

**Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly, State of North Dakota, begun in the Capitol in the City of Bismarck, on Tuesday, the fifth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine**

SENATE BILL NO. 2092  
(Natural Resources Committee)  
(At the request of the Industrial Commission)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section 38-11.1-05 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to notice of oil and gas drilling operations.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

**SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 38-11.1-05 of the 1997 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**38-11.1-05. Notice of drilling operations.** Except for exploration activities governed by chapter 38-08.1, the mineral developer shall give the surface owner written notice of the drilling operations contemplated at least twenty days prior to the commencement of the operations, unless waived by mutual agreement of both parties. If the mineral developer plans to begin drilling operations within twenty days of the termination date of the mineral lease, the required notice under this section may be given at any time prior to commencement of drilling operations. This notice must be given to the record surface owner at that person's address as shown by the records of the county register of deeds at the time the notice is given. This notice must sufficiently disclose the plan of work and operations to enable the surface owner to evaluate the effect of drilling operations on the surface owner's use of the property. Included with this notice must be a form prepared by the ~~state geologist~~ director of the oil and gas division advising the surface owner of the surface owner's rights and options under the chapter, including the right to request the state department of health to inspect and monitor the well site for the presence of hydrogen sulfide. If a mineral developer fails to give notice as provided under this section, the surface owner may seek any appropriate relief in the court of proper jurisdiction and may receive punitive as well as actual damages.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief Clerk of the House

This certifies that the within bill originated in the Senate of the Fifty-sixth Legislative Assembly of North Dakota and is known on the records of that body as Senate Bill No. 2092.

Senate Vote:    Yeas    42        Nays    0        Absent    7

House Vote:    Yeas    96        Nays    0        Absent    2

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Received by the Governor at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

Approved at \_\_\_\_\_ M. on \_\_\_\_\_, 1999.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

Filed in this office this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 1999,  
at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of State