

and was amazed at all the construction taking place and number of gas facilities.

“What they’re really interested in is building more chemical plants with the gas that’s coming,” Steiner said. “More plastics. They have tremendous amounts of chemical plants down there in Louisiana. It’s almost like a chemical row.”

Dunkelberg agrees with DeCubellis and Steiner and said North Dakota will play a part in the overall puzzle to solving energy issues.

“North Dakota is going to see some of those plants,” Dunkelberg said.

“But North Dakota’s really going to get it out, then send it somewhere.

And that will create a lot work putting pipelines in and everything that goes along with oil and gas extraction.”

Another investment into the overall energy puzzle is the Dakota Pipeline project by MDU Resources.

“Our Dakota Pipeline project holds the potential to have significant impact on current and future Bakken natural gas production,” said David Goodin, president and CEO of MDU. “As currently proposed, the Dakota Pipeline would have the

MMcf/d. This is good news for Bakken natural gas producers since it holds the potential to expand the options to get natural gas out of the Bakken.”

With all that Bakken oil and gas activity

about dealing with oil and gas is most of the companies plan three to five years out and are corporations. Therefore, they are required by their bylaws to spend what they project. It’s just regulations and price of oil that seem to throw a kink in everyone’s plans. Some call it the checks and balance system of the energy sector.

A recent report from consultant Wood Mackenzie Ltd., said their expectations from the Bakken and Three Forks is an average oil production of 1.1 million barrels a day in 2014, growing to 1.7 million barrels a day in 2020. With reserves close to \$118 billion. The report also states the estimated investment into extracting that oil is more than \$15 billion this year alone. Furthermore, the report suggests more than 14,000 new well locations are waiting to be drilled.

One company who sees bright Bakken futures is Black Ridge Oil and Gas.

The Minnesota-based company has an exclusive “laser focus” on the Bakken Three Forks and recently acquired new interests, while securing their foothold

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connections to take Bakken-produced natural gas to eastern and mid-continent markets. With other export natural gas pipelines currently near full capacity, this potential new option could provide 400 million cubic feet per day of capacity out of the region.

And, depending on commitments, the line could be expanded to over 500

spraying economic opportunity, the billion dollar question every investor is asking is “how long will this play last?”

Next
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