

October 31, 2007

Dear Ms. Karlene Fine,

I've attached a grant request entitled "Town Hall Meetings- A Conversation on Oil and Gas" under the education portion of the state's appropriation for the ND Oil and Gas Research Council grants. Please forward this to the council for their consideration and possible recommendation to the North Dakota Industrial Commission.

This grant requests \$20,000 of the \$25,000 project. The grant aims to provide more outreach and public information on current North Dakota oil and gas exploration that is occurring in western North Dakota communities.

Thank you for your work on this matter.

Sincerely,

Vicky Steiner  
Executive Director  
N. D. Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties

## **Town Hall meeting- A Conversation on Oil and Gas**

NDOGRC grant request

### Overview-

The oil rig count has climbed quickly and dramatically the last two years in western North Dakota. The county commissioners have been bombarded with questions and requests from farmers and landowners about this new oil exploration. My office along with other state offices are fielding many questions about surface owner rights, mineral owner rights, oil company procedures on a split estate and how to find information. There is information available in several departments. This grant would bring together this information to better inform the public.

### Proposal-

The grant proposal is for a series of informal, non-confrontational town hall meetings to distribute pertinent information to the public. The grant would also include re-printing an existing state brochure on surface owner rights.

I have a team of presenters who are interested in assisting the state in getting this public information to the county landowners and residents.

Earlier this year, Conoco-Phillips had a series of successful town hall meetings across the country discussing the nation's energy crisis. This approach was successful in creating awareness that the oil company was concerned about the lack of a national energy policy. This transparency generates credibility for the town hall sponsor and creates a positive atmosphere to resolve conflict.

The town hall presentation team includes Lynn Helms, ND Minerals Resources Director, Ron Ness, the North Dakota Petroleum Council and state oil industry leaders. Part of this grant would provide for publishing a state document from the ND Minerals Resources Department on surface owner rights in a more user friendly brochure.

The N. D. Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties (NDAOGPC) staff will administer this grant, arrange for the publication of the brochure, organize the meetings in at least 4 locations in western North Dakota's boom areas, possibly more, depending on how the team determines the outreach to be after the initial meetings. The meetings will include press releases to invite the interested public, buying media to notify the public, arranging for community locations, coordinating the presenter's schedules with the meeting dates, contracting for a light meal and beverages for these meetings. The NDAOGPC staff would also emcee the meeting and distribute the brochures of information. The time and place of the meetings will be determined by the team but will be concluded by December 2008.

**Town Hall meeting- A Conversation on Oil and Gas**

11/01/07

Revised budget to include industry donation

**Budget**

Brochure surface owner rights **\$5,000**  
ND Mineral Resources Dept.  
Re-printing public information

Town Hall meetings  
Including a light supper meal  
payment of meeting notices  
in the media, organization of  
events **\$5,000**

Match  
Estimate of 3 person team in-kind contribution  
Conference expenses, travel, room rental \$4,000  
Administrative expenses \$3,000  
Industry and community sponsor donation \$3,000  
Matching total \$10,000

**Project Cost \$20,000**

**Grant Request \$10,000**