

SERVING SOUTHEASTERN OHIO & NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA'S OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE		Ohio Natural Gas & Oil Industry to Launch Statewide		
THE CROW'S NEST	2	"Essential Ohio Energy" Campaign		
NEW MEMBERS	3	No matter where we live, how we work,		
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	3	or where we're going - natural gas and oil are an essential part of Ohioans' lives. As the organization charged with educating the general public about the natural		
GAS REPORT	4			
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	5	gas and oil industry, the Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP) saw in surveys that Ohioans support natural gas and oil development, but that		
OHIO NATURAL GAS & OIL FACTS	10	there is a disconnect between what we're producing here		
SOOGA 2020 MEMBERSHIP Drive	11	and how it's essential to our daily lives. Which is why today, on behalf of Ohio's natural gas and		
WELL PLUGGING RULE CHANGES	12	oil producers, OOGEEP is excited to launch a statewide, multi-platform digital and television campaign, designed		
GAS AND OIL PRICING	14	to educate Ohioans about the essential nature of the en-		
SAFETY CORNER:SPRAINS AND	16	ergy produced right here in our state!		
STRAINS		It may not always be clear where or how, but in order to		
WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE	17	create the quality of life we enjoy, there is one common de-		
SOOGA'S ENERGY INSIGHTS	20	nominator - natural gas and oil .		
SOUTHEAST GEOLOGY: BIG	21	Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/OOGEEP		
MOSES (PART 3)		Twitter: https://twitter.com/OOGEEP/status/1293572766025867264?s=20		
2020 JUNE GOLF OUTING	24	WATCH THE VIDEOS		
2020 JUNE GOLF SPONSORS	26	"Power" https://youtu.be/Lu8oq82yOFE		

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Message from SOOGA President Don Huck

"Morning" https://youtu.be/xQcPKo6qIAE

In light of the ongoing issues surrounding COVID-19 and the continued restrictions still in place from Governor DeWine, the Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association must cancel the SOOGA Annual Fall Trade Show scheduled for Thursday, September 24th, 2020.

With the continued restrictions on public gatherings, it makes it impractical to hold our Annual Fall Trade Show in a normal manner. The SOOGA Board of Trustees believes cancelling the meeting is the proper thing to do under the current circumstances. The Annual Fall Trade Show has always been well attended and an opportunity for our members to visit and network. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause for anyone. The Board will continue to monitor the status of the current health situation and keep you updated on upcoming SOOGA events.

SOOGA has continued to operate through this situation and keep our members informed on any issues that arise. Thank you for your patience and please take the necessary precautions to be safe.

THE CROW'S NEST

I was really hoping, by the time of writing this version of the Crow's Nest, we would be putting the pandemic behind us and saying good riddance. Sadly, not yet. I hope and pray all of you are healthy and safe. We will get through this. Endeavor to persevere.



The Board of SOOGA has tried very hard to manage all the annual events through this unique time. We have forged ahead with those events where we could be outside and effectively follow the safety protocols in place at the time of the event. We hope folks enjoyed the opportunity to get outside and network with friends and colleagues at the Spring Clay Shoot and both golf outings. We are still on schedule for the Fall Clay Shoot in October. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel those events where attendees are gathered inside a closed space and cannot social distance as easily. Ongoing limits on gatherings has made certain events impractical. The Spring Membership Meeting, the Fall Trade Show and the Industry Appreciation Boat Ride (a Desk and Derrick tradition SOOGA planned to continue) were all casualties. SOOGA has already reserved dates for all these events in 2021 and look forward to seeing you there.

SOOGA has recently received an update from Eric Vendel, new Chief of the Division of Oil and Gas, regarding the overhaul of the oil and gas database (RBDMS) that has been ongoing for the last two or three years. There have been numerous delays for various reasons. The ongoing pandemic has not helped the timing of the project. Most recently, the entire ODNR site was down for approximately six weeks. This disruption also caused further delays. The previous plan was for the system to rollout in three phases. The latest estimate for rollout of the new system is summer of 2021 and to be one phase only. The Division's goal is to be sure the new system works properly when they are ready to do the rollout. In the interim, SOOGA will stay in contact with the Division regarding any type of reporting. We will share with the membership any information we receive from the Division.

It is good to see the uptick in pricing for both natural gas and crude oil. We will take what we can get for as long as we can get it.

I want to remind and encourage everyone to vote in the upcoming election. It is your right to vote as an American.

Keep your head down and keep digging.

