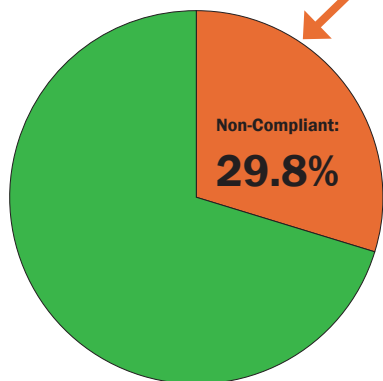
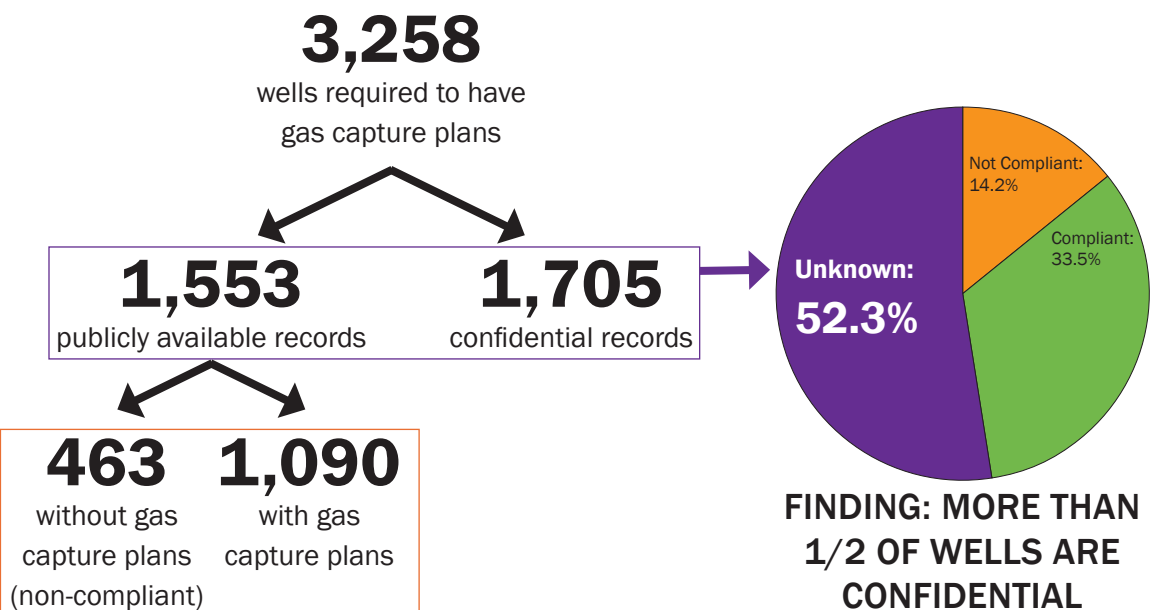




**Q: Are operators taking steps to end wasteful flaring practices, as required by North Dakota?**

**A: Confidentiality makes the picture unclear, but publicly available data suggests a significant lack of compliance with rules requiring gas capture plans — an important first step in reducing wasteful flaring.**

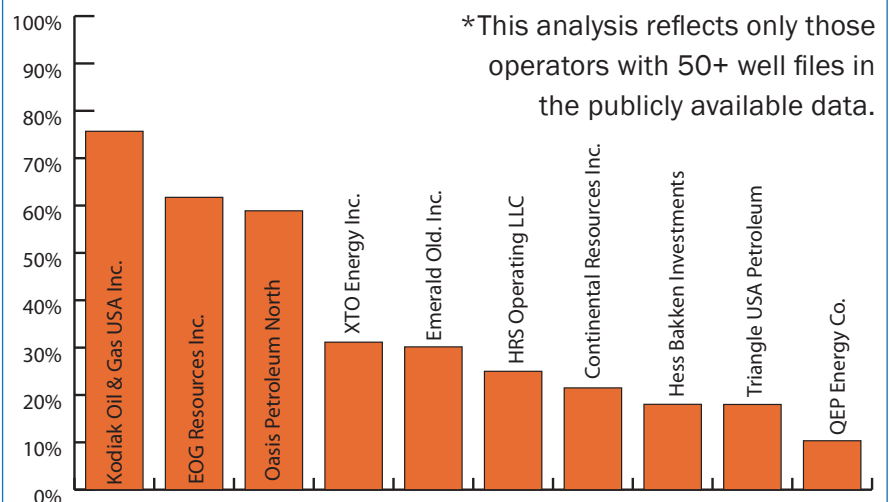
ELPC analyzed records from the North Dakota Industrial Commission, and this is a snapshot of our initial findings. For a copy of the raw data, please contact ELPC's David Jakubiak at [djakubiak@elpc.org](mailto:djakubiak@elpc.org) or (312) 795-3713.



**FINDING: ALMOST 1/3 OF (PUBLICLY AVAILABLE) WELLS ARE NON-COMPLIANT**

Data Source: North Dakota Industrial Commission

### FINDING: TOP 10 NON-COMPLIANT OPERATORS BY % OF WELLS WITHOUT GAS CAPTURE PLANS\*





## NEXT STEPS

### **Improve Compliance.**

The North Dakota Industrial Commission (NDIC) should enforce the requirement that all new well applications include a Gas Capture Plan (GCP). We know that at least 14.2% of the total number of wells required to have a plan do not have one — and there may be even more in the majority of well files that are confidential.

### **Finalize Gas Capture Standards for Federal Lands.**

To minimize flaring on federal lands, federal agencies should finalize proposed gas capture standards for new and modified oil wells and establish standards for existing wells.

### **Further Data Analysis.**

This is ELPC's first pass at the data. Next, we want to look at the quality of the gas capture plans that do exist to make sure they are following the spirit of the law. We'd also like to work with NDIC to make more records publicly available.

### **Actually Reduce Flaring.**

With good plans in place, operators should move forward with capturing their natural gas byproduct.

## FAQ

### **What's a gas capture plan?**

Gas capture plans (GCP) are one part of an operator's application to drill. The GCP must include: (1) maps showing how the operator plans to connect the proposed well to specific gas-gathering pipelines; (2) capacity limits and expansion plans for the gas-gathering company; and (3) anticipated gas production rates and totals.

### **Which wells are required to file gas capture plans?**

There are at least 20,000 wells in North Dakota, and only 3,258 of them are currently required to have plans. That's because the requirement applies only to *new* drill permits filed after May 31, 2014. Older wells are grandfathered in until they have to re-apply for their permit.

## CONTACT US

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