

Exploration Highlights & News

(Dec 4, 2025) - **Carmen Schmitt, Inc.**, based in Great Bend, Kansas, has discovered new oil reserves in the Marmaton Group at the #1-11 RJ Farms site, located in approximately SE NE SW NW of section 11-28s-24W in Ford County. This wildcat discovery is producing crude oil from the Pawnee Limestone formation, situated nearly two and a half miles south of recognized Marmaton oil production in the Willroads field. The RJ Farms well was drilled to a total depth of 5,350 feet. Completion details have not yet been released. The new unnamed pool lies approximately nine miles west of Ford, Kansas. (ref: API 15-057-21106).

The initial discovery well in the Willroads field, #1 Barngrover, was drilled by Tennessee Gas & Oil in 1960. Located in the SW/4 section 26-27s-24W, it produced nearly 115,415 barrels of oil from the Marmaton Group between 1960 and 1995. The Willroads field also produces natural gas from the Chase, Morrow, and Mississippian formations.

(Nov 20, 2025) - **Ritchie Exploration, Inc.**, of Wichita, Kansas, has discovered Mississippian oil reserves at the #1 Bradshaw 9D, spotted in approximately SW NE NW SE of section 9-8s-34W in Thomas County. The wildcat well was drilled nearly one mile northeast of Marmaton and Cherokee oil production in the Morgan pool (established in 1995). Rotary total depth is 4,750 feet. Completion details are currently confidential. The field is unnamed presently. The field area is about one mile south and 3 miles west of Colby, Kansas. (ref: API 15-193-21151)

(Nov 20, 2025) - **Castle Resources, Inc.**, of Russell, Kansas, has recovered good shows of oil in the Lan-sing- Kansas City C zone at a wash down of the #1 Stackhouse OWWO, approximately NW NE NW SW in section 13-12s-19W in Ellis County. The top of the C zone was reached at 3,518 feet, with total depth obtained at 3,852 feet. After acid treatments, the well was swab tested at the rate of 6 barrels of fluid per hour, 80% oil. The operator is currently pump testing the well. The new unnamed pool opener lies nearly one mile northeast of the Ernie pool (established in 2009, LKC Oil) and is one-quarter mile north of Hyacinth, Kansas. (ref: API 15-051-26332-0001)

(Nov 13, 2025) - The **Kansas Geological Survey** is celebrating the opening of its newly renovated Watney CORELAB on the University of Kansas campus in Lawrence, Kansas. The expansion more than doubles the space dedicated to preserving and storing the state's extensive collection of rock cores maintained by the Kansas Geological Survey. Additionally, it more than doubles the laboratory space available for scientists and engineers to analyze these materials. This celebration marks a significant milestone in the institution's goal of becoming the premier hub for rock core and critical materials analysis in the Midcontinent. The CORELAB is named in honor of the late Lynn Watney, who worked 43 years as an executive Senior Scientific Fellow and was a steward of the state's core collection.

(Nov 13, 2025) - After more than 40 years, **J. FRED HAMBRIGHT, INC.**, has moved to a new office at 300 N. Mead St, Suite 109, in the Old Town district in Wichita. The firm provides land, title and energy related services. The new mailing address is P.O. Box 104, Wichita, Kansas 67201-0104. John F. Hambright IV is President and may be reached at (316) 265-8541.

(Nov 6, 2025) - A **Kansas Geological Society's Nomenclature Committee** meeting was held in Wichita, Kansas on October 29, 2025, whereby, in association with the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and the Kansas Geological Survey, they recognized and named five new oil fields in Kansas. The new field discoveries are based on completed wells reported in September 2025.

NEW FIELD DISCOVERIES

County	Field Name	Operator	Lease	S-T-R / Qtr	Type	Pay Zn	API
Cheyenne	Schauer	Murfin Drilling Company	1-20 Schauer	20-3s-39W	Oil	LKC	15-023-21672
Gove	Verhoeff West	M G Oil	1-9 Stephens	9-11s-30W	Oil	LKC	15-063-22474
Kearny	West Hibbard	Mull Drilling Company	1-36 Smith	36-21s-38W	Oil	Mrw	15-093-22023
Logan	Hubert NW	Murfin Drilling	1-20 Vogler	20-11s-33W	Oil	LKC	15-109-21690
Rawlins	Bermos West	Prospect Oil & Gas Corp.	A-2 Deyle	8-1s-36W	Oil	LKC	15-153-21353

Exploration Highlights & News (con't)

(Oct 30, 2025) - **2025 Drilling Contractors, East Kansas** - The top drillers in the Eastern Ranges of the State (1E-25E), based on the total footage drilled to total depth during the first three quarters in 2025, include: **RJ Energy** (117 wells - 106,681 ft), **Colt Energy** (44 wells - 46,510 ft), **C & G Drilling** (12 wells - 36,702 ft), **McGown Drilling** (28 wells - 28,801 ft), **TDR Construction** (25 wells - 20,041 ft), **Thornton Air Rotary** (10 wells - 9,816 ft), **Utah Oil** (13 wells - 9,324 ft), and **Steven A. Leis** (6 wells - 6,902 ft).