Don Huck,

President

2020 NEW MEMBERS SOOGA would like to welcome the following new members:

WINDELL MAYFIELD

Allied Industry Lone Star Rubber 1564 CR 141 Brownwood, TX 76801 325-624-5458

RICHARD CISLER

Professional 4326 Sintz Road Springfield, OH 45504 937-238-0123

STEVE ZEMPER

Allied Industry Primrose Oil Co. 181 Montague Belleville, MI 48111 810-923-2391

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Huffman-Bowers Inc. 740-342-5205

Kevin Rothenbuhler

Utica Resource Operating 740-336-7831

Roger Heldman

HG Energy, LLC 304-420-1107

Matt Lupardus

HG Energy, LLC 304-420-1127

Linda O'Brien

O'Brien's Safety Services 740-350-4228

Keith Young

BD Oil Gathering 740-374-9355

Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association Gas Committee Report August 2020

PRICING

Prices August 11, 2020

NYMEX Settle – Aug2020	\$1.85
One Year NYMEX strip (Sept. 2020 – Aug. 2021)	\$2.71
Summer NYMEX strip for 2020 (SeptOctober, 2020)	\$2.23
Winter NYMEX strip – 2020 (Nov., 2020 – Mar. 2021)	\$2.94
TCO Index Posting – August, 2020	\$1.63
DTI Index Posting – August, 2020	\$1.27

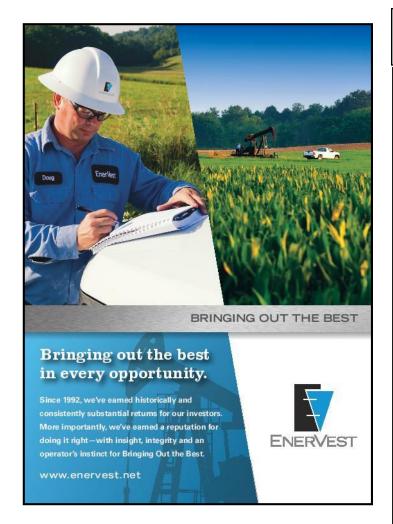
Working gas in underground storage, Lower 48 states

						Historical Comparisons			
		Stocks billion cubic feet (Bcf)			Year ago (07/31/19)		5-year average (2015-19)		
Region	07/31/20	07/24/20	net change	implied flow	Bcf	% change	Bcf	% change	
East	718	706	12	12	608	18.1	645	11.3	
Midwest	830	815	15	15	694	19.6	707	17.4	
Mountain	202	196	6	6	160	26.3	179	12.8	
Pacific	311	313	-2	-2	271	14.8	293	6.1	
South Central	I 1,214	1,211	3	3	939	29.3	1,021	18.9	
Salt	336	339	-3	-3	222	51.4	266	26.3	
Nonsalt	878	872	6	6	716	22.6	754	16.4	
Total	3,274	3,241	33	33	2,673	22.5	2,845	15.1	

Summary

Working gas in storage was 3,274 Bcf as of Friday, July 31, 2020, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 33 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 601 Bcf higher than last year at this time and 429 Bcf above the five-year average of 2,845 Bcf. At 3,274 Bcf, total working gas is within the five-year historical range.

(continued page 6)



2020 SOOGA Calendar of Events

2020 Fall Golf Outing August 21, 2020 Golf Club of West Virginia Waverly, WV 26184

2020 Annual Trade Show September 24, 2020

Canceled

Broughton's Community Building Marietta, OH 45750

> 2020 Fall Clay Shoot October 16, 2020 Hilltop Sports Whipple, OH 45750

2020 Fall Gun Giveaway November 1st - 30th

Gun tickets will be available in September for \$20.00 each. Please contact a SOOGA Board Member or the office for tickets at 740-374-3203.



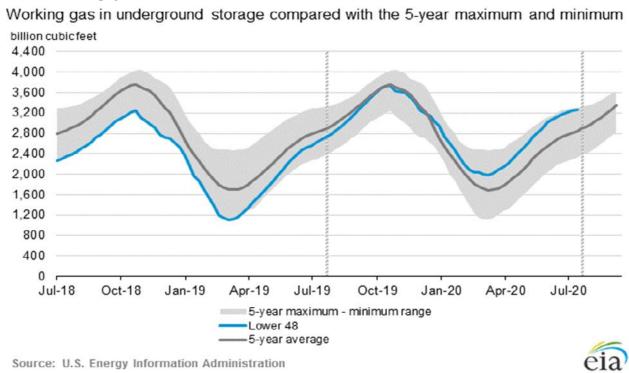
NOTICE

Due to the restrictions with COVID-19 the 2020 Ergon Fish Fry and BD Hog Roast have been cancelled.

