

Critical Applied Research for Williston Basin Producers

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The Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) located at the University of North Dakota (UND) is a contract research organization providing research services to Williston Basin producers. Capabilities are provided in a number of areas including research related to oil production from the Bakken Formation, investigation of water resources and utilization, surface operations, evaluation of enhanced oil recovery potential, investigations regarding geologic characterization, and assistance regarding regulatory compliance. The EERC is conducting research with state, federal, and private partnerships and will discuss results from recent activities. The activities include Web-based geographical information systems, geologic characterization of the Bakken Formation, water supply for hydraulic fracturing, investigations of souring in Bakken wells, investigations regarding Bakken completions, greenhouse gas reporting, and geologic laboratory studies.

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Darren D. Schmidt is a Senior Research Advisor at the EERC of the University of North Dakota. He is a registered professional mechanical engineer and certified energy manager. Prior to his position at the EERC, Mr. Schmidt was responsible for gasification projects at Research Triangle Institute and Foster Wheeler Development Corporation. Mr. Schmidt is responsible for securing and completing contracts with industrial clients. Projects include a focus in the Williston Basin on research related to the Bakken Formation, geologic CO₂ storage including enhanced oil production and coal bed methane, associated gas utilization, power production, gasification, combustion, emission control, and energy efficiency. Mr. Schmidt is a member of several professional organizations, has authored and coauthored numerous publications, and has filed for two patents.