

Saskatchewan Oil and Gas Industry Outlook

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Abstract

Saskatchewan's oil industry had a record year in 2014, with oil production nearing 188.1 million barrels (29.9 million cubic metres). Horizontal drilling was also higher in 2014 with 2,837 of the 3,657 oil wells drilled in the province being horizontal, surpassing the 2,433 horizontal wells drilled in 2013. The Viking light oil play of the west central Saskatchewan continued to dominate the oil drilling in the province in 2014, while the Shaunavon unconventional oil plays 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. The more mature plays in the province (Mississippian in the southeast and Mannville in west central) also added to Saskatchewan's overall record production for 2014.

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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 currently developing a helium shows database of Saskatchewan.