See you next year!



(continued from page 4)



Prices/Supply/Demand

Northeast prices decrease. At the Algonquin Citygate, which serves <u>Boston-area consumers</u>, the price went down 17¢ from \$1.74/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.57/MMBtu yesterday. At the Transcontinental Pipeline Zone 6 trading point for New York City, the price decreased 23¢ from a high of \$1.80/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.57/MMBtu yesterday.

The Tennessee Zone 4 Marcellus spot price increased 10¢ from \$1.20/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.30/MMBtu yesterday. The price at Dominion South in southwest Pennsylvania rose 12¢ from \$1.30/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.42/MMBtu yesterday.

Supply falls. According to data from IHS Markit, the average total supply of natural gas fell by 0.2% compared with the previous report week. This decline was driven by a decrease in dry natural gas production of 0.7% compared with the previous report week. Average net imports from Canada increased by 10.0% from last week.

Demand falls as natural gas demand is limited amid hurricane-related power outages. Total U.S. consumption of natural gas fell by 6.2% compared with the previous report week, according to data from IHS Markit. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 9.3% week over week. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption declined by 8.8%. Industrial sector consumption increased by 1.8% week over week. Natural gas exports to Mexico increased 1.1%. Feed gas to liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals averaged 0.6 Bcf/d, or 19%, higher than last week.

U.S. LNG exports decrease week over week. Five liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels (three from Sabine Pass, and one each from Cameron and Corpus Christi) with a combined LNG-carrying capacity of 18 Bcf departed the United States between July 30 and August 5, 2020, according to shipping data provided by Marine Traffic.

1-800-301-6926 1-740-453-6926 Pres. Brian G. Jasper P.O. Box 2667 Zanesville, OH 43702-2667



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Oilfield Solutions

(continued from page 6)

Natural Gas

Ohio's Utica Shale 2019 Fourth Quarter Production

During the Fourth quarter of 2019, Ohio's horizontal shale wells produced 5,813,755 barrels of oil and 614,218,362 Mcf (614 billion cubic feet) of natural gas, according to the figures released today by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR).

Compared to a year ago, oil production increased by 29.54% and natural gas production showed a 10.81% increase over the second quarter of 2018.

	2018 Quarter 4 (Shale)	2019 Quarter 4 (Shale)	Percentage Change
Barrels of oil	5,810,484 bbl	6,803,057 bbl	17.08%
Mcf of natural gas	663,534,323 Mcf	684,771,042 Mcf	3.2%

The ODNR quarterly report lists 2,523 horizontal shale wells, 2,452 of which reported oil and natural gas production during the quarter. Of the wells reporting oil and natural gas results:

There are currently 3,286 Utica Permits, and 2,780 Utica shale wells drilled, with 11 rigs running.





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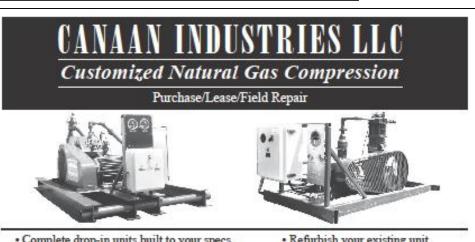
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Ohio's Natural Gas and Oil Industry



Natural Gas Saves Families Money

Ohio consumers saved more than \$54.4 billion since the beginning of the American energy revolution through 2018 as a result of lower natural gas prices in a study released by Consumer Energy Alliance.

Residential users saved $$20.3\ billion$, while commercial and industrial users saved upwards of $$34.1\ billion$.



Natural Gas Fuels the Economy

New natural gas fired power generation has invested over \$15.9 billion into Ohio's economy since 2017, with ten state-of-the-art power plants currently operational or under construction, delivering over 9,215 MW of electricity to Ohioans.

Natural Gas Creates Family-Sustaining Jobs

The natural gas and oil industry has supported, and continues to support, hundreds of thousands of jobs, and billions in wages in the Buckeye State. According to the most recent Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services report, core shale-related employment increased 90.8 percent from 2011 to 2019. That's enormous when you consider all other Ohio industries only gained an 8.1 percent employment increase over the same period of time. What's more is that average wage was \$83,753, more than twice as much as any other industry in Ohio.





Natural Gas Provides Local Government Tax Revenues

In many areas of rural Ohio, local government tax revenues from natural gas and oil have been a lifesaver. Ohio producers have spent over \$135 million in property taxes paid on production and more than \$300 million improving over 630 miles of Appalachia's roads and bridges. In addition, pipeline tax revenue has already started to pay out over \$1.2 billion in local revenues.

