

# North Dakota Oil and Gas Industry Outlook

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*The North Dakota Oil and Gas Industry Outlook will highlight the state's oil and gas activity in its most remarkable year since 1981. Activity was focused almost exclusively on the Bakken Pool, the largest unconventional oil accumulation in the lower 48 states. In addition recent initiatives and publications at the Department of Mineral Resources will be summarized.*

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**Lynn Helms** has served as Director of the North Dakota Industrial Commission Oil & Gas Division since July 1998, and as Director of the Department of Mineral Resources since July 2005. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Engineering from South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, but his oil-field career began as a roughneck working summers and school holidays. After graduation, Lynn worked as a production engineer for Texaco in all of the producing areas of Montana. In 1980, he joined Amerada Hess in Williston, North Dakota, where he worked as a production engineer, reservoir engineer, and asset team leader on projects in Abu Dhabi, Alaska, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.