

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Volume 59

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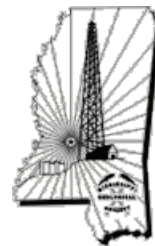
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Brian Sims

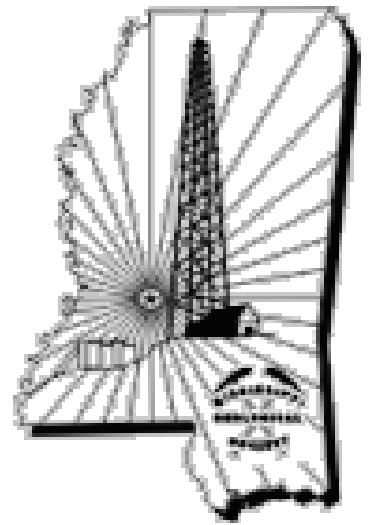
Fellow Members:

Our speaker this month is Kevin Macumber, EOR Manager with Tellus Operating Group. He will update us on Tellus' CO2 EOR project a Raleigh Field in Smith Co., MS. Get there early for the best seats.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Boland Scholarship program. As you are aware, MGS gives four scholarships each year to one student from each of the colleges in Mississippi that offer Geology degrees. Dave Cate faithfully administers this program for the MGS. Donations are accepted at any time and help to perpetuate the program and hopefully grow it to where larger scholarships can be given in the future by our society.

Again, thanks to all who have contributed in the past.

-Brian Sims



MGS

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A Good Read

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Fall BBQ Sponsors

Members in good standing.

MGS Advertising Notice

**MGS Boland Scholarship
Fund**

MGS Honorary Members



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 9, 2010	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 7, 2010	Art Johnson: RECENT DISCOVERIES IN SOUTH LOUISIANA FIELDS REJUVENATE PRODUCTION	River Hills
November 11, 2010	Kevin Macumber: CO2 EOR project a Raleigh Field in Smith Co., MS	River Hills
December 5, 2010	Christmas Party and Dance	Colonial Country Club
January 13, 2011	TBA	River Hills
February 10, 2011	Nape: Houston, TX?	
March 10, 2011	TBA	River Hills
April 14, 2011	TBA	River Hills
May 13, 2011	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club



Brian, quit hiding under that sheet and send me a President's letter!

