

Sixty-third  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2336

Introduced by

Senators Cook, Wardner, O'Connell

Representatives Belter, Carlson, Drovdal

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-38 and subsection 10 of  
2 section 57-51.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to income tax withholding on oil  
3 and gas royalty payments to nonresidents and an oil extraction tax exemption for wells  
4 completed outside the Bakken and Three Forks formations; to amend and reenact subsection 4  
5 of section 38-08-04 and sections 57-51.1-01, 57-51.1-02, 57-51.1-03, and 57-51.1-03.1 of the  
6 North Dakota Century Code, relating to determination of stripper well status on an individual  
7 well basis under the oil extraction tax and oil extraction tax rates and exemptions; to provide an  
8 effective date; and to provide an expiration date.

9 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

10 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 4 of section 38-08-04 of the North Dakota Century  
11 Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

12 4. To classify wells as oil or gas wells for purposes material to the interpretation or  
13 enforcement of this chapter, to annually classify and determine the status and depth  
14 and average daily oil production of wells that are stripper well property as defined in  
15 ~~subsection 8 of~~ section 57-51.1-01, to annually certify to the tax commissioner which  
16 wells are stripper wells and the depth and average daily oil production of those wells,  
17 and to certify to the tax commissioner which wells involve secondary or tertiary  
18 recovery operations under section 57-51.1-01, and the date of qualification for the  
19 reduced rate of oil extraction tax for secondary and tertiary recovery operations. The  
20 requirement of annual classification and certification under this subsection applies only  
21 for wells drilled and completed in the Bakken or Three Forks formation and for other  
22 wells the classification and certification is required only once.

23 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 57-38 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
24 and enacted as follows:

1 **Withholding requirement for oil and gas royalty payments to nonresidents.**

2 1. For purposes of this section:

3 a. "Publicly traded partnership" means a publicly traded partnership as defined in  
4 section 7704 of the Internal Revenue Code [26 U.S.C. 7704] which is not treated  
5 as a corporation.

6 b. "Remitter" means any person who distributes royalty payments to royalty owners.

7 c. "Royalty owner" means a person or entity entitled to receive periodic royalty  
8 payments for a nonworking interest in the production of oil or gas.

9 2. Except as provided in subsection 3, each remitter shall deduct and withhold from the  
10 net amount of the royalty payment made to each nonresident individual or business  
11 entity that does not have its commercial domicile in this state at the highest marginal  
12 rate provided in sections 57-38-30 and 57-38-30.3. Sections 57-38-59 and 57-38-60  
13 apply to the filing of the returns and payment of the tax under this subsection.

14 3. This section does not apply to royalty payments made to a royalty owner if the royalty  
15 owner is:

16 a. The United States or an agency of the federal government, this state or a political  
17 subdivision of this state, or another state or a political subdivision of another  
18 state;

19 b. A federally recognized Indian tribe with respect to on-reservation oil and gas  
20 production pursuant to a lease entered under the Indian Mineral Leasing Act of  
21 1938 [25 U.S.C. 396a through 396g];

22 c. The United States as trustee for individual Indians;

23 d. A publicly traded partnership;

24 e. An organization that is exempt from the tax under this chapter; or

25 f. The same person or entity as the remitter.

26 4. a. This section does not apply to a remitter that produced less than three hundred  
27 fifty thousand barrels of oil or less than five hundred million cubic feet of gas in  
28 the preceding calendar year as certified to the tax commissioner in the manner  
29 and on forms prescribed by the tax commissioner.

30 b. Each remitter that is exempt from withholding under this subsection shall make  
31 an annual return to report royalty payments that exceed the dollar amounts in

1            subsection 6 and must be reported in the same manner as provided in section  
2            57-38-60.

3            5. a. Each year, a publicly traded partnership that is exempt from withholding under  
4            subsection 3 shall transmit to the tax commissioner, in an electronic format  
5            approved by the tax commissioner, each partner's United States department of  
6            the treasury schedule K-1, form 1065, or form 1065-B, as applicable, filed  
7            electronically for the year with the United States internal revenue service.

