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### ANNUAL SOOGA TRADE SHOW—September 20, 2018

2 We are working on our upcoming Fall Trade Show and a tentative agenda of the day's schedule is on page 27 or visit our website at [www.sooga.org](http://www.sooga.org).

3 There will be tickets on sale for a '40th Anniversary' Henry Boy donated by Bob Matthey and Barry Bowers. Door prizes will be drawn throughout the day, lunch will be provided by C&S BBQ (tickets can be purchased in advance). Please come out and support your industry. **The first 200 through the door will receive a SOOGA 40th Anniversary hat.**

6

### OPEN FORUM MEETING

11

12 On July 18, 2018, SOOGA and OOGA facilitated a joint open forum to discuss many items important to our industry. The meeting was moderated by Christy Chavez, SOOGA president and the open forum was very well attended with great questions and discussion from the members. Matt Hammond, OOGA executive vice president, opened with an update on the status and process of House bills 225 and 430. This update provided very good insight into the efforts to safeguard industry rights at the state level. Additional information on the bill details, as well as other topics discussed in the open forum, are summarized below.

14

#### WAYNE NATIONAL FOREST/BLM UPDATE

15

17 Panel: Jackie Stewart, EID, Mike Chadsey, OOGA, Lori Swinderski, WNF Plan Leader, Jim Wood, BLM

19

22 Jackie Stewart provided a detailed timeline and overview on the leasing and development in the Wayne National Forest (WNF) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) minerals. It is important to note that two agencies are involved in regulating the oil and gas interests in the WNF. The mineral interests are managed by the BLM, which is the Dept. of Interior, and the surface is managed by the U.S. Forest Service which is the Dept. of Agriculture. A full update to the Forest plan occurred in 2006, and then the plan was updated to include horizontal drilling in 2012. Then, in 2014 the Environmental Review occurred with many town hall meetings primarily with concerns over the safety of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. Now the WNF has started the review process to update the Forest Plan again and this process is expected to take several years. Many organizations are hoping to provide technical expertise and sound science to the WNF as they progress through the update.

24

27 Although there has been some recent leasing of the BLM minerals in the Wayne National Forest, significant challenges have occurred with the BLM holding up permits and leasing of minerals in the WNF. It is believed the delays are caused by bureaucratic issues in Washington D.C. We are continuing to work with Congressman Johnson and other elected officials to understand the issues and see drilling permits issued in the near future.

Jim Wood, regional BLM inspector, provided information and copies of the new changes in federal lease regulations. Any operator with federal leases will need to be up to date on these changes as there will not be "warnings" with option to correct. Many violations have significant instant assessments and fines.

Continued on page 21

## THE CROW'S NEST

The SOOGA board has been busy gearing up for our Fall Trade Show and we hope to see everyone on September 20th at the Washington County Fairgrounds. This year's program includes a variety of training and presentations that we expect will be of interest to many of our members and their employees. The morning session will feature four safety focused training sessions geared toward the field workers and roustabouts. This training will consist of plastic pipe fusion, service rig safety, DOT truck inspections, and hot work safety. The afternoon portion of the trade show will include industry presentations and updates on ODNR, gathering lines and natural gas, as well as paraffin eating bacteria technology. We will again conclude with the popular presentation from the sheriff's Chief Deputy Warden and his team from the Washington County Sheriff Department. They will be discussing the cut team and what law enforcement is seeing with the drug issues and the passing of the medical marijuana laws. This presentation is something you don't want to miss. It will not only provide information applicable to our Industry, but it is something you will share with your colleagues, friends, family members, and children. And, as always, vendors booths will be available all day providing great information about a wide range of products and concepts.



Because SOOGA is continuing to celebrate our 40th year, we have designed a limited edition SOOGA hat which features the new SOOGA logo on the front and the 40th anniversary logo on the side. The hats will be given out to the first 200 participants through the door.

As a final announcement, one of our most popular fundraisers, the SOOGA gun raffle, is now underway. Tickets are available for purchase at the SOOGA office and will be sold during our trade show. The drawings are held during the month of November.

As summer comes to an end, I want to wish everyone a safe and happy fall season!