OFFICERS MEETINGS

August 27, 2010

September 1, 2010

September 28, 2010

November 3, 2010

December 1, 2010

January 5, 2011

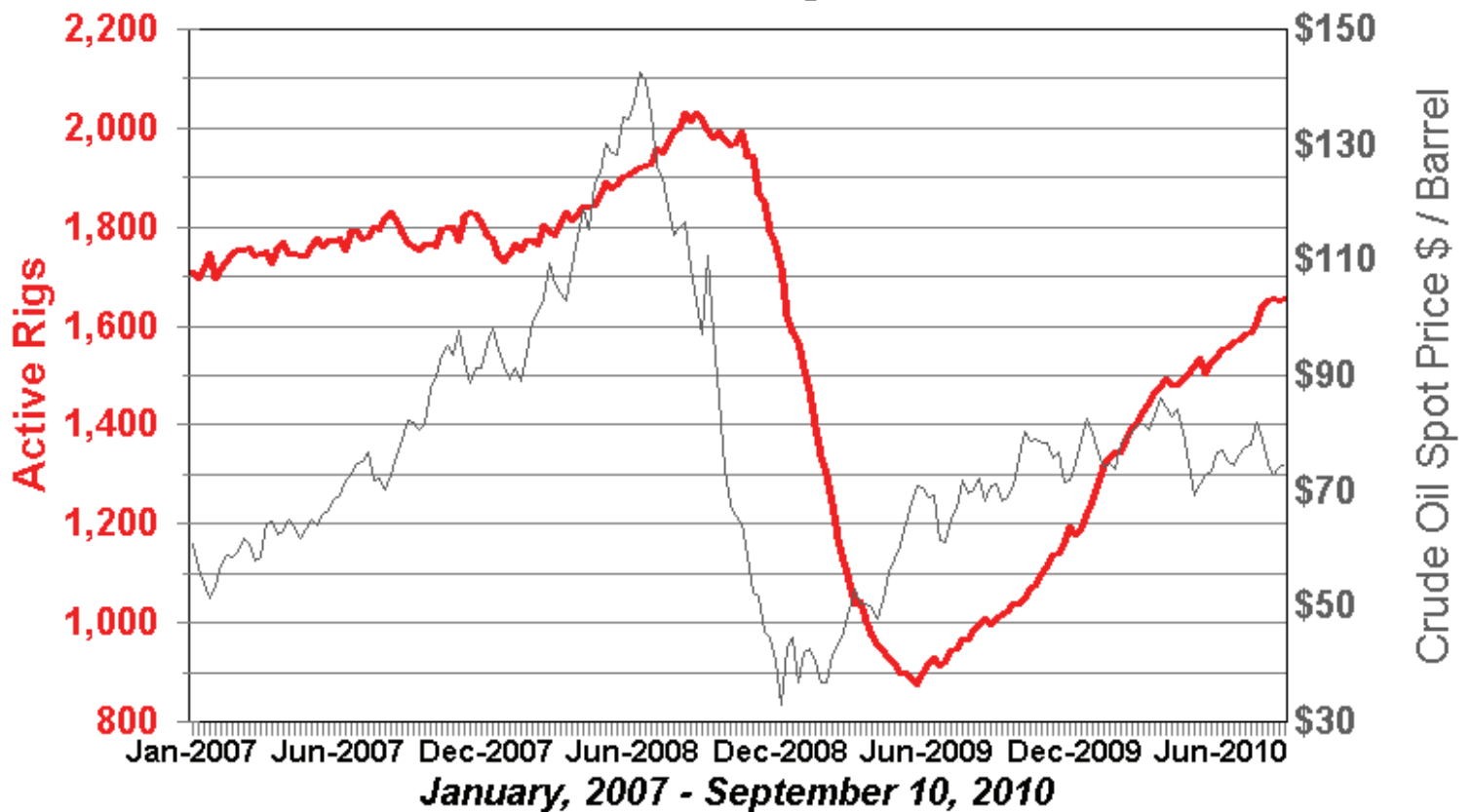
February 2, 2011

March 2, 2011

April 6, 2011

May 4, 2011

