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OIL AND GAS TEST HOLES IN WISCONSIN

by

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Open-File Report 85-1
7 p.

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1985

Oil and Gas Test Holes in Wisconsin

Roger Peters

November, 1985

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 is in the northwest in rocks known as the Keweenaw Supergroup. At this time oil companies have leased hundreds of thousands of acres for exploration. No test holes have been drilled yet as a result of this leasing activity.

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In 1985 Amoco proposed drilling a 12,000 foot test hole in Bayfield County. The location southwest of Ashland is sec. 13, T. 46 N., R. 7 W. Drilling has been postponed.

Oil and Gas Test Holes in Wisconsin

Roger Peters - November, 1985

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>Barron County</u>					
1984	Elmer Wahl Test Hole	sec. 11,32N,12W	1135'		
<u>Brown County</u>					
1919	Hollandtown Oil Prospect	SE,NE,sec. 34,21N,19E	391'	Drift 0-10' Maquoketa 10'-222' Sinnipee 222'-391'	Geologic log available (Bn-101).
<u>Calumet County</u>					
1919		sec. 8,20N,19E	1380'		A gas test.
1935	Fred Kreiger # 1	SW,NE,NE,SE, sec. 12,20N,19E	518'	Drift 0-80' Maquoketa 80'-307' Sinnipee 307'-503' St. Peter 503'-518'	Geologic log available (Ca-4).
11/13/72	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> - Robert Schwabenlander Test Hole	SW,NE,SE,NW,sec. 36,T20,19E	801'	Drift-210' Paleozoics-591'	Geologic log available (Ca-32).
07/09/72	- Robert Kempen Test Hole	C,NW,NE,sec.14,20N,19E	1101'	Drift-120' Paleozoics-967.5' Granite-13.5'	Geologic log available (Ca-201). Used for private water supply.
07/15/72	- W.G. Wessel Test Hole	C,NW,NW,sec. 10,18N,19E	815'	Drift-30' Paleozoics-785'	Geologic log available (Ca-33). Hole filled.
<u>Clark County</u>					
c. 1915		NW,sec. 35,24N,3W	300'	in granite	Bankrupt.

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Columbia County</u>					
c. 1929	Cambria Oil & Lead Co. (?)	sec. 1, 12N, 11E	*	granite at 650'	*one well was reported to reach 1000'.
c. 1929	Cambria Oil & Lead Co. (?)	SE, NW, sec. 31, 13N, 12E	*	granite at 665'	
<u>Dane County</u>					
1932		SW, NW, sec. 8, 9N, 10E	775'	granite at 760'	
<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	S $\frac{1}{2}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, 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' Sinnipee 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'		

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Door County, Cont.</u>					
1970's (?)	- Francis Rose	SE,NW,sec. 20,26N,25E	170'		
1970's (?)	- Ella Uecker	NE,NW,sec. 21,26N,25E	170'		
1972 (?)	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> - Harold E. Shine T.H.	NW,NW,sec. 13,30N,27E	898'	Silurian-425' Maquoketa-470' No sample-3'	Hole filled with bentonite. Geologic log available (Dr-297).
<u>Douglas County</u>					
		Short Line Park, Minnesota	1500'	ss, trap, and slate	Salt water only.
<u>Dunn County</u>					
before 1915		Knapp	635'	Cambrian sandstone to 630'. Granite 630-635'	No oil.
<u>Fond du Lac County</u>					
07/25/72	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> - Leander Haensgen T.H.	C,SE,SW,sec. 14,16N,18E	1220'	Drift-40' Paleozoics-1170' Granite-10'	Hole filled. Geologic log available (FL-642).
07/20/72	- Oscar Guelig Test Hole	NE,NW,NW,SW,sec. 31,17N,19E	1170'	Drift-75' Paleozoics-1065' Precambrian-30'	Hole filled. Geologic log available (FL-643).
<u>Iowa County</u>					
1952	Avoca Oil Co.	NW,SW,NW,sec. 8,8N,2E	899'	Alluvium 0-215' Cambrian ss 215-805' Gneiss 805-1245' Unknown 1245-almost 2000'	Geologic log available (IW-19). Abandoned in 1953.

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<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.
10/15/74	<u>MISSION HILLS OIL CORP.</u> - George Treml Test Hole	C, SE, SW, sec. 24, 24N, 23E	1065'	Drift-60' Paleozoics-999'	Plugged. Geologic log available (Kw-131).
10/15/74	- Ronald Moede Test Hole	SE, NW, sec. 11, 24N, 24E	1134'	Drift-65' Paleozoics-1069'	Geologic log available (Kw-134).
<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	?		

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<u>Marinette County</u>					
1903		SW of Marinette	850'		
1950	Z-E Oil Company	sec. 29, 31N, 22E	1005'	Drift 0-36' Prairie du Chien 36'-266' Trempealeau 266'-293' Tunnel City 293'-457' Elk Mound 457'-563' Granite 563'-1005'	Geologic log available (Mt-19).
<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	
<u>Outagamie County</u>					
1933	E.L. Smith	NW cor, SW, 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 Oil Test	SE, SE, NW, sec. 33, 10N, 2E	900'	reached granite at 710'	
<u>St. Croix County</u>					
?		Stillwater, Minnesota	3500'	sandstone and trap rock	

Date	Name	Location	Depth	Geology	Remarks
<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. Geologic log available (Sb-31). Electric log available.
<u>Vilas County</u>					
1930		at Flambeau	?		No oil.
<u>Waukesha County</u>					
1928	Montgomery Voorhees		?		No oil.