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Horizontal drilling drought returns to Barnett Shale

Sergio Chapa | Feb. 14, 2020



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Photo: Paul Moseley, Staff / Star-Telegram

The birthplace of the shale revolution is back in the grips of a horizontal drilling permit drought - a situation that's becoming more frequent.

More than five weeks have passed since any oil company has filed for a drilling permit with the Railroad Commission of Texas for a new horizontal well in the Barnett Shale, a natural gas geological formation that surrounds the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

There is still one active drilling rig in the shale play, according to the Baker Hughes Co., but the region frequently goes two weeks at a time without a horizontal drilling permit being filed. A five-week horizontal drilling permit drought hit the region in April and is expected to last through the summer.

Although a February 2013 study by the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin estimated that the Barnett has 44 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas, much of it might have to remain in the ground for financial reasons. With natural gas trading at about \$3 per million British thermal units on Louisiana's Henry Hub, drilling and hydraulic fracturing in much of the region isn't cost-effective.

Oklahoma City-based Devon Energy had long been the region's top horizontal drilling operator.

More Information

Top 10 Texas Driller

Pioneer Natural Resources

Double Eagle Energy

Trinity Operating

APC Water Holdings

Endeavor Energy Resource

Parsley Energy

Diamondback Energy

BP 5

Chesapeake Energy

Blackbeard Operating

Permian Basin

Irving oil company Pioneer Natural Resources is preparing for a heavy round of drilling in an area of the Permian Basin known as the Midland Basin. The company permission to drill 13 wells in Martin County and another two in Midland County. wells target the Spraberry field at total depths ranging from about 8,400 to

Eagle Ford Shale

Oklahoma City oil company Chesapeake Energy has filed its first major batch drilli in Texas since a fatal accident in Burleson County. Three horizontal wells in We target the Briscoe Ranch field of the Eagle Ford Shale while two more in Burles target the Giddings field in the same form

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Haynesville Shale

There were no horizontal drilling permits filed in the East Texas shale play, but Na based Dual Production Partners plans to drill a vertical well in San Augustine. The v the oil-rich Nacogdoches field down to a vertical depth of 1,

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Conventionals

There are several saltwater disposal wells being developed in the western end of Basin known as the Delaware Basin that will require vertical wells to be drilled. A Holdings, DBM Water Services and Solaris Water Midstream plan to develop a co injection wells to support saltwater disposal in Loving

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