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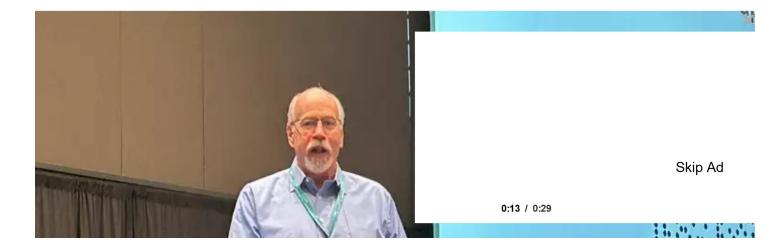
West Texas Geological Society symposium offers 'Permian 101' lesson on shale production

By Mella McEwen, Oil Editor Sep 21, 2024











Tim McMahon, project manager of the Tight Oil Resource Assessment (TORA) consortium at the Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, offers the opening keynote at the West Texas Geological Society Fall Symposium.

Mella McEwen/Reporter-Telegram

Those attending the West Texas Geological Society's fall symposium were in for a "Permian 101" lesson over a day and a half of presentations and poster sessions.

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Providing the first lesson was Tim McMahon, project manager of the <u>Tight Oil</u>

Resource Assessment (TORA) consortium at the <u>Bureau of Economic Geology</u>,

University of Texas at Austin.

The oil industry veteran, whose experience includes 10 years at <u>ConocoPhillips</u>, told his audience it was about 2006 when U.S. shale production began coming online. But, McMahon noted, shale production in the US has a 200-year history that dates back to the first commercial natural gas well in Fredonia, New York, in 1825.

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Since then, production of both shale oil and natural gas has spread to the Niobrara to the Woodford to the Hugoton fi Worth Barnett to the Bakken. In 2002, Devc hydraulically fractured a horizontal well in the has spread to other plays.

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The Arab oil embargo of 1973 that sent cru

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spurred research into shale and other unconventional resources, he noted.

McMahon provided an overview of the various shale plays, from the Marcellus to the Woodford, found primarily in Oklahoma but extending into the Permian Basin, from the Bakken of North Dakota and Montana to the Barnett in the Fort Worth Basin.

What all of these areas have in common is the shales were deposited in semirestricted basins with access to the open ocean and produce from brittle interbeds, according to McMahon.

The Permian Basin seems to have especially benefited from those depositions, enjoying a lot of benches, from the Wolfcar and Spraberry. Less than a quarter of the oi technically recoverable — not economically technically recoverable and economically re

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Approximately 75% of the nation's shale oil

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from the Permian Basin. Approximately 40% of the nation's natural gas is associated with oil production and 38% of that is from Texas. Of the Texas production, 23% comes from the Permian Basin.

The share of the nation's oil production coming from unconventional resources surpassed conventional production in 2017 and now stands at more than 60%.

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"Shale has gone from a minor contributor to the dominant source due to technical innovations," said McMahon. "The resources are significant."



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Mella McEwen OIL EDITOR



Mella McEwen is the oil editor for the Midland Reporter-Telegram.

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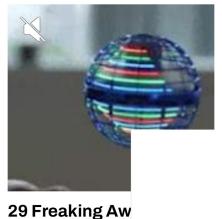
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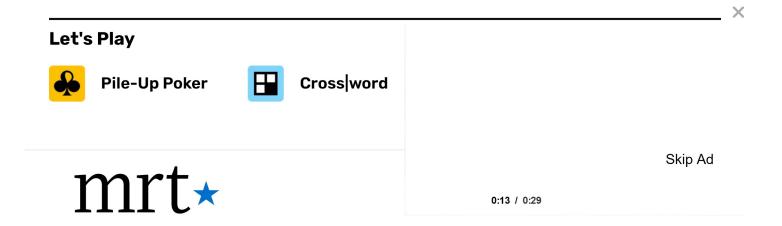
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