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 Mineral City, OH 44656  
 330-649-2830

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 CM&I Products  
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 Parkersburg, WV 26101  
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**AARON MACE**  
 Contractor  
 Carper Well Service  
 P.O. Box 273  
 Reno, OH 45773  
 740-374-2567

**JAMES SCHOENIAN**  
 Allied Industry  
 Barco Pump  
 1344 Township Road 685  
 Ashland, OH 44805  
 419-512-1302

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 Ritchie Bros. Auctioneers  
 200 Ritchie Dr.  
 South Vienna, OH 45369  
 614-565-5028

**MIKE HORAN**  
 Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**DAREN RADER**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
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**LISA EDINGER**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**AUSTIN CLARK**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**WILL HARLESS**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**TRACY MISKOFSKY**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**JARED RENNER**  
 Associate-Producer  
 Triad Hunter  
 125 Putnam St.  
 Marietta, OH 45750  
 740-374-2940

**2018 SOOGA  
 Calendar of Events**

2018 Ergon Fish Fry  
 Sept. 19th, 2018  
 Saint Marys Marina  
 Saint Marys, WV

2018 Fall Trade Show  
 September 20th, 2018  
 Washington County Fairgrounds

2018 Fall Clay Shoot  
 October 19th, 2018  
 Hilltop Sports

Fall Gun Giveaway  
 November, 2018

**SOOGA Legacy Fund**

The oil and gas industry has been a big part of our community for more than 120 years. Our history with the community led us to partner with the Marietta Community Foundation to establish the SOOGA Legacy Fund in 2013. This fund was established to give back to our communities across Ohio and West Virginia and to honor the memory of members who have dedicated their life's work to this industry. To give a tax deductible gift make checks payable to:

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**Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association  
Gas Committee Report  
August, 2018**

**PRICING****Prices August 6, 2018**

NYMEX Settle – August -2018	\$2.82
One Year NYMEX strip (Sept., 2018 – August, 2019)	\$2.82
Summer NYMEX strip for 2018 (Sept.-October)	\$2.86
Winter NYMEX strip – 2019 (Nov., 2018 – Mar. 2019)	\$3.00
TCO Index Posting – <a href="#">August, 2018</a>	\$2.62
DTI Index Posting – August, 2018	\$2.40

**Working gas in underground storage, Lower 48 states**

Region	Stocks billion cubic feet (Bcf)				Historical Comparisons			
	07/27/18	07/20/18	net change	implied flow	Year ago (07/27/17)		5-year average (2013-17)	
					Bcf	% change	Bcf	% change
East	552	527	25	25	647	14.7	650	15.1
Midwest	552	524	28	28	752	26.6	707	21.9
Mountain	146	145	1	1	200	27.0	178	18.0
Pacific	250	257	-7	-7	293	14.7	313	20.1
South Central	808	820	-12	-12	1,104	26.8	1,025	21.2
Salt	203	214	-11	-11	298	31.9	279	27.2
Nonsalt	604	606	-2	-2	806	25.1	746	19.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,308</b>	<b>2,273</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>2,996</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>2,873</b>	<b>19.7</b>

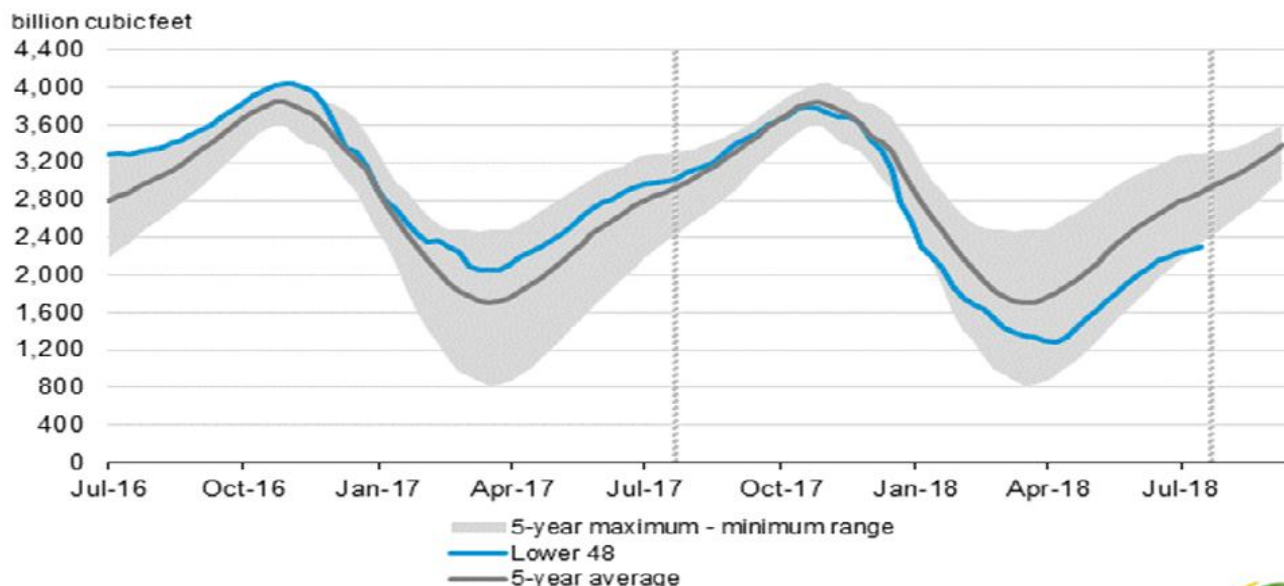
**Summary**

Working gas in storage was 2,308 Bcf as of Friday, July 27, 2018, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 35 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 688 Bcf less than last year at this time and 565 Bcf below the five-year average of 2,873 Bcf. At 2,308 Bcf, total working gas is below the five-year historical range.

