

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

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THE CROW'S NEST

**NEW MEMBERS** 

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** 

**GAS REPORT** 

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HASTINGS COMPRESSOR UPDATE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

GAS AND OIL PRICING

WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE
AND IPAA ACHIEVE VICTORY

SAFETY CORNER: THE 2020 FLU SEASON AND COVID-19

DEPT OF ENERGY ISSUES REPORT ON BENEFITS

SOOGA'S ENERGY INSIGHTS

SOUTHEAST GEOLOGY:THE ELK RUN POOL

2020 FALL GOLF OUTING

2020 FALL GOLF SPONSORS

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### **Important AST Update to Tank Regulations**

Article by Lippizan Petroleum

- **3** It is coming down to the wire when it comes to reviewing your operations for Aboveground Storage Tanks (AST's) in West Virginia. The DHHR
- provided updated guidance for the Zones of Critical Concern (ZCC's) and
- 4 Zones of Peripheral Concern (ZPC's) and Wellhead Protection Areas
- (WPA's). The DEP should be notifying operators of level changes on their currently registered tanks as more areas in the state have new Zone classifi-
- eations. These areas include much around Parkersburg and in Pleasants
- 12 County. This may have made tanks in your operations a Level 1 or a Level
- 2 tank. The good news is the level changes are effective January 1, 2021 rather than the original October 15, 2020 deadline. New changes in the
- tank closure begin at the end of this year, so it is best to review your opera-
- tion now to determine if you would be better off to close tanks before the end of the year. The sampling rules regarding tank closures add cost for operators so it may be best to complete needed tank closures before the new
- rules are enforced. The future looks to be full of level changes as new city water intakes and local drinking water wells will continuously shape and
- evolve the zones of concern. The time is now to review your tank lists,
- seek guidance on the rules, and ensure regulatory compliance to keep the industry moving with their best foot forward.
- You can find additional information and view a map of the 2020 Source
- Water Coverage Update for ASTs by going to <a href="http://tagis.dep.wv.gov/">http://tagis.dep.wv.gov/</a> WVWaterPlan and following the instructions on the web site.

The "level" classification previously assigned to ASTs that are located within the new coverage areas will change. WVDEP will incorporate these changes into the AST database and notify AST owners via email of their new AST level, as applicable. The level changes will be effective on January 1, 2021, instead of the October 15, 2020 effective date originally announced. For more information please reference the WV DEP site found at <a href="https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/ee/tanks/abovegroundstoragetanks/">https://dep.wv.gov/WWE/ee/tanks/abovegroundstoragetanks/</a>

#### 2020 SOOGA Tax Webinar

This year's 2020 Tax Seminar will be a one-day Webinar on November 18, 2020 9:00am – 4:30pm. This year's webinar is co-sponsored by IOGA and PIOGA. For information on the seminar and the online registration please go to: <a href="https://iogawv.com/2020-tax-seminar-registration/">https://iogawv.com/2020-tax-seminar-registration/</a>

Deadline to register is November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you have any questions please email me at mail@sooga.org or call the office at 740-374-3203.

THE INSIDER Page 2

#### THE CROW'S NEST

I hope this Crow's Nest finds you and your families healthy and safe. Please continue to apply a good dose of common sense and basic hygiene as we battle against coronavirus. As I stated in the last newsletter, "Endeavor to persevere".



With the election season in full swing and many legislators in their home districts, the legislative scene has been pretty quiet. The restart of the economy relative to coronavirus has settled in at its current level without much sign of expanding for the foreseeable future. The industry is hunkered down trying to forge ahead in trying times and equally trying oil and gas prices. We can do our part as Americans and go to the polls to vote.

Please read the articles in this issue pertaining to the methane rule on federal lands. It is good to receive a positive ruling from the courts striking down the methane rule. Also, there is a good article from the Department of Energy pointing out the benefits of oil and gas to our lives.