8            b. A royalty owner that is a publicly traded partnership, or organization exempt from  
9            taxation under section 57-38-09, shall report to the remitter and tax commissioner  
10           under oath, on a form prescribed by the tax commissioner, all information  
11           necessary to establish that the remitter is not required under subsection 2 to  
12           withhold royalty payments made to the partnership or organization.

13           6. If the royalty payment made to a royalty owner under this section is less than six  
14           hundred dollars for the current withholding period, or is less than one thousand dollars  
15           if the payment is annualized, the tax commissioner may grant a remitter's request to  
16           forgo withholding the tax from the royalty payment made to that royalty owner for the  
17           current withholding period or, if applicable, the royalty payments for the annual period.

18           **SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 10 of section 57-51.1-01 of the North Dakota  
19 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

20           10. "Stripper well ~~property~~" means a "~~property~~" whose well, for which the average daily  
21           production of oil, at the well's maximum efficient rate during any preceding consecutive  
22           twelve-month period, excluding condensate recovered in nonassociated production,  
23           ~~per well~~ did not exceed ten barrels per day for wells of a depth of six thousand feet  
24           [1828.80 meters] or less, fifteen barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than six  
25           thousand feet [1828.80 meters] but not more than ten thousand feet [3048 meters],  
26           and thirty barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than ten thousand feet [3048  
27           meters] during any preceding consecutive twelve-month period outside the Bakken and  
28           Three Forks formations, and forty barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than ten  
29           thousand feet [3048 meters] in the Bakken or Three Forks formation. Wells which did  
30           not actually yield or produce oil during the qualifying twelve-month period, including

1 disposal wells, dry wells, spent wells, and shut-in wells, are not production wells for  
2 the purpose of determining whether the stripper well ~~property~~ exemption applies.

3 **SECTION 4. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-01 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
4 amended and reenacted as follows:

5 **57-51.1-01. Definitions for oil extraction tax.**

6 For the purposes of the oil extraction tax law, the following words and terms shall have the  
7 meaning ascribed to them in this section ~~in this section~~ this chapter:

8 1. ~~"Average daily production" of a well means the qualified maximum total production of~~  
9 ~~oil from the well during a calendar month period divided by the number of calendar~~  
10 ~~days in that period, and "qualified maximum total production" of a well means that the~~  
11 ~~well must have been maintained at the maximum efficient rate of production as~~  
12 ~~defined and determined by rule adopted by the industrial commission in furtherance of~~  
13 ~~its authority under chapter 38-08.~~

14 2. ~~"Average price" of a barrel of crude oil means the monthly average of the daily closing~~  
15 ~~price for a barrel of west Texas intermediate cushing crude oil, as those prices appear~~  
16 ~~in the Wall Street Journal, midwest edition, minus two dollars and fifty cents. When~~  
17 ~~computing the monthly average price, the most recent previous daily closing price~~  
18 ~~must be considered the daily closing price for the days on which the market is~~  
19 ~~closed~~ statewide production" means the number of barrels of oil produced from wells  
20 within this state during a calendar month divided by the number of calendar days in  
21 that month, as determined by the industrial commission.

22 3. ~~"Horizontal reentry well" means a well that was not initially drilled and completed as a~~  
23 ~~horizontal well, including any well initially plugged and abandoned as a dry hole, which~~  
24 ~~is reentered and recompleted as a horizontal well.~~

25 4. ~~"Horizontal well" means a well with a horizontal displacement of the well bore drilled at~~  
26 ~~an angle of at least eighty degrees within the productive formation of at least three~~  
27 ~~hundred feet [91.44 meters].~~

28 ~~5.2.~~ "Oil" means petroleum, crude oil, mineral oil, casinghead gasoline, and all liquid  
29 hydrocarbons that are recovered from gas on the lease incidental to the production of  
30 the gas.

