



# CES WIRELINE

A newsletter of the Research & Development Division of LSU's Center for Energy Studies

**Vol. 1 No. 1**

**Winter 2004**

For the first ten years or so of CES' 22-year history, we frequently issued and mailed newsletters and other printed media. With the advent of the Internet and a couple of reorganizations we have drifted away from these publications, and now we are moving back to these types of communications based on requests we have received.

## *Age of the Internet*

While we have been remiss in issuing hard copy mailings, our Internet site usage continues to grow. During the recently completed federal fiscal year, CES' Internet site had over 55,000 user sessions and more than half were for the R&D Division's Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (CGR PTTC) site. The largest user is the private sector, accounting for 45% of site visits. The top two downloads by a wide margin are for PTTC products and Dr. Don Goddard's report on shallow gas potential. Our site, however, has become unwieldy and difficult to navigate, and we have hired Drew Smith, an MPA graduate student, to help with our site's redesign. We would appreciate any comments you may have which you can e-mail to [rbaumann@lsu.edu](mailto:rbaumann@lsu.edu). This newsletter will concentrate on general R&D in-house items.

## *Our New Home*

We are comfortably settled in our new building, since our move in April 2003, which we share with units comprising

the School of the Coast and Environment. CES' portion of the building, including the Louisiana Geological Survey, was built without state general funds. We owe our home to a \$7.5 million grant from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, utilizing some remaining funds from the Stripper Well Settlement Funds from the days of regulated old oil versus unregulated new oil prices. The grant also paid for our "Louisiana Energy Information Center," commonly referred to as our Conference Center, and consisting of a large rotunda, auditorium, large conference room, kitchen, and library. Furnishings and equipment for the library and large conference room were provided by ChevronTexaco and Burlington Resources respectively. Funding for equipping some of our other smaller conference rooms and a laboratory were provided by LIOGA, El Paso, and Vastar Resources (remember them?).

The Conference Center utilization rate has been 36 per cent of all available hours, which is above expectations. The breakdown of usage is as follows:

outside organizations affiliated with in-house personnel, 39 per cent; in-house, 36 per cent; other LSU units, 15 per cent; other state government, 7 per cent (largely Governor Blanco's Transition Team); and private non-profits, 3 per cent. The Conference Center is managed by Versa Stickle of our CES Data and Information Services Division.

### ***Extramural Research Projects***

The U. S. Department of Energy is the primary extramural funding agency for the R&D Division in comparison to the Center's Policy Analysis Division, which receives most of its extramural support from the U. S. Minerals Management Service.

The R&D Division currently has three multi-year projects that originate out of the US DOE, which provide about \$350 K per annum. Dr. Goddard, in collaboration with the Louisiana Geological Survey and the University of Alabama, is a co-principal investigator on two projects. One is an examination of the deep gas potential of the central and northeast Gulf of Mexico salt basins, and the other examines the total depositional history on a regional basis.

The third DOE-related project is the management of the Central Gulf Region of the National Petroleum Technology Transfer Council. This is a tech transfer program rather than a research project. During the fiscal year ending September 30, we conducted five formal technical workshops, attended by some 256 individuals and had 654 contacts with oil and gas operators. Four additional workshops are being conducted during the final quarter of the calendar year. Upcoming workshops include:

*Low Cost Oil & Gas Recovery Methods*  
January 27, 2003, Petroleum Club, Shreveport

*Controlling Sand Production*  
March 2005, Houston

*Coil Tubing for Offshore Operations*  
April 2005, Lafayette

*Finding the Value in Marginal Wells*  
May 2005, Shreveport

### ***"New" Well Reference Product***

Our PTTC Region, which is one of ten in the nation, is known for its product development. This month (December) we are releasing a new product that is modeled after our successful *Louisiana Desktop Well Reference* CD that was developed in 1998 and updated in 2001. Our new product is parish-based with St. Bernard being the first released. Its advantages over the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' SONRIS include the following:

- Data prior to 1977 are included from the inception of the LUW code system.
- Data are available by LUW Code and by field.
- All well location data have been corrected.
- All production data are in digital form and available for use in other mapping or database programs.

