

Issues-Programs List for October through December 2021

We have continued a daily pandemic update.

From the Prairie Public News Department, all aired at 7:30am as well as other times.

State Government. [Department of Mineral Resources to seek federal funds for oil well cleanup efforts](#) By [Dave Thompson](#). Published November 9, 2021 North Dakota will be applying for federal money to continue and expand its oil well plugging and reclamation program. The new federal infrastructure bill has \$4 billion to clean up abandoned oil and gas sites. State mineral resource director Lynn Helms said the state plans to apply for a \$25 million initial grant. 1:31

Pandemic. [Omicron variant of COVID-19 detected in North Dakota](#) By [Danielle Webster](#) . Published December 20, 2021 The state health department has confirmed four cases of the variant. The state health department has detected North Dakota's first cases of the Omicron variant of COVID-19. The cases were discovered through the department's genome sequencing process of laboratory tests. 1:33

Tribes and Redistricting. House passes redistricting bill, with two subdistricts by [Dave Thompson](#) November 10, 2021. The North Dakota House has approved a Legislative redistricting plan – complete with two House subdistricts. Those two districts are on the Fort Berthold and Turtle Mountain reservations. They were created, in part, to head off any potential legal challenges. 1:11

Safety. State Fire Marshal: Be aware of carbon monoxide by [Danielle Webster](#) December 23, 2021 North Dakota's Fire Marshal says two recent incidents have shown the need for people to be aware of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning. In Moorhead, seven members of a family died earlier this week from carbon monoxide poisoning. And in Fargo, two residents of an apartment building had to be taken to the ER because of high levels of carbon monoxide. 1:25

Energy/Climate Change. [Backers of two big water projects want to shorten construction timelines](#) By [Dave Thompson](#) Published December 12, 2021 Backers say that would save money in the long run. One of the projects is the Red River Valley Water Supply project. It will bring Missouri River Water to the Valley – and other areas of central and eastern North Dakota - in times of drought. 2:33

State Government. Stenehjem won't seek another term as Attorney General by [Dave Thompson](#) December 17, 2021 He is the state's longest serving Attorney General, and has been involved in a number of important policy decisions as part of the Industrial Commission. 1:33

Energy/Economy. [Wind farms face deadline on lighting systems](#) by [Dave Thompson](#) November 29, 2021 Some operators have asked for extensions; a few have asked for waivers.

[The ND Legislature has passed a bill prohibiting K-12 schools from teaching 'critical race theory'](#) [Dave Thompson](#) November 12, 2021 The bill is on its way to Gov. Doug Burgum. 1:30

[Sociologist: Rural communities need to be more welcoming to new residents](#) [Dave Thompson](#) ,
October 28, 2021 A rural sociologist who is with the University of Minnesota Extension Center
for Community Vitality says rural communities should be more welcoming to a younger
generation that's interested in moving to those areas. Ben Winchester of St. Cloud said people in
their 30s and 40s are now moving into rural communities. 1:21