1     ~~6.3.~~ "Property" means the right which arises from a lease or fee interest, as a whole or any  
2           designated portion thereof, to produce oil. A producer shall treat as a separate  
3           property each separate and distinct producing reservoir subject to the same right to  
4           produce crude oil; provided, that such reservoir is recognized by the industrial  
5           commission as a producing formation that is separate and distinct from, and not in  
6           communication with, any other producing formation.

7     ~~7.4.~~ "Qualifying secondary recovery project" means a project employing water flooding. ~~To~~  
8           ~~be eligible for the tax reduction provided under section 57-51.1-02, a secondary~~  
9           ~~recovery project must be certified as qualifying by the industrial commission and the~~  
10          ~~project operator must have achieved for six consecutive months an average~~  
11          ~~production level of at least twenty-five percent above the level that would have been~~  
12          ~~recovered under normal recovery operations. To be eligible for the tax exemption~~  
13          ~~provided under section 57-51.1-03 and subsequent thereto the rate reduction provided~~  
14          ~~under section 57-51.1-02, a secondary recovery project must be certified as qualifying~~  
15          ~~by the industrial commission and the project operator must have obtained incremental~~  
16          ~~production as defined in subsection 5 of section 57-51.1-03~~ rules of the industrial  
17          commission.

18     ~~8.5.~~ "Qualifying tertiary recovery project" means a project for enhancing recovery of oil  
19           which meets the requirements of section 4993(c), Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as  
20           amended through December 31, 1986, and includes the following methods for  
21           recovery:  
22           a.   Miscible fluid displacement.  
23           b.   Steam drive injection.  
24           c.   Microemulsion.  
25           d.   In situ combustion.  
26           e.   Polymer augmented water flooding.  
27           f.   Cyclic steam injection.  
28           g.   Alkaline flooding.  
29           h.   Carbonated water flooding.  
30           i.   Immiscible carbon dioxide displacement.  
31           j.   New tertiary recovery methods certified by the industrial commission.

1 It does not include water flooding, unless the water flooding is used as an element of  
2 one of the qualifying tertiary recovery techniques described in this subsection, or  
3 immiscible natural gas injection. ~~To be eligible for the tax reduction provided under~~  
4 ~~section 57-51.1-02, a tertiary recovery project must be certified as qualifying by the~~  
5 ~~industrial commission, the project operator must continue to operate the unit as a~~  
6 ~~qualifying tertiary recovery project, and the project operator must have achieved for at~~  
7 ~~least one month a production level of at least fifteen percent above the level that would~~  
8 ~~have been recovered under normal recovery operations. To be eligible for the tax~~  
9 ~~exemption provided under section 57-51.1-03 and subsequent thereto the rate~~  
10 ~~reduction provided under section 57-51.1-02, a tertiary recovery project must be~~  
11 ~~certified as qualifying by the industrial commission, the project operator must continue~~  
12 ~~to operate the unit as a qualifying tertiary recovery project, and the project operator~~  
13 ~~must have obtained incremental production as defined in subsection 5 of section~~  
14 ~~57-51.1-03~~ rules of the industrial commission.

15 9-6. "Royalty owner" means an owner of what is commonly known as the royalty interest  
16 and shall not include the owner of any overriding royalty or other payment carved out  
17 of the working interest.

18 10-7. "Stripper well ~~property~~" means a "~~property~~ whose well for which the average daily  
19 production of oil, at the well's maximum efficient rate during any preceding consecutive  
20 twelve-month period, excluding condensate recovered in nonassociated production,  
21 per well did not exceed ten barrels per day for wells of a depth of six thousand feet  
22 [1828.80 meters] or less, fifteen barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than six  
23 thousand feet [1828.80 meters] but not more than ten thousand feet [3048 meters],  
24 and thirty barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than ten thousand feet [3048  
25 meters] during any preceding consecutive twelve-month period ~~outside the Bakken and~~  
26 ~~Three Forks formations, and forty barrels per day for wells of a depth of more than ten~~  
27 ~~thousand feet [3048 meters] in the Bakken or Three Forks formation.~~ Wells which did  
28 not actually yield or produce oil during the qualifying twelve-month period, including  
29 disposal wells, dry wells, spent wells, and shut-in wells, are not production wells for  
30 the purpose of determining whether the stripper well ~~property~~ exemption applies.