U. S. Rotary Rig Count Total Active Rigs



WTRG Economics ©2010

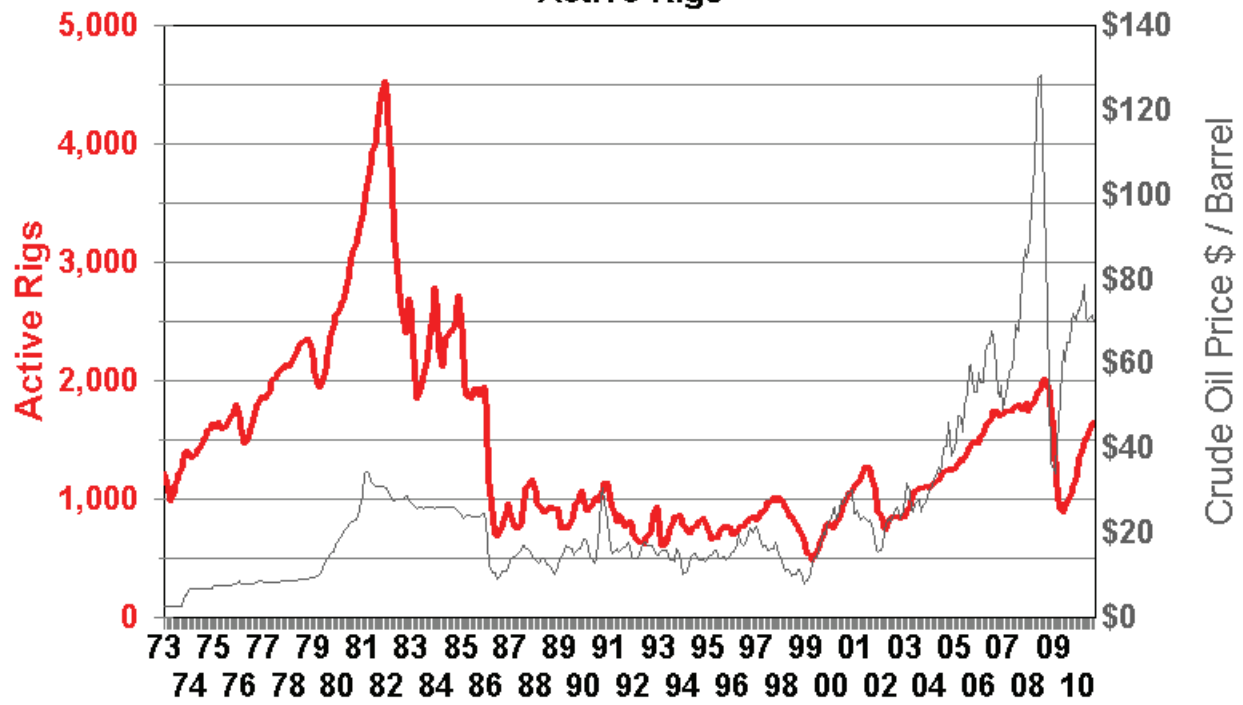
Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
WTRG Economics

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TURN IT TO THE RIGHT!



