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**Important Update on the status of the Ohio Severance Tax**

June 11, 2015

The SOOGA organization continues to represent its membership and our industry in the fight against any increase in Ohio's Severance Tax. A team of SOOGA members, along with our lobbying consultants, Steve Dimon and Shawn Nelson of 21 Consulting, have diligently worked to educate members of the Ohio House of Representatives and Senate on the issues. Since the update we provided during the Spring Membership meeting in April, we have continued to communicate our position to Ohio's policymakers through graphs, letters, personal meetings and testimonies. The House of Representative removed the Governor's increased severance tax proposal from the State Operating Budget, House Bill 64. The process is now in the Ohio Senate's hands. They have the choice to put tax increases back into the budget bill or honor the proposal from the House of Representatives which achieves a lower state income tax without harming an industry already suffering from significantly depressed prices. Brian Chavez, along with Matt Lupardus and Christy Chavez, testified before the Senate Ways and Means Committee on the increased severance tax proposal. The message communicated to Ohio legislators and policymakers

throughout the budget process has been that any increase in severance tax would prove to be detrimental to the future of our companies, the oil and gas industry as a whole, and those who depend on the cheap domestic energy we provide. While the drop in commodity prices was fully out of the Ohio Legislature's control, a decision to also raise taxes on our industry during this historic downturn most certainly is not. Simply put, increasing the severance tax in this depressed environment will without question lead to additional Ohio job losses.

As the budget process continues, we respectfully asked the House of Representatives to continue to stand firm on its position that no severance tax increase be included in the budget. We also requested that the Senate consider the negative impacts that adding an increase in severance tax, 25 TIMES higher than the Commercial Activity Tax, would surely cause. We have educated the legislators on how the oil & gas producers of SOOGA already pay their "fair share" of taxes in the form of severance, ad valorem, personal income and commercial activity taxes.

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**For additional information  
 visit [www.sooga.org](http://www.sooga.org)**

## THE CROW'S NEST

Great news! The Ohio Legislative leadership recently announced they will not put a severance tax increase in the two year state budget. Many thanks to our SOOGA team and 21 Consulting, LLC for the months of hard work they put into averting this proposed severance tax increase. My hat also goes off to OOGA, API, and those in the community who stood up in opposition to this onerous and extremely poorly timed tax proposal.



While this particular battle has been won, there is still more important work ahead. The Ohio House and Senate have agreed to establish a committee to study the impacts of recent tax policy proposals, including the severance tax, for the next three months. The newly established “Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission” must provide a report to the legislature by October 1<sup>st</sup>. SOOGA remains opposed to an increase in the severance tax and our SOOGA team will continue to represent our membership in the months ahead. SOOGA will continue to work with our industry partners OOGA and API to provide a united front against this critically important issue.

On a lighter note, while we have enjoyed recent success in the political arena, we also had a great turn out at the SOOGA Clay Shoot on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 100 shooters made it out to the event and the weather was great. The lunch was sponsored by BD Oil Gathering and was fantastic! A big thank you to Gordie Deer and his staff for providing such a great meal. Congratulations also to our clay shoot winners and award recipients.

There are several other exciting SOOGA events on the horizon. Our summer golf outing will be held on Friday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, the 2015 SOOGA Annual Trade Show will be held on Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and our Fall Clay Shoot is set for Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing you there! Feel free to check the SOOGA webpage for more information on these upcoming events.

As always, your SOOGA Executive Committee and Board of Trustees will continue to provide you with great events, keep you informed about important issues, and push back against attacks on our industry. In the months to come, the SOOGA team will stay engaged in the Ohio Legislature’s tax policy study and do our best to ensure common sense prevails. An increase in the severance tax is unacceptable, especially during such tough times in our industry. We will do all we can to prevent this from happening.

Thank you for all you do to provide energy for our community, state, and country. Keep your head up during these tough times and remember... this too shall pass!

President  
Matt Lupardus

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**SOOGA would like to welcome the following new members:**

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 740-260-7612

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 Allied-Associate  
 PVF Supply, LLC  
 43734 Marietta Rd. Suite B  
 Cambridge, OH 43724  
 740-732-0511

**DAVID JUSTUS**  
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 Canton, OH 44707  
 330-456-3121

**LYNN EDWARD**  
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**Email: perkinssupply@yahoo.com**

**Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association  
Gas Committee Report  
June, 2015**

**PRICING****Prices June 9, 2015**

One Year NYMEX strip (July, 2015 – June, 2016)	\$3.04
Summer NYMEX strip for 2015 (July-October)	\$2.85
Winter NYMEX strip (Nov., 2015 – March, 2016)	\$3.19
TCO Index Posting – June, 2015	\$2.74
DTI Index Posting – June, 2015	\$1.41

It appears that high storage levels combined with enhanced production capabilities and slow usage growth could keep gas prices from rising dramatically over the next couple of years.

**GAS STORAGE AS OF THE June 4, 2015 Report**

Working Gas in storage was 2,233 bcf as of Friday, May 29, 2015. At 2,233, total working gas is within the 5 year historical range.

Region	Stocks billion cubic feet (Bcf)			Year ago (05/29/14)		5-Year average (2010-2014)	
	05/29/15	05/22/15	change	(Bcf)	% change	(Bcf)	% change
East	879	806	73	645	36.3	994	-11.6
West	409	395	14	266	53.8	350	16.9
Producing	945	900	45	571	65.5	866	9.1
Salt	277	261	16	161	72.0	200	38.5
Nonsalt	668	638	30	409	63.3	666	0.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,223</b>	<b>2,101</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>1,044</b>	<b>71.1</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>-3.6</b>

Storage is 51.5% full compared to normal as of this report, with normal total capacity of 4,336 at the start of the withdrawal season. Storage is 751 BCF above last year, and 22 BCF below the five year average.

