

**New York State
Oil, Gas
and
Mineral Resources
2005**

**New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Mineral Resources
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-6500**

www.dec.state.ny.us



George E. Pataki, Governor

Denise M. Sheehan, Commissioner

Division Mission Statement

The Division of Mineral Resources is responsible for ensuring the environmentally sound, economic development of New York's non-renewable energy and mineral resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

This report was produced by the
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

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Bradley J. Field, Director

Executive Summary

Mining occurs in every region of the State except the New York City area. Oil and gas development has historically occurred in the western half of the State, but the Finger Lakes region has been experiencing heavy activity for several years. Due to differences in legal reporting requirements, the types of statistics presented for the two programs are not identical.

Oil, Gas and Solution Mining

Inspections - Staff traveled 108,444 miles and performed 2,577 oil and gas inspections.

Permits and Completions

Gas:	Permits	180	Completions	104
Oil:	Permits	199	Completions	93
Other:	Permits	55	Completions	64
Total:	Permits	434	Completions	261

Wells Reported (All Types) 2005 - 12,587

Wells To Date (All Types) - 75,000, majority pre-regulation (most plugging status unknown).

Production & Market Value

Gas	55.2 bcf	Value Up	18%
Oil	211,292 bbl	Value Up	15%
Total O&G Mkt Value		\$440 million	

State Leasing - 87 leases were in effect covering 64,521 acres, 189 producing wells.

Revenues from Oil and Gas

State Revenues	\$ 3.4 million
Local Govt. Taxes (est.)	\$13.0 million
Landowner Royalties (est.)	\$53.0 million

Underground Natural Gas Storage - 23 facilities were 81% full at year-end.

Total Storage Capacity	209 bcf
Working Gas Capacity	80 bcf
Max. Daily Deliverability	1.927 bcf/day

Solution Mining - 5 facilities produced 1.58 billion gallons of brine equal to 1.84 million metric tons of salt.

Financial Security - In 2005 New York held \$13.7 million to guarantee well plugging and site reclamation.

Mined Land Reclamation

Inspections - Staff traveled 210,279 miles to perform 1,982 mine inspections.

Permits Issued

Total Permits	411	Fees Annual
New Permits	66	Regulatory
Renewal & Mod.	345	\$2.8 Million

Active Mines 2,249

Estimated Market Value \$1.1 Billion

US Production Rank by Quantity

Wollastonite	1st	Salt	3rd
Garnet	1st	Talc	4th

NY Rank by Value

Crushed Stone	1st	Sand & Gravel	4th
Salt	2nd	Wollastonite	5th
Cement	3rd		

Common Mine Types

Sand & Gravel	1,869
Limestone & Dolostone	98
Bluestone	59

Owner Type

Industry	1,759
County	56
Town	418

Net Affected Acreage 48,859

Life-of-Mine Acreage 112,658

Reclaimed Acreage, 2005 1,331

Reclaimed Since 1975 24,450

Financial Security - In 2005 New York required \$107.5 million to guarantee mine site reclamation.

Division of Mineral Resources Program Highlights

New York State gas production in 2005 was 55.2 billion cubic feet (bcf), an all-time high that broke the previous record of 46.9 bcf set in 2004. The Trenton-Black River's contribution to the State's total production continued to climb and hit roughly 80% (44 bcf) in 2005.

Six new Trenton-Black River gas fields started production in 2005: South Corning, Rayner, Zimmer Hill and Oak Hill in Steuben County; Cooper Hill and Cleveland Hill in Chemung County.

With discoveries in deep sandstones (Oneida-Oswego and Theresa) and gas shows in shallow shale formations, the industry has taken notice that New York has other under-explored formations with potentially significant reserves. More advanced exploration techniques used elsewhere in the country are now routinely employed in New York by many companies.

In 2005 the price of oil reached levels not seen since the early 1980s and oil drilling picked up in the State's southern tier. Overall, New York's drilling permits hit a 20-year high in 2005. Drilling rig availability has become a significant concern for New York's oil and gas operators.

By year-end 2005 a total of 18 deep wells had been drilled on or adjacent to State land. In 2005 New York collected \$3.2 million in royalties from wells draining State land. Due to the high level of Trenton-Black River activity, Steuben County has the most State acreage under lease.

Chapter 386 of the Laws of 2005 was signed into law on August 2, 2005. The amendments to the Environmental Conservation Law included changes to Title 3 (financial security), Title 5 (well spacing), Title 7 (voluntary integration) and Title 9 (compulsory integration). The General Obligations Law was also amended to include new lease language requirements effective January 1, 2006.

In 2005 there were 2,249 active DEC-regulated mines in New York State, a drop of 23 mines from 2004 and the seventh straight year of decline. The decrease is especially noticeable in the Long Island and lower Hudson Valley regions.

Nevertheless, statewide production of New York's major mined commodities remains relatively level from year-to-year. Increasingly, mine operators are choosing to replace production by expanding current mines rather than opening new ones. This trend holds true for both sand and gravel mines and hardrock quarries. Only 66 of the 411 mining permits issued in 2005 were for new facilities.

A total of 48,859 acres were affected by mining in 2005 out of a total life-of-mine approved acreage of 112,658 acres. The Department continued to have success promoting concurrent reclamation with 528 acres reclaimed concurrently at 52 operating mines. Final reclamation of 803 acres occurred at 91 closed mines bringing the year's reclamation total to 1,331 acres. Approximately 24,450 acres of land affected by mining have been reclaimed since 1975.

In 2005 the Division published the New York State Revegetation Procedures Manual: Surface Mining Reclamation. The 91-page guide will help mine operators tailor planting decisions to the specific features of their site and the final intended use of the reclaimed land.

The level of bluestone activity continued to increase in 2005. Record values for this paving and facing stone spurred new investment and increased production.

In 2005 the Division held over \$107.5 million in financial security to guarantee reclamation of mines. However, Department experience shows that many bonds have not kept pace with reclamation costs.