1        11. ~~"Trigger price" means thirty-five dollars and fifty cents, as indexed for inflation. By~~  
2        ~~December thirty-first of each year, the tax commissioner shall compute an indexed~~  
3        ~~trigger price by applying to the current trigger price the rate of change of the producer-~~  
4        ~~price index for industrial commodities as calculated and published by the United~~  
5        ~~States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics, for the twelve months ending~~  
6        ~~June thirtieth of that year and the indexed trigger price so determined is the trigger~~  
7        ~~price for the following calendar year.~~

8        12. ~~"Two-year inactive well" means any well certified by the industrial commission that did~~  
9        ~~not produce oil in more than one month in any consecutive twenty-four month period~~  
10       ~~before being recompleted or otherwise returned to production after July 31, 1995. A~~  
11       ~~well that has never produced oil, a dry hole, and a plugged and abandoned well are~~  
12       ~~eligible for status as a two-year inactive well.~~

13       **SECTION 5. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-02 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
14       amended and reenacted as follows:

15       **57-51.1-02. ~~Imposition of oil~~Oil extraction tax rate.**

16       There is hereby imposed an excise tax, to be known as the "oil extraction tax", upon the  
17       activity in this state of extracting oil from the earth, ~~and every.~~ Every owner, including any royalty  
18       owner, of any part of the oil extracted is deemed for the purposes of this chapter to be engaged  
19       in the activity of extracting that oil.

20       The rate of tax is six and one-half percent of the gross value at the well of the oil extracted,  
21       except that the rate of tax is four and one-half percent of the gross value at the well of the oil  
22       extracted in the following situations:

- 23       1. ~~For oil produced from wells drilled and completed after April 27, 1987, commonly~~  
24       ~~referred to as new wells, and not otherwise exempt under section 57-51.1-03;~~  
25       2. ~~For oil produced from a secondary or tertiary recovery project that was certified as~~  
26       ~~qualifying by the industrial commission before July 1, 1991;~~  
27       3. ~~For oil that does not qualify as incremental oil but is produced from a secondary or~~  
28       ~~tertiary recovery project that is certified as qualifying by the industrial commission after~~  
29       ~~June 30, 1991;~~

- 1           4. For incremental oil produced from a secondary or tertiary recovery project that is  
2           certified as qualifying by the industrial commission after June 30, 1991, and which  
3           production is not otherwise exempt under section 57-51.1-03; or  
4           5. For oil produced from a well that receives an exemption pursuant to subsection 4 of  
5           section 57-51.1-03 after June 30, 1993, and which production is not otherwise exempt  
6           under section 57-51.1-03.

7   However, if the average price of a barrel of crude oil exceeds the trigger price for each month in  
8   any consecutive five-month period, then the rate of tax on oil extracted from all taxable wells is  
9   six and one-half percent of the gross value at the well of the oil extracted until the average price  
10   of a barrel of crude oil is less than the trigger price for each month in any consecutive  
11   five-month period, in which case the rate of tax reverts to four percent of the gross value at the  
12   well of the oil extracted for any wells subject to a reduced rate under subsections 1 through 5  
13   from a well drilled and completed after December 31, 2016, or beginning on the first day of the  
14   first calendar quarter beginning after a period of three consecutive calendar months in which  
15   average statewide daily production exceeds one million barrels per day, whichever occurs first.

