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by **Mr. Doug Wight**
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Unconventional Drilling Methods for Unconventional Reservoirs

Traditional surface drilling methods used to extract methane gas from coal and shale reservoirs have historically had low production rates, low recovery factors, do not drain the reservoir uniformly, require considerable surface disturbance to drill and encounter extended dewatering periods.

In recent years, advances in drilling technologies have allowed some operators to re-evaluate the economic viability of developing some unconventional reservoirs that had been previously discounted due to poor production performance. CDX Gas, LLC of Dallas has developed a patented drilling system that has dramatically enhanced production recoveries from low permeability coals and shales. The Z-PINNATE, Horizontal Drilling and Completion System employs horizontal drilling techniques in a multi-well pattern that creates an efficient and environmentally friendly recovery method.

A Z-PINNATE well drilled in a coal seam can deplete 1200 acres from a single small wellsite and typically recover 85 to 90 percent of the gas in place within 30 months. A pinnate pattern allows wells to reach maximum production rates in a matter of days by minimizing the dewatering period. Production profiles show that nearly 75% of cumulative production is recovered in the first 24 months along with a dramatic increase in recoverable reserves.

By reducing the number of wells needed to deplete a project area, the Z-PINNATE Horizontal Drilling and Completion System reduces the surface disturbance caused by well locations, gathering systems and production facilities. This technique also reduces project development costs, improving project economics and while minimizing the effects on the environment. ■

Biographical Sketch

MR. WIGHT is a senior exploration geologist with 28 years of oil and gas experience in the energy industry. He has global conventional exploration and CBM experience. He attended the United States Naval Academy as an ocean engineer and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a BS in geology. He was VP of Exploration for Woods Petroleum, Durham Inc., Lynx Exploration, B&G Petroleum and President of Anderra Energy Corporation.

His duties as head of Corporate Development for CDX Gas include responsibility for the formation of joint ventures and coordination of new acquisitions and divestitures. This included CDX's ventures with Talisman Energy, Penn Virginia Oil and Gas and Magnum Hunter Resources. Mr. Wight helps direct CDX's unconventional reservoir exploration and capitalization efforts. He joined CDX in October 1999.



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