**Source:** Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Storage Report." The dashed vertical lines indicate current and year-ago weekly periods.

**February 10, 2015 EIA Forecast for natural Gas Prices:**

According to the EIA, natural gas consumption will average 74.3 Bcf per day in 2015, and 75.2 Bcf/d in 2016. The projected Henry Hub natural gas price averages \$3.05/MMBtu in 2015 and \$3.57/MMBtu in 2016.

(Continued to page 6)



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### 2015 SOOGA Tentative Calendar of Events

August 14th, 2015  
Fall Golf Outing  
Oxbow Golf Course  
Belpre, OH

September 17th, 2015  
Annual Trade Show  
Washington County Fairgrounds  
Marietta, OH

October 16th, 2015  
Fall Clay Shoot  
Hilltop Sports  
Whipple, OH

November 2015  
Annual Gun Raffle



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(Continued from page 4)

### GATHERCO

**Chesapeake Utilities Corporation announced a Definitive Merger Agreement to acquire Gatherco, Inc.**

On January 30, 2015, Chesapeake Utilities announced a merger agreement to acquire Gatherco, merging it into Aspire Energy of Ohio, LLC. A wholly-owned subsidiary of Chesapeake Utilities. It is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2015.

The transaction has an aggregate value of approximately \$59.2 million, inclusive of the following:

\$49.8 million in exchange for all outstanding shares of Gatherco common stock, paid as follows:

593,005 shares of Chesapeake Utilities common stock, valued at \$29.9 million, and

\$19.9 million in cash (before payment of certain transaction expenses and escrow deposits);

\$7.7 million in cash in consideration for cancellation of all outstanding Gatherco stock options; and

Assumption of Gatherco's debt at closing, estimated to be \$1.7 million.

### GATHERCO RETAINAGE

Retainage for March 2015 is as follows for the Gatherco systems. Treat was 2.0%, Miley was 2.0%, Meigs was 2.0%, York was 2.0%, Grimes was 2.0%, and Elk was 2.0%.

April 2015 retainage was not available as of the date of this report.

### WEST VIRGINIA NEWS:

West Virginia legislators are currently considering forced pooling, and the producers and oil and gas associations are working with the House and Senate to develop rules. The last attempt did not pass, and they are working to come up with some acceptable legislation in 2015.

### New Tank Regulations:

West Virginia has adopted some new tank regulations recently. The results and requirements of this new regulation was set out and explained in the latest SOOGA Newsletter, so please read it to familiarize yourself with these regulations if you have production in WV.

### UTICA NEWS:

### NEW PIPELINES PROPOSED TO SPUR UTICA SHALE DRILLING IN OHIO

### SUNOCO LOGISTICS PARTNERS, L.P.

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. announced on 11/6/2014 that it will build a huge pipeline project that will quadruple the Marcellus Shale gas liquids moving through the Philadelphia area called the Mariner East 2 project. It will be at least 16 inches in diameter, and begin in Scio, Ohio and cross West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania to the Philadelphia area. The pipeline will be 350 miles long, and is expected to deliver 275,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids (NGL) to the Marcus Hook complex, and will begin operations by the end of 2016, subject to regulatory and permit approvals.

### COLUMBIA PIPELINE GROUP:

Columbia Pipeline Group (CPG), a unit of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI), today announced a total of \$1.75 billion in new investment in infrastructure that will enable it to transport up to 1.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/D) of natural gas from Marcellus and Utica production areas to markets served by its Columbia Gas Transmission (Columbia Transmission) and Columbia Gulf Transmission (Columbia Gulf) pipeline systems. The proposed Ohio and West Virginia pipeline, known as Columbia Transmission's Leach XPress project, is supported by long-term firm service agreements with Range Resources - Appalachia, LLC, Noble Energy, Inc., Kaiser Marketing Appalachian, LLC and American Energy Utica - LLC. The project, which involves construction of approximately 160 miles of pipeline, compression and related facilities on Columbia Transmission's system, will provide access to multiple Marcellus and Utica receipt points and establish a substantial new header system serving the heart of the Appalachian supply basin.

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## 2015 Spring Golf Outing Lakeside Golf Course May 8th, 2015

Thanks to Brutus & Company for a great lunch, Becky Oliver, Kim Waggoner, Austin Davis and Andy Davis for driving the refreshment carts. Lakeside for door prizes and a great course to play on.



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#### **DUKE ENERGY:**

Duke Energy and Piedmont Natural Gas today announced the selection of Dominion to build and operate a 550-mile interstate natural gas pipeline from West Virginia, through Virginia and into eastern North Carolina to meet the region's rapidly growing demand for natural gas. The pipeline has an estimated cost of between \$4.5 billion and \$5 billion, an initial capacity of 1.5 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, and a target in-service date of late 2018. Gas will be carried through a 42-inch-diameter pipe in West Virginia and Virginia, and a 36-inch-diameter pipe in North Carolina. The pipeline's main customers are six utilities and related companies that collectively will purchase a substantial majority of the pipeline's capacity to transport natural gas – Duke Energy Carolinas, Duke Energy Progress, Virginia Power Services Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas, Virginia Natural Gas, and PSNC Energy.

#### **SPECTRA ENERGY:**

Spectra Energy, along with two other companies, are proposing a new 250 mile 36" pipeline, Nexus Gas Transmission, for transporting gas from shale drilling in eastern Ohio to Detroit and southern Ontario, subject to FERC approval. The anticipated cost of this new pipeline is \$1.5 billion, and could be in service as early as November, 2016. The proposed pipeline will run from Carroll County, Ohio, to Detroit and southern Ontario.

