

DAKOTA COUNSEL

Watchdogs of the Prairie

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ND Land Owners Meet With DRC about Summit Pipeline

On March 8th in Oakes, ND, we had a packed meeting for our first Landowners Forum surrounding the proposed Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline. DRC staff and attorney Brian Jorde discussed the project and collective strategies that include creating a North Dakota Easement Team to help landowners collectively fight the pipeline. The North Dakota Easement team will connect landowners across the state to a common messaging and legal strategy. The best way to fight this project is for landowners to be connected and united in their strategy and opposition. We were delighted that three State Representatives attended the meeting: Sen. Larry Luick, Rep. Kathy Skroch and Rep. Sebastian Ertelt. Throughout the meeting, landowners who are personally affected by the Summit Pipeline shared their unique insights, thoughts, and perspectives.

Organizing around the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline is very fulfilling. That is because this is an issue where people from all walks of life and political persuasions can unite to benefit themselves and their communities. DRC will hold additional community meetings across the entire pipeline route. We are currently looking at meeting venues in the Bismarck, Casselton, and Ashley areas. Stay tuned for more information and updates!

For more information about this go to the DRC website at drcinfo.org or call Eliot Huggins at 701-997-5181.

Letter From the Chair



Recent news about proposed economic development strategies in North Dakota had me thinking that the founders of the Nonpartisan League must be turning in their graves. The League grew out of North Dakota farmers' feelings of exploitation at the hands of out-of-state corporations. When the League gained control of the legislature, it created institutions to deal with that exploitation and to give North Dakota farmers economic independence from these out-of-state corporations. But now, the governor, cities, counties, and economic development corporations would trade away what remains of the state's sovereignty to out-of-state corporations.

Perhaps we need to remind ourselves of the circumstances that gave birth to the League at the turn of the last century, North Dakota was largely an internal colony exploited by the railroads, grain traders, millers and bankers based in the Twin Cities. As Michael Lansing wrote in *Insurgent Democracy: The Nonpartisan League in North American Politics*:

"In their efforts to exploit the soil, farmers found themselves exploited. The dependence they felt took on structural forms. Minneapolis millers purchased and milled most of their wheat, and Minneapolis companies often owned their mortgages. St. Paul was the regions primary rail center, and railroad companies there set the costs for transporting whet from nearby small towns. The Twin Cities played a disproportionate role in North Dakota's economic and cultural life. Living in these cities' hinterlands
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**Badlands Area Resource Council
(BARC)**

**Fort Berthold Protectors of Water
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**McKenzie County Energies &
Taxation Association
(MCETA)**

**Missouri Valley Resource Council
(MVRC)**

**Citizens Local Energy Action
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(LETTER CONTINUED)

encouraged farmers to believe that urbanities gained the real prosperity earned through farmers' sweat and sacrifice. Others controlled their destiny – and their profits. The power that they brought into world flowed to someone else."

Arthur Townley and Frank Wood drew up the political platform of the Nonpartisan League at a meeting of the American Society of Equity in 1914 that addressed many of the farmers' concerns of economic exploitation. Their platform proposed that the state claim control over its own economic destiny by creating its own bank, warehouses, and factories. The League gained control of both houses of the state legislature in 1918 allowing it to enact most of its platform. To gain control over its own economic destiny, the legislature established two state-owned enterprises: the North Dakota Mill and Elevator and the Bank of North Dakota.

When the League was organized, North Dakota had a mono-crop economy based upon wheat production, but out-of-state grain dealers suppressed prices, out-of-state suppliers increased input prices, and commercial lenders in the Twin Cities and New York set high interest rates. All this made it difficult to make a living as a farmer, and League organizers wanted to reduce farmers' dependence on out-of-state corporations through regulation and state ownership of economic infra-structure.

