



NOC Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 3

March 2009

Chairman's Column

At our February luncheon, **Art Johnson** made an excellent and very informative presentation on the development path for Hydrate Natural Gas.

At a time when the federal government is making plans to spend billions of tax dollars on some very questionable energy sources, we can find some comfort knowing that work is being done on this potentially huge energy resource.

This month Mike Fein has lined up **Chester Young**, with Baker Hughes Inteq, as our speaker. He will discuss "Log Examples for Engineers and Geologists". Since its invention some eighty years ago, the wireline electric log has become one of the basic tools for oil and gas exploration and development. Extraordinary technical advances have been made in logging equipment and services over the years, resulting in a wide range of available downhole data. This presentation will update us on the current state of the logging world.

The National "Active Company List" is back on! **Ed Picou** is refining our contribution for emailing to Dallas.

By now you should have received the hard-copy package for the national convention in April. This information is also available on the SIPES website. The deadline for hotel reservations at the convention rate is March 26, 2009.

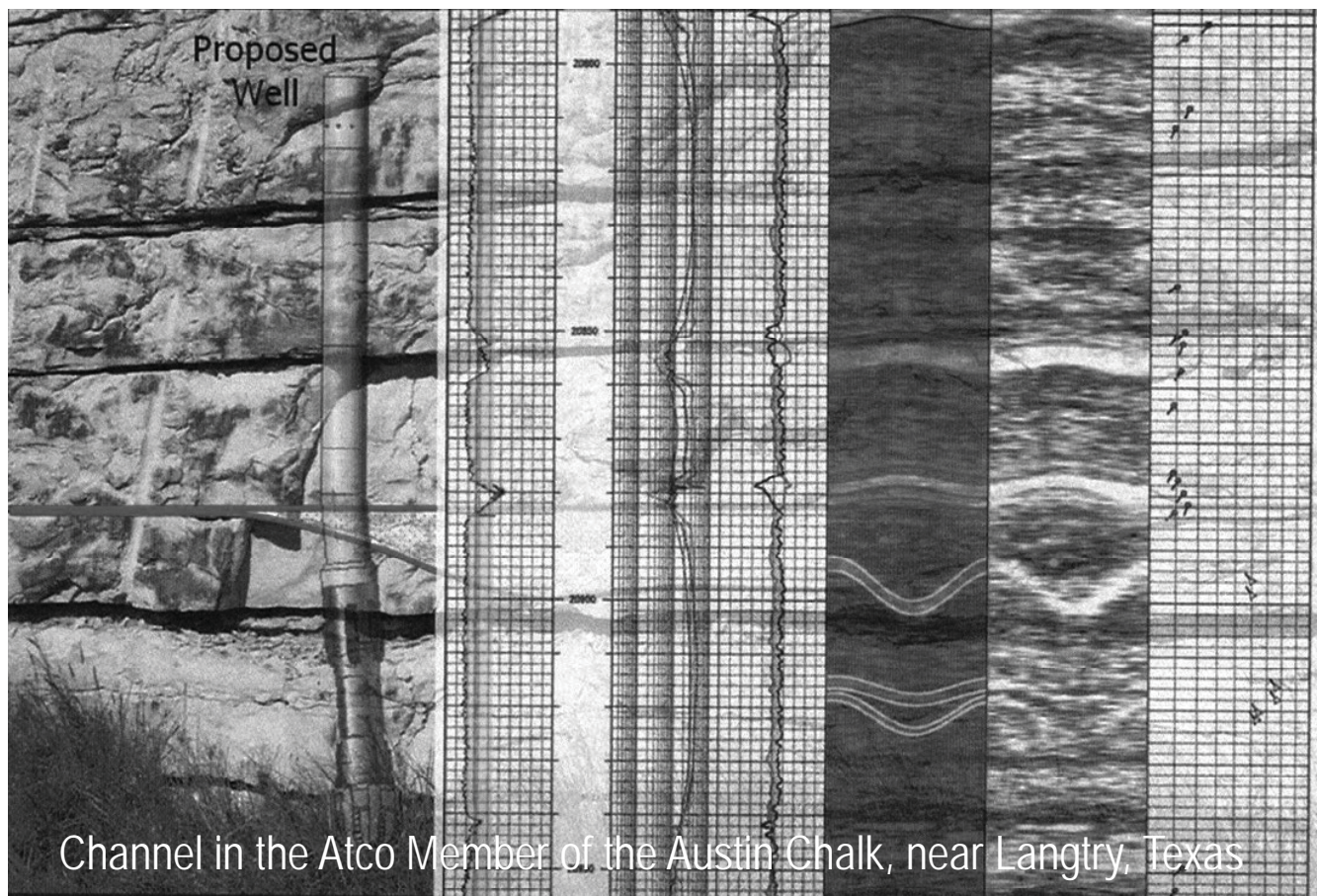
Louis Lemarie'