#### **AMERICAN ENERGY/REGENCY ENERGY PARTNERS**

American Energy and Regency Energy Partners are planning a \$500 million pipeline to move American Energy's Utica shale gas to major pipelines like Rockies Express and Texas Eastern that service Texas, Colorado, and states along the nation's southeastern rim. The 52 mile system will deliver more than 2 BCF per day of gas supply. It is expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2015.

#### **ENERGY TRANSFER**

A second interstate pipeline is being planned to ship natural gas from the Utica and Marcellus Shale regions across Stark County. The planned Rover Pipeline would carry up to 3.25 BCF of natural gas per day from West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In total, the Rover mainline will include 380 miles of 36 inch and 43 inch diameter pipe and five compressor stations, plus 197 miles of supply laterals ranging in diameter from 24 to 47 inches.

#### **DOMINION EAST OHIO:**

Blue Racer Midstream has finalized a new agreement for liquids uplift for producers on the DEO Guernsey/Cambridge gathering system for conventional production. The new agreement will be an amendment to the original HCA agreement. More details will be available later.

#### **MIDSTREAM/PROCESSING NEWS:**

**Pinto Energy** is looking to build a 2,800 bbl/day gas to liquids plant east of Ashtabula, Ohio. It will produce high quality synthetic liquids as well as lubricants, waxes and solvents from gas being produced by the Utica and Marcellus formations.

**Utica East Ohio (UEO)**, a joint venture by Access Midstream, M3, and EV Energy Partners, became the first fully integrated gathering, processing, and fractionation complex to be put into operation on July 28<sup>th</sup>. in Eastern Ohio. This initial phase of the UEO project is capable of processing 220-million cubic feet per day at their cryogenic processing facility near Kensington, and is processing 45,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids at their fractionation, storage and rail facility new Scio.

The second phase is under construction and scheduled to be completed in December, 2015 with a third phase to follow. When complete, the UEO project will have 800 million cubic feet per day of cryogenic processing, 135,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids fractionation, 870,000 barrels per day of natural gas liquids fractionation, 870,000 barrels of gas liquids storage and a rail facility capable of loading 90 cars per day.

(Continued to page 16)





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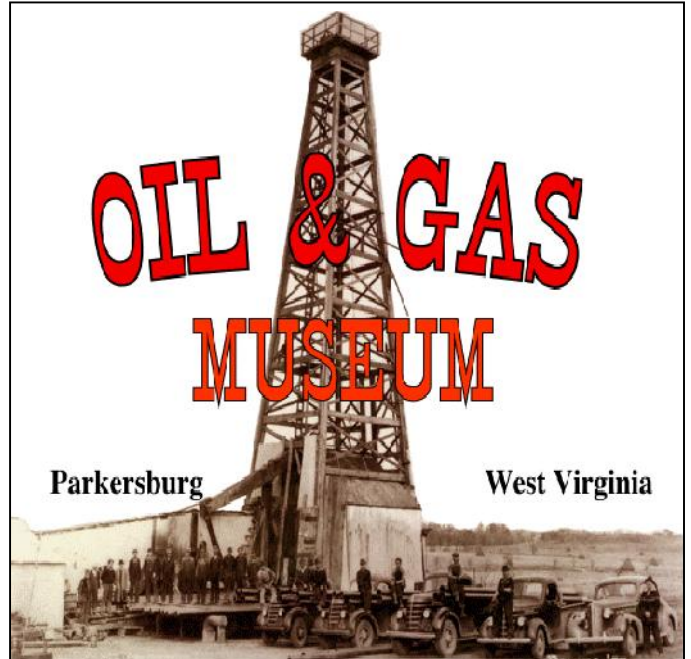
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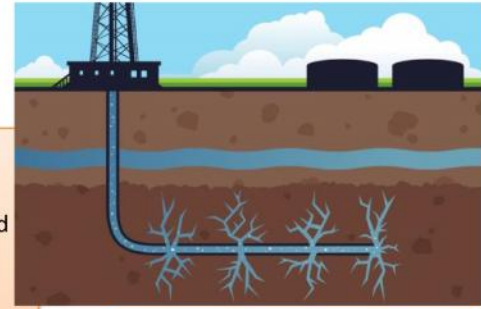
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# Safety Guide to Fracking



## Hydraulic fracturing safety hazards:

- Exposure to silica
- Being struck by moving equipment, including motor vehicle accidents, tools, and falling objects.
- Poor lighting.
- Being caught in pinch points (such as hammer union wings and hammers, pump iron, and racks).
- Falling from heights.
- Being struck by high-pressure lines or unexpected release of.
- Fires or explosions from flowback fluids containing ignitable materials (e.g., methane) and other flammable materials stored or used at the well site.
- Working in confined spaces, such as sand storage trailers, frac tanks, and sand movers without taking the required precautions.

**Fracturing fluid** is made up of a base fluid, proppant, and chemical additives.

### Base fluids: (90%)

Water, but can include methanol, liquid carbon dioxide, and liquefied petroleum gas.

### Proppants: (9.5%)

Silica sand  
Sintered bauxite or ceramics  
Resin-coated sand

### Chemical additives: (.5%)

Friction reducers  
Scale inhibitors  
Solvents  
Acids  
Gelling agents  
Biocides

**Determining worker exposure levels is important for selecting the right type of control measures, including engineering controls and respiratory protection. For example, half-face respirators are not protective for silica levels over 10 times the exposure limit.**

Fracking sand contains up to 99% silica.

- Crystalline silica inhaled in excessive amounts can cause a serious and potentially fatal lung disease called silicosis. Silica is also capable of causing lung cancer with prolonged heavy occupational exposures. Workers with impaired lung function due to silica exposure are also more susceptible to other respiratory diseases such as tuberculosis.