League legislators created the Bank of North Dakota to address market failures associated with monopoly power among financial institutions centered in the Twin Cities. This monopoly power meant that farmers had inadequate access to credit, and the State Bank was created to remedy their limited access to credit. At the same time, flour mills and the grain exchange in Minneapolis were the primary markets for the wheat from the state's elevators and farmers. After deducting freight costs from Minneapolis market prices, the state's farmers received a very low price for their wheat. Nonpartisan League legislators established the North Dakota Mill as a way of bypassing what many area wheat farmers considered unfair business practices on the part of the railroads and milling facilities in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Today, both institutions remain successful ventures with profits above operating expenses and investments dedicated to the state's general

revenue fund. In 2020, the Bank of North Dakota reported a profit of \$141.2 million. The State Mill and Elevator reported a profit of \$13.5 million, shipped a record 15.8 million hundredweight of product, and flour shipments were 440,000 hundredweight. The State Bank provides low interest college student loans as well as participating or guaranteed loans for beginning and established farmers, farm disaster expenses, agricultural diversification enterprises, farm operations, family farmers, and economic development ventures.

So why do I recall the history of the state's determined effort to promote its own sovereignty and economic independence from outside interests? Because recent economic development proposals championed by the governor seek to subvert the state's economic independence and sovereignty by making it a vassal of outside interests. These projects include the Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline, Corporate Value-Added Agriculture in the form of a Japanese Soybean Crush Facility in Casselton and a Chinese Corn Milling Facility near Grand Forks, and a Bitcoin mine in Williston owned by a former felon.

The Summit Carbon Solutions Pipeline would turn west central North Dakota into a carbon capture experiment zone that would benefit California and out of state shareholders. Just as in other economic development ventures, North Dakota would become a resource colony/sacrifice zone for out-of-state interests. This pipeline would take CO2 emissions from 33 ethanol plants from throughout the Midwest and pipe them to North Dakota coal country in hopes that it can be stored there permanently or perhaps be used in the future for enhanced oil recovery. There has never been a successful project of this kind ever conducted; several CO2-capture plants for coal and oil and gas have failed throughout the world from Texas to Australia leaving taxpayers with the sunk costs of public subsidies to build them or the costs to reclaim them. Additionally, the economics of the pipeline rely on the California carbon markets as well as the federal 45Q tax credits that will pay companies \$50 dollars per ton to store the carbon. Summit believes it can cash flow approximately \$1 billion dollars per year alone from tax credits and the California carbon market. In addition to the technical problems and the complex government subsidies, the pipeline

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(LETTER FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUED)

will have to receive enough easements to construct it or otherwise use eminent domain. As you can imagine, landowners along the proposed route in North Dakota have been contacting DRC because they are angry and frustrated with the proposed project. They do not want it to cross their land due to the risks and liabilities involved and because the project is only in the interest of California and the pipeline investors who will become rich from federal tax credits.

Although many North Dakotans support farmer owned and operated value-added agriculture, but they don't necessarily support the two projects proposed by the governor and the Commerce Department. They have attracted two foreign companies: A Chinese-owned corn milling facility in Grand Forks, and a Japanese-owned soy crush facility in Casselton. These facilities could impact both communities because they are an industrial development next to residential areas, but they would also financially harm many of the local grain elevators that depend on area farmers to supply them with grain as well as the small towns who depend on the elevators as an economic foundation. If these two facilities were to be developed, farmers might abandon their local elevators in favor of the foreign-owned soy and corn facilities. Furthermore, the most likely markets for these processed grains would be large-scale confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs). From experience in Iowa and South Dakota, we know that CAFOs follow corn and soy processing facilities. If that were to happen, it would result in CAFOs becoming entrenched in North Dakota ruining the quality-of-life of adjacent rural communities because of CAFO-associated air and water pollution. There are many angry North Dakotans opposing both of these projects, many of whom are DRC members, and we are organizing them.

Perhaps the most bizarre economic development strategy that the governor has embraced is the Bitcoin Mine in Williston. It involves a convicted felon (Rick Tabish) with enough in his checkered past to make Martin Scorsese drool. According to McFeely (Forum, Jan. 27, 2022), the plot elements involve alleged murder, sex, drugs, money, a casino boss, the mob, Las Vegas, a stripper, buried treasure, and bricks of cash. In fact, it has been the subject of six books, one movie, and a "48 Hours" segment. His murder conviction was overturned on appeal, but the convictions on burglary, conspiracy, extortion, and other charges stuck. If the picture of the

governor with this mobster character who proposed this crypto mining proposal wasn't enough to make you cringe, what makes this proposal even more "interesting" is that, according to Reuters (Dec. 8, 2020), Latin American crime cartels have turned to crypto currencies for money laundering. It appears that the purpose of this entire proposal is to guarantee a long-term market for lignite-generated electricity from Basin Electric Power Cooperative if it makes the needed capital investments to supply the bitcoin mine with power. If for whatever reason this bitcoin mining operation should fail, Basin Electric could be left holding the bag for its capital investments, and it would have to pass along the costs to its member cooperatives.