Chester Young Baker Hughes Inteq



Log Examples for Geologists and Engineers

Tuesday, March 17th
11:30 - Social
Noon - Luncheon Seating
Andrea's Restaurant - Metairie



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The Energy Information Highway

Some energy analysts predict that Mexico, the third largest supplier of oil to the U.S., may cease exporting oil in four to five years. Oil exports declined about 17% in 2008.

Energy producing windmills, at best, generate only 30% of their rated output! If California, the nation's leader in wind power, quadrupled its capacity, it would be the equivalent of building one nuclear power plant.

U.S. Energy score card: Oil 40%; Natural gas and coal 46%; nuclear 8%; renewable (including Hydroelectric) 6%.

What real science says: "Green energy" with current technology cannot run America, or the world, at the level they run on now.

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SIPES ANNUAL MEETING April 27-30, 2009

Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

Co-hosted SIPES National and the Fort Worth Chapter

Deep Drilling for "Black Smoker" Clues

UC Davis News and Information

A project to learn more about extracting energy from hot rocks on land should give clues about "black smokers," hydrothermal vents that belch superheated water and minerals deep below the ocean.

As part of the Iceland Deep Drilling Project, researchers from UC Davis, UC Riverside, Stanford University and the University of Oregon plan to sink a deep borehole into a site on land where seawater circulates through deep, hot rock. Most such sites on land have circulating fresh water, with very different chemistry.

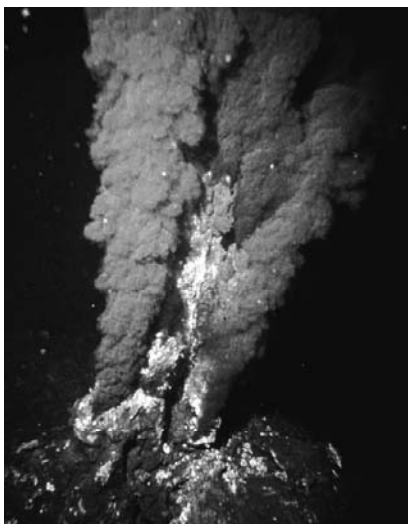
"It's the dry land version of a deep sea hydrothermal vent," said Robert Zierenberg, professor of geology at UC Davis. Zierenberg and another geology professor, Peter Schiffman, are the UC Davis members of the research team. "It's the first opportunity to look at rocks and fluid together and in situ."

Deep ocean hydrothermal vents support unique communities of living things that, unlike most ecosystems on Earth, draw no energy from the sun. The vents also generate unusual, and possibly valuable, deposits of copper, zinc and other minerals.

Zierenberg said it is technically challenging to drill into rocks that are under high pressure and bathed in corrosive fluids at 450 degrees Celsius (840 degrees Fahrenheit), but it is easier than trying to drill deep below the sea floor in the deepest parts of the ocean.

The Iceland Deep Drilling Project is supported by the Icelandic power industry and government, in collaboration with U.S. government agencies. It aims to drill deep boreholes to learn more about processes in deep, hot rocks, with the goal of producing more energy from a single geothermal well. Iceland already gets half of its electrical power and meets much of its needs for space heating and hot water from geothermal energy.

The university research project is supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the International Continental Drilling Program. The researchers expect to start drilling in the summer of 2008.



U.S. oil demand continues slowdown

API Washington

Total U.S. refined oil product demand continued to fall in January though the month's 3.1 percent year-on-year decline was more moderate than 2008's six-percent annual fall, according to API's Monthly Statistical Report.

