

Oil & Gas TIDBITS



We Keep North Dakota Going Strong

Royalty Owner Information Center Provides Solid Resource for North Dakota Citizens

As the oil industry continues to grow in North Dakota, royalty issues become more and more numerous. These very difficult issues affect a wide variety of mineral owners and can be quite difficult to understand and address. In response to this issue and its concerns, the North Dakota Petroleum Council, and its Oil Can! program, has developed a Royalty Owner Information Center to help answer questions and assist in resolving royalty issues.

“It is intended to provide additional information and answer common questions to those that are not intimately familiar with the complex process that oil and gas operators go through to ensure proper revenue distributions to the interest owners of each well,” said Collis Chandler, Executive Vice-President, G3 Operating, one of the many members who helped put together the Royalty Owner Information Center.

The Royalty Owner Information Center provides answers in an easy to understand, Frequently Asked Questions type of format that makes the complex issues much simpler to understand. Within the questions, links guide royalty owners to other helpful resources that will help answer questions and concerns.

One of the most helpful resources is a link to operator contact information, making it easy to contact the companies operating within the state about individual royalty questions and issues. It also includes a link to a page on the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources website that allows you to find which operator is on the land where your mineral resources are located (for more information on this, see the backside of this *Tidbits*).

“We hope this is a resource that will help answer and guide individuals to find answers to their royalty questions,” said Ron Ness, President of the North Dakota Petroleum Council. “I think the public will be pleased with what we have put together and how useful the Royalty Owner Information Center will be.”

The Royalty Owner Information Center can be accessed under the Oil Can! section of the North Dakota Petroleum Council website – www.ndoil.org.



“We encourage you to take a look at this resource and believe it will provide a better understanding of the process for royalty owners, policy makers or anyone else involved with oil and gas activity in the communities of North Dakota,” says Chandler.



Ron Ness, upper right, and Lynn Helms, lower left, talk to ND residents about their royalty issues. These types of conversations are what spurred the ND Petroleum Council and the Dept. of Mineral Resources to develop the Royalty Owner Information Center to educate and provide answers to royalty questions.



Did You Know?

- There are over 160 companies with ownership of at least one well in North Dakota.
- In 2007, the Petroleum Industry’s Economic Contribution study revealed that oil operators paid nearly \$198 million in royalty payments to North Dakota residents alone.

Royalty Owner Questions....

Here are some of the questions that are answered in the Royalty Owner Information Center:

- What is pooling?
- Why are royalty payments suspended?
- How is interest calculated?

The State of North Dakota Pitches In to Help Royalty Owners

I know I own mineral rights. I know where they are located. But I'm not sure if there is an operator, or which operator, is exploring this area. If this is the exact dilemma you are facing, the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources, partnered with the North Dakota Petroleum Council, has come up with a solution to help you keep up on the oil activity concerning your mineral rights.

With a new "Find My Well" webpage, the Department of Mineral Resources has allowed access to their activity database online, easily providing a way for mineral owners to identify if, or which, oil operator they should contact about mineral royalties.

To use the database, a land owner enters in their section, township, and range (see Figure 1). The webpage then displays information, which includes the well type and well status, operator and well name

(see Figure 2). For areas with a large amount of activity, a map can be viewed to specifically locate and see where activity is occurring (see Figure 3). Follow that process by visiting the Petroleum Council website, find the contact information for that operator, and you will be able to contact the proper operator with royalty issues or concerns.

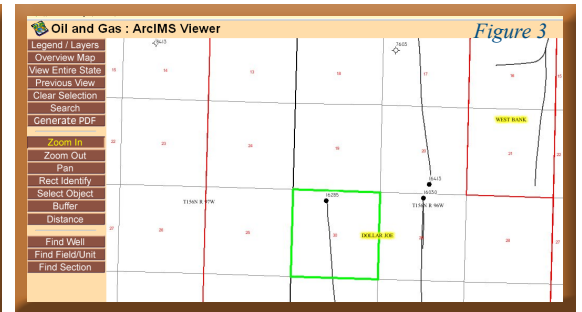
"Coupled with the Petroleum Council's Royalty Owner Information Center, this "Find My Well" feature on our website should be a very good resource for mineral rights owners. Access to this information will streamline the process and allow each individual to find the proper information," said Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources. "These are a couple of great resources for mineral owners and should answer a majority of the questions and help resolve a lot of the issues."

Counterclockwise from upper left:

Figure 1 - Enter the section, township and range to view the Department of Mineral Resources Activity Database

Figure 2 - The information displayed includes the well type and status, the operator and well name.

Figure 3 - The map feature allows for a view of how the well is laid out and the sections of land that it is drawing oil from.



File No	API No	Well Type	Well Status	Status Date	DTD	Location	Operator	Well Name	Field
16285	3310501576	OG	A	5/10/2007	17963	NENW 30-156-96	WHITING OIL AND GAS CORPORATION	POSS 21-30H	DOLLAR JOE

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