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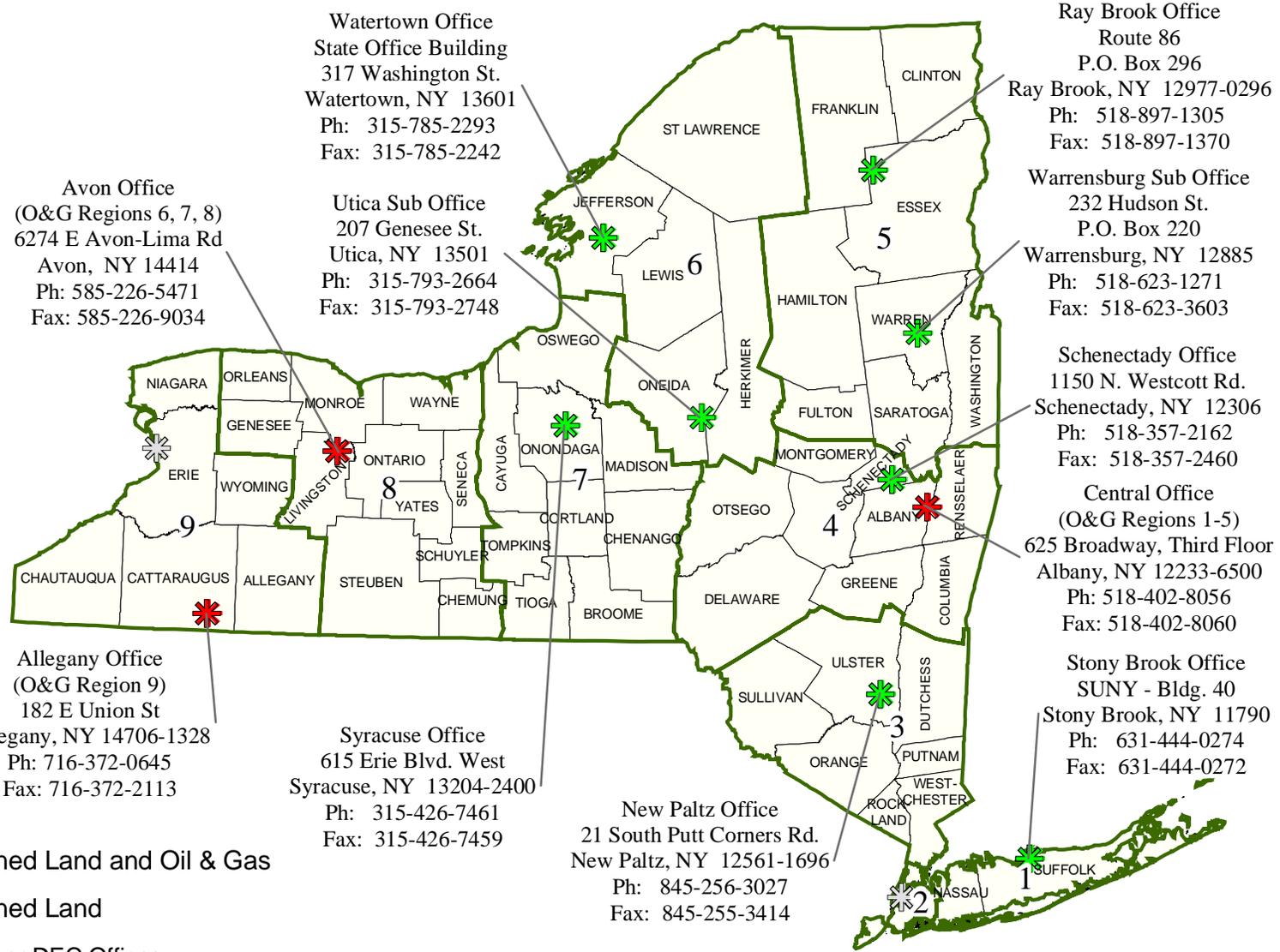
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Appendix 1 - Oil and Gas Data

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Map 1 - Division of Mineral Resources Regional Service Areas



2005 New York Oil & Gas Industry At a Glance

Production and Market Value

Gas	55.2 bcf	Value Up 18%
Oil	211,292 bbl	Value Up 15%
Total Market Value		\$440 Million

All Reported Wells 12,587

Active Wells

Natural Gas	5,957
Oil	2,767
Gas Storage	932
Solution Salt	96

Revenues In Millions

State Leasing	\$3.4 Million
Local Govt (est.)	\$13.1 Million
Landowner Royalties (est.)	\$53.1 Million

Underground Gas Storage

23 facilities, 81% full at year-end

Total Storage Capacity	209 bcf
Working Gas Capacity	80 bcf
Max. Deliverability	1.927 bcf/day

Financial Security
Plugging & Reclamation
\$13,719,025

Solution Mining

5 facilities produced 1.58 billion gallons of brine (1.84 million metric tons salt)

State Leasing

87 leases covered 64,521 acres and 189 productive wells

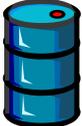
Natural Gas & Oil Abbreviations



Abbreviations for natural gas volume measurements:

mcf	thousand cubic feet
mmcf	million cubic feet
bcf	billion cubic feet

Crude oil is also measured by volume. One barrel equals 42 gallons.



bbl barrel

What's an MCF Do ?

Roughly 4.2 million households in New York use natural gas for home heat, cooking and heating water. It takes just 69 mcf per year to heat the average New York home¹. The State's 2005 production of 55.2 bcf was enough to heat 800,000 homes.



¹ New York State data from US DOE/EIA 2001

Market Value and Economic Benefits

Market Value

Due to both higher prices and higher production, the total market value of New York's oil and gas output increased by roughly 32% from \$334 million in 2004 to over \$440 million in 2005. Likewise the market value of natural gas rose 31% between 2004 and 2005 to \$429.5 million. While oil is a much smaller contributor to the total, it nonetheless rose an impressive 71% from 2004 to \$11.1 million in 2005.

