ENERGY BENEFITS
OF OHIO'S CRUDE OIL AND NATURAL GAS

MODERN INDUSTRY

Today, there are more than 50,000 crude oil and natural gas wells that provide energy to Ohio’s farms, homes, schools, churches, power plants and businesses. Ohio currently produces this energy in 49 of Ohio’s 88 counties. Historically, Ohio has drilled more than 275,000 natural gas and crude oil wells. This ranks Ohio fourth in the nation in the total number of wells drilled following Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania.

Last year, Ohio’s crude oil and natural gas industry set a new state record by producing 1.4 TRILLION cubic feet of natural gas. That’s enough local natural gas supplies to satisfy all the State’s residential and power generation needs. Ohio is now an exporter of natural gas which assists in providing energy to many other states. Ohio’s annual crude oil production also reached 18 million barrels. The primary source of this production is from the Utica and Marcellus Shale formations which are projected to account for 35% of U.S. production by 2020.

Ohio’s crude oil and natural gas industry greatly contributes to the quality of life that Americans enjoy today. In fact, the average U.S. citizen now uses three gallons worth of these refined petroleum products each day. In addition to the thousands of products made from crude oil and natural gas, 7 out of 10 Ohio homes are heated and cooled using natural gas which allows local residents to comfortably adjust to the state’s wide-ranging weather conditions. Water supplies are also purified and treated using these energy sources, providing clean-drinking water to millions. The increased life expectancy and overall improved quality of life enjoyed by Ohioans today can be directly attributed to local production and use of crude oil and natural gas.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Ohio’s crude oil and natural gas industry has a rich heritage. 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” rock oil as a natural medicine product as a “cure all” for the treatment of rheumatism, sprains and bruises.

In 1860, Ohio’s first crude oil well was drilled in Macksburg about 10 miles southeast of the Thorla-McKee well. The Macksburg/Dexter well became the first commercial well drilled in Ohio, preceded just a few months by the famous Colonel Drake well 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 those wells located within the Appalachian Basin.

Multiple crude oil and natural gas fields have been developed in Ohio since 1860. The Lima-Trenton field in Northwest Ohio produced prolific amounts of oil and natural gas, helping J.D. Rockefeller to establish the Standard Oil Company and making Ohio’s the world’s largest producer of crude oil in 1896, peaking at 26 million barrels. Formations such as the Clinton, Berea or Rose Run Sandstone have been successfully developed in multiple areas of the state for decades, producing millions of barrels of crude oil and billions of cubic feet of natural gas.