As the Thanksgiving holiday approaches, I hope we take time to give thanks for our many blessings.

#### For me, it is:

- 1. Family.
- 2. Our health.
- 3. The things we often take for granted that satisfy our basic needs.
- 4. Laughter.....it is truly the best medicine.
- 5. Our industry and the many friends and colleagues we work with every day.
- 6. The freedom we enjoy by living in the greatest country in the world.
- 7. Our own personal beliefs and the freedom to exercise them.

In many ways I think 2020 has caused me to simplify my life. Some of you may have done the same. You may have been forced to do so or may have done so by choice. Either way, I hope all of us become better for it and enter 2021 on a great personal path forward. God bless all of you and God bless America.

Keep your head down and keep digging.

Don Huck, President VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3

Page 3

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

#### JON ROGERS

Associate-Contractor Locus Bio-Energy Solutions 2408 Timberloch Place, Suite B7 The Woodlands, TX 77380 832-620-3100

## Southeastern Ohio Oil & Gas Association Board of Trustees - 2020 <u>OFFICERS</u>

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## **2020 Directory Corrections**

#### Mark Perone, Jr.

MPJ Water Services, LLC P.O. Box 362 Zanesville, OH 43702-0362 740-607-0305

Email: markperone@yahoo.com

## **TRUSTEES**

#### **Kathy Hill**

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#### Roger Heldman

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#### **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



Page 4

## Southeastern Ohio Oil and Gas Association Gas Committee Report October, 2020

### **PRICING**

### Prices October 13, 2020

NYMEX Settle – Oct2020	\$2.10
One Year NYMEX strip (Nov. 2020 – Oct. 2021)	\$3.01
Summer NYMEX strip for 2020 (April-October, 2021)	\$2.90
Winter NYMEX strip – 2020 (Nov., 2020 – Mar. 2021)	\$3.19
TCO Index Posting – October, 2020	\$1.20
DTI Index Posting – October, 2020	\$1.00

## Working gas in underground storage, Lower 48 states

					Historical Comparisons			
	Stocks billion cubic feet (Bcf)			<b>Year ago</b> (10/02/19)		<b>5-year average</b> (2015-19)		
Region	10/02/20	09/25/20	net change	implied flow	Bcf	% change	Bcf	% change
East	893	872	21	21	846	5.6	852	4.8
Midwest	1,062	1,033	29	29	999	6.3	979	8.5
Mountain	236	231	5	5	202	16.8	209	12.9
Pacific	318	316	2	2	295	7.8	310	2.6
South Central	1,322	1,304	18	18	1,047	26.3	1,088	21.5
Salt	366	358	8	8	226	61.9	268	36.6
Nonsalt	955	945	10	10	820	16.5	819	16.6
Total	3,831	3,756	75	75	3,387	13.1	3,437	11.5

(continued page 6)

## CDL TRAINING CLASS A & B WEEKDAY & WEEKEND CLASSES



1.800.648.3695 WWW.THECAREERCENTER.NET



## 2020 SOOGA Calendar of Events

## 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.

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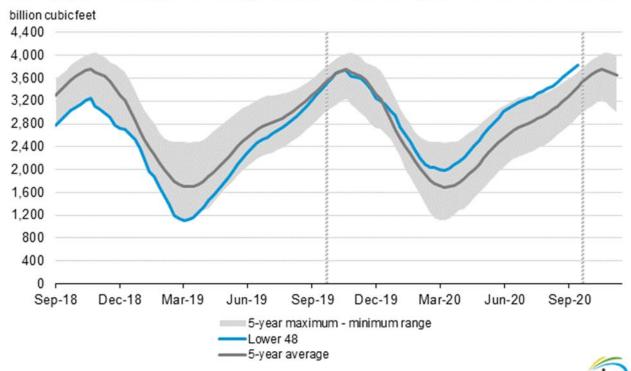
THE INSIDER Page 6

#### (continued from page 4)

#### **Summary**

Working gas in storage was 3,831 Bcf as of Friday, October 2, 2020, according to EIA estimates. This represents a net increase of 75 Bcf from the previous week. Stocks were 444 Bcf higher than last year at this time and 394 Bcf above the five-year average of 3,437 Bcf. At 3,831 Bcf, total working gas is above the five-year historical range.