## What can be done at hydraulic fracturing worksites to protect workers from exposure to silica?

- Monitor the air to determine worker exposures to silica
- Control dust exposures by improving existing engineering controls and safe work practices
- *Short-term work practices and procedural changes that can be implemented quickly:*
  - Mandate the capping of unused fill ports (e.g., cam lock caps) on sand movers.
  - Reduce the drop height between the sand transfer belt and T-belts and blender hoppers.
  - Limit the number of workers, and the time workers must spend in areas where dust and silica levels may be elevated, and consider ways to perform dusty operations remotely to completely remove employees from these areas.
  - Apply fresh water to roads and around the well site to reduce the dust.
- *Practices that involve equipment changes:*
  - Enclose points where dust is released
  - Where possible, use enclosed cabs or booths
  - Use local exhaust ventilation
  - Replace transfer belts with screw augers on sand movers in new designs or retrofits.
- Provide respiratory protection when it is needed to protect workers
- Provide training and information to workers about the hazards of silica and other chemicals
- Consider medical monitoring for workers who are exposed to silica

### Areas of potentially high silica:

- "Thief" hatches
- Side fill ports on the sand movers during refilling operations
- On-site vehicle traffic, including sand trucks and crew trucks, by the release of air brakes on sand trucks and by winds
- Transfer belt under the sand movers
- Sand dropping into the blender hopper and transfer belts
- Operation of transfer belts between the sand mover and the blender
- End of the sanders belt on sand movers





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NYMEX Settlement: \$2.5170  
 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.3400(Basis: -\$1.177)  
 Inside FERC/TCO: \$2.4200 (Basis: -\$0.097)  
 NYMEX 3-day Average: \$2.512

**JUNE 2015**

NYMEX Settlement: \$2.8150  
 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.4100 (Basis: -\$1.405)  
 Inside FERC/TCO: \$2.7400 (Basis: -\$0.075)  
 NYMEX 3-day Average: \$2.8413

**OIL PRICING 2015****ERGON OIL PURCHASING WEST VIRGINIA MONTHLY AVERAGE**

April Ohio Tier 1: \$53.1223  
 April Ohio Tier 2: \$50.1223  
 April Ohio Tier 3: \$47.1223  
 April West Virginia Tier 1: \$53.1223  
 April West Virginia Tier 2: \$50.1223  
 April West Virginia Tier 3: \$47.1223  
 April Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$29.1223  
 April Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$53.1223  
 April Marcellus/Utica Light: \$47.1223

May Ohio Tier 1: \$58.4729  
 May Ohio Tier 2: \$55.4729  
 May Ohio Tier 3: \$52.4729  
 May West Virginia Tier 1: \$58.4729  
 May West Virginia Tier 2: \$55.4729  
 May West Virginia Tier 3: \$52.4729  
 May Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$34.4729  
 May Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$58.4729  
 May Marcellus/Utica Light: \$52.4729

**Tier 1** - 150 + net barrels of crude oil

No more than 2% BS&W (if the BS&W is over 2% it will then qualify for Tier 2 pricing)

**Tier 2** - 60-149.99 net barrels of crude oil

Two Stops within 5 miles

**Tier 3** - 30-59.99 net barrels of crude oil

The prices as posted are based upon computation of volume by using tank tables, or as measured by a deduction for all BS&W and correction for temperature deductions or allowances shall be made on the oil purchased shall be free of contamination and/or alteration by foreign substances or chemicals not associated with virgin crude oil. These include but are not restricted to, oxygenated and/or chlorinated compounds.

The Marcellus/Utica Shale produced crude oil will be purchased based on the monthly average for the following postings:  
 38.0-49.9 API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Medium** crude oil  
 50.0-59.9 API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Light** crude oil  
 60.0+ API Gravity—**Marcellus/Utica Condensate** (formerly posted as Appalachian Sweet Light-ALS).  
 Other parameters will be evaluated on a farm by farm basis.

You can now find EOP WVA Crude oil Price Bulletin on the internet at:  
[www.ergon.com](http://www.ergon.com)

**OIL PRICING 2015****AMERICAN REFINING GROUP AVERAGE**

4/11 to 4/20 Group 1 OH: \$53.52  
 Group 2 OH: \$50.52  
 Group 3 OH: \$47.52  
 4/21 to 4/30 Group 1 OH: \$56.29  
 Group 2 OH: \$53.29  
 Group 3 OH: \$50.29  
 5/1 to 5/10 Group 1 OH: \$58.48  
 Group 2 OH: \$55.48  
 Group 3 OH: \$52.48  
 5/11 to 5/20 Group 1 OH: \$58.51  
 Group 2 OH: \$55.51  
 Group 3 OH: \$52.51  
 5/21 to 5/31 Group 1 OH: \$58.43  
 Group 2 OH: \$55.43  
 Group 3 OH: \$52.43  
 6/1 to 6/10 Group 1 OH: \$58.62  
 Group 2 OH: \$55.62  
 Group 3 OH: \$52.62

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**Group 3 (OH/PA/NY)** - 30-59.9 net barrels from a single location