U. S. Rotary Rig Count Active Rigs

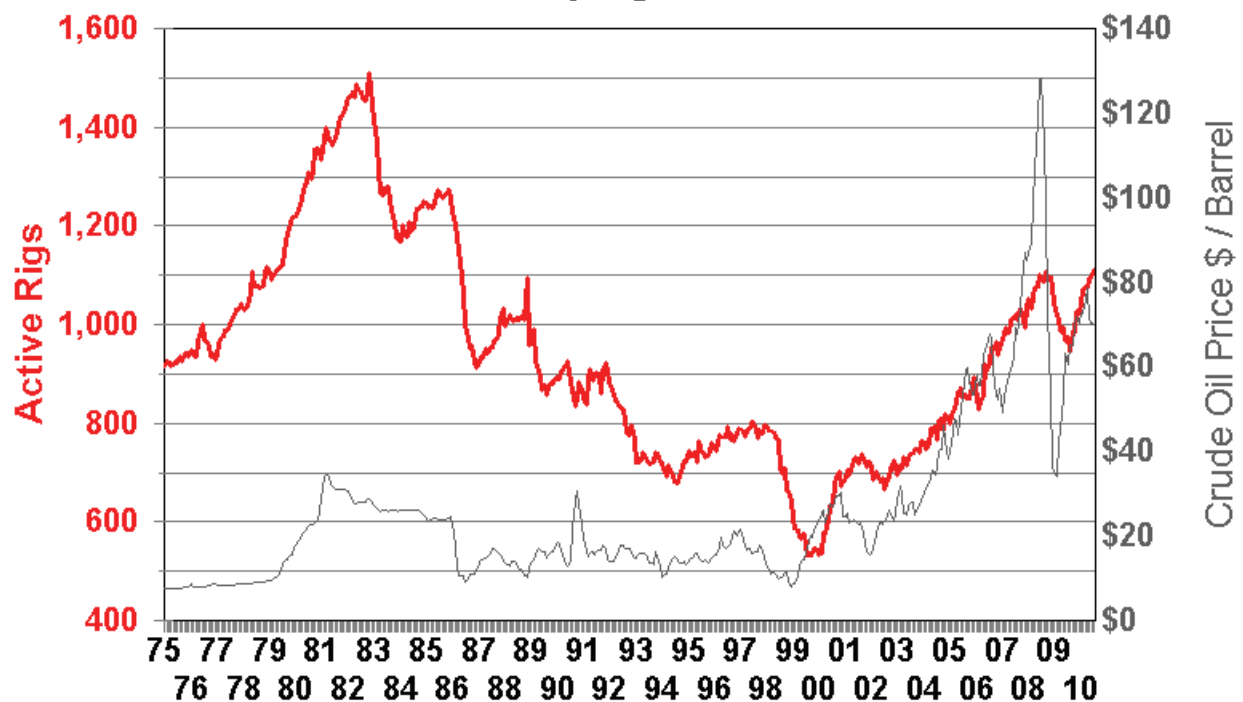


January 1973 - September 10, 2010

Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
WTRG Economics

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Foreign Rotary Rig Count



January 1975 - July 2010

Sources: Baker-Hughes, Energy
Information Administration (DOE),
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Gulf corals in oil spill zone appear healthy

AP – This Sept. 2010 photo provided by Discover Team 2010 shows deep sea corals on the bottom of the northern ...

*By BRIAN SKOLOFF, Associated Press Writer Brian Skoloff, Associated Press Writer –
Fri Oct 22, 6:00 am ET*

ON THE FLOOR OF THE GULF OF MEXICO – Just 20 miles north of where BP's blown-out well spewed millions of gallons of oil into the sea, life appears bountiful despite initial fears that crude could have wiped out many of these delicate deepwater habitats.

Plankton, tiny suspended particles that form the base of the ocean's food web, float en masse 1,400 feet beneath the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, forming a snowy-like underwater scene as they move with the currents outside the windows of a two-man sub creeping a few feet off the seafloor.

Crabs, starfish and other deep sea creatures swarm small patches of corals, and tiny sea anemones sprout from the sand like miniature forests across a lunar-like landscape illuminated only by the lights of the sub, otherwise living in a deep, dark environment far from the sun's reach.

Scientists are currently in the early stages of studying what effects, if any, BP PLC's April 20 oil well blowout off Louisiana and the ensuing crude gusher has had on the delicate deep sea coral habitats of the northern Gulf.

So far, it appears the area dodged a bullet, but more research is needed. Some of the deep sea corals near the spill site were only discovered just last year.

"Originally, when we saw the trajectory for the oil spill and where it was going, we were very concerned that these habitats would be impacted," said researcher Steve Ross of the Center for Marine Science at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Ross and others are conducting research from a Greenpeace ship in the Gulf, using a two-man sub as they work to determine if the corals have suffered damage, or may take a hit from long-term impacts, such as stunted reproduction rates.

"We thought certainly that ... we would see signs of damage," Ross said. "And we're very pleased to say so far, that in these locations, we haven't seen a large scale damage to the coral habitats. We're still looking, but so far, it's good."

Ross was part of a team of researchers that studied deep sea corals in the Atlantic Ocean between North Carolina and Florida. The research eventually helped lead to added federal protections for a roughly 23,000 square-mile network believed to be among the largest continuous distribution of deep water corals in the world.

Ross and others have now turned their attention to the Gulf.

While fishermen have for centuries dragged up corals from the deep sea, it wasn't until the early 1900s that scientists discovered these extensive cold-water reefs. And it wasn't until the 1970s that researchers were able to use subs and cameras to reach the sea floor to document them. It had long been thought coral reefs only formed in shallow, warm waters.

Deepwater reefs and pinnacles are much more slow-growing and can take several million years to form. Science is only now beginning to understand these underwater "frontier zones." Researchers are looking to these regions for the development of additional pharmaceuticals since these cold-water critters have adapted to live in such unique environments void of sunlight, they possess unusual qualities that federal scientists say could aid in creating new drugs for cancer, heart disease and other ailments.