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



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration

## Prices/Supply/Demand

**Northeast prices rise**. At the Algonquin Citygate, which serves Boston-area consumers, the price went up 31¢ from \$1.13/MMBtu last Wednesday to a high of \$1.44/MMBtu yesterday. At the Transcontinental Pipeline Zone 6 trading point for New York City, the price increased 20¢ from \$0.95/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.15/MMBtu yesterday after reaching a low of \$0.50/MMBtu on Thursday. Maintenance on the Rover Pipeline at the Cadiz Compressor Station in Eastern Ohio on October 8 reduced receipt nominations by an estimated 1.0 Bcf/d according to Genscape.

The Tennessee Zone 4 Marcellus spot price increased 22¢ from \$0.88/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.10/MMBtu yesterday. The price at Dominion South in southwest Pennsylvania rose 18¢ from \$0.95/MMBtu last Wednesday to \$1.13/MMBtu yesterday.

(continued to page 8)

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ron.anderson@weatherford.com www.lubrizol.com

## Oilfield Solutions

(continued from page 6)

**Supply rises slightly**. According to data from IHS Markit, the average total supply of natural gas rose by 0.5% compared with the previous report week. Dry natural gas production decreased by 0.2% compared with the previous report week amid production shut-ins in the Gulf of Mexico due to Hurricane Delta. Average net imports from Canada increased by 14.8% from last week.

**Demand rises because of heating demand in buildings**. Total U.S. consumption of natural gas rose by 6.9% compared with the previous report week, according to data from IHS Markit. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption increased by 49.3%. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 2.1% week over week. Industrial sector consumption increased by 2.0% week over week. Natural gas exports to Mexico decreased 6.7%. Natural gas deliveries to U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) export facilities (LNG pipeline receipts) averaged 7.3 Bcf/d, or 0.8 Bcf/d higher than last week.

**U.S. LNG exports are flat week over week**. Fourteen liquefied natural gas (LNG) vessels (six from Sabine Pass, four from Freeport, three from Corpus Christi, and one from Cameron) with a combined LNG-carrying capacity of 52 Bcf departed the United States between October 1 and October 7, according to shipping data provided by Marine Traffic.

Cove Point LNG terminal remains shut down for a scheduled annual maintenance. Cameron LNG has resumed exports and shipped first post-Hurricane Laura cargo on October 5.

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.

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.

