



User Name: =

Date and Time: = 2026-10-02

Job Number: = 297608086

Documents (1)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Bureau of Economic Geology"

Search Type: NaturalAnd

Content Type

news

Narrowed by

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1. Geoscientists needed to help solve today's energy challenges

Geoscientists needed to help solve today's energy challenges

Midland Reporter-Telegram Online (Texas)

September 19, 2026 Saturday

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Length: 254 words

Byline: Mella McEwen, Editor

Body

Geoscientists played a major role in discovering oil in the Permian Basin, helping it become the world's most important oil and gas region.

"It was huge," said Scott Tinker, director emeritus at the **Bureau of Economic Geology**, of their contributions.

Today's geoscientists will be needed to meet challenges ranging from seismic events to the beneficial reuse of produced water, he told the audience attending the West Texas Geological Society's centennial celebration in partnership with the Southwest Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

There are tremendous opportunities for geoscientists, Tinker said, citing the use of artificial intelligence to facilitate reservoir characterization, secondary and tertiary recovery, drilling and completions and electrification. Geoscientists will also be needed as the next generation of nuclear technology advances. They will be needed to help address challenges related to seismic events and the beneficial reuse of produced water.

Some groups oppose fossil fuels because of environmental concerns, Tinker said. But a broader mix of energy sources means greater energy security, he said. Abundant energy or environmental protection is a false choice, he said.

"Healthy economies invest in the environment," he said. "Poor countries afford to clean up their environments."

No form of energy is pure. No form of energy is renewable, he said. They all come from the Earth. All forms of energy come with tradeoffs, he said.

Geoscientists are the problem solvers, he said.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Journal Code: 666314374

Subject: OIL EXPLORATION (90%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (90%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL

Geoscientists needed to help solve today's energy challenges

RESOURCES (90%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (90%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (90%); NATURAL SCIENCES (79%); ENERGY SECURITY (78%); FOSSIL FUELS (78%); OIL & GAS EXPLORATION (78%); PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (78%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (78%); TECHNOLOGY (74%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (72%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (72%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (54%); ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS (72%); TECHNOLOGY (74%); GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS (90%); ENVIRONMENTALISM (72%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (72%); NATURAL SCIENCES (79%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (78%); ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES (90%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (55%)

Organization: AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS (55%)

Industry: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS (78%); OIL EXPLORATION (90%); FOSSIL FUELS (78%); OIL & GAS EXPLORATION (78%); ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT (72%); ENERGY & UTILITY POLICY (78%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (90%); ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (55%); ENERGY SECURITY (78%); OIL & GAS INDUSTRY (90%)

Geographic: EARTH (79%); TEXAS, USA (79%); TEXAS, USA (92%); EARTH (79%); UNITED STATES (79%);

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Load-Date: September 19, 2026

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