"We are very interested in any potential damage to deep sea corals," said Steve Murawski, chief fisheries scientist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is currently conducting research into oil in Gulf sediments, among other studies.

The federal government maintains much of the oil is now gone from the Gulf, but some studies indicate it remains in significant amounts on the sea floor. Microscopic particles have also been found in the water column.

It is now a prime time for coral spawning in the Gulf, when the corals release tiny larvae that eventually form new corals.

"It could alter the reproduction of these animals," Murawski said. "Even though the adults may survive the event, did we lose the opportunity to have more juveniles produced?"

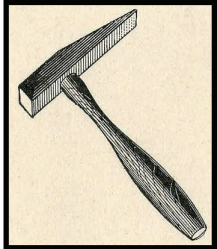
Sandra Brooke, coral conservation director at the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, who is also participating in the research, agreed. The corals' reproduction rates will be studied over the coming weeks, she said.

"We have to be careful with our conclusions about this kind of data," Brooke said, noting it will take more than just a few dives to determine the extent of the damage. "We'll take further analysis but from what we've seen so far, it seems like they've dodged a bullet."

Long-term impacts, for instance, from 1989's much smaller Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska took years, even decades to understand.

"We're just going to have to continue watching," said Margot Stiles, a marine scientist with the conservation group

ROCKHAMMER CORNER:



Are you a rockhound or rockhead? Test your knowledge of mineral and rock names by putting one of the names listed below into each blank.

- 1. The geologist played poker, but wound up losing his _____.
- 2. The bar where mineralogists break the Ten Commandments is called the _____.
- 3. If we _____ rocks, we'll all lose our teeth.
- 4. There are four _____ to the gallon.
- 5. "What shall we give Mike?" "Let's give _____ new mineral for his collection!"
- 6. Fracture of the _____ column usually results in paralysis.
- 7. All of the talkative geology students were put in one row, soon christened the "_____".
- 8. When Fred Zir was swindled of his jewels, it was called the Great _____.
- 9. You sent her flowers? What a _____ thing to do.
- 10. If I don't get this _____, when someone walks in he'll fall through to the basement.
- 11. The mineral that is the very symbol of hunger. _____
- 12. The con man tried to _____ mineralogists with a fake ruby, but he got caught.
- 13. At the circus, a clown threw a fake rock at another and got a _____ in his face.
- 14. Put Nick's book _____ shelf where it belongs.
- 15. A baseball player's favorite gem. _____
- 16. If a rube is a type of hick, does it follow that hickies are _____?
- 17. Says one hip geologist to another, "Hey, that's really _____ man."
- 18. How to insult a geologist: look into his ear and say, " _____"
- 19. If you drop a rock on your foot while in polite company, you should say "_____ all!"
- 20. Of all things, we must never take rocks for _____.

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| a) Albite | f) Diamond | k) Gneiss | p) Quartz |
| b) Apatite | g) Fluorite | l) Gypsum | q) Rubies |
| c) Chert | h) Gabbro | m) Mica | r) Scheelite |
| d) Cinnabar | i) Garnet | n) Onyx | s) Spinel |
| e) Coal | j) Granite | o) Pyrite | t) Zircon |



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OH?

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Cabot Says Co. Not at Fault for Methane Gas Migration

Cabot said it does not agree with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) Secretary John Hanger's assertion that Cabot is at fault for methane gas migrating into northeast Pennsylvania water supplies.

The company was responding to a statement made at a press conference Thursday in Dimock Township, Penn., during which PaDEP announced it plans to proceed with a new water line from a neighboring community for the benefit of 18 or fewer homes. Pa-PEP plans to try and recover the cost for the line, estimated at \$11.8 million, or \$656,000 per home for which it would be built, from Cabot.

