

Ohio Natural Gas and Crude Oil Energy Benefits

OHIO OIL & GAS ENERGY EDUCATION PROGRAM



Historical Background

The Ohio natural gas and crude oil industry has a rich heritage. According to history, Ohio lays claim to the first discovery of crude oil in the United States from a well, drilled decades before the Civil War. In 1814, while digging for salt along Duck Creek in what is now Noble County, Silas Thorla and Robert McKee made the first discovery of crude oil in the U.S. At the time, salt was a valuable commodity to settlers because of its effectiveness in preserving food. Initially, the crude oil proved a nuisance to salt production. But after a short time, entrepreneurs bottled the new product as Seneca Oil for the treatment of rheumatism, sprains and bruises.

In 1860, Ohio's first crude oil well was drilled in Macksburg, 10 miles southeast of the Thorla-McKee well. The Macksburg/Dexter well became the first commercial well drilled in Ohio, preceded a few months earlier by the famous Colonel Drake discovery in Pennsylvania. Commercial natural gas production began in 1884.

By the end of the 19th century, large-scale exploration and production of natural gas and crude oil began in Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Ohio. Nowhere else in the United States has commercial natural gas and crude oil production existed longer than that located within the Appalachian Basin.

Modern Industry

Today, we continue to provide energy to farms, homes, schools, churches and businesses across the state. Ohio has drilled more than 275,000 natural gas and crude oil wells in 76 of Ohio's 88 counties (Figure 1). Ohio ranks fourth in the nation in the number of wells drilled following Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania. Today, most natural gas and crude oil is produced in the eastern half of the state. Currently, there are over 64,000 wells located in 53 Ohio counties (Figure 2).

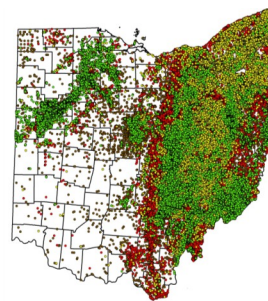


Figure 1

Last year, Ohio produced more than 78 billion cubic feet of natural gas and 4.8 million barrels of crude oil. That's enough natural gas to heat more than 1 million Ohio homes and businesses each year. Nearly 100% of the natural gas produced in Ohio is used right here in our state.

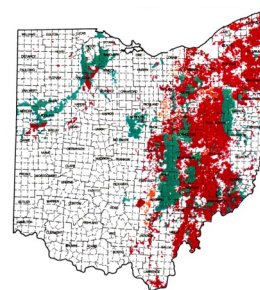


Figure 2

The importance of Ohio's supply of these natural energy resources is indeed significant and cannot be overlooked, as natural gas and crude oil alone account for nearly 65% of the total energy consumption in the United States. As the state's supply adds to the national supply, these domestic energy resources help us to be less dependent on foreign energy supplies.

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