

Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Industry Outlook

Melinda Yurkowski¹

Abstract

Nearly 90 % of the 1656 wells drilled in the province were horizontal in 2016. The Viking light oil play of the west central Saskatchewan continued to be the focus of the oil drilling in the province in 2016, while the Shaunavon oil play of southwest Saskatchewan and the Bakken and Torquay light oil plays in the southeast corner once again played a major role in the province's oil patch. Saskatchewan's oil production in 2016, was near 168 million barrels (28.2 million cubic metres). The Mississippian in the southeast and Mannville in west central continue to dominate Saskatchewan's overall production for 2016.

2017 is shaping up to be a busier year, as close to 860 wells have been drilled to the end of March, as compared to 358 during the same time last year.

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Melinda Yurkowski is currently an Assistant Chief Geologist with Saskatchewan Geological Survey at Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy. She has worked in both private and public sectors and has been with the Saskatchewan Government since 1998. In 2002 she became a Senior Research Geologist with the Survey and worked primarily on the geology of the shallow and unconventional gas deposits of Saskatchewan. She completed her B.Sc. and her M.Sc. degrees in Geology at the University of Regina. Her Master's thesis focused on understanding the reservoir conditions of the Devonian Winnipegosis pinnacle reefs in southeast Saskatchewan. In 2010, Melinda took on her current role, heading up Petroleum Geology at the Subsurface Geological Lab in Regina. She is also fortunate to be able to work in a bit of geology in her schedule and is continuing with her work on the helium deposits of Saskatchewan.