As I mentioned in the beginning of this rather long message, the Nonpartisan League struggled against exploitation of farmers by outside economic interests and built state-owned enterprises to give farmers some economic independence as well as to give North Dakota some economic sovereignty. The struggle against dependence and economic disadvantage are two of the six themes (the other four themes are remoteness, radicalism, the Too-Much Mistake, and adjustment) of the state's experience according to Elwyn Robinson's History of North Dakota. This struggle didn't end with the Nonpartisan League; it has been repeated throughout the state's history, and that struggle can be found within the history of the cooperative movement and the farm movement. It's just ironic that today, when we would think we would see organizations that had their birth in struggles against that external exploitation -- especially the political party that claims the title and historical remnant of that struggle -- are doing nothing to resist these most recent examples of egregious exploitation by outside corporations. Dakota Resource Council is involved in these struggles, however, and it appears to be the only organization in the state that is carrying on the tradition of the Nonpartisan League. Long live the Nonpartisan League.

(*This letter from the chair is not an endorsement of any political party***)**

Ag and Food



DRC Members Pressure Cramer to Meet on Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling

January 24th through the 28th was a DRC and WORC week of action to pressure members of the senate to support or cosponsor Senate Bill 2716, The American Beef Labeling Act, a bill which would reimplement Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL.) The American Beef Labeling Act was introduced last year by a bipartisan group of senators which swelled to 10
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DRC PODCAST

Catch the DRC Podcast! The Dakota Resource Council podcast is an update with organization news, member profiles & interviews. We also talk with experts that are involved with issues that affect our members. You can download our podcast on iTunes, visit drcpodcast.buzzsprout.com, go to drcinfo.com and scroll to the bottom of the page or watch for updates on our Facebook Page!

(MCOOL CONTINUED)

senators co-sponsoring the bill, including John Hoeven (R-ND). Kevin Cramer (R-ND) has remained silent on the issue. DRC members along with members of the Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (IBAND) emailed and called Cramer. Over 100 phone calls were made by our members over the week and numerous media outlets covered our efforts, including a segment on the Joel Hietkamp show.

Our efforts paid off and DRC member David Schwalbe and Independent Beef Association of North Dakota (IBAND) member Rod Volk were invited to meet in person with Senator Cramer. The Farm Bureau, and the Stockman's Association were also invited to discuss MCOOL. The ND Farmers Union was invited, but could not attend the meeting due to the weather.



David Schwalbe, DRC Member

In that hour-long meeting, Cramer stated that this was a fact finding mission to get our side of the MCOOL issue and that he had not made up his mind yet on how he would vote. Everyone had time to tell Sen. Cramer their thoughts about MCOOL and ND's beef industry. When asked about the meeting, DRC Member David Schwalbe stated,

"I hope the one message that we conveyed to Senator Cramer is that consumers are as important as the producer. No consumers, no beef industry. Consumers have been targeted by various special interests that want to do away with the industry, and if the cattle community doesn't stand together, they will fall divided. Reinstating MCOOL would help bring back the confidence in beef as a good, clean, safe, healthy food."

IBAND representative Rod Volk said, "If you look at the financial end of beef production, there is a lot of data to prove that our current beef labeling requirements are costing more than if we were paying tariffs on import-export products. We're leaving money on the table if we don't pass the American Beef Labeling Act."

Instead of the Farm Bureau's tired rhetoric that the World Trade Organization (the international trade organization that pressured the US government to rescind MCOOL due to a lawsuit filed by Canada and Mexico claiming unfair trade practices) needs to be dealt with, or the Stockman's Association's overly complicated and confusing system of multiple labels. DRC and IBAND argued that the WTO will be dealt with by passing this legislation, and that MCOOL is a better and more simple approach than the Stockman's Association suggests. We had a good discussion. The Senator asked questions and was open to our views. Although Senator Cramer didn't say whether he would sign onto the bill or not, we gave him strong reasons why he should.

