



Department of Environmental Conservation

Division of Mineral Resources

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# New York State Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources 2002

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**Annual Report**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

**George E. Pataki, *Governor***

**Erin M. Crotty, *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

New York State  
Oil, Gas  
and  
Mineral Resources

2002

State of New York  
George E. Pataki, Governor

Department of Environmental Conservation  
Erin M. Crotty, Commissioner

## 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 recently experienced significant activity. Due to differences in legal reporting requirements, the types of statistics presented for the two programs are not identical. All information is for the year 2002.

### Oil, Gas and Solution Mining

**Inspections** - Staff traveled 122,283 miles and performed 3,394 oil and gas inspections.

#### Permits and Completions

Gas: Permits	97	Completions	43
Oil: Permits	22	Completions	17
Other: Permits	14	Completions	59
Total: Permits	133	Completions	119

**Wells Reported 2002 (All Types)** - 12,783

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

#### Production & Market Value

Gas	36.8 bcf	Up	31%
Oil	179,266 bbl	Down	2%
Total O&G Mkt Value	\$116 million		

**State Leasing** - 84 leases were in effect covering 58,894 acres and 193 productive wells.

#### Revenues from Oil and Gas

State Revenues	\$429,685
Local Govt. Taxes (est.)	\$3.5 million
Landowner Royalties (est.)	\$14.5 million

**Underground Natural Gas Storage** - 23 facilities were 78% full at year-end.

Total Storage Capacity	207 bcf
Working Gas Capacity	105 bcf
Max. Daily Deliverability	1.927 bcf/day

**Solution Mining** - 5 facilities produced 2.17 billion gallons of brine equal to 2.5 million metric tons of salt.

**Financial Security** - In 2002 New York held \$12.1 million to guarantee well plugging and site reclamation.

### Mined Land Reclamation

**Inspections** - Staff traveled 201,353 miles to perform 2,575 mine inspections.

#### Permits Issued

New Permits	56
Renewals	367
Total Permits	423

#### Fees Annual

**Regulatory**  
\$1,874,563

**Active Mines** 2,417

**Estimated Market Value** \$1.01 Billion

#### US Production Rank by Quantity

Wollastonite	1st	Talc	4th
Garnet	2nd	Cement	10th
Salt	3rd	Sand & Gravel	12th

#### NY Rank by Value

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

#### Common Mine Types

Sand & Gravel	2,035
Limestone & Dolostone	98
Bluestone	52

#### Owner Type

Industry	1,832
Government	589

**Affected Acreage** 49,134

**Life-of-Mine Acreage** 120,361

**Reclaimed Acreage, 2002** 1,425

**Reclaimed Since 1975** 20,667

**Financial Security** - In 2002 New York required \$87.35 million to guarantee mine site reclamation.

## **DIRECTOR'S CORNER**

From record-setting statewide natural gas production to recognition of outstanding reclamation of abandoned mined lands, 2002 was significant in many ways for the Division of Mineral Resources and the industries we regulate. The Division focuses on the safe, environmentally sound development of our state's non-renewable natural resources. Equally important are our regulatory programs which require that the environment be restored at the conclusion of development. You will see these themes throughout this year's annual report which has been enhanced to include additional information in the resource production and restoration areas.

The top story for New York in 2002 is the prolific natural gas production from the Trenton-Black River (TBR) formation. A modern state record of 36.8 billion cubic feet (bcf) of natural gas was produced in New York in 2002, 24.9 bcf of which was produced from only 46 TBR wells. Gas production from the 6,000 active wells producing from all other formations was approximately 12 bcf. See pages 30-35 for statistics on individual well and field TBR production and well spacing.

We estimate that over 75,000 wells have been drilled in New York since 1821, most of these before New York adopted a regulatory program. As we have found more abandoned wells than we have plugged, this is an uphill battle. We endeavor to plug or have plugged as many wells as possible using various mechanisms from enforcement to deployment of outside funding sources. The results of these efforts in 2002 are highlighted on pages 22-24 of the report.

There are over 2,400 active mines in New York from Long Island to Buffalo. Applications for new permits continued to decline in 2002 while applications to expand existing mines continued to increase. Almost 50,000 acres of land in New York are under permit to be mined. Although operating conditions are defined, reviewed and ultimately regulated through the mining permit

process, the reclamation plan for a site is equally important and must be reviewed and approved when a permit is issued. Mining staff approved final reclamation of over 1,000 acres in 2002 with an additional 374 acres reclaimed concurrently at operating mine sites.

While reclamation is required by law, it also provides an opportunity to enhance property by forming partnerships with the local community, open space advocates, environmental groups and other interested parties. The Division of Mineral Resources recognizes these accomplishments through its annual Mined Land Reclamation Award. The Town of North Hempstead in Nassau County received the 2002 Mined Land Reclamation Award for their reclamation of an abandoned sand mine. The 400-acre site, acquired by the Town in the late 1980s, was transformed at a cost of \$30 million into a championship 18-hole public golf course known as Harbor Links. Construction of the Harbor Links facility simultaneously removed a significant environmental threat, enhanced wetlands and created public open space. See pages 42-43 to learn more about this unique project.

Finally, as we continue to enhance our data collection efforts and mining regulatory databases, we undertook a focused effort in 2002 to enhance this annual report to present additional mining and product information specific to New York. We recognize that this effort could fill a need as there is no other comprehensive, official publication which contains this type of data on a consistent, recurring basis. The mining sections of this report have been expanded accordingly and appendices have been added. I urge you to review pages 38-53 for information on the types of mines in New York, their products and national rank. Information on mining permits issued and land reclaimed in 2002 is listed in new appendices on pages 89-112. As always, we encourage and welcome your suggestions to improve this publication and our service to the citizens and industries of New York.

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# Map 1 - Division of Mineral Resources Regional Service Areas