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## Working gas in underground storage compared with the 5-year maximum and minimum



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

**EIA WEEKLY REPORT AUGUST 2, 2018:****Natural Gas**

**August Nymex contract expires up while September contract remains unchanged.** At the Nymex, the August 2018 contract expired Friday at \$2.822/MMBtu, up 5¢ from last Wednesday. The September 2018 contract remained unchanged Wednesday to Wednesday at \$2.758/MMBtu. The price of the 12-month strip averaging September 2018 through August 2019 futures contracts declined 2¢ to \$2.756/MMBtu.

**Supply remains unchanged.** According to data from PointLogic Energy, the average total supply of natural gas remained the same as in the previous report week, averaging 86.7 Bcf/d. Dry natural gas production remained constant week over week. Average net imports from Canada decreased by 4% from last week.

**May sets a production record.** According to EIA's most recent *Natural Gas Monthly*, May 2018 dry natural gas production averaged 80.4 Bcf/d, the highest level since EIA began tracking dry natural gas production in 1973. The previous record was 79.5 Bcf/d in March 2018.

**Demand falls.** Total U.S. consumption of natural gas fell by 1% compared with the previous report week, according to data from PointLogic Energy. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 4% week over week as temperatures moderated somewhat in the Southwest. Industrial sector consumption stayed constant, averaging 19.9 Bcf/d. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption increased by 8% but remains a minor source of consumption during the summer months. Natural gas exports to Mexico increased 2%.

**U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are flat week over week.** Six LNG vessels (combined LNG-carrying capacity 21.6 Bcf) departed the United States from July 26 through August 1 (five from the Sabine Pass liquefaction terminal and one from Cove Point). One LNG tanker (capacity 3.4 Bcf) was loading at Sabine Pass on Wednesday.

In July, a total of 30 LNG cargoes were exported from the United States—23 cargoes from Sabine Pass, and 7 cargoes from Cove Point—for an estimated total export volume of 103.6 Bcf. This level is the highest monthly LNG export volume on record since U.S. LNG exports began in February 2016.

Continued to page 8



(Continued from page 8)

**Fourth Quarter – 2017 – Utica Production Volumes:**

**COLUMBUS, OH** – During the fourth quarter of 2017, Ohio’s horizontal shale wells produced 4,193,562 barrels of oil and 503,066,907 Mcf (503 billion cubic feet) of natural gas, according to the figures released today by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

	2016 Quarter 4 (Shale)	2017 Quarter 4 (Shale)	Percentage Change
Barrels of Oil	3,605,185 bbl	4,193,562 bbl	16.32%
Mcf of Natural Gas	363,502,758 Mcf	503,066,907 Mcf	38.39%

Total production for the last two years, with the percent change in production for 2016 to 2017, can be found below:

	2016 Shale	2017 Shale	Percentage Change
Barrels of Oil	18,015,346 bbl	16,350,040 bbl	(9.24%)
Mcf of Natural Gas	1,388,656,313 Mcf	1,725,495,877 Mcf	24.26%

The ODNR quarterly report lists 1,897 horizontal shale wells, 1,869 of which reported oil and natural gas production during the quarter. Of the 1,869 reporting oil and natural gas results:


The average amount of oil produced was 2,244 barrels.

- The average amount of natural gas produced was 269,164 Mcf.

The average number of fourth quarter days in production was 88.

All horizontal production reports can be accessed at [oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/production](http://oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov/production)

Ohio law does not require the separate reporting of Natural Gas Liquids (NGLs) or condensate. Oil and gas reporting totals listed on the report include NGLs and condensate.



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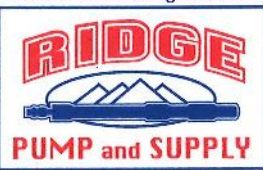
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## Clean Water Rule

### Judge shifts legal brawl, revives WOTUS in 26 states

Ariel Wittenberg and Amanda Reilly, E&E News reporters, E&E News PM: Thursday, August 16, 2018

The Obama-era Clean Water Rule became law in 26 states today as a federal judge in South Carolina issued a nationwide injunction on the Trump administration's delay of the regulation that defines what wetlands and waterways get federal protection.

The injunction targets the Trump administration's February order suspending the rule while EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers worked up a new version.

The Southern Environmental Law Center sued on behalf of several environmental groups, saying the administration rushed the rulemaking and violated the Administrative Procedure Act. U.S. District Judge David Norton for the District of South Carolina agreed with the greens, saying the administration failed to seek public comment on the substance of rule or the implications of delaying the regulation by two years.