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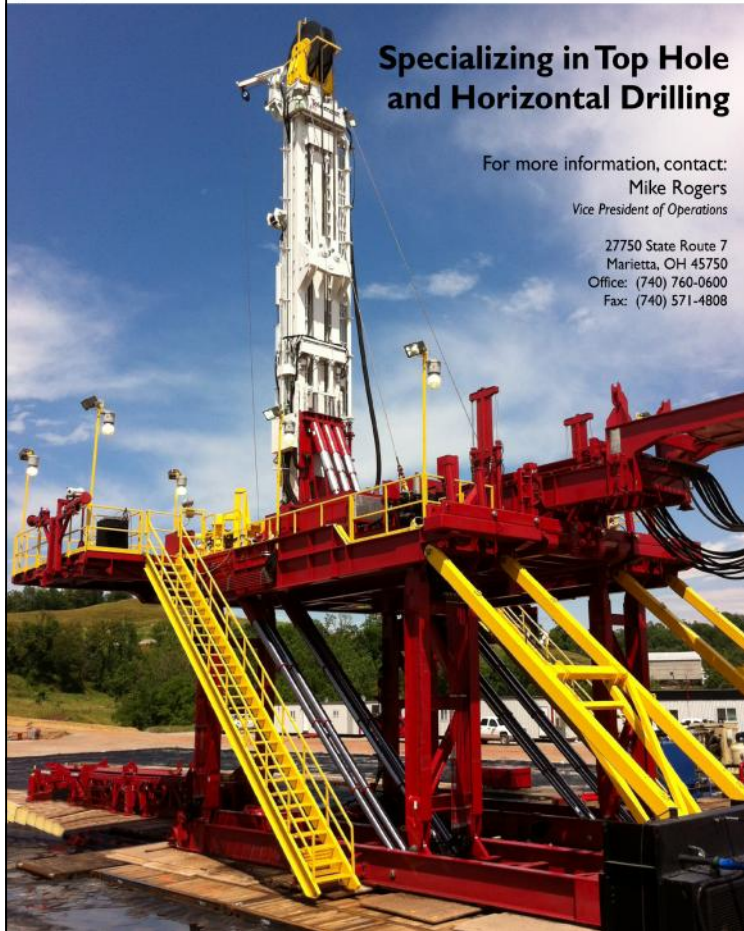


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(Continued from page 10)

**Hickory Bend Project**, the NiSource and Hilcorp natural gas processing project, has announced the construction of a \$60 million pipeline to move natural gas liquids from their cryogenic natural gas processing plant in Springfield Township to attractive market destinations. Pennant Midstream will construct the 12 inch 38 mile pipeline. I will have the capacity to deliver up to 90,000 bbls. of NGS per day to a Utica East Ohio pipeline in Columbiana County, and from there be transported to the fractionator in Harrison County. It is expected to be complete by July, 2015

**Appalachian Resins** announced that it will [build](#) a \$1 billion facility in Monroe County that will be able to process approximately 18,000 barrels per day of ethane into ethylene and polyethylene, the feedstock for plastic and many other items we use in our daily lives. The facility is expected to begin operating in early 2019 and will produce 600 million pounds of ethylene/polyethylene per year. This new feedstock has the potential to reinvigorate the manufacturing sector in the region, which will, in turn, increase investment and jobs in the Ohio Valley.

For more information, click on this link; <http://energyindepth.org/ohio/new-natural-gas-plant-up-and-running-in-eastern-ohio/>

#### Utica Facts and Numbers – First Quarter 2015 Results:

Numbers released by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources show production from wells in Belmont, Jefferson, Monroe, and Harrison counties helped total natural gas output statewide to reach 183.5 BCF from Jan. 1 – March 31, which is nearly three times the 67.3 BCF produced during the same period last year.

As of May 31, 2015, there have been 1,926 Utica Shale permits issued in 23 counties in Ohio to 29 companies, and 1,497 of them have been developed. The counties are listed below.

Ashland, Belmont, Carroll, Columbiana, Coshocton, Geauga, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes Jefferson, Knox, Mahoning, Medina, Monroe, Muskingum, Noble, Portage, Stark, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Washington, and Wayne.

There are currently 902 Utica Shale wells in production, with 29 rigs running.

#### MARCELLUS SUPPLY UPDATE:

It has been reported by the EIA that the Marcellus Shale gas has hit 15 BCF per day in July, 2014.

#### Use of Data:

The information contained in this document is compiled and furnished without responsibility for accuracy and is provided to the recipients on the condition that errors or omissions shall not be made the basis for a claim, demand or cause of action. The information contained in this document is obtained from recognized statistical services and other sources believed to be reliable, however we have not verified such information and we do not make any representations as to its accuracy or completeness.

#### Disclaimer:

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## THEIR OPINION

### NATURAL GAS LETS OHIO COMPETE

6-10-15 *The Parkersburg News and Sentinel*



Rep. Bill  
Johnson,  
R-Ohio  
Op-Ed

I recently joined a bipartisan group of members from the House Energy and Commerce Committee on a trip to Portugal, Belgium, and the Ukraine to discuss our mutual energy interests and Russia's aggression in the Eastern Europe. During the meetings it became clear that America, with Ohio helping to lead the way, possesses the energy resources needed to influence global energy markets and provide a reliable trading partner to our allies around the globe many of whom are beholden to the whims of Russian President Valdimir Putin for their energy needs.

The message from our European allies I met with, over whelming, is that they are looking to the United States to take the lead in providing a reliable and secure source of natural gas. In fact, the high-ranking Ukrainian officials I spoke with indicated that boosting American natural gas exports would effectively contribute to cutting off Russia's cash flow, thus greatly reducing their influence in the region. Additionally, officials from Spain and Portugal have indicated that they're working on building infrastructure needed to import and replace roughly 80 percent of Russian gas that Europe depends on.

With more than enough natural gas to continue meeting demand at home, we have the capability to ship our surplus natural gas to our trading partners around the world.

Natural gas wasn't the only energy source that was the topic of conversation. Interestingly, after several decades of adopting policies that curtailed fossil fuel production (policies similar to those that President Obama's EPA is placing on America's coal producers and consumers), some European nations are increasing their coal production and consumption, citing the fact that coal is more affordable and reliable than the alternative forms of energy that had become more politically fashionable, but economically unfeasible. If the Obama Administration wants to see America's future after its radical anti-coal policies take root, they need look no further than present-day Europe.