16           **SECTION 6. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 2 of section 57-51.1-03 of the North Dakota  
17   Century Code, as effective through June 30, 2013, is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 18           2. The activity of extracting from the earth any oil from a stripper well ~~property. A well that~~  
19           ~~is drilled and completed in the Bakken or Three Forks formation after June 30, 2011,~~  
20           ~~on a stripper well property is not exempt for purposes of this exemption until~~  
21           ~~production from that well individually meets the requirements of the definition for~~  
22           ~~stripper well status under section 57-51.1-01. An individual well on a stripper well~~  
23           ~~property which exceeded an average of one hundred fifty barrels of oil production per~~  
24           ~~day, according to its annual certification by the industrial commission under section~~  
25           ~~38-08-04, is not eligible for the exemption under this section until the production from~~  
26           ~~that well individually meets the requirements of the definition for stripper well status~~  
27           ~~under section 57-51.1-01.~~

28           **SECTION 7.** Subsection 10 to section 57-51.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
29   created and enacted as follows:

- 30           10. The first seventy-five thousand barrels of oil produced during the first eighteen months  
31           after completion, from a well drilled and completed outside the Bakken and Three



1            Forks formations, is subject to a reduced tax rate of two percent of the gross value at  
2            the well of the oil extracted under this chapter. A well eligible for a reduced tax rate  
3            under this subsection is eligible for the exemption under subsection 3, if the exemption  
4            under subsection 3 is effective during all or part of the first twenty-four months after  
5            completion.

6            **SECTION 8. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, as  
7 effective after June 30, 2013, is amended and reenacted as follows:

8            **(Effective after June 30, 2013December 31, 2016) Exemptions from oil extraction tax.**

9            The following activities are specifically exempted from the oil extraction tax:

- 10           1.    The activity of extracting from the earth any oil that is exempt from the gross  
11           production tax imposed by chapter 57-51.
- 12           2.    The activity of extracting from the earth any oil from a stripper well ~~property. A well that~~  
13           ~~is drilled and completed in the Bakken or Three Forks formation after June 30, 2013,~~  
14           ~~on a stripper well property is not exempt for purposes of this exemption until~~  
15           ~~production from that well individually meets the requirements of the definition for~~  
16           ~~stripper well status under section 57-51.1-01. An individual well on a stripper well~~  
17           ~~property which exceeded an average of one hundred fifty barrels of oil production per~~  
18           ~~day, according to its annual certification by the industrial commission under section~~  
19           ~~38-08-04, is not eligible for the exemption under this section until the production from~~  
20           ~~that well individually meets the requirements of the definition for stripper well status~~  
21           ~~under section 57-51.1-01.~~
- 22           3.    For a well drilled and completed as a vertical well, the initial production of oil from the  
23           well is exempt from any taxes imposed under this chapter for a period of fifteen-  
24           months, except that oil produced from any well drilled and completed as a horizontal  
25           well is exempt from any taxes imposed under this chapter for a period of twenty-four  
26           months. Oil recovered during testing prior to well completion is exempt from the oil  
27           extraction tax. The exemption under this subsection becomes ineffective if the average  
28           price of a barrel of crude oil exceeds the trigger price for each month in any  
29           consecutive five-month period. However, the exemption is reinstated if, after the  
30           trigger provision becomes effective, the average price of a barrel of crude oil is less  
31           than the trigger price for each month in any consecutive five-month period.

- 1           4.   ~~The production of oil from a qualifying well that was worked over is exempt from any~~  
2           ~~taxes imposed under this chapter for a period of twelve months, beginning with the~~  
3           ~~first day of the third calendar month after the completion of the work-over project. The~~  
4           ~~exemption provided by this subsection is only effective if the well operator establishes~~  
5           ~~to the satisfaction of the industrial commission upon completion of the project that the~~  
6           ~~cost of the project exceeded sixty-five thousand dollars or production is increased at~~  
7           ~~least fifty percent during the first two months after completion of the project. A~~  
8           ~~qualifying well under this subsection is a well with an average daily production of no~~  
9           ~~more than fifty barrels of oil during the latest six calendar months of continuous~~  
10          ~~production. A work-over project under this subsection means the continuous~~  
11          ~~employment of a work-over rig, including recompletions and reentries. The exemption~~  
12          ~~provided by this subsection becomes ineffective if the average price of a barrel of~~  
13          ~~crude oil exceeds the trigger price for each month in any consecutive five-month~~  
14          ~~period. However, the exemption is reinstated if, after the trigger provision becomes~~  
15          ~~effective, the average price of a barrel of crude oil is less than the trigger price for~~  
16          ~~each month in any consecutive five-month period.~~
- 17          5.   a.   The incremental production from a secondary recovery project which has been  
18              certified as a qualified project by the industrial commission after July 1, 1991, is  
19              exempt from any taxes imposed under this chapter for a period of five years from  
20              the date the incremental production begins.
- 21          b.   The incremental production from a tertiary recovery project that does not use  
22              carbon dioxide and which has been certified as a qualified project by the  
23              industrial commission is exempt from any taxes imposed under this chapter for a  
24              period of ten years from the date the incremental production begins. Incremental  
25              production from a tertiary recovery project that uses carbon dioxide and which  
26              has been certified as a qualified project by the industrial commission is exempt  
27              from any taxes imposed under this chapter from the date the incremental  
28              production begins.
- 29          c.   ~~For purposes of this subsection, incremental production is defined in the following~~  
30              ~~manner:~~

