Research covered several areas. The first was a program to develop tests for geographic origin of lubricants to support the policing program. The Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering at Penn State used its refining laboratory for this work, as well, as general research in the field. Next were tests of engines using Pennsylvania lubricants. Another focus was on production, including secondary and, later, tertiary recovery of oil.

By the late1950s, financial problems led to the sale of the Bradford lab, and production research increasingly shifted to producing firms.

This paper traces the outline of this effort from its inception in the late 1920s through 1960. It is based largely on papers deposited at the Drake Well Museum Archives at Titusville as well as the Penn Brad Oil Museum and Bradford Landmark Society, both at Bradford. Additional material includes books and pamphlets published by Pennsylvania State College, state and national government agencies, and secondary sources.

THE PENNSYLVANIA GRADE CRUDE OIL ASSOCIATION'S RESEARCH PROGRAM TO 1960

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The Pennsylvania Grade Crude Oil Association (PGCOA) was founded in 1923 as a trade association of producers, refiners and jobbers. It addressed problems associated with the decline of Pennsylvania's Oil Region. The Association's earliest effort was a marketing program to promote the characteristics of the local petroleum and its product: a superior lubricant. It was followed with a policing program: legal cases against firms that sold other oils as Pennsylvania products.

By the end of the decade, the PGCOA added research to its mission. It signed agreements with Pennsylvania State College in 1929. In subsequent years, the Association entered into agreements with the U.S. Bureau of Mines, as well as other government agencies and privately run laboratories. In addition, the PGCOA operated a production research laboratory in Bradford, Pennsylvania, in cooperation with the Bradford District Pennsylvania Oil Producers Association.