"Certainly, different administrations may implement different regulatory priorities, but the {Administrative Procedure Act} 'requires that the pivot from one administration's priorities to those of the next be accomplished with at least some fidelity to law and legal process.' Norton wrote in his order. "The agencies failed to promulgate the Suspension Ruler with that required fidelity here. The court cannot countenance such a state of affairs."

Southern Environmental Law Center senior attorney Geoff Gisler hailed Norton's ruling.

"Water is a way of life in the South, where clean water is the lifeblood of our economy," he said "We are thrilled the court rejected this administration's blatant attempts to undermine safeguards that are critical to our nation's welfare without being accountable to the American people."

Eleven states' attorneys general and a number of environmental groups also filed a similar lawsuit in the Southern District of New York.

New York Attorney General Barbara Underwood (D) tweeted that the South Carolina ruling proved the WOTUS rollback was "yet another example of @POTUS' blind pursuit of environmental rollbacks that break the law."

Industry groups decried the ruling. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association said it would continue to fight WOTUS in

Congress and the courts counsel Scott Yager said.

WOTUS now applies in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Washington.

An EPA spokeswoman said in a statement: "EPA and Army Corps will review the order as the agencies work to determine next steps.

Norton's order means the rule, also known as Water of U.S. or WOTUS, will go back into effect in most states. But injunctions of WOTUS from the district courts in North Dakota and Georgia means the rule will not be revived in 24 states.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas is also considering legal challenges to WOTUS. Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, along with farm industry groups, have asked the judge in that case to halt the rule nationwide, meaning the Obama-era rule could be stayed in still more states. Norton's nationwide injunction for WOTUS delay rebuffed requests by the Trump administration and business groups to limit the scope of the ruling.

The administration is battling nationwide injunctions, arguing in many cases-including in the WOTUS litigation-that individual district court judges shouldn't have the power to halt a regulation across the country.

Some congressional Republicans have also called for a halt to nationwide injunctions as lower courts have issued a number of rulings halting President Trump's policies. The issue has recently made its way in front of the Supreme Court (Greenwire, June 19)

But Norton wrote that district courts have "broad discretion" when deciding the appropriate relief in a case. In this case, the judge said, the environmental plaintiffs live throughout the country, and the suspension rule affects "a vast array of wetlands across the United States," not just waters within South Carolina's borders.

"the court sees no principled reason why the Suspension Rule should be enjoined in some states but not others," Norton concluded.

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### Bonding and Grounding – Preventing Small Arcs from becoming Big Dangers

The oil industry has a lot of inherent dangers. That's not surprising, given that its primary product is by nature explosive or reactive. Don't take that as a slight though, indeed the energetic nature of petroleum products is exactly what makes it so valuable. The flip side of this reality though is that such potentially dangerous products require additional steps be taken to protect the safety of the workers in those industries. Some are obvious, like fire prevention and environmental protection. Others however are less so. Bonding and Grounding are topics that you would normally associate with electrical systems, and rightly so. What you may not be aware of though, is that both the NFPA and OSHA have additional sets of standards for Bonding and Grounding as it pertains to flammable materials, especially flammable liquids.

Within the realm of flammable liquid storage, the big danger we are looking for is static electricity. Static electricity is relatively simple, an electrical charge builds up in or on an object, and then jumps to another object to balance the difference between them. Anyone who has ever shuffled across a carpet is familiar with this, but with flammable liquids present, it's an entirely different matter. Even the small spark that static can cause is capable of igniting flammable liquids, which is why OSHA and the NFPA require that steps be taken to prevent them from occurring. According to OSHA, prior to dispensing Category 1, 2, and certain Category 3 liquids from one container to another, the nozzle and receiving container must be electrically interconnected to each other, and to a common ground, by the use of bonding wires. Further, because a static charge can build even on plastic surfaces, this connection is required even between non-metallic containers. It is also important to remember that physically touching the dispensing nozzle to the receiving container is not an adequate alternative to correctly attaching bonding wires to the containers. Workers must ensure that all bonding and grounding connections are free of rust, dirt, and paint. Without solid metal-to-metal contact, the grounding connection may not be able to properly prevent a static spark from occurring. Lastly, workers need to ensure that their ground is reliable. Should a ground be damaged, it may be necessary to create a new one, such as driving a copper electrode into the earth.

With the potential risks of an errant spark being as massive as a refinery explosion, proper bonding and grounding procedures are not just a good idea, they are a necessity.