DRC and IBAND thank Senator Kevin Cramer for taking time to listen to us about the beef industry's need for MCOOL .

If you agree that reinstating MCOOL is important, and you haven't done so yet, call Senator Cramer at (701) 699-7020 to reach the North Dakota office to ask him to support Senate Bill 2716 The American Beef Labeling Act. Producers and Consumers have the right to know where their beef comes from!

We would also like to thank all members that called Senator Cramer, it was your work that forced this meeting to happen.

Proposed Soybean Refinery Spurs Casselton Citizens to Act

Casselton citizens joined with DRC to combat a proposed soybean refinery that would be right on the outskirts of Casselton. Residents responded by forming the Casselton Citizens for Responsible Growth (CCRG). CGB, a company out of Louisiana and a subsidiary of a Japanese company Itochu and Zen-Noh, and MNSP, a soybean processor out of Minnesota, want to rebrand as North Dakota Soybean Processing (NDSP) and build a 500 million dollar soybean refinery less than 1 mile from

(SOYBEAN REFINERY CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

(SOYBEAN REFINERY CONTINUED)

Casselton. The 360 acre site would need to be rezoned as heavy industrial by the City Council. Citizens of Casselton interested in the CCRG met on February 10 to discuss the project and the group has continued to grow since that initial meeting.

If built, the plant, according to representatives from CGB, would bring 250 trucks per day which would increase to 600 trucks a day during harvest. Odors, light pollution, and sound pollution are concerns especially as the proposed refinery site is near a residential area on the west side of town. The company, NDSP, has asked for a 15 year tax break of about 1.3 million dollars per year even though the company is scheduled to make 80 million dollars a year in profits. NDPS is also considering applying for a taxpayer funded grant from the infrastructure bill to build a water pipeline to the plant AND may ask for 3 million dollars from the county be used to develop roads to and from the plant. There are concerns that this refinery, which would produce animal feed, would also be the first step for bringing hog farms to Cass County in North Dakota. This concern came after a statement made by the Soybean Council that this project would increase the livestock footprint in the state of North Dakota.

Although many people will be affected by the decisions the City Council will make around this issue, the City Council has no plans to have town halls to hear what the people think about this proposed soybean plant. DRC members are pressuring them to do so.

WORC and DRC leadership meets with MN attorney to discuss Packers and Stockyards Act and WORC Rule.

The Western Organization of Resource Councils (WORC) and DRC leaders met for a listening session via Zoom, March 9 with Lynn Hayes, an attorney and Program Director of the Farmers Legal Action Group (FLAG) from St Paul, MN. Hayes has lots of experience and has testified at multiple Senate hearings on Beef and Poultry issues.

The call was an hour and a half long conversation about how our member groups can pressure lawmakers and government officials to revitalize the original intent of the Packers and Stockyards Act and modernize it to

accommodate the new technologies and challenges that ranchers are facing. This is an important conversation because this once strong rule, passed nearly 100 ago, has been changed due to Supreme Court rulings so many times that it is no longer effective at preventing unfair business practices of meat packers as originally intended.

In this listening session, Hayes provided valuable legal advice and answers to our questions of what rules we should focus on changing if we want to establish more competitive and fair markets for our ranchers. DRC and WORC received information on the status of the WORC rule, a law proposed by WORC that would establish a minimum price, known as a "floor price" for cattle, that could be high enough so ranchers could avoid selling cattle at a loss. WORC and DRC have been focusing on pressuring lawmakers to implement this rule because it reforms beef markets which has been a priority for the Biden Administration, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is a priority for ranching members. The WORC rule comes out of the USDA and needs no legislative action. This means that there are fewer decision-makers who aren't politicians. Talking to USDA employees is much easier and more effective than trying to influence high level politicians.

Hayes has been a great ally of DRC and WORC after helping us write the WORC rule. We would like to thank her for once again stepping up to help us work to achieve our goal to reform cattle markets in the US by providing our members' feedback to decision makers in the USDA. This listening session has provided us with another opportunity to push for positive change in the Beef industry.

DRC will keep our members informed if any rule changes will be implemented.