In addition to the significant geopolitical benefits we'd realize from exporting our excess LNG, doing so would also benefit American workers - it would create jobs here at home. We've begun to see a significant num-

ber of jobs created in Eastern and Southeastern Ohio stemming from the Utica and Marcellus shale plays, with the promise of more to come - particularly in manufacturing. The construction of new export projects is expected to put up to 45,000 unemployed Americans back to work by 2018, stimulating new investment in the energy and manufacturing industries and growing our economy here at home. At a time when many producers are slowing production and laying down rigs because domestic energy prices are so low, opening up export markets hungry for American energy would keep American workers on the job.

I am working hard to bring this opportunity to fruition.

Over 30 natural gas export applications continue to languish in various stages of Permitting at the Department of Energy. The approval process has been so glacial that some argue the government's policy actually represents a de facto ban on exports.

In order to break through the bureaucratic red tape, I introduced H.R. 315, LNG permitting Certainty and Transparency Act. The bill would establish a firm 30-day deadline for DOE to render a decision on each project - in so doing, my bill would simply provide developers greater visibility and certainty into the regulatory process, removing much of the bureaucratic red tape and unknowns from the process. H.R.315 passed the House with a sizable bipartisan majority earlier this year, and a similar bill is now making its way through the Senate. I'm hopeful that the Senate will follow the House's lead in passing this important legislation.

While it will take sometime for projects to secure financing and complete construction, the message this legislation will send to our allies and adversaries will be powerful and immediate. America is willing to lead, and influence outcomes - with Eastern and Southeastern Ohio in the forefront. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to create American and Ohio jobs, help our allies, and put a rogue regime on its heels all at the same time. It's time we do it.

U.S. House of Representative  
Bill Johnson Represents Ohio's  
6th Congressional District.

(article provided by Carl Heinrich)





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## Ohio's Oil and Gas Industry Awards Record Number of Scholarships

By: Mark Bruce, OOGEEP Communications Director

The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) recently awarded a record number of scholarships to students pursuing careers in the oil and gas industry. 56 students representing 19 universities, colleges or technical institutes received this industry funded annual scholarship.

Winners must have an energy career goal and be either an Ohio resident or attending an Ohio university, college or technical institute. A committee made up of oil and gas industry professionals judged the students on career goals, essays, letters of recommendation, academic achievement, awards or special recognitions, community service and other outside activities.

"These students are the future of our industry and it's an honor to assist them as they work toward a meaningful and rewarding career," said Frank Gonzalez, GonzOil and Chairman of the OOGEEP Scholarship Committee. "There are a variety of career opportunities in Ohio for these students and it's exciting to watch as they become leaders who will provide efficient and reliable local energy for decades to come."

With the average age of an oilfield worker nearing 55 years old, Ohio's oil and gas industry has made workforce development and education a priority. OOGEEP recently completed a multi-year project to identify the 75 careers available in

Ohio's oil and gas industry and the more than 70 Ohio institutions that offer qualified training in those careers.

"The scholarship awards demonstrate the industry's commitment to help develop the next generation of Ohio's oil and gas industry," said Rhonda Reda, OOGEEP Executive Director.

"These are the best and the brightest students and we look forward to the day when we work with them, not as students, but as industry peers who will explore, develop and produce the energy resources that are crucial to our state and nation."

With these awards, OOGEEP and Ohio's oil and gas industry has now awarded more than 250 scholarships to students from 99 Ohio hometowns in 48 Ohio counties. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years and funding is made possible by special industry training proceeds, memorial contributions and general donations from Ohio's oil and gas industry.

### Universities, college and technical institutes represented:

University of Akron, Belmont College, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, Hobart Institute of Welding and Technology, Malone University, Marietta College, University of Mount Union, Ohio Northern University, University of Pittsburgh, Shawnee State University, Stark State College, The Ohio State University, The Ohio State University ATI, West Virginia University, Wheeling Jesuit University, Youngstown State University, Zane State College

### Scholarship recipients, hometown

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Anthony Bazler Portsmouth, OH

Aaron Breitfeller Gahanna, OH

Timothy Bromhal Troy, OH

Curtis Cameron Marietta, OH

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Continued from page 1

### End the Discussion on Taxing Ohio's Utica Shale

June 2015

The oil and natural gas price collapse has negatively impacted Utica shale activity in Ohio. Oil and gas companies are substantially curtailing activity and some have exited Ohio for better opportunities. Jobs are being lost by the thousands. Ohio must end the discussion of increasing severance taxes.



Oil and natural gas prices in Ohio have declined nearly 50% since 2014.

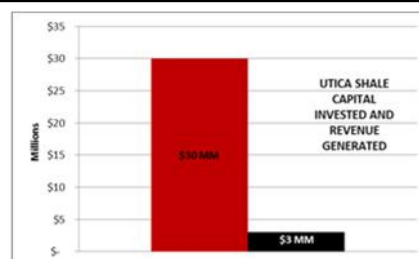
Ohio should be doing everything to encourage development of the Utica Shale to boost the state's economy and provide citizens high-paying jobs.



Carrizo, Chevron, CNX, PDCE, Magnum Hunter and REX Energy have indefinitely suspended drilling activities .



Falling prices have caused a rapid decline in drilling activity.



Over \$30 billion has been invested in Ohio while only about \$3 billion in aggregate revenue has been received.

### U.S. Steel Ups Layoff Tally, More Bad News for Workers

([www.zacks.com](http://www.zacks.com), 1/22/2015)

Thousands of jobs have been lost and hundreds of millions have been lost in wages and taxes.