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 NYMEX 3-day Average: \$2.9527

**AUGUST 2018**

NYMEX Settlement: \$2.8220  
 Inside FERC/DTI: \$2.4000 (Basis: -\$0.422)  
 Inside FERC/TCO: \$2.6200 (Basis: -\$0.202)  
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 June West Virginia Tier 2: \$63.2770  
 June West Virginia Tier 3: \$61.2770  
 June Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$53.2770  
 June Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$66.2770  
 June Marcellus/Utica Light: \$61.2770

July Ohio Tier 1: \$69.9171  
 July Ohio Tier 2: \$66.9171  
 July Ohio Tier 3: \$64.9171  
 July West Virginia Tier 1: \$69.9171  
 July West Virginia Tier 2: \$66.9171  
 July West Virginia Tier 3: \$63.9171  
 July Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$56.9171  
 July Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$69.9171  
 July Marcellus/Utica Light: \$64.9171

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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:  
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 Group 2 OH: \$61.83  
 Group 3 OH: \$59.83  
 6/21 to 6/30 Group 1 OH: \$69.44  
 Group 2 OH: \$66.44  
 Group 3 OH: \$64.44  
 7/1 to 7/10 Group 1 OH: \$72.87  
 Group 2 OH: \$69.87  
 Group 3 OH: \$67.87  
 7/11 to 7/20 Group 1 OH: \$68.86  
 Group 2 OH: \$65.86  
 Group 3 OH: \$63.86  
 7/21 to 7/31 Group 1 OH: \$68.20  
 Group 2 OH: \$65.20  
 Group 3 OH: \$63.20  
 8/1 to 8/10 Group 1 OH: \$67.17  
 Group 2 OH: \$64.17  
 Group 3 OH: \$62.17  
 8/11 to 8/20 Group 1 OH: \$65.41  
 Group 2 OH: \$62.41  
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For questions relating to ARG Group Pricing or Utica / Marcellus Shale pricing, please contact:

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Have you tuned into WMOA radio lately? If not, you're missing SOOGA's excellent "Energy Insights" program, which airs every Saturday morning at 9 am on WMOA AM 1490. This program has served as an excellent means of educating and informing our community about the oil and gas industry. The show has covered an array of topics from the history of the industry, benefits to the local economy, education on technical aspects of the business, and much more.

Sponsor a show! The Energy Insights program has not only been an excellent means of public outreach and education, but it can also serve as a great advertising opportunity for our SOOGA members. For \$100 per episode, or \$300 for 4 episodes, your business can help inform the community about our industry while also benefiting from advertising on the radio. If interested, please contact Billie at SOOGA via email or phone at [atmail@sooga.org](mailto:atmail@sooga.org) or 740-374-3203.

If you'd like to hear past episodes, visit WMOA Radio's website at <http://wmoa1490.com/podcasts>. SOOGA has been very pleased with the affordability and opportunity for public outreach provided by this radio show.

Speaking of affordable advertising opportunities! A new year is upon us and SOOGA once again has several great advertising packages for our membership. These packages provide advertising across multiple locations including the SOOGA Insider Bulletin, SOOGA website, and numerous events. Event sponsorships and the aforementioned Energy Insights program are also available for great marketing opportunities. For more information about the SOOGA ad packages and sponsorships, please contact Billie via email or phone.

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## Record Tax Revenue Is Latest Shale-Driven Good News for W. Virginia

By Seth Whitehead, Aug 22, 2018

Shale development has not only vaulted West Virginia to the status of having the fastest growing economy in the United States — it's also driving record tax revenue in the state.

West Virginia Department of Revenue Deputy Sec. Dave Hardy told Inside Shale Tuesday that "historic" July state tax revenues were a whopping \$32 million over budget. And he did not hesitate to give credit to record West Virginia Marcellus Shale production and related activities for the state's enviable financial situation.

"The oil and gas industry is huge. ... I've been here at the Capitol about 19 months now and the whole 19 months I've been here, every day I hear from our revenue forecasters about what an impact oil and gas is having on West Virginia."

For perspective on West Virginia's \$32 million July budget surplus, Hardy noted that the state's budget surplus for the entire past fiscal year was \$36 million. As Hardy told Inside Shale:

"July 2018 was a historic month and we don't use that term lightly here at the capitol. As you know, the folks here that I work with have been around here a long time and they're experts on the subject. So, when they say we've had a good month, we've had a good month. We were \$32 million dollars over budget in July and that's just extraordinary..."

West Virginia oil and gas development generates tax revenue both directly — via severance and property taxes based on production that totaled more than \$1.3 billion dollars from 2013 to 2017 — and indirectly via personal income and sales taxes. Hardy noted that record July revenue was driven largely by increases in the latter two tax revenue streams — meaning more people are working and spending the money they earn. These trends were put into perspective by a 2017 report that found that West Virginia had the highest economic growth of any state in the country in 2017. That report shows West Virginia enjoyed a 6.84 percent increase in gross domestic product in 2017, as

well as a 2.75 percent increase in personal income and a 1.3 percent decrease in its unemployment rate (down to 4.9 percent from 6.2 percent).