Coal Country Summit Carbon Capture Pipeline FAQ

Q: What exactly is this pipeline all about?

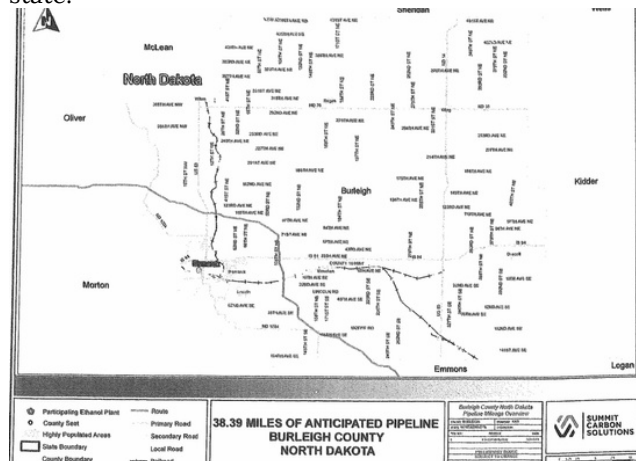
A: Summit Carbon solutions is seeking 4.5 billion dollars to capture and store emissions from 30-40 ethanol refineries across 5 Midwestern states. The injection and storage zone for the captured CO2 is located near Beulah, North Dakota. Developers hope to use clean energy credits and 45Q tax credits to generate a profit within the carbon market of California. **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)**

Q: What is the current state of this project in North Dakota?

A: Land agents are approaching landowners along the route to lease right of ways for the pipeline. Permits for test wells have been approved in McClean county and the North Dakota Government has recently approved 3 million in grant funding to build the wells and collect data. The company has yet to file a permit application with the Public Service commission which is the first step in constructing the pipeline throughout North Dakota. They plan to do this in early 2022.

Q: What is the status of this project in the other 4 states?

A: Like North Dakota, Summit plans to file requests for permits in early 2022 in Nebraska & Minnesota. The permitting process within Iowa and South Dakota is currently taking place with public meetings taking place across the state. The project within Iowa has faced immense backlash from landowners across the state.



Q: What environmental and health concerns does this pipeline pose?

A: The CO2 within the pipeline will be liquified. If the pipeline were to rupture it would deplete the oxygen within the area. This would make cars and machines inoperable. In addition, if the pipeline were to rupture, animals and humans would not know anything was wrong until it was too late because CO2 is odorless. The result of breathing highly concentrated CO2 can kill you, animals, or at best cause lung damage that can persist for a long time.

This actually occurred in Mississippi after a CO2 pipeline ruptured:

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/gassing-satartia-mississippi-co2-pipeline_n_60ddea9fe4b0ddef8b0ddc8f

Q: What actions is the Dakota Resource Council taking to oppose this project?

A: We are currently working with landowners to discuss options to oppose this project. These options include asking the company to reroute the pipeline or negotiating better leasing agreements. We plan to connect landowners to legal representation and potentially create a class-action lawsuit to oppose this project. We are also working to make the prospect of eminent domain more difficult. DRC also has connections with organizations and landowners across the route that we could connect you all with to learn more about what might be coming to North Dakota surrounding this project.

Q: What should I do with my lease?

A: You should let the company know that you do not intend to sign the lease at this time. You should also connect with your neighbors to see if they have been asked to lease their land. In the long term, you should monitor the permitting process because unfortunately eminent domain is a possibility. Eminent domain would only be allowed to happen if enough landowners have leased and the state approves the permit for the pipeline. We are working to connect landowners to Domina Law Group to oppose eminent domain.

Q: Who should I contact for more information?

A: You can contact Scott Skokos at (scott@drcinfo.com) or 406-850-9755. You can also contact Eliot Huggins at (eliot@drcinfo.com) or 231-313-5161.

Landowners: Know Your Rights!

Do I have to sign a voluntary easement?

No. There is nothing in the law or ND Public Service Commission rules that require a landowner to sign a voluntary easement. **DO NOT SIGN A VOLUNTARY EASEMENT!**

What is a voluntary easement?

A voluntary easement means that the landowner is agreeing, without requiring Summit to go through eminent domain, to give Summit a right to construct the pipeline on the landowner's property. The voluntary easement may give Summit broader rights than it would get through eminent domain or it may provide for a lower payment than the landowner would get through eminent domain.