Natural Gas Improves Ohio's Air Quality

Over two decades, with increased energy production, Ohio's emissions decreased considerably across the board, with a 94 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide, a 74 percent reduction in carbon monoxide, a 72 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide, 66 percent reduction in volatile organic compounds, and a 16 percent decline in carbon dioxide emissions.



Natural Gas Supports National Security

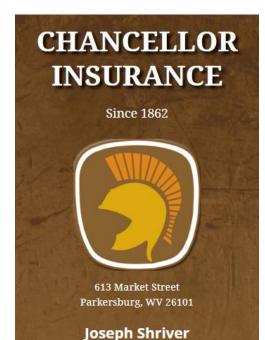
Thanks in large part to the historic production from Ohio's Utica Shale, since 2011; the United State is now exporting more natural gas than importing, making our country more secure through energy dominance. In 2019 the Ohio Department of Natural Resources reported, natural gas production reached a historic 2.6 Tcf and 24.8 million barrels of oil.

Natural Gas Supports a Manufacturing Rebirth

Because of Ohio's prolific production of natural gas liquids, which support over 6,000 consumer products, the American Chemistry Council has stated that the natural gas and oil industry can lead us to over 100,000 permanent manufacturing jobs regionally with \$38 billion of capital investment including five ethane crackers and two propane plants.







President
joeshriver@chancellorins.com

304.422.3563

2020 SOOGA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NOW IS THE TIME TO HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH OUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE. WITH EACH NEW MEMBER, HELP US TOWARD OUR GOAL TO STRENGTHEN SOOGA AND CREATE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP ONE ANOTHER.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN AS A PROUD MEMBER TODAY! HERE IS THE LINK: WW.SOOGA.ORG.

ANY PERSON WHO SIGNS UP A NEW MEMBER IN 2020 WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING FOR \$100.00. TO GET CREDIT YOUR NAME MUST BE LISTED AS REFERRED BY ON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION.

ALSO ANYONE THAT JOINS DURING THE 2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING TO WIN A "FREE "MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021.

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Well Plugging Rule Changes

July 28, 2020

Dear Operator,

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management (Division) wants to ensure the public is aware of changes to Ohio Administrative Code Chapter 1501:9-11, Well Plugging. On August 10, 2020, new and amended rules regarding the plugging of oil and gas wells will take effect.

The Division worked through a multi-year process with the regulated community and interested parties to develop and review these rules. The rules address current industry operations (i.e. horizontal drilling), standards, and materials; ensure better planning and review of plugging operations by the well owner as part of the permitting process; revise existing definitions and language to provide clear standards for the regulated community and regulators; and clarify when, where, and how plugs must be placed during operations.

A significant revision to the rule is that it now includes a requirement for the person owning the well to develop a written plugging plan. Previously, rule-compliant plans were developed and approved by the Agency at the well site prior to commencement of plugging operations. Written plans are beneficial in a multitude of ways as they allow the operator the opportunity to explain how it proposes to accomplish the task and to provide the Agency an opportunity to review proposed operations before approval.

The rule also provides contingencies for both the Agency and the well owner should the plugging job encounter circumstances that are not covered by the plan. The rule applies to horizontal and conventional wells drilled with both rotary and cable tools, Class II injection wells, enhanced recovery wells, Class III solution mining wells, underground natural gas storage wells, and wells drilled to extract brine or oil field waters.

In summary, the new Well Plugging rules update Ohio's rules regarding well plugging by:

- Revising definitions to reflect changes made in rule;
- Updating language that outlines when a permit to plug or a permit to plug back a well must be obtained;
- Adding a new requirement that operators develop a detailed written plugging plan that includes information such as measurements of the casing strings, depth of underground sources of drinking water, depth of each layer of reservoir rocks, depth of mineable coal seams, and proposed depths of plugs, and other relevant information;
- Updating language that explains how a well may be plugged and what precautions, standards, and procedures operators may or may not follow;
- Revising standards for appropriate notification of DOGRM inspectors to witness plugging operations;
- Revising the rules regarding commencement of plugging operations of a lost or dry hole;
- Clarifying rules addressing considerations of the top-hole, including the requirements to maintain conductor casing or drive pipe in the wellbore and writing plugging plans to address situations where drive pipe, conductor casing, or surface casing are not present;
- Enhancing standards for materials that may be used to plug a well and how those materials must be prepared, tested, and used in plugging operations;

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3 Page 13

Continued from page 12

• Identifying the wells that must be plugged with cement, at which intervals cement must be placed in the wellbore, and increases plug thickness/isolation for specific intervals. The rule now requires operators to perform an area-of-review around wells to be plugged to determine where plugs must be placed based on geology and historic production in the area;

- Establishing standards for plugging of horizontal wells;
- Updating language authorizing the limited use of prepared clay for plugging cable tool drilled wells;
- Requiring operators to leave a plugged well uncovered for three business days to allow Division inspectors to conduct a final inspection;
- Relocating rules pertaining to rat and mouse holes to another chapter of Ohio Administrative Code; and
- Amending when and how operators must submit a plugging report to the Division; and removing a provision that allowed wells to be converted to a water well.