As Business Development Corporation of the Northern Panhandle Executive Director Patrick Ford told EID earlier this month, the driving force behind this growth was West Virginia's growing shale industry,

"The growth in our GDP and economy has been driven by energy. Natural gas has given a rebirth to the value-added metal, energy, and chemical industry clusters, expanded our transportation logistics and health care industry clusters, cut our unemployment rate in half, attracted over \$400 million of private investment, driven up worker pay rates to the highest levels we have seen since 2008, and fueled a construction industry that has our region growing construction jobs faster than other metro areas in the country."

These trends are particularly evident in major West Virginia shale counties.

Doddridge County — one of the highest natural gas and oil producing counties in the state — had an unemployment rate of just 3.2 percent this past June. The county also collected \$15 million in ad valorem property taxes on oil and gas production last year, along with \$1.67 million in severance tax revenue. Similarly, Wetzel County collected \$15.36 million in ad valorem property taxes in 2017, along with \$1 million in severance taxes. Those two counties combined for more natural gas production in 2016 (543,352,176 mcf) than the entire state produced in 2012 (539,860,487 mcf), and state natural gas production is on pace to more than triple in just six years, according to West Virginia Oil and Natural Gas Association data.

As WTOV reported earlier this month, Brooke and Hancock counties have seen shale-related employment opportunities grow dramatically this year. Strategic Business Manager Theresa Comisso told WTOV,



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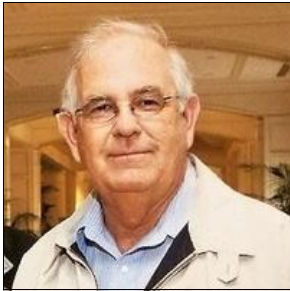
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## OBITUARY



### Richard "Dick" Poling

(December 27, 1952-August 16, 2018)

Richard C. "Dick" Poling, 65, of Somerset, OH, passed away Thursday, August 16, 2018 at his residence. He was born December 27, 1952 in Hocking County, son of the

late Clinton and Loretta Ruck Poling. Dick was married to Catherine Dupler Poling who survives.

He owned and operated R.C. Poling Co. Inc. in Junction City. Dick was a member of the Somerset Lions Club and Masonic Lodge as well as a member of Tickin T's of Central Ohio and the Ohio Oil and Gas Association. He was board member of Commodore Bank, South Central Power and Consumer Gas.

In addition to his wife, Dick is survived by his sons, Clinton (Patricia) Poling and Zachary Poling, both of Somerset and grandchildren, Lily, Sophia and Payton, who were his pride and joy.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers, William and Daniel Poling.

Gravesite services will be held 11 a.m., Tuesday, August 21, 2018 Holy Trinity Cemetery, 222 S. Columbus St., Somerset, OH. No calling hours will be observed.

Arrangements are by Cardaras Funeral Home, 183 E. Second St., Logan. The family suggests memorial contributions be made in memory of Richard C. "Dick" Poling to Lifeline of Ohio, 770 Kinnear Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43212.

Please sign his guestbook at [www.cardaras.com](http://www.cardaras.com)

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Continued from page 1

We need everyone's help to stay engaged on these issues and provide input throughout the review process. During this time, we will likely see an increase in protestor groups working to stop any drilling and development in and around the WNF. We must all be alert to any activity/trends in your community. If you see something that seems wrong, let others know, check out information sources, and document occurrences. Mike Chadsey from OOGA provided interesting insight and information to the anti-industry groups' activities that have occurred in the past few months.

Also be aware that "Plastics" has become the new "Fracking", as evidenced by the new "plastic straw bans" by Starbucks and other restaurants.

#### Update on HB430 Tax Bill

Matt Hammond gave an update of the passage HB 430-The Sales Tax Clarification bill which was passed out of the House in the spring. The bill was ultimately passed out of the Senate and signed by governor, but not before significant testimony given before the Senate committee and extensive discussion between the industry and the Department of Taxation. HB 430 was intended to clarify longstanding existing tax provisions related to the oil and gas industry and it did not create new tax provisions. The industry was successful in insuring HB 430 clarified these tax provisions.

Tony Ehler and Hillary Houston of the Vorys firm spoke in detail about HB 430 and how it should be applied to oil and gas operations going forward. They provided valuable insight concerning taxable items such as stone on lease roads versus non-taxable items such as the building of the lease road by an independent contractor. A handout was distributed to the forum attendees containing details of the application of provisions in the bill. A copy of the handout is available from Billie at the SOOGA office or directly from Tony and Hillary.

#### Update on HB225 Orphan Well Bill

HB 225-The Idle and Orphan Well Bill was passed out the House unanimously in the spring. The bill eventually passed out of the Senate with some revisions and was signed by the governor.