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(KNOW YOUR RIGHTS CONTINUED)**Can Summit use eminent domain?**

Summit can use eminent domain only if the Public Service Commission grants a permit for the pipeline.

What options do I have?

You do not have to sign a voluntary easement. You can certainly wait to sign an easement. You can require Summit to go through eminent domain. There will be a hearing before the Public Service Commission and you, or an organization to which you belong, can intervene to present any evidence you have regarding whether the Board should issue a permit to Summit for the pipeline.

Will I get more money for a voluntary easement rather than eminent domain?

Not necessarily. You need to do your homework to make sure the voluntary easement is giving you a fair price. It is also possible that eminent domain will award compensation for impacts that are not considered in the voluntary easement.

How will my land be impacted?

Based on the experience with Dakota Access, the fertility of cropland can be adversely impacted for several (or perhaps many) years.

What is Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)?

CCS is very complicated but when you boil it down, the basic premise is that it captures the carbon and stores it underground (CCS) or it captures the carbon and uses it for industrial purposes. Of the 14 current CCS projects, 13 utilize captured carbon for EOR to capture even more fossil fuels.

If approved, what will be in the pipeline and what are the risks if it ruptures?

The pipeline will contain highly pressurized liquid CO₂ collected from industrial sites. If the pipeline breaks, CO₂ causes risks to humans and animals. At concentrations between 2 and 10%, CO₂ can cause nausea, dizziness, headache, mental confusion, increased blood pressure and respiratory rate. Above 8% nausea and vomiting appear. Above 10%, suffocation and death of humans and livestock can occur within minutes. Contact with the cold gas can cause freezing of exposed tissue. Moisture in the air can lead to formation of carbonic acid that can irritate the eyes. CO₂ is heavier than air and will accumulate in low lying areas.

What did we learn from the Dakota Access pipeline eminent domain process and pipeline construction?

Many landowners who signed voluntary easements later regretted their decision. They found that Dakota Access representatives had misled them. In addition, the landowners described threats and intimidation that had been used to get them to sign voluntary agreements. And during construction, the Dakota Access contractors did unacceptable damage to the property, especially in terms of destroying the fertility of the farmland.

Why are permanent easements a problem?

A permanent easement preempts the landowner's future plans for the property. Any easement over a property limits what a landowner can do on the property, such as requiring no structures or trees on the easement. The easement may affect what gets built nearby. The right to an easement allows representatives of the easement company to have access to the property 24 hours a day, without notice, using motorized equipment on the easement or flying above the property. And of course there are the inherent risks of having highly pressurized, toxic substances being piped in this new technology on your property.

How can we start organizing?

First off, do not sign a voluntary agreement right away. Once you sign a voluntary easement, you cannot reverse that decision. Landowners will have more power if they work together and object to the voluntary easements together. Contact your neighbors and let them know your concerns.

Oil and Gas

DRC and POWER Members Still Advocating for Methane Reduction

DRC members, particularly from Fort Berthold Protectors of Water and Earth Rights (POWER), have worked hard giving public comments, attending webinars, listening sessions and meetings. The Biden Administration is working towards improved regulations to reduce methane production as well as waste due to routine flaring and venting. (CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)

(METHANE CONTINUED)

EPA METHANE RULE

DRC/POWER members submitted both written and oral comments for the EPA methane rulemaking asking for three specific things:

1. End the wasteful and dangerous practice of routine flaring at oil and gas facilities.
2. Require monthly Leak Detection and Repair of all wells regardless of their Potential to Emit.
3. Install more monitors, assist and support government and community groups in developing air monitoring programs, and incorporate emission monitoring results generated by community groups and other third parties into its standards.

Methane is a powerful pollutant and a main greenhouse gas contributing to climate change. We will not see the Rule until late fall at the earliest.

BLM WASTE PREVENTION RULE

While EPA is considering rules to reduce methane, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is reworking their Waste Prevention Rules. In 2016 BLM proposed new rules intended to reduce waste of natural gas from venting, flaring, and leaks from existing and future oil and gas infrastructure on federally managed land. The regulations also clarified that produced gas lost through venting, flaring, or leaks are (generally) subject to royalties. These regulations were never implemented, and BLM is still operating under rules from 1979 (Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases).