- 1           (1) ~~For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision a and~~  
2           ~~with respect to a unit where there has not been a secondary recovery~~  
3           ~~project, incremental production means the difference between the total~~  
4           ~~amount of oil produced from the unit during the secondary recovery project~~  
5           ~~and the amount of primary production from the unit. For purposes of this~~  
6           ~~paragraph, primary production means the amount of oil which would have~~  
7           ~~been produced from the unit if the secondary recovery project had not been~~  
8           ~~commenced. The industrial commission shall determine the amount of~~  
9           ~~primary production in a manner which conforms to the practice and~~  
10          ~~procedure used by the commission at the time the project is certified.~~
- 11          (2) ~~For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision a and~~  
12          ~~with respect to a unit where a secondary recovery project was in existence~~  
13          ~~prior to July 1, 1991, and where the industrial commission cannot establish~~  
14          ~~an accurate production decline curve, incremental production means the~~  
15          ~~difference between the total amount of oil produced from the unit during a~~  
16          ~~new secondary recovery project and the amount of production which would~~  
17          ~~be equivalent to the average monthly production from the unit during the~~  
18          ~~most recent twelve months of normal production reduced by a production~~  
19          ~~decline rate of ten percent for each year. The industrial commission shall~~  
20          ~~determine the average monthly production from the unit during the most~~  
21          ~~recent twelve months of normal production and must upon request or upon~~  
22          ~~its own motion hold a hearing to make this determination. For purposes of~~  
23          ~~this paragraph, when determining the most recent twelve months of normal~~  
24          ~~production the industrial commission is not required to use twelve~~  
25          ~~consecutive months. In addition, the production decline rate of ten percent~~  
26          ~~must be applied from the last month in the twelve-month period of time.~~
- 27          (3) ~~For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision a and~~  
28          ~~with respect to a unit where a secondary recovery project was in existence~~  
29          ~~before July 1, 1991, and where the industrial commission can establish an~~  
30          ~~accurate production decline curve, incremental production means the~~  
31          ~~difference between the total amount of oil produced from the unit during the~~

1 new secondary recovery project and the total amount of oil that would have  
2 been produced from the unit if the new secondary recovery project had not  
3 been commenced. For purposes of this paragraph, the total amount of oil  
4 that would have been produced from the unit if the new secondary recovery  
5 project had not been commenced includes both primary production and  
6 production that occurred as a result of the secondary recovery project that  
7 was in existence before July 1, 1991. The industrial commission shall  
8 determine the amount of oil that would have been produced from the unit if  
9 the new secondary recovery project had not been commenced in a manner  
10 that conforms to the practice and procedure used by the commission at the  
11 time the new secondary recovery project is certified.

12 (4) For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision b and  
13 with respect to a unit where there has not been a secondary recovery  
14 project, incremental production means the difference between the total  
15 amount of oil produced from the unit during the tertiary recovery project and  
16 the amount of primary production from the unit. For purposes of this  
17 paragraph, primary production means the amount of oil which would have  
18 been produced from the unit if the tertiary recovery project had not been  
19 commenced. The industrial commission shall determine the amount of  
20 primary production in a manner which conforms to the practice and  
21 procedure used by the commission at the time the project is certified.