"Though methane was pre-existing in the area's water prior to Cabot's drilling, we, just like the PaDEP, want to help solve this problem," said Dan O. Dinges, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Cabot. "Our different with the PaDEP is that the solution to methane in water has been venting water wells and putting them on water treatment devices, which cleans up the water quickly. We do not know why Secretary Hanger has changed his mind from endorsing separators to wanting this new pipeline that could take years and cost million.

"As well, we have just drilled a new water well at one of the households that is making clean water, so we know that this is also a viable solution."

Gas migration problems in Dimock first became evident when a private water well exploded on Jan. 1, 2009. An investigation by PaDEP revealed that methane gas from a shallow formation had been disturbed and migrated through poorly constructed wells Cabot built while drilling for the much deeper Marcellus shale formation, PaDEP said in a statement.

On April 15, 2010, the department ordered Cabot to plug three operating natural gas wells in the township and take remedial action on a fourth well to address gas migration that had contaminated 14 water supplies. In addition, DEP fined Cabot \$240,000 and ordered the company to install permanent treatment systems in 14 homes within 30 days. Cabot Oil & Gas also was prohibited from drilling any new wells in a nine-square-mile area around Dimock until April 2011.

Cabot said it attempted to satisfy the PaDEP demands by agreeing to plug certain wells and to offer methane separation systems to the litigants as the solution to the water problems, which Cabot strongly believes it did not cause.

This was the preferred solution that PaDEP insisted upon and to which Cabot agreed, Cabot said in a statement. The order was clear in that the methane separation systems were the final solution; once Cabot made the offer to "affected" residents (which Cabot did), the company was deemed to have met the PaDEP requirement. The systems are now sitting in a Cabot equipment yard.

Cabot Says Co. Not at Fault for Methane Gas Migration (cont.)

Dinges said the company was forced to accept this demand as it "was clear at the time that if we did not agree to this solution, an enforcement action was to follow completely shutting down the Company's Pennsylvania operations."

In the following months, the PaDEP told Cabot that it wanted more time in order to convince the litigants that the separation systems were the solution and requested Cabot agree to amend the order to remove the separator language. Cabot complied with this request, trusting the PaDEP's assurance that separators were still the solution.

"After the plaintiffs' lawyer publically stated in July that the plaintiffs' preferred solution was a public water line from Montrose, this culminated in the PaDEP announcement in August that a new pipeline from Montrose is the solution, with no mention of the separators. Additionally, PaDEP disclosed that Cabot was expected to pay for the pipeline," Cabot said.

"The abrupt change in the PaDEP's proposals – going from separators to building a multi-million dollar, multi-year pipeline project is an obvious attempt at placating the litigants and that is why we have taken our position."

On Sept. 14, DEP determined that Cabot's drilling activities had contaminated three additional water supplies serving four residences.

"The problems in Dimock were caused by Cabot's failure to construct their natural gas wells properly, and we are holding them responsible for the damage caused by these wells," Hanger said. "We intend to proceed with construction of a public water system for the Dimock area and will seek recovery of costs from Cabot Oil & Gas."

Pennsylvania American Water Company will construct a new, 5.5-mile water main from the company's Lake Montrose water treatment plant south along Route 29 to Dimock and install approximately seven miles of distribution line to provide water service to at least 18 homes. The solution to the drinking water needs in Dimock will also make this basic resource accessible to other residents along Route 29 not currently served by public water. The water company will also install pressure regulating stations and a new treatment facility to serve the community.



MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting on March 11, 2010.

Since inception in 1980, the Society has honored 104 students with the Boland Award. If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges the following contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund for the 2010-2011 year.

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(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

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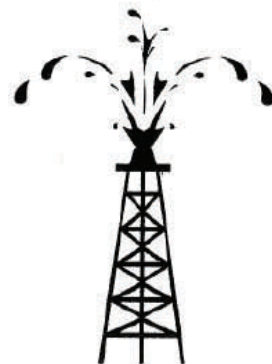
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