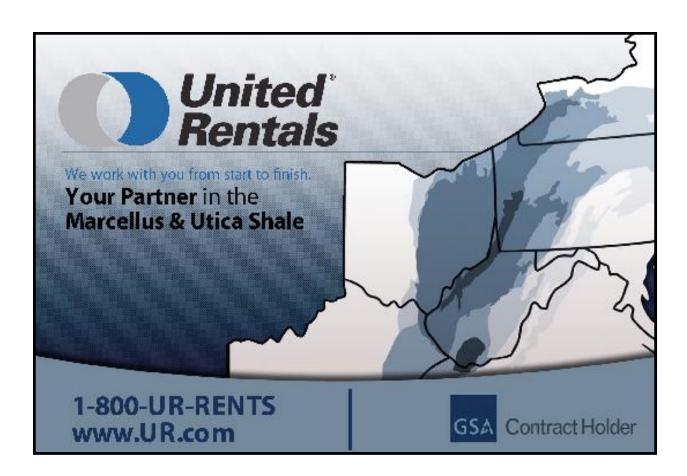




## HASTINGS COMPRESSOR UPDATE

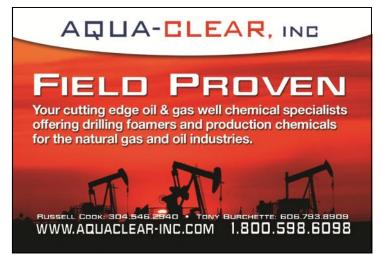
Article provided by Roger Heldman

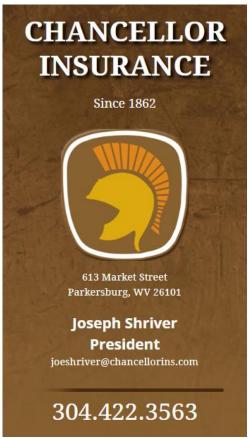
On August 31st, 2020 operators were notified that Dominion Energy's Hastings Extraction Plant was shut down for unplanned maintenance. All gathering wet compression and direct taps into the wet gathering system were shut in. Since then we have learned that the C300 compressor on the outlet side of the extraction plant, located at Pine Grove WV, is shut down. Follow up notices seem to indicate the problem was more extensive than originally thought. The latest notice indicates the plant will be out of service through late November.



THE INSIDER Page 10







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## 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.

SINCERELY, SOOGA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE





## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202 https://www.blm.gov



IN REPLY REFER TO: 3160(03200)

September 17, 2020



Dear Operator,

On November 18, 2016, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued a final rule concerning, among other things, the waste of Federal and Indian gas through venting, flaring, and leaks ("2016 Waste Prevention Rule"). 81 Fed. Reg. 83,008 (Nov. 18, 2016). The rule replaced NTL-4A (Notice to Lessees and Operators of Onshore Federal and Indian Oil and Gas Leases, Royalty or Compensation for Oil and Gas Lost (Jan. 1, 1980)), which is the BLM's prior regulation governing the royalty-free use of production and the surface waste of oil and gas. The 2016 Waste Prevention Rule became effective on January 17, 2017; however, due to a series of administrative and judicial interventions, the rule was never fully implemented.

Shortly after the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule was published, industry groups and certain states with significant BLM-administered oil and gas development filed petitions for judicial review of the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule in the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming. Wyoming v. DOI, Case No. 2:16-cv-00285-SWS (D. Wyo.). Ultimately, the Wyoming District court stayed implementation of much of the rule, pending finalization of the BLM's voluntary revision of the rule.

On September 28, 2018, the BLM issued a final rule revising the 2016 Rule ("2018 Revision Rule"). 83 Fed. Reg. 49,184 (Sept. 28, 2018). In September 2018, a coalition of litigation groups and states filed lawsuits challenging the 2018 Revision Rule in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. *California v. Bernhardt*, Case No. 4:18-cv-05712-YGR (N.D. Cal.). On July 15, 2020, the California district court ruled in favor of plaintiffs and ordered that the 2018 Revision Rule be vacated. *California v. Bernhardt*, No. 4:18-cv-05712-YGR, 2020 WL 4001480 (N.D. Cal. July 15, 2020). The court stayed vacatur until October 13, 2020. *Id.* Notably, the *Wyoming v. DOI* case was never dismissed. On July 21, 2020, the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming lifted the stay in that case. Briefing in the case was completed on September 4, 2020, and a decision is pending. Thus, the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule will come into effect on October 13, 2020, unless it is stayed or vacated by another court before that date.

The 2016 Waste Prevention Rule applies to all onshore Federal and Indian oil and gas leases, units, and communitized areas. The rule has two major components: (1) rules governing the royalty-free use of oil or gas, and (2) rules intended to limit the waste of oil or gas, especially the waste of gas through venting, flaring, and leaks. (The rules governing royalty-free use have been in effect since January 17, 2017.). In addition to updating and codifying the NTL-4A requirements, the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule also imposes the following requirements: (1) operators must submit a "waste minimization plan" with any application for permit to drill (APD) an oil well; (2) operators must capture a certain percentage of the gas they produce; (3) operators must minimize emissions from pneumatic equipment and storage tanks; and, (4) operators must implement leak detection and repair (LDAR) procedures. Certain provisions allow operators to obtain exemptions or reduced requirements where compliance would "cause the operator to cease production and abandon significant recoverable oil reserves under the lease."

