

OIL/WATER FACT SHEET

- Estimate 120 oil drilling rigs operating in North Dakota during the coming year.
- Each drilling rig can complete 12 new wells in one year.
- Estimate 1400 new wells drilled in coming year.
- Each new well will need about 3 million gallons of water for hydro-fracturing.
- Total estimated water demand for 1,440 new oil wells is 4.3 billion gallons of water (13,258 acre-feet).
- A typical 135-acre irrigation pivot system in the southwest part of the state uses, on average, about 100 acre-feet of water per year. Thus, 13,258 acre-feet is equivalent to about 132 quarter sections of center pivot irrigation.
- The city of Williston uses between 2,100 and 3,100 acre-feet of water annually.
- The only reliable water supply to meet oil field demand in terms of both quantity and quality is the Missouri River/Lake Sakakawea.
- On average, 59,177 acre-feet of water per day flows past Bismarck and the annual estimated oil field demand of 13,258 acre-feet amounts to about 22% of a single days average flow.
- Currently 370 acre-feet approved from Lake Sakakawea and 30,800 acre-feet under application from Lake Sakakawea for water depots.