Tax Revenues to Local Governments

Communities in oil and gas producing areas also benefit from the industry's activity. DEC estimates that real property taxes on 2005 natural gas and oil production totaled roughly \$13 million. Local governments assess their taxes each year based on a unit of production value determined by the NY State Division of Equalization and Assessment using a five-year average. This dampens the impact of fluctuating oil and gas prices.

State Lease Oil and Gas Prices

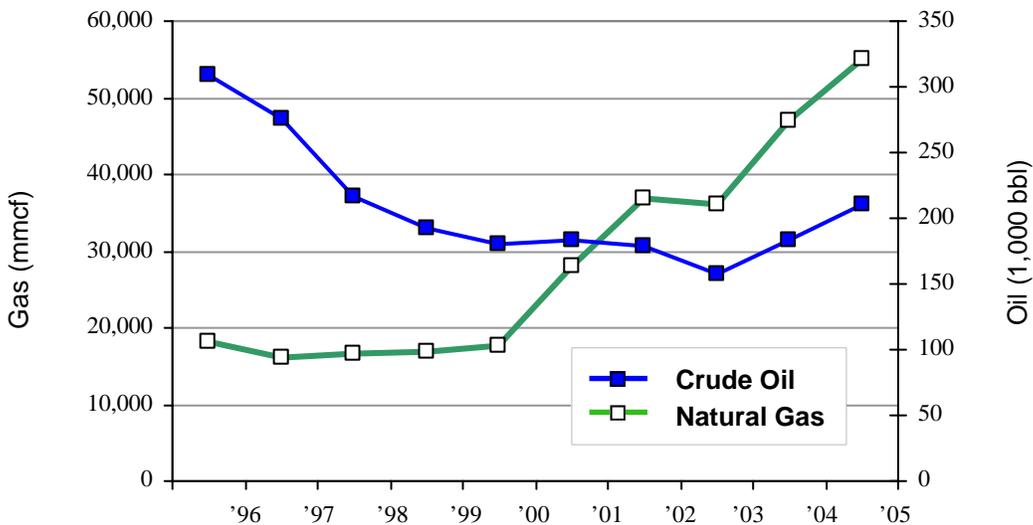
The average wellhead natural gas price of \$7.78 per mcf in 2005 was up 11% from the \$6.98 price of 2004. The average price of oil in 2005 of \$52.75 per bbl was up 49.5% from \$35.27 in 2004. These average prices were obtained from royalty payments made to New York for leases on State lands.

Landowner Royalties and Landowner Wells

The majority of landowners with producing oil and gas leases receive a royalty from the well operator. Based on an average royalty of one-eighth of the production value, it is estimated that landowners in New York received roughly \$53 million in royalties in 2005.

In addition, nearly 500 of New York's gas well operators, mostly landowners, own just one well. Typically the wells are no longer commercially productive, but produce enough gas to help reduce their home heating costs.

Chart 1 - New York State Oil and Gas Production, 1996 - 2005



Production of Oil and Gas

Natural Gas Production

New York's reported natural gas production for 2005 was 55.2 bcf, an increase of 18% from 2004. Approximately 44 bcf of gas came from just 71 producing Trenton-Black River wells, with one well producing over 6.25 bcf.

Oil Production

In 2005 New York's production of oil increased roughly 15% to 211,292 from 184,065 bbl in 2004.

Top Counties and Operators

In 2005 Chemung County took the lead when its natural gas production increased by 66% from 2004. Steuben and Chemung Counties accounted for 74% of New York's 2005 production. Former leader Steuben County dropped back to second place with a slight production decrease. Chautauqua County continued in third place (see Table 1).

In 2005 the top gas producer was Fortuna at 41 bcf of gas and the top oil producer was East Resources at 52,927 bbl of oil.

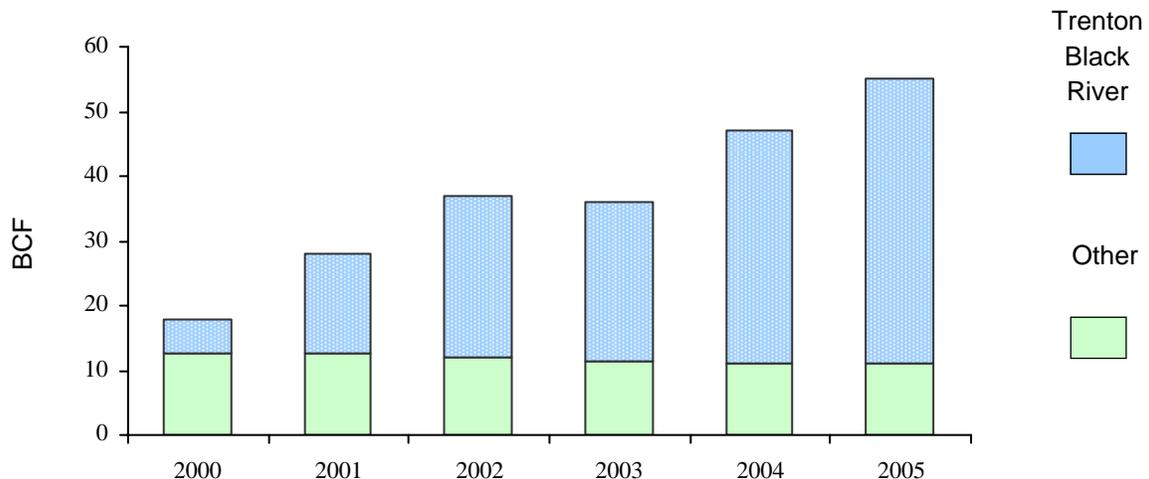
Table 1 - Top Ten Gas Counties, 2005

County	Gas (mcf)	Active Gas Wells	Average mcf/Well
Chemung	20,816,148	31	671,489
Steuben	20,281,703	53	382,674
Chautauqua	5,673,301	3,122	1,817
Schuyler	2,809,365	6	468,228
Erie	1,476,702	853	1,731
Cattaraugus	976,977	505	1,935
Genesee	667,746	498	1,341
Seneca	606,303	160	3,789
Cayuga	589,367	227	2,596
Wyoming	321,381	236	1,362

For Further Details

Map 2 (page 12) gives production information by town. Table 2 on page 13 gives production by geologic formation. Visit our website www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dmn for more information.

