

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE / JUNE 2017**

## **ELASTEC GROOVED DRUM SKIMMER ASSISTS IN BAKKEN OIL TEST AT OHMSETT**

Even though production has decreased, Bakken oil continues to be transported by rail and by pipeline from North Dakota to refineries in the United States. In the event of a spill, this highly flammable, rapidly evaporating, light “sweet” crude oil is a challenge to recover mechanically.

In April of 2015, a [Bakken Shale Crude Oil Spill Evaluation Pilot Study](#) was conducted at the U.S. National Oil Spill Response Test Facility, [Ohmsett](#), in Leonardo, New Jersey, under the supervision of the U.S. EPA’s Environmental Response Team, the U.S. Department of Interior and several regional EPA programs. An Elastec TDS 118 grooved drum skimmer was used as the mechanical recovery device for the test to determine if skimming operations are possible for fresh and weathered Bakken oil. Elastec’s skimmer recovery rates are cited in the study.

### **PATENTED ELASTEC GROOVED DRUM SKIMMERS**

In 2006, Elastec’s patented grooved drum skimmer was developed in conjunction with the University of California at the Santa Barbara Office of Technology & Industry Alliances. The research produced an impressive oil recovery efficiency ratio (ORE) as well as generated one of the highest oil recovery rates (ORR) in the spill response industry at that time. (Since then, in 2011, Elastec transferred the grooved skimming technology to discs and won the X Prize Foundation’s [Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE](#) shattering previous industry standards by recovering 4,670 gallons of oil per minute.) ORE measures the ratio of oil-to-water recovery which is the *selective* nature of a skimmer – the amount of oil collected relative to water. Elastec’s patented oleophilic drums have a distinctive affinity for oil which means the disposal burden of free water is lessened.

Another high-performance characteristic of the Elastec grooved drum skimmer is the Oil Recovery Rate (ORR) or nameplate rate/capacity. The ORR is the sum of the oil encounter rate and the system’s total throughput efficiency. This measurement takes into account all components of the system - the skimmer, pump and storage. The grooved drums retain their efficiency in a variety of water conditions and oil types. Elastec grooved drum skimmers can also be used in industrial applications and in food processing

For over a quarter of a century, Elastec drum skimmers (smooth and grooved) continue to be highly regarded as one of the most efficient and most reliable oil recovery systems in the world. This claim is based not only upon performance tests in a controlled environment at Ohmsett under ASTM F-2709-08, but also by oil spill responders who rely upon mechanical oil spill recovery systems in actual incidents around the world.

More information on Elastec oil skimmers is available at <https://www.elastec.com/products/oil-spill-skimmers/>

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