As an operator, you should review the regulatory text of the 2016 Waste Prevention Rule to determine your compliance obligations under the rule. As cited above, that rule may be found at 81 Fed. Reg. 83,008 (Nov. 18, 2016).

See ruling on page 15



THE INSIDER Page 14

#### **GAS PRICING 2020**

#### SEPTEMBER 2020

NYMEX Settlement: \$2.5790 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.1100 (Basis: -\$1.469) Inside FERC/TCO:\$1.700 (Basis: -\$0.879)

#### **OCTOBER 2020**

NYMEX Settlement: \$2.1010 Inside FERC/DTI: \$1.000 (Basis: -\$1.101) Inside FERC/TCO:\$1.2000 (Basis: -\$0.901)

#### **OIL PRICING 2020**

#### ERGON OIL PURCHASING WEST VIRGINIA MONTHLY AVERAGE

August Ohio Tier 1: \$41.1861 August Ohio Tier 2: \$38.1861

August Ohio Tier 3: \$36.1861

August West Virginia Tier 1: \$41.1861 August West Virginia Tier 2: \$38.1861

August West Virginia Tier 3: \$36.1861

August Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$21.1861

August Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$41.1861 August Marcellus/Utica Light: \$32.1861

September Ohio Tier 1: \$38.6277

September Ohio Tier 2: \$35.6277

September Ohio Tier 3: \$33.6277

September West Virginia Tier 1: \$38.6277

September West Virginia Tier 2: \$35.6277

September July West Virginia Tier 3: \$33.6277

September Marcellus/Utica Condensate: \$18.6277 September Marcellus/Utica Medium: \$38.6277

September Marcellus/Utica Light: \$29.6277

**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 inter-

net at:

#### www.ergon.com

#### **OIL PRICING 2020**

#### AMERICAN REFINING GROUP AVERAGE

8/21 to 8/31 Group 1 OH: \$41.81

Group 2 OH: \$38.81

Group 3 OH: \$36.81

9/01 to 9/10 Group 1 OH: \$38.68

Group 2 OH: \$35.68

Group 3 OH: \$33.68

9/11 to 9/20 Group 1 OH: \$38.20

Group 2 OH: \$35.20

Group 3 OH: \$33.20

9/21 to 9/30 Group 1 OH: \$39.00

Group 2 OH: \$36.00

Group 3 OH: \$34.00

10/01 to 10/10 Group 1 OH: \$38.21

Group 2 OH: \$35.21

Group 3 OH: \$33.21

10/11 to 10/20 Group 1 OH: \$39.72

Group 2 OH:\$36.72

Group 3 OH:\$ 34.72

# 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

#### www.amref.com

VOLUME 36, ISSUE 3 Page 15

### Western Energy Alliance and IPAA Achieve Victory Overturning the BLM Obama Methane Rule

**DENVER** – Western Energy Alliance and the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) today achieved an important victory in the U.S. District Court for Wyoming, along with the states of Montana, North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming. <u>Judge Scott Skavdahl's decision</u> vacated the 2016 waste prevention rule, an overreaching methane regulation finalized in the waning days of the Obama Administration that unlawfully granted air quality authority to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

When the rule was originally finalized in November 2016 at the end of President Barack Obama's administration, the Alliance and IPAA along with the states challenged it in the Wyoming court. The Trump Administration finalized a new rule in 2018 that corrected the unlawful aspects of the original. When environmental groups, California and New Mexico obtained a court ruling overturning the 2018 rule from the Northern District of California, our case in Wyoming was restarted. Today's ruling by Judge Scott Skavdahl ends the seesawing litigation between the two courts.