Chart 2 - Producing Formation for NY Natural Gas, 2000-2005



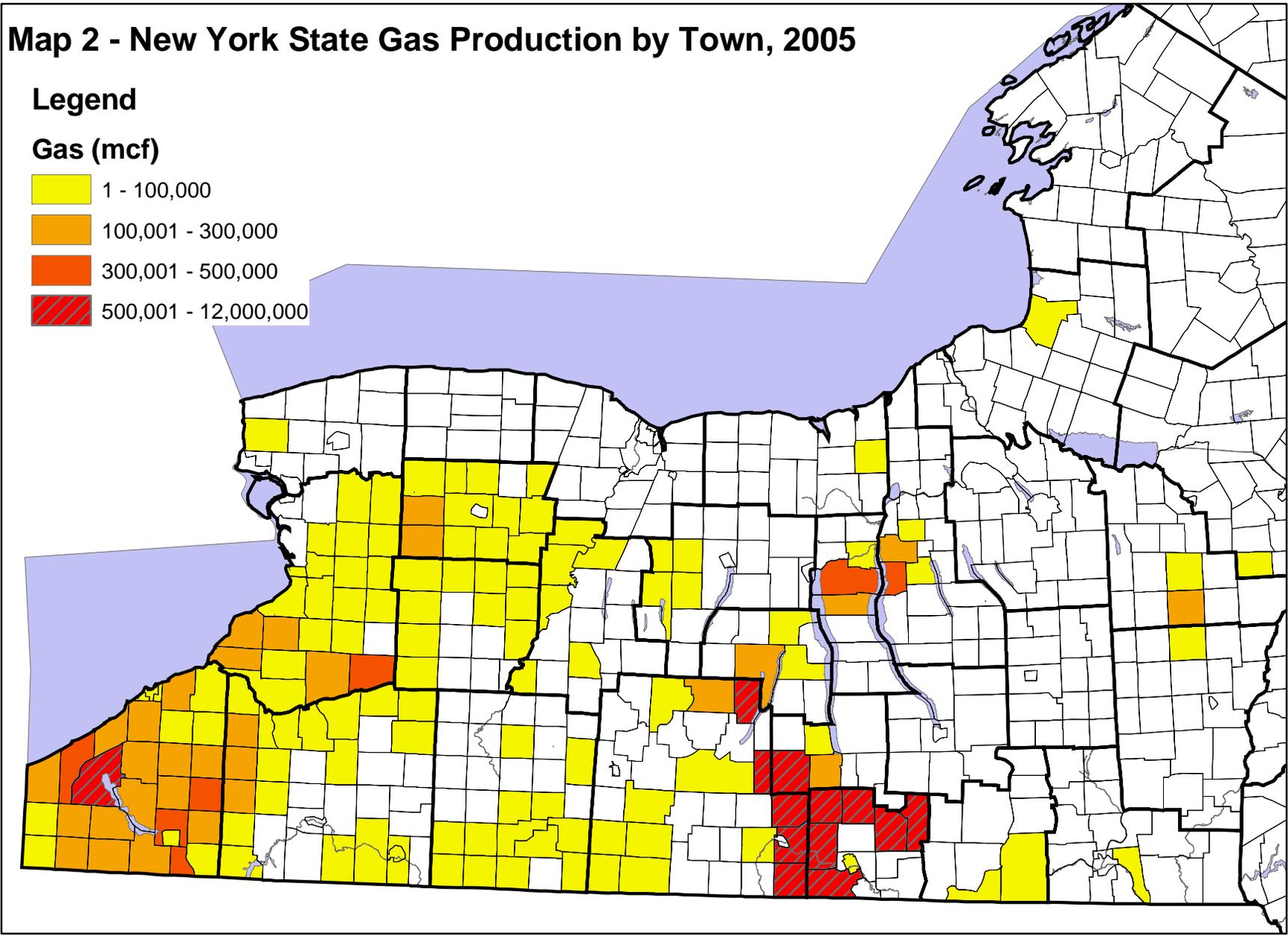


Table 2 - Production by Geologic Formation, 2005

Formation	Wells	Gas	Oil
Devonian Shale	26	27,711	0
Canadaway Group*	2,069	94,950	117,105
Perrysburg	707	187,485	48,246
Tully	11	20,376	0
Hamilton	3	0	0
Marcellus	6	1,767	0
Onondaga	49	74,093	1,483
Oriskany	15	53,431	0
Helderberg	5	45,621	0
Akron	22	17,594	0
Herkimer-Oneida-Oswego	23	238,209	0
Medina	5,223	8,545,216	201
Bass Island	60	94,662	14,911
Queenston	392	1,186,415	0
Trenton	5	21,403	0
Black River	72	43,997,660	0
Little Falls	1	16,983	0
Theresa	9	430,684	0
Other	22	122,107	12,059

* Undifferentiated Canadaway Group includes Glade, Richburg, Bradford and other well-known oil producing formations

To see a stratigraphic column of New York's geologic formations go to <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dmn/southstrat.htm>