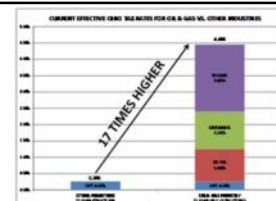
Ohio is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest consumer of energy; low energy taxes keep prices low for consumers.(U.S. Energy Information Administration)

### Ohio shale gas glut means Dominion customers will see deep discounts (Cleveland Plain Dealer, John Funk, 2/11/2015)

Ohio consumers are reaping enormous savings on low gasoline and natural gas prices.



Ten companies have exited Ohio's Utica Shale due to poor results and more lucrative economic opportunities elsewhere.



Ohio's oil and gas companies already pay 17 times more in taxes than Ohio manufacturing corporations. Ohio oil and gas producers pay the CAT, ad Valorem and severance taxes and many Ohio oil and gas producers and landowners also pay the state income tax.

On behalf of SOOGA, we want to acknowledge the team of Joe Brooker, Brian Chavez, Christy Chavez, Jerry James, Gene Huck and Matt Lupardus who have spent substantial personal time and effort on this important issue. SOOGA's advocacy has made a significant impact. We are also thankful for all of the collaboration from our partner organizations OOGA and API. This has truly been an effort on which the entire industry has remained strong and united.

## OHIO SEVERANCE TAX UPDATE:

June 16, 2015

The Ohio Legislative leadership announced today that they will not put an increased severance tax into the two-year state budget and have agreed to study it for the next three months with a new committee. According to an article in the Columbus Dispatch by Jim Siegel published Tuesday Jun 16, 2015, the new commission would consist of three lawmakers from each chamber and the governor's budget director. The new commission must present a report to the legislature by Oct 1.

This announcement today is good news for SOOGA members and the Ohio Oil & Gas Industry. SOOGA supports the further study and discussion about the severance tax within the broader context of the Ohio 2020 Tax Policy Study Commission. This study should examine all aspects of the exploration and production of natural gas and oil to understand the multiple taxes already in place and impacting the industry.

SOOGA remains opposed to an increase in severance tax and our team will continue to represent the SOOGA membership in the next stages of this discussion. SOOGA remains strong with OOGA and API on presenting a united front on this important issue which effects the future of Ohio's Oil and Gas Industry.

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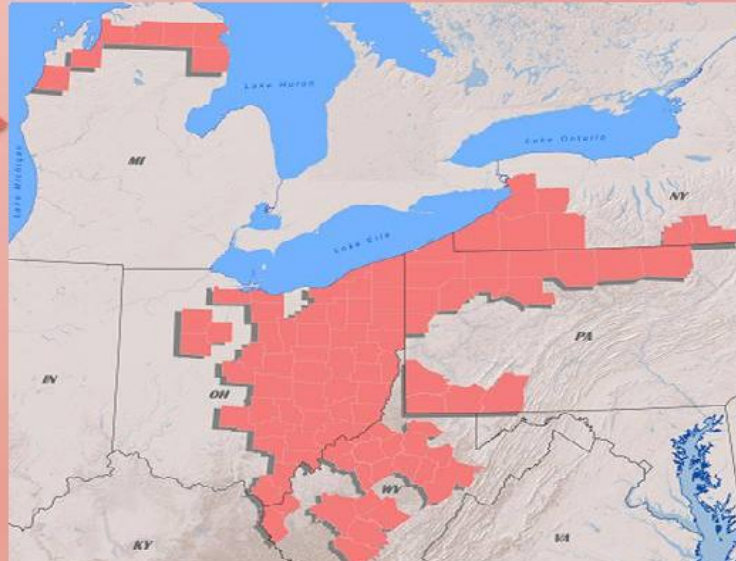
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Continued from page 1

Furthermore, the statutory purpose for which the severance tax was originally created – to fund the oil and gas industry’s regulatory agency – has more than been fulfilled. As such, we firmly believe our industry should not be inequitably burdened with funding a statewide income tax cut. The Utica and Marcellus shales are a blessing for Ohio and any severance tax increase would serve to greatly inhibit future development of those plays to the detriment of all Ohioans.

Attached are some of the documents we have pro-

vided to the legislators in support of our stance on this critically important issue. Additionally, we are running radio ads on WMOA to ask the community to contact their State Senator and tell them "Don't risk our jobs by raising taxes on Ohio-made energy!" The fight is not over and we need your continued support. We ask that each of you contact your State Senator and Representative to let them know your position. Go to <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/> to find your legislator’s contact information.

Continued to page 23

### Summer Jobs Needed:

The Department of Petroleum Engineering & Geology at Marietta College are in desperate need of summer internships for petroleum engineering and geology majors. If you have any work at all, full-time or part-time for summer, please contact Dr. Bob Chase at [chaser@marietta.edu](mailto:chaser@marietta.edu).

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## OOGEEP Recognizes Students for Excellence at State Science Day

By Mark Bruce: OOGEEP Communications Director

The Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) recognized 40 students, for their exemplary work at the Ohio Academy of Science's annual State Science Day held at The Ohio State University in Columbus.

State Science Day draws more than 1,000 students from around Ohio and this year a record number of participants applied for the OOGEEP award. For more than 50 years, State Science Day has been the pinnacle of student-originated and inquiry based science education. It is the academic equivalent of a state athletic championship and is one of the largest events of its kind in the United States.

OOGEEP, funded by Ohio's oil and gas producers, judges students on their scientific research, communication skills and outstanding work or knowledge about crude oil and/or natural gas in the areas of geology, engineering, chemistry, technology, microbiology, physics and environmental sciences.

"Each year, we are impressed by the outstanding projects researched, developed and presented by these students," said Rhonda Reda, OOGEEP Executive Director. "These young men and women will fill tomorrow's highly-technical jobs, including those in the oil and gas industry. They will ensure our state and nation continues to be a leader in science, technology and innovation and OOGEEP is proud to support them."