(Oct 23, 2025) - **2025 Drilling Contractors, West Kansas** - The top drillers in the Western Ranges of the State (1W-42W), based on the total footage drilled to total depth during the first three quarters in 2025, include: **Duke Drilling Co.** (65 wells - 307,192 ft), **Murfin Drilling Co.** (40 wells - 189,663 ft), **Discovery Drilling** (24 wells - 92,663 ft), **Southwind Drilling** (22 wells - 86,095 ft), **Pickrell Drilling** (19 wells - 83,556 ft), **Sterling Drilling** (17 wells - 79,979 ft), **Fossil Drilling** (10 wells - 45,451 ft), **L D Drilling** (9 wells - 43,740 ft), **Lighthouse Drilling** (6 wells - 30,700 ft), and **STP Drilling** (7 wells - 28,367 ft).

(Oct 16, 2025) - **Mull Drilling Company, Inc.**, of Wichita, Kansas, reports the discovery of new oil reserves from the Morrow Sand formation at the #1-36 Smith wildcat discovery well located in Kearny County, southwestern Kansas. The #1-36 Smith is in approximately NE SW SE NW in section 36-21s-38W, about seventeen miles north and 6 miles east of the town of Kendall, Kansas. The well was drilled to a total depth of 5,190 feet by Lighthouse Drilling tools. Well completion information remains confidential by the operator. The new pool has been named "West Hibbard". (Ref: API 15-093-22023)

Mull Drilling's #1-36 Smith is a remote wildcat located nearly five miles north of the prolific "Patterson" pool, which was discovered by Stanolind Oil & Gas Company (formerly Pan American Petroleum) in September 1941. The pool discovery well, #1 Gates O. Patterson, was completed with a potential 3,964 barrels of oil per day (depthograph), with no water, in the SE/4 of section 23-22s-38W. The well produced 38.4-degree gravity crude from perforations between 4,740 and 4,752 feet. It produced 577,263 barrels of oil from 1941 to 1958 and is still producing today. (Ref: API 15-093-00040)

(Oct 16, 2025) - **2025 Active Operators, Eastern Ranges** - The top operators in the Eastern Ranges of the State (1E-25E), based on the total footage drilled on completed wells during the first three quarters in 2025 include: **RJ Energy** (126 wells - 117,500 ft), **Colt Energy** (44 wells - 44,411 ft), **VAL Energy** (6 wells - 19,867 ft), **HYT Operating** (3 wells - 14,303 ft), **AGV Corp.** (3 wells - 12,412 ft), **Utah Oil** (15 Wells - 10,425 ft), **RH Capital-Beets** (11 wells - 8,582 ft), **L & A Energy** (8 wells - 7,800 ft), **Owens Oil Co.** (5 wells - 7,290 ft), **Southern Sky Energy** (9 wells - 7,200 ft).

(Oct 9, 2025) - **2025 Active Operators, Western Ranges** - The top operators in the Western Ranges of the State (1W-42W), based on total footage drilled on completed wells through the first three quarters in 2025, include: **Merit Energy Co.** (19 wells - 105,573 ft), **BEREXCO** (15 wells - 66,317 ft), **Shakespeare Oil Co.** (12 wells - 56,203 ft), **Murfin Drilling Co.** (10 wells - 53,700 ft), **American Warrior** (9 wells - 43,758 ft), **Ritchie Exploration** (9 wells - 36,543 ft), **Mull Drilling Co.** (7 wells - 35,910 ft), **Darrah Oil Co.** (9 wells - 33,531 ft), **Mai Oil Operations** (8 wells - 29,928 ft), **Carmen Schmitt, Inc.** (6 wells - 29,712 ft), **Patterson Energy, LLC** (7 wells - 26,808 ft), **Downing - Nelson Oil Co.** (6 wells - 26,597 ft), and **Grand Mesa Operating Co.** (6 wells - 26,395 ft).

(Oct 2, 2025) - **M G Oil, Inc.**, located in Russell, Kansas, has established the new oil "Verhoeff West" pool in Gove County, about one mile southwest of Grinnell, Kansas. Production is sourced from the Lansing-Kansas City formation. Details regarding the completion are being kept confidential, and the total depth of the well is 4,615 feet. The nearest production site is about three-quarters of a mile to the south in the LO-RI pool, which has yielded over 31,000 barrels of oil from the LKC and Marmaton formations from two wells since 2003. (Ref: API 15-063-22474)

(Sept 25, 2025) - **Murfin Drilling Company**, of Wichita, Kansas, reports the discovery of new Lansing - Kansas City oil reserves at their #1-20 Vogler, located in approximately S/2 NE SE SE in section 20-11s-33W in Logan County. The wildcat discovery well was drilled to a rotary total depth of 4,755 feet over one mile northwest of LKC (H & J zones) and Cherokee (Johnson Zone) oil production in the Hubert pool. Completion information remains confidential. The new pool has been named "Hubert NW". Field area lies one and one-half miles south of the town of Monument, Kansas. (Ref: API 15-109-21690)