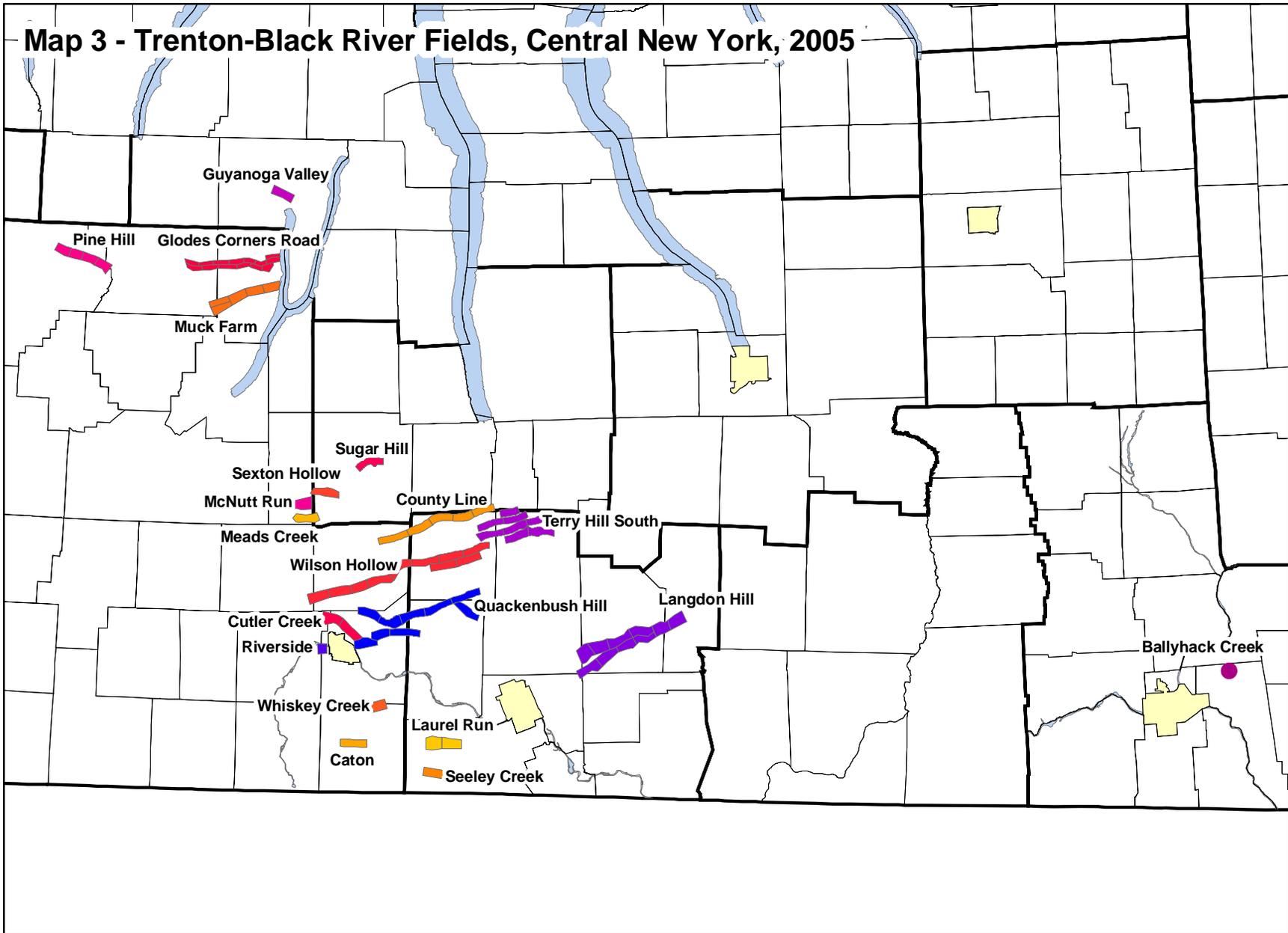


Table 3 - Top Ten Wells Trenton-Black River Production, 2005

Well Name	API Identification Number	2005 Production (bcf)	Cumulative Production Year-End 2005	County/Field
Soderblom 1	31015231340000	6.27	6.32	Chemung/Quakenbush
Reed 1323	31101230550000	4.52	10.99	Steuben/Quakenbush
Curren 1	31015230760000	2.83	3.71	Chemung/Seeley Creek
Lovell 1323	31015228310000	2.63	17.88	Chemung/Quakenbush
Hakes 1	31101230540000	2.33	5.24	Steuben/Quakenbush
Henkel 1359-A	31101228710100	2.23	8.68	Steuben/Quakenbush
Gillis 1	31101231110000	1.74	1.74	Steuben/Rayner
SRA 3-1	31097230720000	1.64	3.76	Schuyler/Meads Creek
Harndon 1	31101230400000	1.54	2.58	Steuben/Whiskey Creek
Andrews 1	31101230380000	1.36	3.86	Steuben/Quakenbush

Table 4 - Top Ten Fields Trenton-Black River Production, 2005

Field Name	2005 Production (bcf)	Number of Wells*	First Year of Production	Cumulative Production Year-End 2005
Quackenbush Hill	21.36	9	2000	64.79
Wilson Hollow	4.18	10	1999	35.19
Seeley Creek	2.83	1	2004	3.70
Langdon Hill	2.30	5	2001	4.41
Rayner	1.74	1	2005	1.74
Meads Creek	1.64	1	2004	2.12
Whiskey Creek	1.54	1	2003	2.58
McNutt Run	1.08	1	2004	1.10
Sexton Hollow	0.93	1	2004	1.39
Cutler Creek	0.92	3	2001	4.48

* Excludes shut-in wells

Drilling Permits and Well Completions

Drilling Permits

DEC issued 435 drilling permits in 2005, a 20-year record. The high price for oil and natural gas spurred the drilling increase seen in New York and the nation as a whole.

In 2005 DEC issued 180 gas, 200 oil, 12 brine, 15 geothermal, 6 storage, 7 stratigraphic and 15 monitoring well permits. While a small part of the total, the 15 geothermal permits represent an all time high for that category.

In 2005 DEC issued permits for wells in 23 counties; the top 3 were Cattaraugus (197), Chautauqua County (104) and Allegany County (21). Most of the oil drilling permits were issued for Cattaraugus (169) and Allegany (21) counties. Chautauqua (99) and Cattaraugus (21) counties had the highest number of gas permits.

