Year in Review: Best Sound Bytes of 2015

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For Bakken Breakout Weekly

For us in the media, the time of the year has come for Year in Review articles, stories and features. At The Crude Life, we scour the cutting room floor, past features, exclusive interviews and other places where we can find relevant sound bytes. These are just a few of our highlights from 2015.

Dean Bresciani, president, North Dakota State University: "The entire state has a window of opportunity… like the state has never seen before. There is really no place in the nation that has similar opportunity. But I also think that motivation and capacity, which the possible exception of Texas, where there is some similar dynamics there with the two major research universities and energy extensive economic development sector. North Dakota has a differentiating factor, which is the chance to strengthen and diversify our economy that has never existed for this state, whereas Texas comes and goes with that opportunity and a plethora of other opportunities."

Dennis Johnson, Dickinson mayor: "It is the first [wastewater treatment facility] built in 40 years so it is a big deal. To have that built in our community is truly an honor and opportunity… [T]he water that comes out of the wastewater treatment plant is very high industrial quality water and we are bringing it all the way from our treatment plant outside the city limits to the refinery. They need close to 300,000 barrels of water a day in the process. We then take their waste water back and recycle it again and treat it at our facilities."

Loren Scott, president, Loren Scott & Associates: "The argument I have tried to make is what the Saudis are doing is driving the price down. They are trying to kill the edges of the shale plays. That is those areas, like in North Dakota where the breakeven is much higher. If they can kill the edges of the shale plays, not only in North Dakota but Texas, Colorado and other areas, they are going to cause oil production in the United States to not only peak, but taper off as we get into the fall months of the year."

Fred Feshenfeld, chairman, Calumet Specialty Products: "We made it. I gotta tell you it feels very very good. It was a long and winding road since Calumet and MDU first started discussing this project, which the original idea was my partner's idea Bill Grube. We came up with the project over lunch, but Bill deserves the authorship on the idea. It's truly a remarkable achievement that wouldn't have happened without lots of sweat and tears from hundreds of people from the local workforce, many supporting companies and the gracious support from the state of North Dakota. There was 146 miles of power and instrumentation cable that was pulled. There is 1,850 tons of steel installed and over a million cubic yards of soil had to be moved. This was a major undertaking."

U.S. Congressman Kevin Cramer (R-ND): "By not allowing the Unites States to export crude oil we are acquiescing to the monopoly power of Saudi Arabia, you could say OPEC, but let's face it Saudi Arabia is OPEC. We are allowing them to do that to us. It's a classic example of when you have too much supply power in the hands of one entity. We no longer need to do that with the removal of the crude oil export ban. By putting light sweet crude oil out in the global marketplace it would make the United States the stabilizing force in the global marketplace. Stabilizing pricing force, stabilizing democracy force, utilization of the peaceful tools of domestic energy production. Use those tools rather than weapons of war."

Mark Johnsrud, chairman and CEO, Nuverra Environmental Solutions, Inc: "The construction of this pipeline represents a transformational step in our effort to become a fully-integrated environmental solutions provider in North Dakota. With significant increases in well density and growing water volumes, we believe our pipeline network represents an important complement to our transportation capabilities and provides sustainable and efficient water gathering and delivery solutions for our customers."

David Goodin, CEO, president, MDU Resources Group Inc: "Often times government can be a way to challenge a person as to how can you actually get that done or can that get done. I would say the environment we have here in North Dakota, particularly in western North Dakota, is 'how can we get a project like this done?' While being a rigorous, regulatory permitting and environmental project it is certainly appreciated from the owners here that we have a very facilitative business environment in North Dakota. And that comes as no surprise rather by design, we very much have a can-do attitude."

Stephen Moore, economist, Heritage Foundation and Fox News Correspondent: "There are nine states in the US that do not have an income tax: Tennessee, Texas, Florida, Alaska, Nevada, New Hampshire, Washington, Wyoming, and South Dakota. North Dakota ought to be the tenth state that doesn't have an income tax. I feel very strongly about that. You have the revenue source through energy to be able to eliminate your income tax and that will bring a lot of new jobs to this area in addition to the oil revolution. At least get rid of the tax on all wages and salaries. That will give a pay raise to every worker in the state of North Dakota. Let's make North Dakota the tenth state in the United States to not have an income tax. You want to tax people on what they take out of the economy and what they consume rather than what they put into the economy. Which is their work and effort, risk taking and investment."

Lynn Helms, director, North Dakota Department of Minerals: "One of the main issues we are dealing with at the state level is waste management and minimization," Helms said. "Produced and flowback water is 1.4 barrels for every barrel of oil we produce. Imagine that, we are at 1.1 million barrels of oil; that means we are at about 1.6 million barrels of water everyday. We are blessed with an enormous sponge about a mile below our feet called with Dakota Formation, and it has the capacity to absorb all that," Helms said. "But we are literally just throwing all that water away at this point in time."

Russ Rankin, a regional manager for Statoil: "We are looking at non-aqueous types of gas where we are just using CO2. We've been really focused on the opportunity with using water as a beneficial use. We actually used a 100% produced water on two of our wells just north of town (Williston) here. We were able to get the fluid properties we need in order to get the product put away. Initial results look very promising."

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