out of the



Bakken, you quit mapping,” she says. However, she adds it is very prominent along the southwestern margin of the Bakken petroleum system in North Dakota and into Montana.

The thickness of the False Bakken can range anywhere from approximately 20 feet to 120 feet in North Dakota, and it thins toward the center of the Williston Basin. LeFever says a reasonable average thickness might be in the range of 20 to 40 feet across the basin. “It thins to the north, so I think it’s more of a wedge around the southern rim of the basin.”

Whether or not the False Bakken is a prospective oil resource, LeFever says she has no idea and that it will have to be tested. “If I say no, I could be really wrong, and if I say yes, I could be really wrong. I think it’s just something that somebody’s going to have to drill.”

### Montana prospects

There has been speculation on the Montana side of the Bakken that some operators are starting to look at the False Bakken, but Jim Halvorsen, a petroleum geologist with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, told Petroleum News Bakken that he isn’t aware of any company that has specifically explored the False Bakken in Montana. He says he knows there has been interest in it, and he believes it could have potential, but he says there has been no confirmation of a play to his knowledge. “We don’t have any confirmation well to say that it’s an event yet.”

Halvorsen says that an operator may not specify the False Bakken as a target on a drilling application, so he may not know until after production results were available that the False Bakken was the target. However, he said he would know if anyone is drilling in that area of the False Bakken, and currently there are no active rigs there.

On the Montana side, Halvorsen says the False Bakken may not be quite as thick as it is on the North Dakota side, but adds that there is much variability in the lower part of the Lodgepole. He doesn’t know how far south the False Bakken extends in Montana, but the area where he understands there is interest is to the north and east of the Cedar Creek anticline that extends from Glendive in Dawson County south-southeast through Wibaux and Fallon counties.

But Halvorsen says there hasn’t been much activity in that area. Instead, he says,

*“But the False Bakken fizzes when you put acid on it and it can’t be the actual Bakken shale because that doesn’t fizz.”*

—Julie LeFever, North Dakota Geological Survey

most of the recent activity in that region of Montana has been south of Elm Coulee where Slawson and Fidelity have been exploring the Upper Bakken shale, and north of Glendive where Petro-Hunt has been drilling into the Red River formation.

### PetroShale’s option

In March 2012, when PetroShale struck its deal with Slawson Exploration’s Alameda Energy for an option to acquire a non-operated working interest in 37,300 acres of Mondak leases, PetroShale acquired a second option — this one to buy a 10 percent non-operated working interest in some 80,000 acres in the Montana counties of Dawson, Wibaux and Richland, the acreage collectively known by the partners as the “False Bakken leases” with Slawson in the lead as operator.

The option was for nine months and was not exercised, PetroShale executive John Fair told Petroleum News Bakken April 1, but not because there was anything wrong with the proposed project. Rather, he said it was “all about money.”

PetroShale, Fair said, is currently focused on acquisitions and development.

Privately owned Slawson, whose deals have proven lucrative for companies such as PetroShale and Northern Oil and Gas, was not yet ready to comment.

Slawson was the first company to aggressively pursue oil production from actual Bakken shale, specifically the Upper Bakken member. Almost all oil production from the Williston Basin’s Bakken petroleum system comes from the Middle Bakken member, a dolomite reservoir, where some of the oil generated in the Upper Bakken shale is thought to have migrated. ●

*Editor’s note: See latest on Slawson Exploration and its partners’ exploitation of the Upper Bakken shale on their Mondak leases in this Petroleum News Bakken article:*

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## BAKKEN EXPLORERS

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The Bakken Explorers magazine will be mailed with the Aug. 11 edition of Petroleum News Bakken, and released Aug. 12 in Denver at the Unconventional Resources Technology Conference, which is a joint venture of the Society of Petroleum Engineers, the Society of Exploration Geophysicists and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Nominations for E&P companies that qualify as explorers should be sent to Kay Cashman, publisher and executive editor of Petroleum News Bakken, via email at [publisher@petroleumnewsbakken.com](mailto:publisher@petroleumnewsbakken.com) or by fax at 907-522-9583. An explanation of why an E&P company should be included in The Bakken Explorers should be in the email or fax

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