



**Associated Press**

In this March 29, 2013 photo, Technicians inside a trailer direct the pressure and mix of water and chemicals pumped into an Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. well during hydraulic fracturing, on March 29, 2013, outside Rifle, in western Colorado. Hydraulic fracturing raises concern among some that the chemicals used and hydrocarbons released can contaminate groundwater. Industry officials say an absence of documented, widespread problems with fracking proves the process is safe.

gather for extraction.

Brian Hymel, partner with Five Diamonds Industrial Park in Dickinson completely agrees with mindset that the Bakken is a technology boom. Hymel added oil and gas technology is changing just like everything we see around us.

“It is amazing if you look at technology. I was looking at my smart phone earlier and I was frustrated with it because it just wasn’t working quite right. I had to stop and think to myself, a few short years ago before the world of the Apple iPhone and the ‘Crackberry,’ I had a little tiny flip phone with just a few buttons and I could play the game ‘Snake’ on it. Before that, it was the brick,” Hymel said. “It’s happening so fast, the technology is changing so fast and all of

these companies are investing a tremendous amount money, time and energy into improving their technology just to recover a bit higher percentages. Every little bit helps.”

After former Governor Schafer set up the ground work for oil and gas companies to extract the natural resources from the state, current U.S. Senator John Hoeven

“I can remember as governor, meeting with the top executives of companies who were trying to crack the code,” Hoeven said. “Prior to then, companies — if they were in North Dakota — were leaving to go elsewhere.”

Hoeven continued saying he worked with companies like Marathon Oil, Continental, Brigham and EOG Resources

“Because of all that hard work, communication and patience, we’ve seen amazing results.” Hoeven said. “We are now the second largest oil producing state in the country, nearing a million barrels a day, but none of it would have happened without the technology development.”

In order to better understand the role technology plays in the Bakken, you first have to understand what kind of oil is being drilled. Dr. Gerry Groenwald, director of the Energy and Environmental Research Center (EERC), believes this oil boom is “absolutely a technology boom.” Groenewold points out there is an abundance of oil, just not “cheap oil.”

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was elected governor and recalls being handed the baton from Schafer and overseeing the oil and gas development “trying to crack the code.”

to create “the right business climate and develop the technologies that made producing oil in the Bakken very economical.”