"Science education is crucial for the future of all industries, especially ours," said Greg Mason, exploration and production manager for the Energy Cooperative and one of OOGEEP's State Science Day judges. "To see these students use their scientific knowledge and then tackle some complex and relevant topics encourages me. I hope they serve as an inspiration to other students in their schools."

OOGEEP recognizes the winners with a certificate and cash prize. In addition to science fair project ideas, OOGEEP also works to assist students and teachers with a variety of other educational programs. Volunteers from The Energy Cooperative assisted OOGEEP staff in judging the projects.

### Max Hardy and Sam Slutz First Place Team 1





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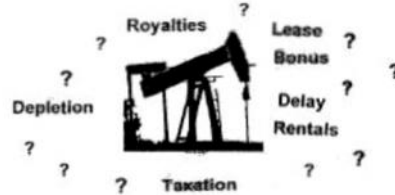
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## OVERVIEW OF THE ABOVEGROUND STORAGE TANK ACT AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

Senate Bill 373, containing the Aboveground Storage Tank Act §22-30 and the Public Water Supply Protection Act §22-31 was approved by the 2014 Legislature and signed into law by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin on April 1, 2014. The law officially took effect on June 6, 2014. The bill required an inventory and registration of aboveground storage tanks, the submittal of spill prevention response plans and certified inspections of tanks.

On March 14, 2015, the 2015 Legislature passed Senate Bill 423 to amend the Aboveground Storage Tank and Public Water Supply Protection Acts. This amended Act became effective June 12, 2015.

**DEP is still accepting online AST registrations, modifications to existing registrations, spill plans and inspection certifications via its Electronic Submission System (ESS).**

The registration process includes questions about tank size, contents, construction, age and location. To assist in the registration process, there is a comprehensive AST Registration User's Guide available at the link below or on the ESS signup/login page that provides screen-by-screen instructions. DEP employees also are on hand to assist tank owners who are subject to the requirements of the Act to help prevent future leaks such as the one on Jan. 9, 2014 that contaminated the drinking water of approximately 300,000 West Virginia residents.

The coming year will be a busy one for DEP staff as they work to implement the amended Act. DEP will be working to update all relative material and guidance and will be writing regulatory, fee and administrative penalty rules to be introduced in the 2016 legislative session. Please check back frequently as this website will contain the latest information available on Senate Bill 423's implementation.

### Important Dates

#### Requirements under the original Senate Bill 373, in effect until June 11, 2015:

- June 6, 2014 - Statute becomes effective
- June 10, 2014 - Registration period opening
- Sept. 1, 2014 - NPDES General Permit holders having ASTs within the zone of critical concern must have applied for an NPDES Individual Permit (W.Va. Code §22-31-9)
- Oct. 1, 2014 - All tanks must be registered (W.Va. Code §22-30-4)
- Dec. 3, 2014 - Spill Prevention Response Plan Submittals due (W.Va. Code §22-30-9)
- Jan. 1, 2015 - Inspections and certifications of all ASTs by a qualified person due (W.Va. Code §22-30-6)

#### Requirements under Senate Bill 423 Amendment:

- June 12, 2015 - Statute becomes effective
- Mid- to late-June - DEP will invoice owners a registration fee of \$40 per AST
  - A registration fee of \$20 per AST will be imposed on tanks placed into service after July 1, 2015
- July 1, 2015 - All ASTs must be registered with DEP
- Dec. 9, 2015 - Spill Prevention Response Plan or acceptable equivalent must be submitted to WVDEP for regulated tanks



## West Virginia Above Ground Storage Update

By: Bob Matthey

The WV Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) sent a reminder to all owners of AST's that you need to comply with July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for registering tanks or you may be subject to possible enforcement action.

The AST act (Above Ground Storage Tank Act) became effective June 12, 2015. We will be sending invoices for your tank registration after July 1, 2015. You may be able to deregister some tanks. If you are not sure, go to the WVDEP website and read under Above Ground Storage page.

For more information: [www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/abovegroundstoragetanks/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.dep.wv.gov/WWE/abovegroundstoragetanks/Pages/default.aspx)



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**2nd Place Team (Score 56)** Mitch Fouss, Doug Schott, Eddy Watson, Garrett Fleming  
**3rd Place Team (Score 58)-** Jarrod Arnold, Casey Branham, Cory Gerber, Eric Farley



**Flight B- 1st Place Team (Score 64)-** Larry Shears, John Craig, Jeff Martin, Sam Kable  
**2nd Place Team (Score 65)-** Bobbie Lauer, Marty Miller, Josh Vaughn, Jeff Sayger  
**3rd Place Team (Score 66)-** Brad Webb, John Douglas, Dave Price, Kevin Joyce



## 2015 Spring Golf Skill Prize Winners

- #4 Long Drive in the Fairway- Jarrod Arnold
  - #18 Longest Putt- Eddie Watson
  - #14 Long Drive in Fairway- Kathy Hill
  - #5 Longest Putt Made- Bobbie Lauer
  - #3 Closest to the Pin- Michael Saki
  - #7 Closest to the Pin 2nd shot- Bob Perry
  - #16 Closest to Pin- Eric Farley
  - #9 Straightest Drive (Closest to Line)- Marty Miller
- Congratulations to Michael Saki for a Hole in One on #3

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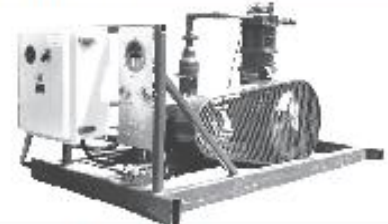
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