

Report on the Community Impacts of Energy Development Conference

February 11, 2015

What are the impacts of uranium, oil and gas energy development on communities within those energy development regions? That was the focus of a one-day conference held in Belle Fourche, S.D. on Feb. 11. The event was coordinated by SDSU Extension's community development specialists and was attended by community leaders, government and school officials and other stakeholders living in energy development regions.

The conference was held in Belle Fourche because it is one of the more interesting communities being impacted by the Bakken. Not just because it is a southern transportation artery to the Bakken via Gillette and Rapid City, but because it could end up being the center of a Midwest shale oil explosion. Belle Fourche is located near the center of the Colorado, Montana and Wyoming oil, gas, and coal fields, and the Bakken's production industries and their eastern suppliers. Currently, Belle Fourche has approximately 9,000 vehicles a day passing through the community. It is on the most direct route up to the Bakken, when coming from the south, it is also the route to the oil and gas fields of Montana and Wyoming.

The conference theme focused on the Community Impacts of Energy Development on communities. The topics included discussions on the positive and negative impacts of energy development, resources available to assist communities impacted, the pitfalls and how to overcome them, and how to work with the industry.

A panel of public and private speakers discussed how their communities have benefited from economic development opportunities associated with the boom part of energy development. Speakers from North Dakota and Wyoming energy development communities shared their experiences of both the positive and negative impacts of uranium, oil, and gas development.

The goal was to provide an opportunity for participants to understand successes and failures of communities impacted by boom/bust energy development and to learn about the resources that can help communities.

Lessons Learned

- Need to interview existing business people to get their interest
- People do not know potential impact on SD
- More interaction with Media
- Networking opportunities
- Workforce Development
- Infrastructure needs
- Understand the Boom/Bust cycles
- Problems that oil and gas development brings to communities
- Focus on how to communicate the issues and potential issues within the state of South Dakota
- Extreme issues that can happen without planning in place
- The importance of planning for the future

Challenges

- A lot of things occurring
- Lack of public knowledge
- Influx of people
- Infrastructure issues
- How to get the resources to the business and people that need them

Strategies to Explore

- Create a coalition of towns with potential impact
- Educational effort with potential impacted communities
- Add grassroots organizations to discussion
- Communicate issues with
 - County Commissioners
 - City Councils
 - School Board
 - Extension play a conveners role
- Contingency planning if oil prices continue to drop
- Contingency planning for when the oil prices start to rise

Conference Evaluation



Evaluation

Community Impacts of Energy Development Conference Belle Fourche, February 11, 2015

1. Please tell us a little about yourself:

<i>Age</i>	<i>Race</i>	<i>Where do you live?</i>
Under 24 - 1	Native American	Belle Fourche - 6
25-35	white - 15	In the Black Hills – 7 Hulett
35-50 - 4	African American -1	Rapid City
50-65 - 9	Asian	Other – Spearfish, Denver
Over 65 -2	Other	

2. What are 2 takeaways from this Conference?

- Oil is still good? We're taking energy exploration too fast.
- USD Rural Energy 25% Grant By April 30. 80% odds of success \$1 million USD in SD
- Silica mine starting in Hill City area
- I do not know
- The social and sociological impacts for a boom/bust—even on people in the cultural arts and tourism industries, like myself
- Impacts on infrastructure: utilities, school, local wages
- Economic impact on communities
- Far reach of energy development
- Community leadership makes a big difference in how a small town develops and avoids long term problems in the process
- Accurate information about the various impacts around community growth and development is critical

- Planning ideas for growth based on ND and WY
- Need to make sure state gives local government a larger share of tax revenues
- Bakken growth will continue
- Need to plan for growth
- Panel information gave specifics which was great
- Great info from the Bakken and networking the region
- Thanks for the opportunity to help SDOGA (South Dakota Gas and Oil Association) be a part of the conversation
- Great networking w/area/regional folks in energy related industry and folks working in areas affected by energy industry – including economic development
- Information about the impacts of energy development especially hydraulic fracturing
- Impacts of energy sector growth on local growth and development planning
- Secondary economic impacts
- Ideas for Joe Coyne Community Building, Don Longmuir – Very good info and outstanding presentations
- 1st panel was very good

3. What did you come to learn but did not get it at this Conference?

- How to reverse this encroachment. Are we preparing for more N.D. , or will NW SD become ND?
- Native American viewpoints
- Anti-mining
- Nothing that I didn't get – received far more than what I expected! Very helpful
- Belle Fourche Economic Development and their issues or concerns
- More impact of banking on local area
- Wide reach of 1 industry within a community
- Nothing I can think of right now
- ND speakers were center on Bakken – Not applicable to anything we face
- EDC Belle Fourche
- Specifics on what to “do” when the energy impact hits communities. “how to’s”
- Economic impacts both good and bad
- Great information provided as is
- Very good but not attended well...No county and city representatives

4. Please tell us how we could improve the Conference?

- Should have been presented to rural property owners in NW SD 4 years ago
- Have some kind of a visual display photo opportunities of media
- Have healthy snack and drinks like water and veg tray
- More promotion? This is so interesting it should have been attended by twice as many people
- May want to include some insight from communities that did not plan for economic development the results that occurs, i.e., community dies.
- Very interesting – enjoyed the wide variety of states
- Should have had speakers from Bowman or another town on edge, not middle of ND
- Good job
- Possibility get a stronger attendance base by linking w/local entities to increase participants
- Have an M/C for the forums with pre-qualified questions for the forums.

- More marketing for greater attendance in the area.
- More information from environmental science
- Great Content
- Improve the marketing beyond press release to recruit people that should have attended. Ideas
 - personal contact with entities such as city and county about the importance of the conference

5. Where did you hear about this conference?

Radio ____	Television ____	iGrow Website ____
Newspaper Press release - 3	Newspaper ad ____	Facebook ____
Email – 11	From a Colleague - 2	At a meeting - 1
Other – 1 - 2 - invite from Paul Thares; 1 - meeting with Paul		

6. What topics should be included in the next Energy Development Community Impact Conference?

- Alternative investments
- Native American Concerns - Support for economy based on local food, clean renewable energy, cleanup, small business...such as family farms, which produce more and better quality jobs and lifestyles than heavy industry and extraction.
- Anti-mining
- Don't see need for change
- Renewables
- May want to consider some conversation about how businesses work with community leaders in planning for community development
- Not sure you should have another
- Specific "how to's" regarding housing, schools, businesses expansions
- Let discuss – I think SDOGA would be honored to help!
- Riding the highs and lows of industry affected by energy booms and declines
- How areas recruit and develop workforce and retain them.
- Environmental impacts
- EPA regulations and its impact on growth
- More emphasis on community planning and less on problems resulting from fast growth or energy boom. For example how to plan and develop long and short term strategies for planning and growth. How to anticipate and develop plans on how to reduce future problems - I would be happy to help with planning future conferences, Jim Doolittle.

Paul Thares
 SDSU Extension
 March 13, 2015