Wildcats and Extensions

Operators drilled 28 gas wildcat wells and 17 gas extension wells in 2005. DEC's drilling moratorium resulted in a decrease in the drilling of wildcat and extension wells.

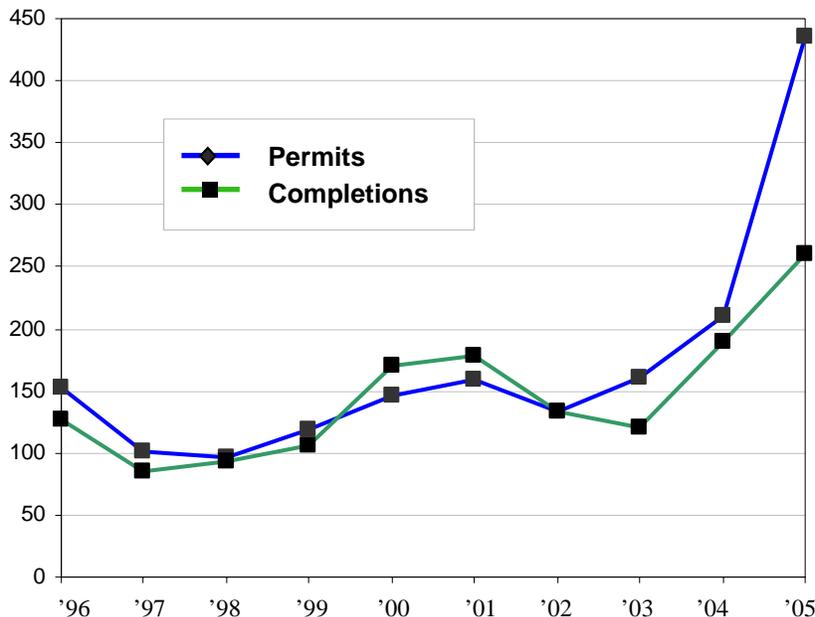
Well Spuds and Completions

The number of wells spud (started) in 2005 rose to 315, a level not seen since 1986. In 2005, 104 gas wells and 95 oil wells were completed with a total number of 261 wells of all types completed.

Formations Permitted

Industry interest in the Ordovician age carbonates of central New York remained strong during 2005 with 25 Trenton-Black River permits issued in 2005.

Chart 3 - Drilling Permits and Completions, 1996 - 2005



Drilling Permits, 2005

Gas	180
Oil	200
Other	55
Total	

Well Completions, 2005

Gas	104
Oil	95
Other	62
Total	261

Compliance and Enforcement

Inspections

In 2005 Oil and Gas staff traveled 114,317 miles to perform 2,577 well site inspections. Staff inspect well sites:

- during permit application review to check environmental and public safety issues;
- during drilling to check on well site construction and drilling permit compliance;
- during the operating phase to check for leaks, spills or other potential problems; and
- to ensure that well plugging and site reclamation comply with requirements.

DEC staff perform follow-up inspections to ensure any violations are properly remediated.

Compliance Enforcement

Violations are handled with a mixture of enforcement tools, remediation requirements and penalties. In 2005 the Oil and Gas Program assessed \$18,250 in fines and penalties plus \$137,500 in environmental benefit project value.

Permit Fees

Total oil and gas permit fees collected by the Division equaled \$510,910 in 2005, of which \$40,900 was deposited in the Oil and Gas Account.

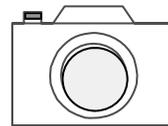
Division Inspectors On the Job



Inspectors check wells during the drilling, operating and plugging stages. Here an inspector checks a recently completed well.



Staff conducted plugging inspections for this abandoned oil well, part of a \$3 million dollar EPA project to plug approximately 70 abandoned wells.



State Land Leasing

At the end of 2005 the Division managed 87 leases covering roughly 64,500 acres of State land, a decrease from 2004's 77,500 acres (11 Allegany and Steuben County leases expired).

Steuben County has the most State acreage under lease due to the high level of drilling activity associated with the Trenton-Black River.

At year-end 2005 the State was earning royalties from 101 productive oil and gas wells physically located on State lands and another 88 producing wells on adjacent and/or unitized lands. These wells were held under 47 leases.

New York collected royalties from these 189 wells which produced 9.64 bcf of natural gas and 2,770 bbl of oil. The average prices paid were \$7.78 per mcf for gas and \$52.75 per barrel of oil.

In 2005 the State received total leasing revenues of \$3.4 million:

- **Delay Rentals** - Operators submitted a total of \$80,534 in delay rentals, down 37% from 2004. The decrease in delay rentals was due to the 11 expired leases and the transition to

royalty payments for several leases awarded in the State's 2003 lease sale.

- **Royalties** - The State received \$3,235,206 in royalty revenue from production of oil and gas on 47 leases in 9 counties (20,855 acres). The 2005 royalty total was five times higher than 2004.
- **Storage Leases** - Fourteen storage leases added \$123,930, up 13% from 2004. The majority of New York's storage lease acreage is in Cattaraugus County.
- **Lease Sale Revenue** - The State received \$1,914 from two non-competitive leases of New York State Department of Transportation acreage in preexisting production units.

