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Company pumps new resources into old field

COMPANY PUMPS NEW RESOURCES INTO OLD FIELD

By Jack Money
Published: July 4, 2008

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 Buzz up!

The [Oklahoma City](#) Oil Field isn't done yet.

A local company and its partners have put \$250 million and eight years of hard work into the Oklahoma City field, and expect to begin seeing positive cash flow from its 20 producing wells by the end of this year.

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Tobacco-free cowboys?

New Dominion entered the area in southeast Oklahoma City — all but abandoned as an oil and natural gas reservoir decades ago — with a unique, but well-tested theory that more oil and gas could be recovered from the field.

The company is dewatering the field, capturing oil and gas brought up with saltwater and sending the water back into the ground using disposal wells that are on the field's far side — actually on the opposite side of a fault line that divides the area.

How the wells are being used

Producing wells' pumps are submerged within the wells and powered by electricity, pushing fluid to a three-phase separator on pad sites, where it separates

and measures the oil, natural gas and water. The oil flows to a central storage area of two, 10,000 barrel tanks via pipeline. The gas goes straight into lines that lead to a natural gas processing plant built by Scissor Tail Energy capable of treating 15 million cubic feet a day (and expandable up to 80 million cubic feet a day) for the project, while the water is piped back to the disposal wells.

"I am using natural hydrology" to recover the oil and natural gas, said [David](#)

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ABOUT THE FIELD
 Historical significance
 The Oklahoma City field started in 1928 when the Indian Territory Illuminating Oil Co., a subsidiary of City Services, drilled a well that discovered oil near SE 59 and Bryant Avenue. Before long, the discovery ushered in a field stretching 12 miles, from Oklahoma's Capitol on the north to Moore. Within 18 months, 112 wells had been drilled in the Arbuckle formation, part of the Oklahoma City field. Then, the Wild Mary Sudick came in, and other formations were drilled during the next several years, and soon numbered more than 1,200. Their oil provided a significant amount of oil the nation needed during World War II.

"I am producing the formation water that was in the rock when it was buried a billion years ago," David Chernicky said. "By sucking out the water, we are getting the remaining oil and gas that is left."

Making the grade
 Chernicky says while he has been doing dewatering projects since 1982, New Dominion made its name in 1998 by going into a Lincoln County field, an area of the Hutton Lime that had produced a total of 37,000 barrels of oil and a half-billion cubic feet of natural gas — most of it from one well — with the belief the area still could produce another 1.2 million barrels of oil and about 11 billion cubic feet of gas. Today, the company continues to expand the field, and says proved reserves will exceed initial estimates.

Here to stay
 The average life of one of New Dominion's wells in the Oklahoma City field will be at least 50 years, and Chernicky said he sees expansion possibilities into other reservoirs within eight square miles of the company's current focus. Of the \$250 million New Dominion and its partners have spent so far, half of it was for pipelines,

Chernicky, New Dominion's president and chief executive, who estimates the field still contains at least 50 million barrels of recoverable oil and more than a half-trillion cubic feet of gas.

Chernicky said he first saw the technology he is using today in 1982, was intrigued by it, and has been working ever since to perfect its application to old fields like the one in Oklahoma City.

"I basically have been rewriting the geology and engineering books when it pertains to dewatering," Chernicky said.

Bob Griffith, a field inspector with the Oil & Gas Conservation Division of the **Corporation Commission**, said New Dominion has developed its dewatering technology into a science. During the recent **Mid-America Regulatory Conference** in Oklahoma City, he provided an overview of New Dominion's field operations and took a tour group to some of its locations.

"One well, for instance, makes 3,500 barrels of water a day — now that's an oilfield barrel, which holds 42 gallons, so you begin to see the enormous amount of water" a well produces, he said. "But from that well, they are making massive amounts of oil and natural gas.

"This oil is so good, as far as its content," Griffith also said. "They've got the technology, the people, and they can do it safe."

the injection wells, and a dedicated electrical substation, providing the company about 45 megawatts of power to run its wells. Another substation is coming. "I will soon be Oklahoma Gas & Electric Co.'s largest customer," Chernicky said. From Staff Reports

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New Dominion has certainly been a good neighbor in any area where they have a presence. David Chernicky has made extra efforts in the Prague area and we do appreciate New Dominion.

Bill, Paden - Jul 4, 2008 at 2:37 pm

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