



## ND economy on top for third year in a row

According to stats from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, North Dakota's economy is the fastest-growing in the nation for three consecutive years. Most recent statistics show that in 2012 the state's gross domestic product (GDP) jumped 13.4 percent, more than three times the second runner up - Texas, at 4.8 percent economic growth rate - and five times the national average at 2.5 percent. North Dakota's GDP, an indicator of total economic production, rose from \$34 billion in 2011 to around \$38.7 billion in 2012. [Read the story in the Bakken Magazine.](#) The release from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis shows how each state and each region performed. [See the BEA news release here.](#)

## Health Department studying oil brine use

The North Dakota Department of Health is studying whether oil field brine, now considered to be a waste product, can be safely used to control dust on gravel roads in western North Dakota. Dust from heavy oil traffic is a health and safety issue in the oil patch, according to a Dunn County Commissioner. A dust control study showed that using oil field brine on roads to reduce dust could cost about \$700 per mile, compared to commercial products that were available between \$6,000 and \$23,000 per mile. [See the article in the Dickinson Press.](#)

## New study shows abundance of shale

A new study shows that shale oil and shale gas resources in 42 countries, including the United States, represent 10 percent of the world's crude oil and 32 percent of the world's natural gas resources that can be technically recoverable. According to the study, sponsored by the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the United States comes in second, behind Russia, for the most technically recoverable shale oil resources. The United States comes in fourth for the most technically recoverable shale gas resources. [See the U.S. Energy Information Administration article.](#)

## Minnesota Power to retrofit Boswell

Minnesota Power received approval from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for its plan to retrofit Unit 4 of the Boswell Energy Center coal-based power plant near Cohasset, Minn. The approximately \$350 million retrofit will reduce mercury emissions by 90 percent to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Mercury Air Toxics Standards (MATS) Rule and the Minnesota Mercury Emission Reduction Act. [See the article in the Fargo Forum.](#) The Boswell project is part of Minnesota Power's Energy Forward strategy to provide a generation mix that is one-third renewable, one-third natural gas and one-third coal. [Read the news release on Minnesota Power's website.](#)

## Long-term Bakken projections released

A new report from the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Department of Agribusiness & Applied Economics indicates that North Dakota will be feeling the effects of the recent energy boom for quite some time. Dean Bangsund, co-author and researcher at NDSU, presented the report this week at a Vision West ND Consortium Meeting. Included in the report is a prediction that the Williston region will see a 193 percent population increase to more than 90,000 permanent residents and the Dickinson region could see more than 62,000 residents by 2030. [See the article in the Dickinson Press.](#)



## ENERGY EVENTS

see more at [www.energynd.com/events](http://www.energynd.com/events)

Aug. 20-22  
Sept. 16-18  
Sept. 25-26  
Oct. 2-3  
Oct. 15

*Bakken Oil Workers & Oil Service Expo*  
*North Dakota Petroleum Council Annual Meeting*  
*Bakken Construction Summit*  
*Lignite Energy Council Annual Meeting*  
*Great Plains & EmPower ND Energy Conference*

Minot, ND  
Grand Forks, ND  
Bismarck, ND  
Bismarck, ND  
Bismarck, ND



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