Contact Mike Surman at [msurman@lsu.edu](mailto:msurman@lsu.edu) or Brian Harder at [brian@lgs.bri.lsu.edu](mailto:brian@lgs.bri.lsu.edu) if you are interested in the *Louisiana Parish Well Reference, St. Bernard Parish*. Cameron Parish should be available in the Spring 2005.

### ***Downstream***

Dr. Ralph Pike heads our downstream research efforts through the Center's Minerals Processing Research Institute. The Institute recently completed a four-day intensive workshop held at the ExxonMobil Baton Rouge Chemical Plant on *Inherently Safer Process Design and Operations for Chemical Engineers*. The workshop is held annually by the American Institute for Chemical Engineers for continuing professional development. Next year's workshop will be held in Bristol, PA at the Rohm and Hass facility.

Dr. Pike has active projects with Monsanto, Motiva Enterprises, and IMC Agrico on new process design for carbon dioxide and carbon nanotubes as part of a larger effort on process design targeted for pollution prevention. This is a multi-year effort involving industry and several state and federal agencies.

### ***Upcoming Legislative Session***

While we were only involved in a couple of minor energy bills during the 2004 Regular Session, it appears that we will be more active in providing research support for legislation for the 2005 Regular Session. We have already been contacted by several organizations and three state agencies regarding background studies that may lead to legislation. Among the topics under discussion are the following:

- Amending Act 8 of 2000R with respect to some of the fee rates that were established,
- Renewing severance tax incentives on horizontal, deep, and reactivation of inactive wells,

- Examining the impacts of federal incentives on drilling rates in South Louisiana, including how they may be impacting drilling on state leases, and
- Examining whether issues dealing with "legacy sites" have any relation to drilling rates, particularly in South Louisiana.

We will provide additional information in our next issue.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Dr. Goddard and co-author Dr. Ron Zimmerman received a Grover Murray Best Published Paper Award at the 2004 Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies' Annual Convention in San Antonio for the paper entitled *Shallow Miocene and Oligocene Gas Potential: Southeastern Louisiana's Florida Parishes* (available for download at CES web site [www.enrg.lsu.edu](http://www.enrg.lsu.edu) under Bibliography, 2003).

Bob Baumann has been reappointed to the Energy Resources Research and Technology Committee of the IOGCC. Governor Blanco is the fourth Governor to appoint Bob, who has also been reappointed as the University Advisor for Louisiana to the Council for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research. This is an organization affiliated with The Energy Council, which is the legislative corollary to the Executive Branch's IOGCC.

Bob Bradley, who has been in charge of our educational outreach efforts since his arrival in August 1994, will be leaving the Center for another opportunity this

January. Bob is well known for his educational CD products *Black Gold Beneath the Bayou* and *Environmental Education: A Louisiana View*. Recently, he has also been very active in giving grant writing seminars at seven universities, at U. S. Departments of Energy and Agriculture offices, and for state government offices in Hawaii, Montana, Guam, and Delaware.

Recipients of this year's LMOGA/Robert Brooksher book scholarships are Catherine Taylor Persac and Justin David Fowlkes. Justin is a junior Honors College biology major. A former valedictorian from West Monroe, Justin has maintained a 4.0 GPA at LSU. Taylor, a freshman at LSU and a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge, earned 29 advanced

placement credits. Each recipient will receive \$400 each for both the spring and fall semesters.

Harold Silverman, a former Faculty Advisor from the College of Basic Sciences to the R&D Division for Faculty Pass-Thru Program, has been named interim Vice Chancellor for Research and Dean of the Graduate School.

The Division has renewed its contract with the Board of Regents for \$459,000 to manage the Clean Power Energy Research Consortium. One hundred per cent of the funds are passed through for research at LSU A&M, Nicholls State, Southern University, and the University of New Orleans.



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