DEC Managed Oil and Gas Leases

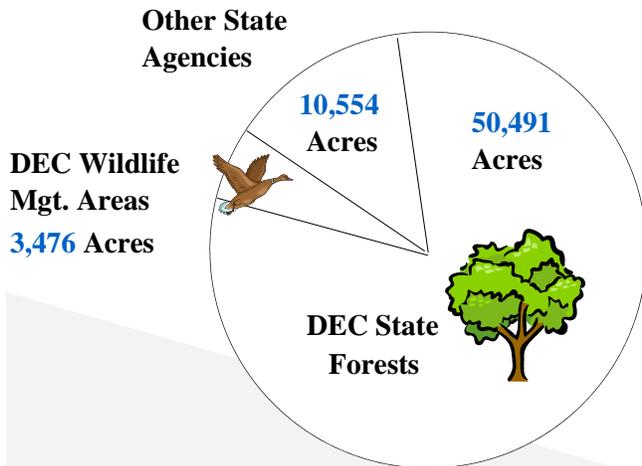


Table 5 - Total Leasing Revenues, 1998 - 2005

1998	\$279,523
1999	\$3,206,406
2000	\$181,876
2001	\$379,845
2002	\$249,685
2003	\$5,326,927
2004	\$765,782
2005	\$3,439,670

For more information, see the 2005 Oil & Gas Leasing Report at www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dmn

Orphaned and Abandoned Wells

2005 Status Report

The problem of abandoned wells continues to grow despite record high oil and gas prices. Operators submitted annual well reports which show that 1,029 gas wells and 1,629 oil wells had zero production in 2005. Another 2,117 registered wells were not reported by their owners in 2005 and are assumed to be abandoned. In addition, DEC records show 4,131 wells of unknown status, not including wells for which DEC has no information.

At the end of production a well must be properly plugged and abandoned. The borehole must be plugged with cement, equipment removed, and the land reclaimed.

Environmental Issues

Abandoned wells can leak oil, gas and/or brine; underground leaks may go undiscovered for years. These substances can contaminate ground and surface water, kill vegetation and cause safety and health problems. Historically, abandoned wells have been discovered along roadsides, in residential yards, playgrounds, parking lots, wooded areas, inside buildings and underwater in wetlands, creeks, streams and ponds.

Old Historic Well Problems

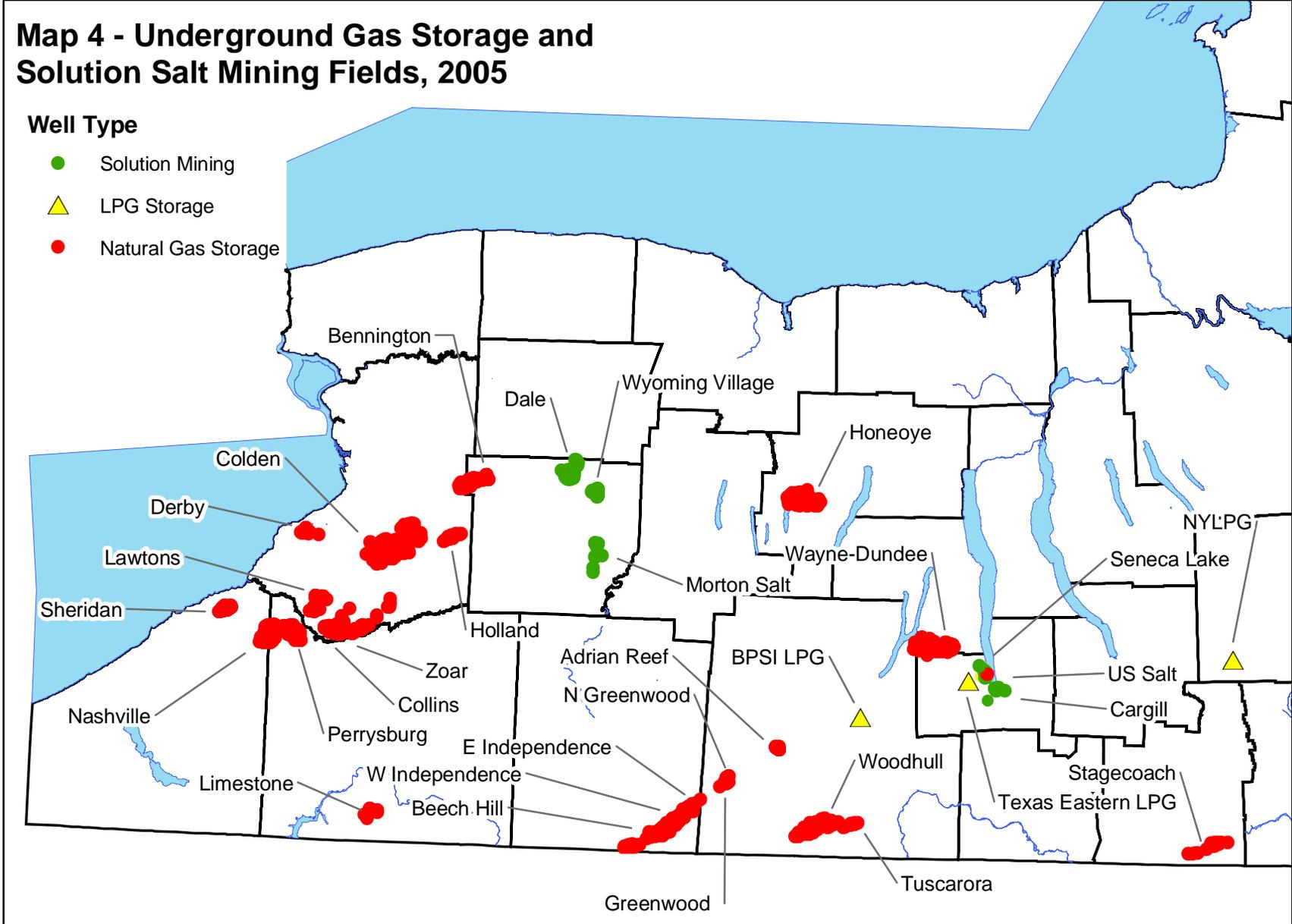
DEC has at least partial records on 35,000 wells, but estimates that over 75,000 oil and gas wells have been drilled in the State since the 1820s. Most of the wells date before New York established a regulatory program. Many were never properly plugged or were plugged using older techniques that may not last. Every year DEC staff discover additional abandoned wells while conducting scheduled inspections or investigating complaints. Many of these cases take several years to resolve as DEC pursues legal action against the responsible parties.

