

## Interim Energy Development and Transmission Committee April 8, 2014

Mr. Chairman and Members of the committee,

My name is Pete Artz from Antler. I have farmed and ranched in western Bottineau County since my younger years, growing up on the ranch. I had two oil wells drilled on my property in 2009. These wells did not produce and are plugged. The sites have not been reclaimed and are a mess. I have lost 5 calves in the associated unreclaimed pits. It is very obvious that my property and my rights are not a very high priority with regulators.

I am also testifying on behalf of my brother, Mike Artz who could not be here today.

These pictures are from a pipeline rupture that was discovered in August of 2013 on land owned by Mike Artz in western Bottineau County. This pipeline and disposal well had not been monitored for months, as we were told by pumper. There is no road to this disposal well and the site had little or no upkeep or maintenance for years. Barley plants killed by salt, show the leak was not discovered for weeks and evidence suggest thousands of barrels of salt water and oil were leaked. The spill was reported at 0 barrels and no penalties or notices of violation have been issued for this negligent spill. Several hundred loads of contaminated soil were hauled out and millions of dollars were spent on reclamation, but much contamination remains. Mike has received no updates or communication in writing and has only received verbal assurance that the land will be totally reclaimed. We know contamination has reached the water table. Some drain tile was installed to collect the brine contamination, but the collection wells have not been pumped. Monitoring wells have not been officially tested to best of our knowledge. I have 500 head of cattle very near spill site. An aquifer supplying my water is connected to spill area. My livelihood depends on this aquifer that supplies my wells.

Initial tests in the adjacent wetland by the remediation firm showed oilfield chloride levels so high they were off the charts. Mike has been left with huge financial losses and no real offer of compensation. Increasing the the number of field inspectors will do no good unless we have real consequences and penalties for this reckless, negligent behavior. Without real change, farming and ranching opportunities for our grandchildren is in jeopardy.

Thank you for your time

## NORTH DAKOTA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Governor Dalrymple- Ag Commissioner Goehring- Attorney General Stenhjem and Mr. Lynn Helms Director of North Dakota Oil and Gas :

Mike Artz, landowner; members of Bottineau County Emergency Management; Township officials; legislators and Township Landowners hereby request an investigation per NDIC Rule 43-02-03-54, of the July-August 2013 oil and saltwater spill from the pipeline near the Leo Hallof 1 Saltwater Disposal Well # 90074.

### Issues of the investigation are as follow:

#### 1. Cause of the spill.

A. It appeared switch or level sensor failed and crude (skim oil) was pumped into disposal well and consequently caused well to pressure up and rupture pipeline. This indicates all oil and saltwater were then pumped out breach in pipeline until leak was discovered and all oil and salt water production from source wells plus tank volumes was discharged into Mike Artz's farmland.

#### 2. Length of time pipeline line was leaking?

A. Crop staging concludes rupture in pipeline happened at least 3 weeks prior to discovery  
*see picture*

#### 3. Were or are there now leak detection and prevention equipment in place?

#### 4. Access to disposal well.

A. There is no road and very limited access to disposal well and wellsite is overrun with grass and weeds plus crude oil on surface away from wellhead. *see pictue*

#### 5. What is responsibility of oil company to have ready access to disposal well for monitoring and maintenance?

6. Please review well file and other records for accountability for spill cleanups; terms of transfer to present owner; access and notes available for 2009 SWD integrity test, and follow up if any.

7. Please review spill report, cleanup progress after more than 45 days and likely permanent damage to land and water resources.

A. Pictures, conversations with the pumper, and other data collected indicate inadequacies at and near the spill and disposal facility.

B. Was this spill, that is obviously costing millions in attempted cleanup costs preventable? How many more avoidable spill accidents are there waiting to happen in Bottineau County?

8. Please compare fines, actions taken and accountability of this spill versus the 2006 Charbonneau Creek spill.

9. Please send us copies of investigation and actions taken regarding the July 2011 Bottineau County, Renville township saltwater pipeline break and spill.

