

Sixty-seventh
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2328

Introduced by

Senators Patten, J. Roers, Schaible

Representatives Howe, Mock

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 57-51.1 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to a credit for oil produced from a well site using an onsite flare
3 mitigation system; to provide for application; and to provide an expiration date.

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

5 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 57-51.1 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
6 and enacted as follows:

7 **Temporary exemption - Oil extraction tax credit for gas flaring mitigation.**

8 1. As used in this section:

- 9 a. "Flare mitigation" means the quantity in millions of British thermal units of heat
10 content of gas used by an onsite flare mitigation system. The term does not
11 include the heat content of any gas flared before, during, or after intake by a flare
12 mitigation system.
- 13 b. "Onsite flare mitigation system" means a system at a well site which intakes gas
14 and natural gas liquids from a well, separating and collecting or utilizing over fifty
15 percent of the propane and heavier hydrocarbons, to achieve a reduction of
16 flared thermal intensity through beneficial consumption by:
- 17 (1) Compressing or liquifying gas for use as fuel or transport to a processing
18 facility;
- 19 (2) Production of petrochemicals or fertilizer;
- 20 (3) Conversion to liquid fuels;
- 21 (4) Conversion to electricity for onsite use or supply to the electrical grid;
- 22 (5) Conversion to computational power; or
- 23 (6) Other value-added processes as approved by the industrial commission.
- 24 c. "Qualifying well" means a well on which:

- 1 (1) If a well site already is connected to a pipeline and pipeline capacity is
2 unavailable on the existing pipeline, the producer and the pipeline operator
3 jointly have filed a sundry with the industrial commission attesting to the lack
4 of existing pipeline takeaway capacity;
- 5 (2) If the producer's well is not connected to an existing pipeline but the
6 producer's lands, leases, wells, or gas are dedicated contractually to a
7 pipeline operator, the producer and the pipeline operator to which the lands,
8 leases, wells, or gas are dedicated jointly have filed a sundry with the
9 industrial commission attesting it is either technically or commercially
10 unfeasible to connect a pipeline to the producer's well; or
- 11 (3) If the producer's well is not already connected to an existing pipeline and
12 the producer's lands, leases, wells, or gas are not dedicated contractually,
13 the producer unilaterally has filed a sundry with the industrial commission
14 attesting to these facts.
- 15 2. A system that otherwise meets the definition of onsite flare mitigation system as
16 defined in this section is not an "onsite flare mitigation system" if it is:
- 17 a. Installed on a stripper well as defined by subsection 8 of section 57-51.1-01;
18 b. Installed before July 1, 2021;
19 c. Installed on a well connected to or is technically and commercially feasible to
20 connect to a gas pipeline with capacity;
21 d. A system that supports the normal production operations of a well, consumes gas
22 as part of the routine oil and gas production process, such as a heater treater,
23 separator, or electrical dissipation through a load bank, or any system or
24 application traditionally considered as on-pad use.
- 25 3. A producer is entitled to a credit against the tax liability determined under chapter
26 57-51.1 equal to seventy-five cents per one million British thermal units of flare
27 mitigation resulting from the operation of an onsite flare mitigation system on a
28 qualifying well.
- 29 4. The credit may be claimed for up to twelve months per well and may not exceed six
30 thousand dollars per well per month.
- 31 5. To qualify for the credit:

- 1 a. The industrial commission shall certify the well of a producer as a qualifying well
2 and the producer shall submit a copy of the certification to the tax commissioner.
- 3 b. On or before the fifteenth day of the month succeeding the month of production,
4 the owner or operator of the onsite flare mitigation system shall file a monthly
5 report with the tax commissioner and the producer certifying the amount of flare
6 mitigation per qualifying well during the month of production.
- 7 c. The credit for flare mitigation must be claimed by the producer against the oil
8 extraction tax due on a per well basis for the production month following the
9 month in which the mitigation occurred.
- 10 d. The producer shall file the return required under this chapter for the duration of
11 the credit and pay any oil taxes due. After the exemption period ends, the
12 purchaser shall pay the oil taxes due.
- 13 6. The tax commissioner may audit the records of the producer and operator of the
14 onsite flare mitigation system to administer this section. The credit allowed may not
15 exceed the liability of the tax under this section.

16 **SECTION 2. APPLICATION.** The credit in section 1 of this Act only applies to production
17 from wells located outside the exterior boundaries of the Fort Berthold Reservation unless the
18 Three Affiliated Tribes, through the tribal chair, notifies the tax commissioner in writing that the
19 Three Affiliated Tribes desires to include production from wells from within the boundaries of the
20 exterior boundaries of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation without altering the provisions of the
21 compact on oil and gas production taxes within the Fort Berthold Reservation. This Act applies
22 to flare mitigation from a qualifying well on which a flare mitigation system is installed between
23 June 30, 2021, and July 1, 2023.

24 **SECTION 3. EXPIRATION DATE.** This Act is effective through June 30, 2023, and after that
25 date is ineffective.