

University of Wisconsin-Extension
GEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY
3817 Mineral Point Road
Madison, Wisconsin 53705

M.E. Ostrom, State Geologist and Director

OIL AND GAS TEST HOLES IN WISCONSIN

by

R. Peters

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Wisconsin does not have any known deposits of oil and only small amounts of methane. Methane, produced by decay of plant remains, is occasionally encountered in drilling unconsolidated surficial and glacial deposits. Although reportedly used in one or two instances for barn and farmhouse lighting, this methane is local in nature and is not known to occur in commercial quantities.

In southwestern Wisconsin, the Guttenberg Member of the Decorah Formation is considered a low grade oil shale. The unit is thin, ranging from about one inch thick in eastern Lafayette County to about 10 feet thick to the west at the Mississippi River. A considerable amount of caprock is present and outcrops are very rare as the shale breaks down readily and becomes covered with vegetation. In eastern Wisconsin very small amounts of tar can be found in reefs of Silurian age.

Since the 1860's dozens of test holes have been drilled for oil and gas in Wisconsin. None of these produced any oil or gas. The methane was found accidentally while drilling water wells.

Although many test holes have been drilled specifically for oil and gas, one should also be aware that more than 300,000 water wells have been drilled in the state. Many of these wells are shallow (less than 100' deep) but a significant number penetrate the deepest Paleozoic formations in Wisconsin. In none of these wells were commercial quantities of oil or gas documented.

Current interest in Wisconsin appears to be in the northeast and offshore in Lake Michigan. Deep water wells are sparse in this part of the state because of saline water in the deeper sandstones and because of the availability of Lake Michigan for drinking water. An 1845' deep stratigraphic test hole drilled by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1975 at Bailey's Harbor, Door County, however, showed nothing unusual. At best, chances are very slim of finding commercial quantities of oil or gas in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Oil and Gas Tests

Compiled by R. M. Peters

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Adams County</u>					
1930		NE,NW,sec. 30,18N, 6E	600'	Cambrian ss to 265' Granite 265'-600'	
<u>Brown County</u>					
1919		SE,NE,sec. 34,21N,19E	391'	Drift 0-10' Maquoketa 10'-222' Sinnipee 222'-391'	
<u>Calumet County</u>					
1919		sec. 8,20N,19E	1380'		A gas test,
1935		near Forest Junction	518'	Drift 0-80' Maquoketa 80-307' Sinnipee 307'-503' St. Peter 503'-518'	
11/13/72	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> -Robert Schwabenlander	SE,NW,sec. 36,T20,19E	500'+ (?)		
7/9/72	-Robert Kempen	NW,NE,sec. 14,20N,19E	1080'		Used for private water supply.
7/15/72	-W.G. Wessel	NW,NW,sec. 10,18N,19E			Hole filled.
<u>Clark County</u>					
c. 1915		NW,sec. 35,24N,3W	300'	in granite	Bankrupt.
<u>Columbia County</u>					
c. 1929	Cambria Oil & Lead Co. (?)	sec. 1,12N,11E	*	granite at 650'	
c. 1929	Cambria Oil & Lead Co. (?)	SE,NW,sec. 31,13N,12E	*	granite at 665'	
	*one well was reported to reach 1000'				
<u>Dane County</u>					
1932		SW,NW,sec. 8,9N,10E	775'	granite at 760'	

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Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Door County</u>					
c. 1902	Calumet Land & Oil Co.	SE,NW,sec. 36,27N,23E	961'	Drift 0-6' Maquoketa 6-546' Sinnipee 546-786' St. Peter 786-961'	Tools were lost.
?	Tornado Oil & Gas Exploration	S½,SW½,sec. 3,26N,24E	over 1000'	reached St. Peter ss	Hit salt water. Tools lost.
?	Tornado Oil & Gas Exploration	NE,NW,sec. 9,26N,24E	1200'	Drift 0-3' Silurian 3-269' Maquoketa 269-705' Sinnippe 705-935' St. Peter 935-1200'	Hit salt water. Tools lost.
1950	R.W. Mattlock	Brussels	?		No oil.
1970's (?)	<u>ERNIE T. COMPANY</u> - Ben Tlachae (?)	NW,SW,sec. 34,26N,24E	145'		Capped.
1975(?)	- Swoboda Bros.	SE,SE,sec. 28,26N,24E	170'		Abandoned. Filled with concrete.
1970's (?)	- Nickel Farm	SE,SE,sec. 28,26N,24E	170'		
1970's (?)	- Richard Ducat	SW,SE,sec. 27,26N,24E	170'		
1970's (?)	- Francis Rose	SE,NW,sec. 20,26N,25E	170'		
1970's (?)	- Ella Uecker	NE,NW,sec. 21,26N,25E	170'		
early 1970's	MISSION HILLS OIL CORP. - Harold E. Shine	NW,NW,sec. 13,30N,27E	898'		Hole filled with bentonite.
<u>Douglas County</u>					
		Short Line Park, Minnesota	1500'	ss, trap, and slate	Salt water only.