**Please respond to all signers by email with intentions, findings and rational**

Name

Title

E-mail

Date

Name	Title	E-mail	Date
Michael Cuts	Landowner		10/2/13
Carey Streich	Maxbass	streich@srt.com	10-4-2013
Vodd Streich	Landowner	anigae@srt.com	10-4-13
Ron Wittenman	3173 Hwy 5 NW Mohol/ND		10-4-2013
Al Peto	2519 98 <sup>th</sup> St NW Antler		10-4-2013
Ron Stend		rons@srt.com	10-4-2013
Clinton D. Tim		rons@srt.com	10-4-2013
Sam Scher	Landowner	wings@srt.com	10-4-13
Ken Huberka	Landowner	huberka@srt.com	10-4-13
Pete Cuts	Landowner	pgart2@utma.com	10/4/13
Nobbs	Antler Fire chief	nbynd@hotmail.com	10/4/2013
Jay Peters	Landowner	Lap@srt.com	10-4-13

# Oil Field Environmental Incident Summary

**Incident:** 20130814114246      **Date/Time of Notice:** 08/14/2013 10:10

**Responsible Party:** MUREX PETROLEUM CORPORATION

**Well Operator:** MUREX PETROLEUM CORPORATION

**Well Name:** LEO HALLOF 1

**Field Name:** NORTH HAAS

**Well File #:** 90074

**Date Incident:** 8/9/2013      **Time Incident:** 16:00

**Facility ID Number:**

**County:** BOTTINEAU

**Twp:** 163      **Rng:** 82      **Sec:** 21      **Qtr:**

**Location Description:** Flowline leaked half way between Ralph Smith, tank battery, and Leo Hallof injection well.

**Submitted By:** Johan Garcia

**Received By:**

**Contact Person:** Paul Schaffner  
515 N SAM HOUSTON PKY E  
Suite 485  
HOUSTON, TX 77060

**General Land Use:** Well/Facility Site

**Affected Medium:** Soil and Water

**Distance Nearest Occupied Building:** 0.25 Miles

**Distance Nearest Water Well:** 0.25 Miles

**Type of Incident:** Valve/Piping Connection Leak

**Release Contained in Dike:** No

**Reported to NRC:** Unknown

	Spilled	Units	Recovered	Units
Oil	0	barrels	0	barrels
Brine	0	barrels	0	barrels
Other	0	barrels	0	barrels

**Followup**      **Units**

**Description of Other Released Contaminant:**

**Inspected:**

**Written Report Received:**

**Clean Up Concluded:**

**Risk Evaluation:**

**Areal Extent:**

Unknown

Industrial Commission of North Dakota  
Oil and Gas Division  
Spill / Incident Report

Date/Time Reported : Jul 21 2011 / 15:46  
State Agency person :  
Responsible Party :  
Well Operator : PETRO HARVESTER OPERATING COMPANY, LLC  
Date/Time of Incident : 7/20/2011 12:00:00 AM  
NDIC File Number : 90090  
Facility Number :  
Well or Facility Name : CRAMER        1 SWD  
Field Name : RENVILLE  
County : BOTTINEAU  
Section : 8  
Township : 161  
Range : 82  
Quarter-Quarter : SE  
Quarter : NW  
Distance to nearest residence : 0.5 Miles  
Distance to nearest water well : 0.5 Miles  
Release Oil : 0 barrels  
Release Brine : 300 barrels  
Release Other : 0 barrels  
Recovered Oil : 0 barrels  
Recovered Brine : 0 barrels  
Recovered Other : 0 barrels  
Has/Will the incident be reported to the NRC? : No  
Was release contained :  
Description of other released substance :

Immediate risk evaluation :  
Followup Report Requested Y/N : N









08/12/2013 14:07





08/12/2013 14:03