

# *CHUNCHULA FIELD A GIANT IN THE MAKING?*<sup>1</sup>

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## *ABSTRACT*

Chunchula field, one of Alabama's most significant discoveries, is located approximately 20 miles north of Mobile. The field was discovered in December, 1972, with the successful completion and testing of the Union Oil of California International Paper Company 22-13 #1 (Oil and Gas Board Permit #1886) well. Union's International Paper Company 21-11 #1 (Permit #1973), a western offset to the discovery, was completed as the confirmation well. Additional wells have successfully extended the field to the northwest and west. Chunchula presently has four producible wells, one dry hole and several other wells in various stages of development.

Production of sweet gas and low-sulfur, high gravity condensate is from Smackover dolomites at depths ranging from 18,400 to 18,510 feet. Seventy-seven feet of total pay is estimated in the discovery well. Chunchula field is located on a large structure with approximately 300 feet of closure.

Tests of the four producible wells in the field indicate production rates range from 2,000 to 3,200 Mcf daily and 820 to 1,160 barrels of approximately 60° gravity condensate. Tubing pressure ranged from 1520 psi to 2400 psi. On the basis of production tests these wells can produce over 10 million cubic feet of gas and more than 4,000 barrels of condensate per day.

The discovery of this field plus the more recent discovery by Getty Oil Company at Hatten's Pond are the most important recent discoveries in the United States and indicate an intensification of exploration activity and greatly enhance the outlook for similar deep discoveries from the numerous other structures that underlie much of southwest Alabama and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico.

<sup>1</sup>Approved for publication by State Geologist

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