New York has an Oil and Gas Account that was created to plug problem and abandoned oil and gas wells. It is funded by a \$100 per well permit fee; at the end of 2005 the balance was \$316,000. DEC has over 600 wells on its priority plugging list, in addition to the abandoned and unreported wells cited above. Since the funds are insufficient to cover the scope of the problem, DEC has been working to find other mechanisms to plug abandoned wells. Division staff worked with the Environmental Protection Agency and Coast Guard on a \$3 million project using federal Oil Pollution Act funds to plug 70 abandoned oil wells in the Town of West Union, Steuben County. In the first phase of the project, 29 wells were plugged in 2005.

Plugging Permits and Bonds

In 2005 operators plugged 150 wells in accordance with a DEC plugging permit. At year-end DEC held \$13.7 million in financial security to guarantee well plugging and reclamation. However, bonds are not required for wells that predate DEC's regulatory program.

Plugged Wells, 2005	
Oil	63
Gas	27
Other	55
Financial Security, 2005	
\$13.7 Million	



Underground Gas Storage

Twenty-three natural gas and three liquefied petroleum gas underground storage facilities operated in 10 counties in the western and central parts of New York during 2005.

Natural Gas Storage

The maximum deliverability of gas from New York's underground natural gas storage fields is 1.927 bcf/day. Operators reported that at year-end 2005 the storage fields were 81% full and working gas capacity was 80.26 bcf, a decrease of roughly 24% compared to 2004. The drop was caused by high gas prices and continued gas sales during a period when storage facilities normally replenish stocks. Hurricane Katrina's damage to onshore and offshore infrastructure in the Gulf of Mexico was severe enough to disrupt normal activity for the last five months of the year. According to a New York gas storage operator, gas flowed from the northeast to markets in the south for the first time in recent memory.

Permit Applications

In 2005 Division underground storage staff were engaged in reviewing seven permit applications submitted during 2005 or previous years. The applications included three from National Fuel Gas Supply Corp. (NFGSC) and one apiece from Bath Petroleum Storage Inc. (BPSI), Dominion Transmission, Inc. (DTI), New York LP Gas Storage, Inc. (NYLPG), and Wyckoff Gas Storage Company, LLC (Wyckoff).

In September the Division issued an underground storage permit for DTI's new Quinlan Reef storage field in the Town of Olean, Cattaraugus County. In addition to conducting its own permit review, the Department participated as a cooperating agency in the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's review of the project.

In July the Department executed an Order on Consent with BPSI to settle longstanding permitting and legal issues. In conjunction with the set-

tlement, BPSI submitted a permit application to modify the storage capacity at its liquefied petroleum gas storage facility.

New York's underground storage industry continued to attract out-of-state interest in 2005 as it did in 2004. In 2004 SemGas LP from Oklahoma purchased the unbuilt Avoca and Wyckoff projects in Steuben County. In 2005 Inergy, LP of Missouri purchased the existing Stagecoach Storage field in Tioga County. The Stagecoach facility remains operating under the name of Central New York Oil & Gas (CNYOG).

Liquefied Petroleum Gas Storage

New York's three liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) underground storage facilities are located in Cortland, Steuben and Schuyler counties. The three facilities, which are owned by BPSI, NYLPG, and TE Products Pipeline Company (TEPPCO), store propane and/or butane in underground caverns for delivery to market by pipeline, rail and/or truck. The three companies reported a total of 37,255,000 gallons of LPG in storage at year-end 2005. This volume represents 24% of the total capacity at the three facilities.

Liquefied petroleum gas is stored in caverns excavated in the shales of the Genesee Group at the TEPPCO facility and in caverns solution mined out of the Salina Group salt formations at BPSI and NYLPG facilities. The Salina Group salt formations are the same formations used by New York's five solution mining facilities.



Well at New York LPG's Underground Storage facility in Cortland County.

Solution Salt, Geothermal and Stratigraphic Wells

While oil and gas wells are the best known part of the Division's regulatory program, there are several other important types of wells subject to permit requirements. Solution mining wells have been drilled into New York's underground salt beds since the 1800s. These wells and their facilities are subject to special drilling, operating and plugging requirements tailored to that industry. The Division also regulates geothermal and stratigraphic wells over 500 feet deep. Geothermal wells play an important role in energy conservation; stratigraphic wells provide essential information on underground rock formations and subsurface conditions.

Solution Salt

New York's five solution salt mining facilities, operated by U.S. Salt, Cargill, Morton, Texas Brine and Occidental Chemical, produced 1.58 billion gallons of brine in 2005, a decrease of 29% from 2004. These solution mining facilities are located in Wyoming County (3) and Schuyler County (2).

In 2005 solution mining operators submitted 12 drilling permit applications, compared to just 2 applications in 2004. Eleven solution mining wells were plugged in 2005.

The value of New York's solution salt mining production is estimated at over \$100 million. For years New York has ranked third nationally in total volume of salt production (combined brine and rock salt). However, within New York State salt moved from third to second in economic importance for non-fuel minerals in 2004.



Geothermal

The high price of our main energy sources, gas and oil, is resulting in significant private sector investment in geothermal (heat exchange) wells. In 2005, 24 geothermal well drilling applications were submitted, which is three times the number of geothermal permit applications in 2004. In 2005 the Division issued 15 geothermal well permits for New York City and in Westchester and Essex Counties. Two geothermal wells were plugged in 2005.

Stratigraphic

In 2005 DEC received 13 stratigraphic well permit applications associated with the New York City water tunnel project. The Division issued 7 stratigraphic well drilling permits in 2005. IN comparison operators submitted only 2 drilling applications in 2004. Twenty-two stratigraphic wells were plugged in 2005.

This is a core from a stratigraphic well. Operators drill stratigraphic wells to:

- gather information for construction or research projects
- evaluate underground rock formations for oil, gas, gas storage, solution mining or brine disposal
- investigate subsurface conditions in problem areas.