Members from POWER, WORC, DRC sister groups in CO, MT, and WY all presented at the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) meeting. OMB meetings are required to be held and give people time to state their needs and hopes for a rulemaking.

Eliminating routine flaring (the burning of gas associated with petroleum production and refining) and venting (an unlit flare emitting gas) would avoid the waste of a valuable resource, supply royalty payments to mineral owners, and could provide jobs as the infrastructure is built and maintained. It would also decrease the terrible cost to human health and the health of the planet.

We told the OMB panel that:

1. The wasteful practices of routine flaring and venting be phased out within a year, and any exemptions from this rule should be so rare that it's almost non-existent.
2. Operators be required to have a plan to move the natural gas to market or for productive use (non-flaring or venting) for the life of the well.
3. Operators implement their plan. No production should be allowed until the gas can be captured and used productively.
4. All these rules be strictly enforced, and regular inspections must be scheduled.

It is essential that the BLM makes good rules because the state of North Dakota is unable or unwilling to enforce the rules it already has in place. The federal government must act as a backstop to state rules and regulations, and not look the other way for fear of litigation from the state if they do step in.

DRC MISC

DRC members to speak at "What in the World is Going On" lecture series in Valley City.

DRC members Paul Jenson, Olivia Johnson, and Sonja Kaye are all part of the "What in the World is Going On?" four part lecture series on climate change. "What in the World is Going On?" is a community/campus group sponsored by both the Science and Social Science departments of Valley City State University.

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("WHAT IN THE WORLD" CONTINUED)

Created post 9/11 the intention is to address important issues be they local, national or international. Since its inception, the group has hosted discussions on a variety of issues such as racism, xenophobia, economics, the environment and climate change all from the perspective of rural America. This year's lectures will focus on climate change and are free to attend either in person or on Zoom. Register at <https://www.facebook.com/What-in-the-World-is-Going-On-141890105857031>

DRC member Paul Jensen spoke on February 28 at Vangstad Auditorium and gave his presentation "Fighting Climate Change Through Electric Vehicles and Legislation.". In his presentation Paul envisioned a North Dakota where the I-94, I-29, Highway 2, and Highway 83 have electric charging stations every 50 miles or less. He discussed how federal infrastructure dollars allocated to the state could achieve that goal. As of today only the two interstates are near that goal. Paul took a half hour of questions and then finished his presentation. He closed by saying that we owe it to the younger generation to start addressing the problems of Climate Change before it is too late.

Scheduled talks will be held at the Rhoades Science building at 7 pm in Valley City, ND and also will be televised on BEK and CSI cable's public access stations (content permitting check your local listings for times and broadcasting schedule)

- Mar 21st 2022 "The role of wetland and oceans in climate change" presented by (DRC member) Olivia Johnson
- Apr 4th 2022 "Project Tundra - Can it reduce climate change" presented by (DRC member) Sonja Kaye
- Apr 25th 2022 Can ND be carbon neutral by 2030? Governor Burgum's Plan"



To get a glimpse of the lecture series, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zJSBZ0CRUcQ&t=203s> where you can watch "The Role of Wetlands and Oceans in Climate Change" that was held on Monday, March 21st at 7 pm in the Auditorium of the Rhoads Science Center at Valley City State University in Valley City, ND with Dr. Michelle Abshire, an assistant professor of science at VCSU and DRC member and wetland specialist Olivia Johnson presenting.

Abshire has a scientific background in marine geochemistry, which is a study of chemical elements preserved in the seafloor that can provide insight about the ocean. She has recently had a paper published on the role of the oceans in climate change and will share information on how oceans can affect us here in North Dakota, even though we're far from an oceannation. Olivia Johnson has her masters degree in natural resources, and has spent the last six years studying wetland carbon cycling, will be presenting on the value of wetlands in carbon sequestration.

It will also be shown on BEK TV on March 24th at 6:30 PM CT on BEK TV and BEK News, and again at 1:00 AM CT on March 25th. It will also be available on the website www.bek.news under BEK News Programs.



Dakota Resource Council
1720 Burnt Boat Dr. Ste 104
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.drcinfo.org



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