22 (5) For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision b and  
23 with respect to a unit where there is or has been a secondary recovery  
24 project, incremental production means the difference between the total  
25 amount of oil produced during the tertiary recovery project and the amount  
26 of production which would be equivalent to the average monthly production  
27 from the unit during the most recent twelve months of normal production  
28 reduced by a production decline rate of ten percent for each year. The  
29 industrial commission shall determine the average monthly production from  
30 the unit during the most recent twelve months of normal production and  
31 must upon request or upon its own motion hold a hearing to make this

determination. For purposes of this paragraph, when determining the most recent twelve months of normal production the industrial commission is not required to use twelve consecutive months. In addition, the production decline rate of ten percent must be applied from the last month in the twelve-month period of time.

(6) For purposes of determining the exemption provided for in subdivision b and with respect to a unit where there is or has been a secondary recovery project and where the industrial commission can establish an accurate production decline curve, incremental production means the difference between the total amount of oil produced from the unit during the tertiary recovery project and the total amount of oil that would have been produced from the unit if the tertiary recovery project had not been commenced. For purposes of this paragraph, the total amount of oil that would have been produced from the unit if the tertiary recovery project had not been commenced includes both primary production and production that occurred as a result of any secondary recovery project. The industrial commission shall determine the amount of oil that would have been produced from the unit if the tertiary recovery project had not been commenced in a manner that conforms to the practice and procedure used by the commission at the time the tertiary recovery project is certified.

d. The industrial commission shall adopt rules relating to this exemption that the exemptions under this subsection which must include procedures for determining incremental production as defined in subdivision e.

6. The production of oil from a two-year inactive well, as determined by the industrial commission and certified to the state tax commissioner, for a period of ten years after the date of receipt of the certification. The exemption under this subsection becomes ineffective if the average price of a barrel of crude oil exceeds the trigger price for each month in any consecutive five-month period. However, the exemption is reinstated if, after the trigger provision becomes effective, the average price of a barrel of crude oil is less than the trigger price for each month in any consecutive five-month period.

1       7.    ~~The production of oil from a horizontal reentry well, as determined by the industrial-~~  
2           ~~commission and certified to the state tax commissioner, for a period of nine months-~~  
3           ~~after the date the well is completed as a horizontal well. The exemption under this-~~  
4           ~~subsection becomes ineffective if the average price of a barrel of crude oil exceeds the~~  
5           ~~trigger price for each month in any consecutive five-month period. However, the~~  
6           ~~exemption is reinstated if, after the trigger provision becomes effective, the average~~  
7           ~~price of a barrel of crude oil is less than the trigger price for each month in any~~  
8           ~~consecutive five-month period.~~

9       ~~8.4.~~    The initial production of oil from a well is exempt from any taxes imposed under this  
10           chapter for a period of sixty months if:

- 11           a.    The well is located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation;  
12           b.    The well is drilled and completed on lands held in trust by the United States for  
13                an Indian tribe or individual Indian; or  
14           c.    The well is drilled and completed on lands held by an Indian tribe if the interest is  
15                in existence on August 1, 1997.

16       ~~9.5.~~    The first seventy-five thousand barrels of oil produced during the first eighteen months  
17           after completion, from a ~~horizontal well drilled and completed in the Bakken formation-~~  
18           ~~after June 30, 2007, and before July 1, 2008, outside of the Bakken or Three Forks~~  
19           ~~formation is subject to a reduced tax rate of two percent of the gross value at the well~~  
20           ~~of the oil extracted under this chapter. A well eligible for a reduced tax rate under this~~  
21           ~~subsection is eligible for the exemption for horizontal wells under subsection 3, if the~~  
22           ~~exemption under subsection 3 is effective during all or part of the first twenty-four~~  
23           ~~months after completion.~~

24       **SECTION 9. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 1 of section 57-51.1-03.1 of the North Dakota  
25       Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

- 26           1.    To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption on production from a  
27                ~~stripper well or~~ stripper well ~~property~~ under subsection 2 of section 57-51.1-03, the  
28                industrial commission's certification must be submitted to the tax commissioner within  
29                eighteen months after the end of the ~~stripper well's or~~ stripper well ~~property's~~ well's  
30                qualification period.