The new rules can be reviewed on the Division's website at oilandgas.ohiodnr.gov. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (614)265-6922.

Regards, Eric Vandel, Chief Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management





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GAS PRICING 2020

JULY 2020

NYMEX Settlement: \$1.495 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.160 (Basis: -\$0.335) Inside FERC/TCO:\$1.260 (Basis: -\$0.235)

AUGUST 2020

NYMEX Settlement: \$1.854 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.270 (Basis: -\$0.584) Inside FERC/TCO:\$1.630 (Basis: -\$0.224)

OIL PRICING 2020

ERGON OIL PURCHASING WEST VIRGINIA MONTHLY AVERAGE

June Ohio Tier 1: \$37.37 June Ohio Tier 2: \$34.37 June Ohio Tier 3: \$32.37

June West Virginia Tier 1: \$37.37 June West Virginia Tier 2: \$34.37 June West Virginia Tier 3: \$32.37

June Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$17.37 June Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$37.37 June Marcellus/Utica Light: \$28.37

> July Ohio Tier 1: \$39.76 July Ohio Tier 2: \$36.76 July Ohio Tier 3: \$34.76 July West Virginia Tier 1: \$39.76 July West Virginia Tier 2: \$36.76

July West Virginia Tier 3: \$34.76

July Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$19.76

July Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$39.76

July Marcellus/Utica Light: \$30.76

Tier 1 - 150 + net barrels of crude oil

No more than 2.5% BS&W (if the BS&W is over 2.5% it will then qualify for Tier 2 pricing)

(If trucking is able to load 160 net barrels of oil and other Tier 1 criteria are met, Ergon Oil Purchasing will waive the BS&W limit)

Tier 2 - 60-149.99 net barrels of crude oil Two Stops within 10 miles

Tier 3 - 30-59.99 net barrels of crude oil

Please contact Ergon at 1-800-278-3364 for clarification on split load pricing.

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

OIL PRICING 2020

AMERICAN REFINING GROUP AVERAGE

6/21 to 6/30 Group 1 OH: \$38.18

Group 2 OH: \$35.18

Group 3 OH: \$33.18

7/01 to 7/10 Group 1 OH: \$39.47

Group 2 OH: \$36.47

Group 3 OH: \$34.47

7/11 to 7/20 Group 1 OH: \$39.60

Group 2 OH: \$36.60

Group 3 OH: \$34.60

7/21 to 7/31 Group 1 OH: \$40.17

Group 2 OH: \$37.17

Group 3 OH: \$35.17

8/01 to 8/10 Group 1 OH: \$40.30

Group 2 OH: \$37.30

Group 3 OH: \$35.30

8/11 to 8/20 Group 1 OH: \$41.38

Group 2 OH:\$38.38

Group 3 OH:\$ 36.38

ARG GROUP PRICING CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS FOR PENNSYLVANIA GRADE CRUDE OIL (LEGACY)

Group 1 (OH/PA/NY) – 150.0 net barrels of crude from 3 stops within 10 mile, with a BS&W of 2.5% or less (If able to load 160 net barrels the BS&W will be waived)

Group 2 (OH/PA/NY) – 60.0-149.99 net barrels from 2 stops

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

For questions relating to ARG Group Pricing or Utica / Marcellus Shale pricing, please contact: Bill Murray, VP-Crude Supply & Logistics- 330-649-2832; bmurray@amref.com

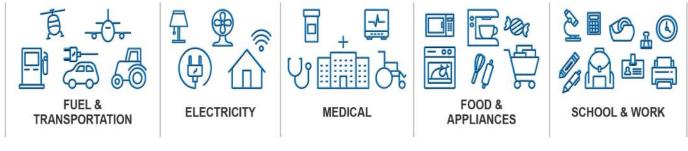
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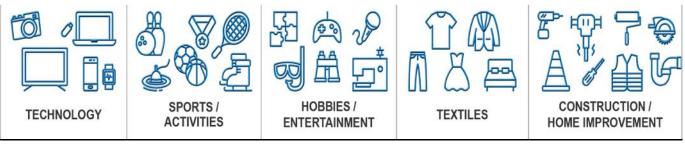
Page 15

PRODUCTS MADE POSSIBLE BY NATURAL GAS AND OIL

Article from: Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program

To create the quality of life we enjoy, there is one common denominator – natural gas and oil. It may not always be obvious where or how, but Ohio-made energy is essential to life.







