

COUNTY OFFICERS

County Auditor	Lisa Herbel
County Treasurer/MVD	Ann Monson
County Recorder	Helen Christenson
County Sheriff	Steve Watson
State's Attorney	A. Swain Benson
Clerk of Courts	Rhonda Langehaug
Tax Director/Zoning Adm.	Lisa Peterson
Social Services	Kelly Jensen
9-1-1 Coordinator	Terry Volk
Disaster Emergency	Richard Hummel
Veteran's Service Officer	Dwight Nahinurk
Road Supervisor	Ritchie Gimbel
Official Newspaper	Courant

**BOTTINEAU COUNTY
NORTH DAKOTA**



314 West Fifth Street
Bottineau, North Dakota 58318
Fax (701) 228-5181

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

1 ST District	LeRoy Rude Bottineau, ND 58318
2 nd District	Jeff Beyer Bottineau, ND 58318
3 rd District	Daniel Marquardt Bottineau, ND 58318
4 th District	Lance Kjelskus Souris, ND 58783
5 th District	Todd Streich Maxbass, ND 58760

February 12, 2014

North Dakota Department of Health

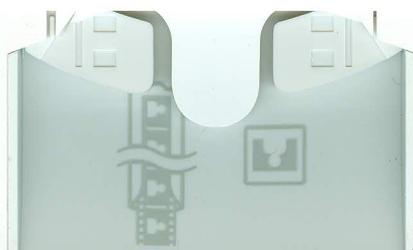
Terry Dwelle, State Health Officer

Dave Glatt, Environmental Health Section Chief

Thank you for your concern for protecting our North Dakota land, air, and water. We are grateful that North Dakota has regulations in place to prevent careless oil field spills that have caused the destruction of productive Bottineau County farm land. Our concern is that spills are not being properly accounted for. There have been no real deterrents or consequences for careless behavior and for minimizing the size of spills and prompt and proper cleanup and reclamation are not being required.

We are very alarmed that the spill quantity and the amount recovered are not accurately being reported. There are many questionable reports to include the 2011 Renville Township pipeline break that was reported as 300 barrels and later estimated at 50,000 barrels and the 2013 antler township disposal saltwater line break that was reported 0 barrels, although crop staging and other factors would indicate that thousands of barrels may have been released. These are just examples of inaccurate reporting. If this type of reporting is common across western North Dakota, the consequences to our land and water is devastating and make a mockery of public reported spill statistics.

Our committee is wondering what are the methods used to determine spill size? Having an accurate report must be the priority for public confidence and for accountability for cleanup and reclamation. We also question not reporting spills or inaccurately reporting spills? Numerous reports claim to have



recovered all salt-water from gravel-clay sites without removing any contaminated soil. Regulations allowing this will leave permanent damage to our land. A signal saltwater spill can easily cause millions of dollars of damage to private and public property.

We are requesting under the open records law, all the information of the Renville Township pipeline break and the 2013 disposal line break at the Leo Hallof SWD, both spills have affected surface and ground water resources.

Specifically, we are requesting all communications between agencies, Landowners and oil companies. We are also requesting all field notes, test results and remediation plans and related information. Please include any violations or disciplinary action taken or contemplated. Please provide us with information on the size and cause of the rupture or break of the pipelines and the number of barrels that were pumped through these lines per day.

Thank You

Lance Kjelshus

LeRoy Rude

County Commission

County Commission

Larry Peterson

Pete Artz

NW Area Landowner

NW Area Landowner

Rick Hummel

Bottineau County Emergency Manager