1       **SECTION 10. AMENDMENT.** Section 57-51.1-03.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
2 amended and reenacted as follows:

3       **57-51.1-03.1. Stripper well, ~~new well, work-over,~~ and secondary or tertiary project**  
4 **certification for tax exemption ~~or rate reduction~~ - Filing requirement.**

5       To receive the benefits of a tax exemption ~~or tax rate reduction~~, a certification of qualifying  
6 well status prepared by the industrial commission must be submitted to the tax commissioner as  
7 follows:

- 8       1. To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption on production from a  
9 ~~stripper well or~~ stripper well ~~property~~ under subsection 2 of section 57-51.1-03, the  
10 industrial commission's certification must be submitted to the tax commissioner within  
11 eighteen months after the end of the ~~stripper well's or~~ stripper ~~well property's~~ well's  
12 qualification period.
- 13       2. ~~To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption under subsection 3 of~~  
14 ~~section 57-51.1-03 and a rate reduction on production from a new well under section~~  
15 ~~57-51.1-02, the industrial commission's certification must be submitted to the tax~~  
16 ~~commissioner within eighteen months after a new well is completed.~~
- 17       3. ~~To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption under subsection 4 of~~  
18 ~~section 57-51.1-03 and a rate reduction for a work-over well under section 57-51.1-02,~~  
19 ~~the industrial commission's certification must be submitted to the tax commissioner~~  
20 ~~within eighteen months after the work-over project is completed.~~
- 21       4. To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption under subsection ~~5~~ 3 of  
22 section 57-51.1-03 ~~and a tax rate reduction under section 57-51.1-02~~ on production  
23 from a secondary or tertiary project, the industrial commission's certification must be  
24 submitted to the tax commissioner within the following time periods:
  - 25       a. ~~For a tax exemption,~~ within eighteen months after the month in which the first  
26 incremental oil was produced.
  - 27       b. ~~For a tax rate reduction,~~ within eighteen months after the end of the period  
28 qualifying the project for the rate reduction.
- 29       5. ~~To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption or the reduction on~~  
30 ~~production for which any other tax exemption or rate reduction may apply, the~~

1 industrial commission's certification must be submitted to the tax commissioner within  
2 eighteen months of the completion, recompletion, or other qualifying date.

3 6. ~~To receive, from the first day of eligibility, a tax exemption under subsection 6 of~~  
4 ~~section 57-51.1-03 on production from a two-year inactive well, the industrial~~  
5 ~~commission's certification must be submitted to the tax commissioner within eighteen~~  
6 ~~months after the end of the two-year inactive well's qualification period.~~

7 If the industrial commission's certification is not submitted to the tax commissioner within the  
8 eighteen-month period provided in this section, then the exemption ~~or rate reduction~~ does not  
9 apply for the production periods in which the certification is not on file with the tax  
10 commissioner. When the industrial commission's certification is submitted to the tax  
11 commissioner after the eighteen-month period, the tax exemption ~~or rate reduction~~ applies to  
12 prospective production periods only and the exemption ~~or rate reduction~~ is effective the first day  
13 of the month in which the certification is received by the tax commissioner.

14 **SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE - EXPIRATION DATE.** Section 2 of this Act is effective for  
15 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2013. Sections 3 and 9 and section 57-51.1-03, as  
16 effective through June 30, 2013, and as amended by sections 6 and 7 of this Act are effective  
17 for taxable events occurring after June 30, 2013, and before January 1, 2017, and are  
18 thereafter ineffective. Sections 4, 5, 8, and 10 of this Act are effective for taxable events  
19 occurring after December 31, 2016. ~~Section 6~~ Sections 3 and 6 of this Act ~~is~~are effective for  
20 wells completed after June 30, 2011, but ~~applies~~apply only to production after June 30, 2013.