The original proposed bill required 45% of severance tax revenue be applied to the plugging of idle and orphan wells. In the final version of the bill that became law, the revenue requirement was reduced to 30%. The end result was an increase to approximately \$15 million toward the plugging of idle and orphan wells in Ohio.

The original version of HB 225 attempted to lockbox severance tax revenues inside ODNR to keep the funds from being raided by the governor's office. Previously, funds from the severance tax have been applied toward gaps in the state budget that have nothing in common with the oil/gas industry. Unfortunately, the lockbox provisions were removed in the final version of the bill.

Building on the passage of HB 225, there will be discussions with ODNR on alternative methods to protect the severance tax revenue from future raiding by the budget office. There will also be discussion on how to effectively apply the additional funds toward plugging idle and orphan wells. The industry will work jointly with ODNR to apply safe and cost effective ideas to more aggressively address the issue of idle and orphan wells.

#### Gas Quality Update: Oxygen levels issues and shut-ins

Don Huck spoke on the issue of oxygen content in Aspire Energy's Ludlow Pipeline system. The issues arise from high oxygen content in the gas stream that forced Dominion to shut off Aspire's meter at Ludlow station. This shut in caused several operators to be negatively impacted. SOOGA representatives reached out to Aspire to discuss how the issue could be resolved and have been meeting periodically to discuss possible solutions.

Aspire has now installed a slam-shut valve with oxygen detection at the meter site to Dominion. Once in service, the valve was repeatedly closing due to detection of higher levels of oxygen. Further discussion within the SOOGA/Aspire workgroup focused on how to work upstream to identify the entry points of the oxygen. Segments of the Ludlow system were isolated to identify oxygen sources and certain segments of the system were purged to remove pockets of gas with high oxygen content. Ultimately the oxygen influx was isolated to individual entry points. Those entry points were shut in and gas was able to flow on the system.

Aspire has continued to monitor the Ludlow system and the number of instances of the valve closing due to oxygen have reduced dramatically and run time is continuing to improve. The entry points impacted are being addressed independently between Aspire and the affected operators.

SOOGA representatives and Aspire personnel will continue to meet to discuss the ongoing operation of the Ludlow system relative to gas flow and oxygen content. Both sides also wish to extend the conversation into other ways for operators to effectively flow gas on the Aspire system.

## Property owners say drilling leases delayed by bureaucracy

By Todd Baucher/Posted: Thu 5:30pm, Aug 16, 2018

**MONROE COUNTY, Oh.,-(WTAP)** The Wayne National Forest extends through nearly all of Southeastern Ohio. But the forest doesn't completely cover all of the region's counties.

"You have to understand the Wayne National Forest does not own every acre in that green area," said Monroe County resident Janet Conn. "You have to understand that real people live and work and own the property."



Conn is one of numerous landowners who agreed to lease drilling rights in the counties where the forest is located.

But the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has not allowed that drilling to take place, even though there's been an executive order from the Trump Administration to do so.

"There's so many people down there, it's creating pockets of poor people and they can't lease these mineral rights, they can't access them," said property owner and Monroe County Treasurer Taylor Abbott, "because they're being shanghaied by 10% of the acreage that the government owns at this time."

Efforts to lease portions of the areas where the forest is located have run into opposition by environmental groups.

A lawsuit was filed in 2017 in Columbus; something the National Association of Property Owners believes is also responsible for the delay.

But industry representatives said drilling was going on long before the forest itself was established.

"For decades, we have been producing oil and gas in this area," says Christie Chavez, President, Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association. "And we have such a great opportunity going forward to continue this development, and bring back economic development for our area."

Another concern to landowners is the different agencies involved.

The U.S. Forest Service, which oversees the Wayne National Forest, is a division of the Department of Agriculture. The Bureau of Land Management is part of the Department of the Interior.

Landowners met in July with members of Congress to explain their concerns. They plan more meetings in the future.

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Continued from page 17

“Everyone who is working in this shale is local people putting money back into our economy. They live here, they work just like everyone else and when you go on all these sites, it’s amazing.”

“The jobs are here. You could go online and Google ‘oil and gas’ with a 50-mile radius, and people are hiring 30-40 people in a week and a half.”

Ford told WTOV,

“If you get into the weeds to find out exactly what that oil and gas job means... For every oil and gas job, we create, there is a spinoff of one to four jobs in the community because of that one job.”

Hardy also lauded the thousands of jobs created by two major pipeline construction projects in progress in West Virginia during his Inside Shale interview on Tuesday, “We believe about 3,600 people [are working on those pipelines] – that’s jobs [that] were actually grown in the last twelve months as a result of the pipeline projects and the oil and gas industry.”