"We are overjoyed that an overreaching regulation has been overturned today. Judge Skavdahl agreed with us that BLM does not have the authority to regulate air quality," said **Kathleen Sgamma, president of Western Energy Alliance**. "BLM can regulate waste of methane, but not put in place air quality controls and regulate existing sources. The Clean Air Act gives that authority to EPA and the states. Hopefully, we can quit playing boomerang between the two courts and get back to sensible regulation within BLM's purview. Meanwhile, companies have continued a decades-long trend of reducing methane emissions by nearly 23% since 1990 even as natural gas production has increased more than 50%."

"IPAA is pleased with Judge Skavdahl's ruling to vacate the Obama-Era Waste Prevention Rule that wildly overstepped the authority given to the Department of the Interior," said **Barry Rusell, IPAA President and CEO**. "This rule, which aimed to regulate venting and flaring, was an attempt to create yet another regulatory hurdle for American oil and natural gas producers operating on federal lands. We are pleased to see Skavdahl's sensible approach and rightfully see this as a win for producers."

#### **Regulatory and Litigation Timeline:**

In November 2016, the Obama Administration issued the final Waste Prevention Rule, and it went into effect January 17, 2017, three days before Donald Trump became president. The Alliance and IPAA immediately challenged the rule in the District Court of Wyoming. That challenge was joined by the states of Montana, North Dakota, Texas and Wyoming.

- In September 2018, finalized a revision rule that focused on BLM's authority to regulate waste under the Mineral Leasing Act and removed the provisions of the 2016 rule that were literally copied and pasted from EPA Clean Air Act regulation. Environmental groups and the states of California and New Mexico challenged the Trump rule in the Northern District of California.
- In July 2020, the California court overturned the Trump revision rule, ordering the 2016 rule to go into effect on October 13, 2020. The Alliance and IPAA have joined the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the government in appealing that ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court.

In response, the Alliance, IPAA and the four states restarted the case against the 2016 rule in Wyoming, which had been put on hold when the 2018 revision rule was finalized. With today's ruling, the 2016 rule has been overturned.
####

#### **About Western Energy Alliance**

Western Energy Alliance represents 300 companies engaged in all aspects of environmentally responsible exploration and production of oil and natural gas in the West. Alliance members are independents, the majority of which are small businesses with an average of fourteen employees. Learn more at www.WesternEnergyAlliance.org.

#### **About the Independent Petroleum Association of America**

The Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) is a national upstream trade association representing thousands of independent oil and natural gas producers and service companies across the United States. Independent producers develop 91 percent of the nation's oil and natural gas wells. These companies account for 83 percent of America's oil production, 90 percent of its natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) production, and support over 4.5 million American jobs. Learn more about IPAA by visiting <a href="https://www.ipaa.org">www.ipaa.org</a> and following <a href="https://www.ipaa.org">@IPAAaccess</a> on Twitter.



Curtis Speck, CEO/President Safety Resources Company of Ohio, Inc.

#### The 2020 Flu Season and COVID-19

The flu season is rapidly approaching. This year we not only have to deal with flu but also with COVID-19. Currently influenza cases worldwide are low and it is believed that many of the mitigation techniques used to combat COVID-19 will also prevent the spread of the flu, but the truth is, we just don't know how flu season and COVID-19 will impact one another.

Both the flu and COVID-19 are spread from person-to-person amongst people who are in close contact with one another. Respiratory droplets formed when people with the illness cough, sneeze or talk is the most common mode of transmission. Transmission can occur directly by airborne droplets or indirectly by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

It is important to know that you can get both the flu and COVID-19 at the same time and it is often hard to tell the difference. Both are potentially serious respiratory conditions. Both can have widely varying degrees of signs and symptoms that can range from no symptoms at all to severe symptoms. Symptoms that are the same for both conditions include fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches and pains, and headache. The most prevalent difference between the two is a new loss of taste or smell that is common with COVID-19. Because of the similarity in symptoms, it is often difficult to diagnose without testing. Testing is also important in order to obtain an effective treatment plan.

