



# Surface Owner Information Center

Surface owner issues can sometimes be difficult to understand, especially in a split estate situation.

**"Split estate"** is the term used when ownership of the surface estate is legally severed, or split from ownership of the subsurface mineral estate.

The members of the North Dakota Petroleum Council recognize this difficulty and want to provide you with the resources to address your questions and to help you understand issues that typically affect a surface owner.

## Find answers to important questions like...

- What surface owner notifications are the operator required to make prior to commencement of drilling operations under North Dakota law?
- What surface owner notifications are the operator required to make prior to conducting seismic and geophysical operations under North Dakota law?
- What do North Dakota laws say regarding measurement and payment of surface damages for seismic and/or oil and gas drilling operations?
- Is there a way to compare the value of an offer of surface damage payment with other land value estimates?
- Why are my payments from the oil and gas operator for use of my land different from the payments others have received from wind turbine operators and cellular telephone companies?
- How is the location of a well determined and what are the regulations?
- How is the location of a well access road determined?
- How much surface land is typically needed for drilling and production operations?
- What sequence of events is typical for developing an oil or gas well from beginning to end? What can I expect regarding notice, surveying, construction and post production?
- Once a drill rig shows up, how long does drilling and completion take? How long will the well continue to produce?
- How is the location of a pipeline and gathering system determined and how is the surface reclaimed?
- How does an operator reclaim surface land that was disturbed to develop a well, pipeline or other facility?
- What are the safety issues associated with a producing well?
- How do I report a spill or possible leak in a pipeline?

# WWW.NDOIL.ORG

\*\*For answers to royalty questions, visit the Royalty Owner Information Center\*\*



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