While overall oil demand, as measured as domestic deliveries, was down in January to 19.5 million barrels per day, U.S. gasoline demand registered its first monthly year-on-year increase in more than 12 months.

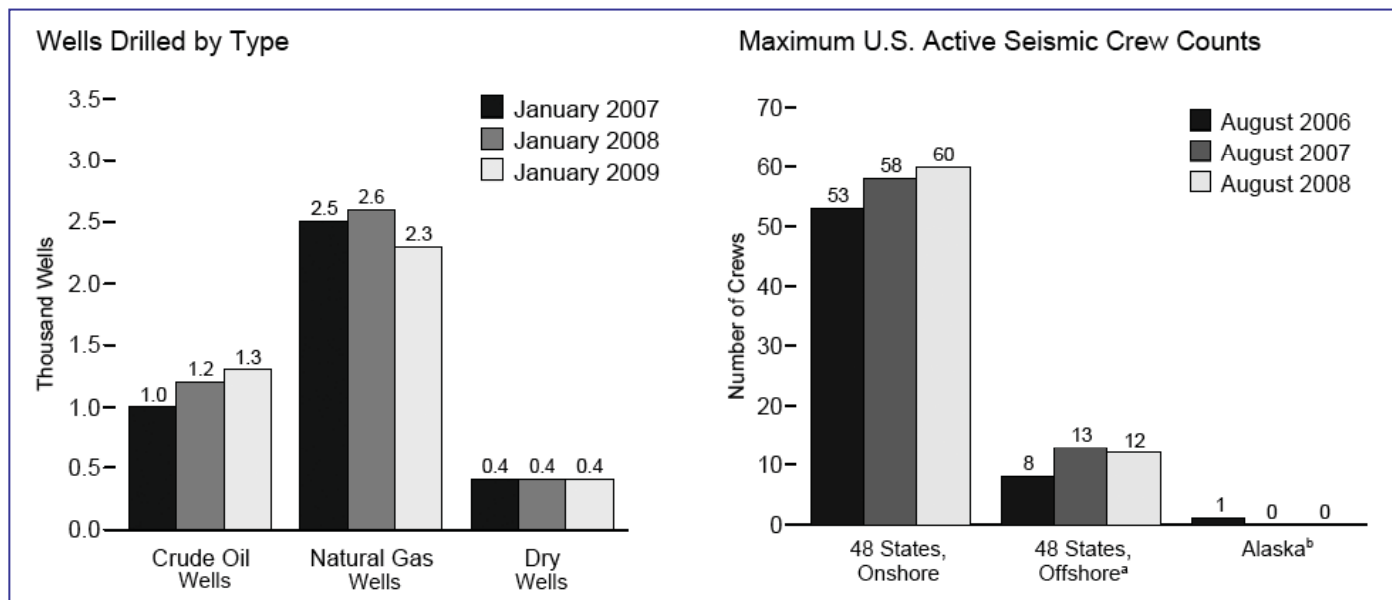
U.S. gasoline demand grew 1.7 percent over year-ago levels, the API data show. Deliveries of distillate fuel oil, which includes diesel fuel, fell 3.5 percent, and jet fuel deliveries slipped nearly 9 percent. Residual fuel oil deliveries were up 6.2 percent from last January's record low.

"All told, weak demand across the board has given us the lowest deliveries for January in seven years," said API statistics manager Ron Planting.

U.S. crude oil production rose above 5.1 million barrels per day in January as a 1.8 percent increase in output from the lower 48 states offset a 1.1 percent decline in Alaskan crude oil production. U.S. gasoline production rose 1.7 percent from year-ago levels as a record amount of gasoline was produced during the month of January. U.S. refiners produced 6.7 percent more distillate in January compared with year-ago levels, also a record for the month.

Import volumes continued to reflect weakening oil demand, as the combined volume of crude oil and product imports dropped to the lowest January level since 2005 at 12.9 million barrels per day. Crude oil imports fell to 9.66 million barrels per day, the lowest level for the month in five years.

Inventories of crude oil and all major refined products rose during the month. Crude stocks ended the month at their highest end-January level since 1990. Unusually, distillate inventories posted a counter-seasonal build and gasoline inventories also climbed during the month.



Source: Energy Information Administration

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