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Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Dunn County</u>					
before 1915		Knapp	635'	Cambrian sandstone to 630'. Granite 630'-635'	No oil.
<u>Fond du Lac County</u>					
7/15/72	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> - Lander Hachsgen	SE, SW, sec. 14, 16N, 18E			Hole filled.
7/20/72	- Oscar Guelig	SW, NW, sec. 31, 17N, 19E	1148'		Hole filled.
<u>Iowa County</u>					
1952	Avoca Oil Co.	NW, sec. 8, 8N, 2E	899'	Alluvium 0-215' Cambrian ss 215-805' Granite 805-899'	
<u>Jefferson County</u>					
1865	Palmyra Petroleum Corp.	near Palmyra	750'	Drift 0-46' Sinnipee 46-257' St. Peter 257-350' Prairie du Chien 350-412' Cambrian 412-750'	No oil.
<u>Kewaunee County</u>					
?	<u>LEON ENGLISH</u> - Leon Zimmer	SE, NW, sec. 24, 24N, 23E	?		
?	- Harold Neuzil	NE, NE, sec. 10, 24N, 24E	?		
1970's (?)	<u>ERNIE T. COMPANY</u> - Stephen Mandich	SW, SE, sec. 15, 25N, 24E	800'		Capped.
1970's (?)	- Frank Vandermaus	SE, SE, sec. 3, 25N, 24E	80'		Capped.

Wisconsin Oil and Gas Tests

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Kewaunee County (cont.)</u>					
1972	Mission Hills Oil Corp. - George Treml	C,SE,SW,sec. 24,24N,23E	1059'		Plugged.
<u>Langlade County</u>					
1931	Northern Gas & Oil Co.	SE,NW,sec. 6,34N,9E	1220'	Drift 0-236' Schist 236-1220'	
<u>Lincoln County</u>					
c. 1930		northeastern part of county	?		
<u>Marinette County</u>					
1903		SW of Marinette	850'		
1950	Z-E Oil Company	sec. 29,31N,32E	1005'	Drift 0-36' Prairie du Chien 36'-266' Trempealeau 266-293' Tunnel City 293-457' Elk Mound 457-563' Granite 563-1005'	
<u>Monroe County</u>					
1866		Oil City	510'	Cambrian ss to 490' Granite 490-510'	Good artesian water well.
<u>Oneida County</u>					
1930	O.P. Coffin	near McNaughton		in granite	

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Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Outagamie County</u>					
1933	E.L. Smith	sec. 28,24N,17E	750'	Drift 0-280' Sandstone 280-500' Granite 500-750'	
1933	Federal Oil Pool, Inc.	SE,NE,sec. 33,21N,19E	?		
1933		near Hollandtown	400'+		No oil.
<u>Richland County</u>					
1951	Carl Herold	sec. 29,10N,2E	710'	reached granite at 710'	
<u>St. Croix County</u>					
?		Stillwater, Minnesota	3500'	sandstone and trap rock	
<u>Sheboygan County</u>					
1923	Alfred Roehrborn	NW,NE,sec. 8,14N,22E	430'?	Drift 0-70' Silurian 70-430'?	Located by a dream. Good artesian water well.
1949	Wisconsin Oil Refining Company, Inc.	SE,SW,SW,sec. 23, 14N,22E	4405'	Drift 0-100' Paleozoics 100-1795' Granite 1795-4405'	No oil. Artesian flow of highly mineralized water. Sample log available (Sb-31). Electric log available.
<u>TEXAS-WISC. EXPLORATION CORP.</u>					
	- Van Driest #1	SE,SE,SE,sec. 12,13N,22E	1876'	Drift 0-130' Paleozoics 130-1870' Granite 1870-1876'	Geologist's log available (Sb-86).
	- Van Driest #2	NW,NW,NW,sec. 19,13N,23E	465'	Drift 0-200' Silurian 200-465'	Geologist's log available (Sb-88).

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Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Sheboygan County (cont.)</u>					
	- Joe Oonk #1	NE,NE,NW,sec. 18,13N,23E	460'	Drift 0-138' Silurian 138-460'	Geologist's log available (Sb-89).
	- Veldbloom #1	SW,NE,NW,sec. 14,13N,22E	452'	Drift 0-155' Silurian 155-452'	Geologist's log available (Sb-90).
	- W. Hopeman #1	NE,SE,NE,sec. 29,13N,22E	659'	Drift 0-210' Silurian 210?-650' Maquoketa 650-659'	Geologist's log available (Sb-91).
	- Alva Kappers #1	NW,NE,NW,sec. 13,13W,22E	745'	Drift 0-168' Silurian 168-735' Maquoketa 735-745'	Geologist's log available (Sb-92).
	- Telindert #1	NW,SE,NW,sec. 20,13N,22E	673'	Drift 0-110' Silurian 110-660' Maquoketa 660-673'	Geologist's log available (Sb-93).
	- Henry Tennissen #1	NE,NW,NE,sec. 33,13N,22E	700'	Drift 0-180' Silurian 180-690' Maquoketa 690-700'	Geologist's log available (Sb-105).
	- Henry Dykstra #1	SE,SE,SE,sec. 13,13N,21E	1170'	Drift 0-360' Silurian 360-720' Maquoketa 720-940' Sinnipee 940-1150' St. Peter 1150-1170'	Geologist's log available (Sb-106).
	- Victor Wassink #1	NW,NW,SE,sec. 24,14N,22E	1905'	Drift 0-177' Paleozoics 177-1890' Granite 1890-1905'	Geologist's log available (Sb-107).
<u>Vilas County</u>					
1930		at Flambeau	?		No oil.
<u>Waukesha County</u>					
1928	Montgomery Voorhees		?		No oil.