Hardy also noted the fact that the more than \$110 million

in severance taxes collected last year could double by 2023 as those pipelines come online and facilitate further production growth. He also emphasized the importance of the nearly \$500 million in oil and gas property taxes collected from 2013 to 2017 — 70 percent of which go to fund local schools:

“In property taxes, maybe an element that no one thinks that much about, in oil and gas taxes – the property taxes for our local governments were \$96.2 million dollars (in 2017). So, you see – in addition to the severance tax and a number of people working, there’s also a very serious property tax revenue stream that local governments enjoy.”

West Virginia’s surging economy and state coffers are just the latest example of the positive effects of shale development in the Appalachian Basin. And with needed midstream infrastructure build-out underway and exciting downstream projects on the tri-state Shale Crescent’s radar, it is clear why Hardy said he feels “very optimistic” about West Virginia’s future.

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Ladies Winner - Bonnie Gill



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# 2018 SOOGA SPRING CLAY SHOOT

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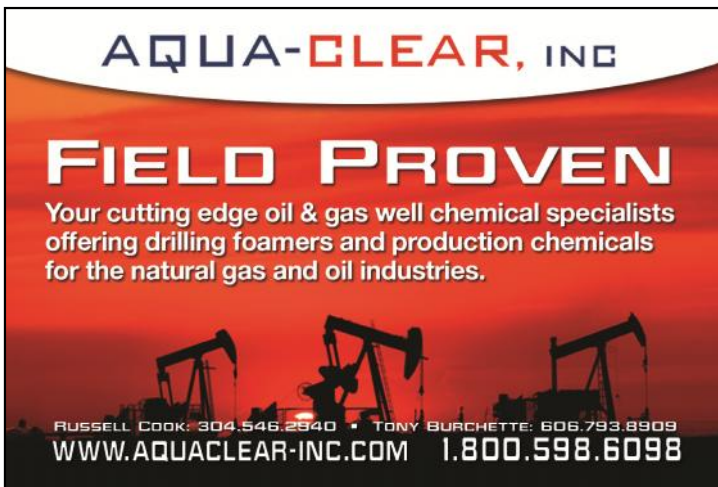


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**Southeastern Ohio Oil & Gas Association  
2018 Annual Fall Trade Show  
Thursday September 20th, 2018**

Washington County Fairgrounds  
922 Front Street Marietta, OH 45750

**TRAINING SESSIONS**

**8:30am - Registration**

**9:00am - 9:30am  
Plastic Pipe Fusion**

*Joe Boyles, Boyles Supply Company*

**9:30am - 10:15am  
Service Rig Safety**

*Barry Bowers, Huffman-Bowers*

**Break  
10:15am-10:30am**

**10:30am - 11:15am  
DOT Truck Inspections**

*Brian Wise, Washington County Career Center*

**11:15am - 11:45am  
Hot Work Safety**

*Gary O'Brien, O'Brien's Safety Services*

*\*The First 200 people through the door will receive a  
40th Anniversary SOOGA hat.*

**Gun Raffle Drawing - SOOGA 40th Anniversary  
Henry Golden Boy  
(Donated by Bob Matthey & Barry Bowers)**

**Door Prize Drawings (Must be present to win)**

*Exhibits Open All Day 9:00AM - 4:00PM*

**INDUSTRY PRESENTATIONS**

**11:45am - 12:00pm**

*Troy Balderson, US House of Representatives*

**Lunch Served 12:00 pm- 1:00pm**

*Catered by: C&S BBQ  
Served by: Ohio Valley Desk & Derrick Club*

**1:00pm - 1:10pm**

**SOOGA Welcome/ Updates**

*Christy Chavez - SOOGA President*

**1:10pm - 1:30pm**

**ODNR Updates**

*Don Huck- SOOGA Vice President*

**1:30pm - 1:50pm**

**Gathering Line Updates**

*Kyle Moore, Aspire Energy*

**1:50pm - 2:20pm**

**Natural Gas Updates**

*Jimmy Stewart, (Ohio Gas Association)*

**Break**

**2:20-2:30**

**2:30pm - 3:00pm**

**Paraffin Eating Bacteria Technology**

*Martin Shumway, Locus Bio-Energy Solutions*

**3:00pm - 3:30pm**

**Cut Team/Drug Issue Updates**

*Washington County Sheriff Department*

**Register by September 14th, 2018**

\_\_\_ Lunch **\$15.00** (Please RSVP to help with accommodations, lunch tickets can be picked up at Registration Desk)

\_\_\_ Member Booth Fee **\$50.00**

\_\_\_ Non-Member Booth Fee **\$200.00** (Includes 4 months Membership)

\_\_\_ Indoor (space may be limited) \_\_\_ Outdoor

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*Please visit our website [www.sooga.org](http://www.sooga.org) to register, for additional information please call the office at 740-374-3203*

**\*SOOGA reserves the right to make changes to this program\***



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