Having COVID-19 does not protect you from the flu and having the flu does not protect you from COVID-19. Experts are recommending that everyone over the age of 6 months (with rare exceptions) get the flu shot. Flu vaccinations have been proven to be safe and effective against various strains of the flu. The flu vaccine does not provide any protection against COVID-19, but it does have significant benefits in reducing the risk of illness, hospitalization and death from the flu. Getting a flu vaccination does not increase your risk of getting COVID-19.

How illness in the workplace is handled this year will probably look dramatically different than it has in the past. Make sure your place of employment has a plan in place to deal with anyone who arrives sick or who becomes sick during the day. Be sure to share the plan with all workers. And, of course, as an employee, if you are feeling ill with signs and symptoms consistent with the flu or COVID-19, stay home and contact your physician. Do not risk your well-being or the well-being of others by "toughing it out" and going to work.



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## Department of Energy Issues Report on Benefits of U.S. Oil and Natural Gas: Providing Energy Security and Supporting Our Quality of Life

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Fossil Energy (FE) announced the release of a new report: U.S. Oil and Natural Gas: Providing Energy Security and Supporting Our Quality of Life. This report acknowledges the critical role of advanced energy technology innovation in maintaining U.S. economic success and providing a sustainable domestic energy supply for the future, while recognizing the important benefits the oil and natural gas sector provides in our daily lives.

At an energy and manufacturing roundtable in New Mexico, Deputy Secretary of Energy Mark W. Menezes announced the release of the report. "Oil and natural gas provide more than two-thirds of the energy Americans consume daily. In addition to meeting our energy needs, these fossil fuel resources are integral to our standard of living," said Deputy Secretary Menezes. "This report delves into the importance of these resources, the five key technologies that have supported the industry's advancement, the opportunities for future domestic energy growth, and more."

Over the next two decades, oil and natural gas are projected to account for the majority of energy consumption in the United States. Not only is natural gas the largest contributor to the Nation's electric power generation, but oil and natural gas combined are revitalizing the U.S. petrochemical manufacturing industry, supplying high-tech materials, increasing commerce from exporting liquefied natural gas, supporting renewable energy, and creating well-paying jobs across the country.

"The Department's efforts performing the early-stage research and working with industry to develop the technology have helped make this success possible. While the United States was once heavily reliant on oil and natural gas imports, we are now a major supplier in international energy markets," said Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy Steven Winberg. "We will continue to foster relationships with industry, academia, state agencies, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations to drive innovation forward, to underpin U.S. economic growth and energy security." Visit FE's <a href="website">website</a> to download the U.S. Oil and Natural Gas: Providing Energy Security and Supporting Our Quality of Life report.

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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:

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#### The most recent 10 episode titles are listed here.

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Energy Insights featuring Congressman Bill Johnson #4 WMOA Radio	Energy Insights featuring Shawn Toy with OOGEEP #2 WMOA Radio

#### THE ELK RUN POOL

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

Continuing with a study of some of the areas of Berea oil production which were discovered before 1900, the Elk Run Pool will be discussed this month. Before getting into the subject, it might be germane to understand the distinction between the terms "field" and 'pool". When correctly applied an oil pool is an area with a number of wells all producing from a distinct geologic formation. In this case we will be discussing the geologic characteristics of a number of wells which are producing from the Berea. This would be known as the Elk Run Berea oil pool. This pool is part of a larger area known as an oil field. When correctly applied, the term oil field is an area of production where the wells can produce from more than one geologic formation. Generally an oil field will cover a bigger geographic area than that of a pool. In the case under discussion the Elk Run Pool is part of the much larger Archers Fork Field. This Field has production from a number of zones from the Cow Run down to the Ohio Shale.