SPRAINS AND STRAINS

Sprains and Strains, most often involving the back, accounted for 43% of the 1.3 million injuries and illnesses in private industry. Most cases occur in construction, transportation, and general industry.

Employers need to train workers so they can safely perform lifting tasks. Engineering controls attempt to redesign a job so lifting becomes less hazardous.

Suggested administrative controls include:

- Training employees to utilize lifting techniques that place minimal stress on the lower back.
- Physical conditioning or stretching programs to reduce the risk of muscle strain.

Suggested engineering controls include:

- A reduction in the size or weight of the object lifted. The parameters include maximum allowable weights for a given set of tasks requirements; the compactness of a package; the presence of handles, and the stability of the package being handled.
- Adjusting the height of a pallet or shelf.
 Lifting which occurs below knee height or above shoulder height is more strenuous than lifting between these limits.
 Obstructions which prevent an employee's body contact with the object being lifted also generally increase the risk of injury.
- Installation of mechanical aids such as pneumatic lifts, conveyors, and/or automated materials handling equipment.

Other Factors:

Frequency of lifting, duration of lifting activities, and type of lifting, as well as individual variables such as age, sex, body size, state of health, and general physical fitness.



Proper Lifting:

- 1. Plan your move:
 - Size up the load and make sure your path is clear.
 - Get help as needed.
 - Use a dolly or other materials handling equipment if possible.
- Use a wide, balanced stance with one foot slightly ahead of the other.
- 3. Get as close to the load as possible.
- Tighten your stomach muscles as the lift begins.
- When lifting, keep your lower back in its normal arched position and use your legs to lift.

WEST VIRGINIA UPDATE

By: Bob Matthey

Is Covid 19 for real?

We have heard so much about the Covid 19, but how bad is the virus and how dangerous is it? The SOOGA board got to see it first hand.

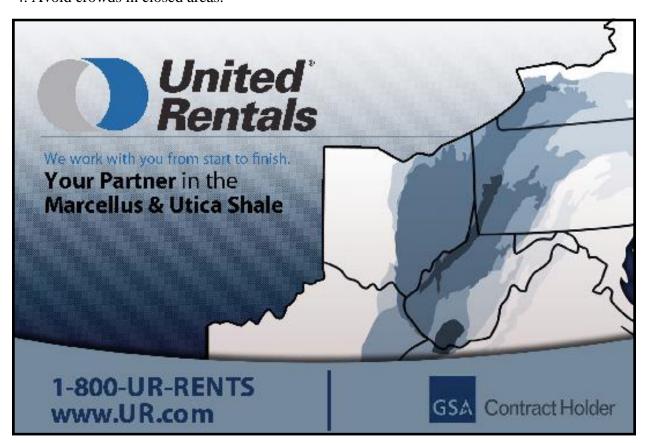
Board member Barry Bowers came down with the Coronavirus a few weeks ago. Barry's mom came down with the virus while in a nursing home. Barry had gone in to see her on 3 occasions wearing all the protective equipment. His mother passed away on a Sunday, and the following Monday evening Barry came down with the virus.

He stayed in the basement of his house for over a week. He had high temperature, upset stomach, headache and had no energy. All he wanted to do was sleep. After several days of being so lethargic, he wasn't getting better. He had to be taken by ambulance to the hospital. At the emergency room he learned the Covid had turned into pneumonia. So after a few days of treatment, he is back to work, but still tires easily.

So members, please be cautious. This virus is for real.

Follow all the precautions you have heard on the radio and TV.

- 1. Practice social distancing.
- 2. Wear a mask, if you feel inclined too!
- 3. Wash your hands on a regular basis, or use hand sanitizer.
- 4. Avoid crowds in closed areas.



SOOGA Members,

Please see the following message in regards to Steve Opritza on behalf of Chief Eric Vendel and the Division.

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you to inform you that the Division lost a member of its family in the unexpected passing of Permitting Manager Steve Opritza. Steve began working at ODNR in 1989 and worked with many of you in obtaining permits over the years. As you know, Steve was well respected both inside and outside of the Division. Steve's work ethic and personality will be greatly missed at the Division.

