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The Fayetteville Shale Play: A Project Overview

The Fayetteville Shale is a Mississippian-aged unconventional gas reservoir present in the subsurface over much of the Arkansas portion of the Arkoma Basin. It is approximately age equivalent to the Caney Shale on the Oklahoma side of the Arkoma and the Barnett Shale in the Ft. Worth Basin of North-Central Texas. SW Energy initiated drilling in the play in the summer of 2004 and has since announced encouraging results. The news of SW Energy's early success has brought additional medium to large independents into the play along with at least one major (Shell Oil). In excess of a hundred and fifty wells have been spud in the play with over 80 wells currently producing. Approximately 33 of these producing wells are horizontal wells with nearly all of the new wells being permitted as horizontals. SW Energy has announced they expect average recoverable reserves for these horizontal wells to range from 1.3 to 1.5 Bcf/well.