In the Appalachian area, many of the pool and field distinctions have been loosely applied over the years. In other states where spacing proration or drilling regulations have been administered on a pool or field jurisdiction, the naming and definition of these pools and fields has been important and critical. In these cases, the designation had economic merit and was done only after considerable deliberation.

The Elk Run Pool is located in Independence Twp., Washington County. The original development began in sections 24,29,30 and 35. The initial production in the area was from the Big Injun sand, but this was of small magnitude. Since good oil production had been found in Archers Fork in 1893, deeper drilling to the Berea in the Elk Run area was done in the hopes of finding larger wells. The first successful well in this area

to produce from the Berea was drilled on the Mary Smith farm which was owned by the Alford Brothers. This well was completed in the spring of 1898.

This well started a flurry of drilling activity which lasted through the end of 1900.

When finally developed, the Elk Run Pool covered an area two miles long and three quarters of a mile wide. Within this area the Berea was found to have a thickness of up to twenty feet. Outside the defined limits of the pool the Berea was thin and of such a poor quality that it was considered non-productive by the original operators.

One condition which merits mention is the Welsh Stray zone of this area. Like the Welsh Stray found in other areas of Washington County, this is an interval of siltstone and shale which lies above the Sunbury shale found just above the Berea. The Sunbury is also known by the driller's term of "Coffee Shale". In many parts of Independence Township the Welsh Stray will be well developed as a siltstone or very fine grained sandstone and also carry a show of oil or gas. It does not exhibit enough porosity and permeability to permit production by natural means, but could do so after stimulation by fracturing.

The significance of this Welsh Stray section is that it could be mistaken for the Berea by a driller who was unfamiliar with the area. This would be most likely in a situation where the Berea was very thin or absent. A driller unfamiliar with the area and formations could drill through the Welsh Stray, get a small show of oil or gas, and assume that it was a poor section of Berea and that the well was dry. Even if they drilled the extra footage to get through the Sunbury to the Berea, nothing would be found.

Page 22 THE INSIDER

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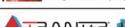
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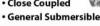


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#### (continued from page 21)

In drilling the early wells there was no incentive for drilling any distance below the Berea as there were no known deeper sands. Thus, once they were a few feet below the Berea the old timers generally stopped drilling. Thus, it is also possible that a section of Welsh Stray was drilled which was mistaken for Berea, drilling was stopped before reaching the actual Berea, and the well was considered a dry hole.

Because the interval between the bottom of Squaw and the Berea can be variable, interval alone cannot differentiate between the two formations when working with old drillers' logs which do not extend a good distance below what may be referred to as "Berea". In the case just discussed it is possible that some edge locations may have been considered dry during the original development of a Berea pool in this area. In recent drilling with good samples and logging, this can be eliminated.

In the Elk Run Pool the pay section of Berea ranged from coarse grained and soft to fine grained and hard. Generally the entire Berea section was considered to be productive. The largest well in the pool began producing at 800 barrels of oil per day in the Spring of 1899. By August of 1900 it's production had declined to 40 barrels per day. The cumulative

production for this period is unknown, but it must have been well over 15,000 barrels. This well was the exception, as the average initial production of the wells was around 40 B.O.P.D.

Many of the early wells began as flowing wells, but declining gas pressure soon necessitated pumping. The oil was 51° gravity with a high paraffin content. This paraffin caused clogging of the sand which was removed by periodic shooting with nitroglycerine.

Because of the depth of many of the wells (2000-2300 feet) this field was not as closely drilled as many of the early fields.

By the time of the First World War the production had declined to the point where the casing and equipment was worth more then the small production income. With casing in short supply and high demand due to the war, many wells were pulled to salvage the pipe. In a number of cases these wells would have been good stripper producers for many more years had they been properly cared for.

Thus one of Washington County's early Berea fields came to a premature end. However, recent deeper drilling in the area has provided logs and data to permit a "second look" at this interesting area.



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