If you sent emails to Steve or spoke with him recently about pending permitting matters or applications, the Division asks that you contact either Michael McCormac at Michael.McCormac@dnr.state.oh.us, Andrew Adgate at Andrew.Adgate@dnr.state.oh.us, or William Grubaugh at <a href="Will-"

The Division appreciates your assistance during this difficult transition.

Sincerely, Eric Vendel, Chief Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management Eric.Vendel@dnr.state.oh.us



Alan and Sarah Tipka 2421 Johnstown Rd. NE Dover, OH 44622 Office: 330-364-4333 Fax: 330-364-1219 Email: Tipka@aol.com









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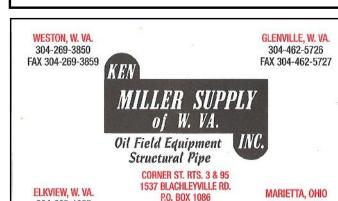
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SOOGA's Energy Insights

Hosted by Johnny Wharff Saturdays @ 9 A.M.

This program on the radio is brought to you by the Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association and can be heard every Saturday at 9 A.M. Listen to the program on any of these five stations:



Previous episodes can be found on SOOGA.org or by searching for Energy Insights WMOA on Youtube.

SOOGA's Energy Insights recently traveled to Washington DC to get a perspective of the industry on a federal level. Please listen to episode from members of the Energy and Commerce Committee as well as the person in charge of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Andrew Wheeler.

The Capitol Hill playlist:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUcBXfTWJF4N6dqRCL4byVHhnnlpmA-by All episodes:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUcBXfTWJF4MK5 1jUyxiQnMFRD eCdne

The most recent 10 episode titles are listed here.

Energy Insights featuring Oregon Congressman Greg Walden #3 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring Congressman Bill Johnson #3 WMOA Radio
Energy Insights featuring West Virginia Congressman David McKinley 2 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring Congressman Bill Johnson #2 WMOA Radio
Energy Insights featuring Oregon Congressman Greg Walden 2 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring Congressman Bill Johnson WMOA Radio
Energy Insights featuring Andrew Wheeler, Administrator of the EPA #2 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring K& S with OOGEEP WMOA Radio
Energy Insights featuring Congressman Bill Johnson #4 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring Shawn Toy with OOGEEP #2 WMOA Radio

SOUTHEAST GEOLOGY

By: Carl Heinrich (originally published in early 1980's)

Big Moses - The largest Gas Well In West Virginia (Part III)

While the Philadelphia Gas Company was struggling to tame their Big Moses well, the rest of the industry was not sitting idly by. They were out drilling wells on any lease they could obtain within miles of the giant well. Operating under the "Rule of Capture" theory, the well owner who produced the oil or gas was entitled to everything he could get out of his well, regardless of its location with respect to property lines and other producing wells. The "Rule of Capture" theory had the force of law in many states and often the courts held that a producer was obligated to drill a well to offset a well drilled right next to his property line by the owner of the adjoining lease. The courts held that he must "defend" the oil under his lease (for the benefit of the landowner) by producing it before it was "captured" by the well just across the property line.

This principle of oil and gas law lead to many "line fights." A "line fight" is a situation where two producers drill offsetting wells along a common property line in an attempt to keep the other from draining the oil from under their lease. The old maps of many early fields show many examples of this.

In looking at these maps, many examples of leases with a row of closely spaced wells on each side of a property line or around the borders of the lease can be found. Often, very few if any wells are shown for the center of the particular lease so developed. What has happened is obvious. The producer "shot his wad" in "defending" the boundaries and had no funds available to drill for the "goodies" in the center. "Mother Nature" has only put a finite quantity of oil or gas in any given strata and the closely spaced drilling in "line fight" situations resulted in over-drilling the reservoir at that particular spot so that the reservoir energy was lost. Thus, the closely spaced wells soon declined rapidly from their original high rates of flush production.

Modern conservation practices have been developed to minimize dissipation of reservoir energy through wells too closely spaced. The "Rule of Capture" is no longer the law in most jurisdictions and it has been replaced by well spacing regulations and unitization agreements.

Meanwhile, back along Indian Creek in Tyler County, rigs were everywhere. The producers soon discovered that the gas pay in the Big Moses well was actually the gas cap on top of a very prolific oil field. As the gas cap was depleted, it became possible to drill through the gas zone and down into the oil zone without experiencing the same problems experienced by the first Big Moses well.

Since the owners of the oil reserves had sold their interests in the gas, there was no incentive for them to save the gas when they drilled through the gas cap. As a result, much of the gas reserve was lost. However, the production of oil was maximized. The Big Injun sand in this field is one of the best reservoirs found in this formation in West Virginia. Porosity percentages range up to the middle twenties and permabilities as high as three thousand millidarcies have been seen in cores. With reservoir conditions like these, oil production was maximized in a very short time.

