

Growing North Dakota's Midstream Industry: Lesson's Learned and the Road Ahead

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Abstract

From the beginning of modern Bakken oil development, midstream challenges quickly became one of the top challenges to address as technology and production strategies evolved. For North Dakota to become an industry leading producer of crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids a multidecade infrastructure expansion effort was initiated. For the last fifteen years, tens of billions of dollars have been invested in new pipeline and processing facilities to address growing production volumes, reduce transportation costs, increase energy security, create job opportunities, benefit local communities and the broader U.S. economy. Through midstream investments and the emergence of the Bakken oil play, North Dakota transitioned from producing approximately 100,000 barrels of oil per day to as much as 1.5 million barrels per day, a 15-fold increase. In this talk, I will review both the history of the Bakken's midstream development as well as explore the need for continued expansion of pipeline capacity from North Dakota and the challenges that must be addressed to make it a reality. Attendees will gain a better understanding of the importance of pipeline infrastructure, the challenges facing its expansion, and the benefits of continued investment in this critical infrastructure.