Since the new oil field was developing in a remote area, far from normal centers of commerce, a town began to grow up along Indian Creek in the vicinity of the Spencer farm. The town became known as Big Moses. A post office was established along with boarding houses, stores, supply yards, barber shops and saloons.

Page 22 THE INSIDER

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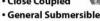




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(Continued from page 21)

The Eureka Pipe Line Company built a number of storage tanks and pumping station to move the flood of oil to market, the largest producing companies in the field were South Penn Oil Company and Victor Oil and Gas Company. South Penn developed into what is now Pennzoil Corp. while Victor was merged into the American Oil Development Co. which was bought out by Quaker State in 1949.

Big Moses was a lively little oil field boom town for several years. As was common in many of these towns, danger was present. Several incidents were recorded of men being overcome by gas fumes and falling into oil tanks.

Often this was fatal. Often fatalities occurred from other circumstances. In February, 1897, Robert Durbin killed J.W. Poindexter, a barber, over a game of cards.

As the oil production declined, other methods were used to maintain the field. In the early years of the twentieth century, the use of vacuum pumps became common. This was a process where a suction was applied to the casing heads of the producing wells in order to create pressure sink in the well bore and permit the flow of oil toward the wells in a low pressure reservoir. This was an early form of secondary recovery and was practiced for many years. When the process was used, the gas so removed from the reservoir was either vented or delivered to gas pipelines. This resulted in a loss of reservoir energy and only the continual lowering of reservoir pressure permitted the production. Eventually the pressure in the sand was lowered to less than atmospheric pressure. Thus, a well would suck air instead of blowing gas when it was opened up.

When Quaker State bought the properties in 1949 a number of improvements were made. Many wells were cleaned out and reworked in addition to being equipped for electric pumping. Compressors were installed in conjunction with the vacuum pumps and the gas was then returned into the reservoir through a series of injection wells spaced throughout the field. This was an improvement on the secondary recovery process as the reservoir was being repressured by the cycling of the gas.

By the early 1960's the gas being recycled had picked up a good quantity of air which had entered the reservoir, then at vacuum pressure, when wells were opened up for cleaning our or routine servicing. As the methane content of the recycled gas decreased, leaner mixture of air and gas did not move oil with the same efficiency as did the richer natural gas. This problem was solved by the discovery of a prolific gas well along Middle Island Creek several miles to the east of the Big Moses field. Rather that sell the gas from this well, a pipeline was laid from the well to the field and over twenty million cubic feet of rich gas was added to the recycle stream. Oil production increased and has been maintained along with a program of cleaning out and reshooting the producing wells.

During the past eighty-nine years, over 3,500,000 barrels of oil have been produced from the Big Moses Field (also known as the Kyle Field). The end does not appear to be in sight yet and additional oil may be produced in the future with improvements in secondary and tertiary recovery methods.

The town of Big Moses and the well which started it all are gone, but the memories linger as an exciting period of oil field history. The resulting monument to both is one of the most productive oil fields in the Appalachian Basin which is approaching its ninetieth year of continuous production.

By 1905, the old Big Moses well had been abandoned by the Philadelphia Gas Company. The only thing now remaining of this historic well is a piece of casing sticking out of the ground along with the turnbuckles which were set in cement almost ninety years ago by George McCutchen and J.N. Curry in their first attempt to harness the monster well. The Spencer family still owns the land around the old well and their cattle scratch themselves against the turnbuckles. In the background, a steady thump is heard from Bessemer engines running the vacuum pumps and compressors which are recycling gas through the reservoir and forcing oil out of the Big Injun sand to many nearby wells. Some of these wells are almost as old as the Big Moses well.

2020 SOOGA JUNE GOLF OUTING



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Mike Reger, Dustin Brown, Jug Mosier, JB Abicht



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Flight B- 1st Place Team- DeepRock Disposal

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Ladies Skill Prizes

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#3 Closest to the Pin - Bobbie Lauer

#16 Closest to the Pin - Dawk Hollister

#6 Longest Putt Made - Kathy Hill

#18 Longest Put Made - Bob Chase

#14 Longest Drive - Bobbie Lauer

Men or Ladies

#9 Straightest Drive - Gordie Deer

Thanks to everyone that came out for a great game of golf!!!



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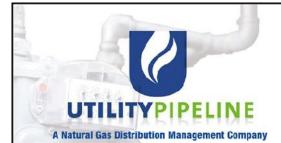
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