

The highly productive CER's #1-SHCT well was given the industry-sponsored "Best New Well" award at the 1993 "Best of the Rockies" competition. As a result of the DOE success, Barrett Resources, a Denver independent producer, and Meridian Oil Company, active in the Piceance Basin, have drilled their own horizontal wells in the Cozzette sand on acreage adjacent to the DOE slant hole test site.

Finding More Natural Gas in "Depleted" Fields

When is a natural gas field "depleted?" Not as soon as traditional production techniques would indicate, a DOE project has determined.

The study concluded that secondary gas recovery is likely to increase booked reserves of natural gas in southwest Texas by nearly 4 trillion cubic feet through the year 2000, resulting in cumulative gross production revenues that could approach \$1.4 billion.

In 1988, DOE began a research project to determine if older gas fields still contained economically producible quantities of so-called "secondary" natural gas. The project discovered significant amounts of natural gas in three of the Gulf Coast's largest producing formations that conventional exploration and production techniques had missed. The information was conveyed to operators in the region which make up more than a quarter of the nation's gas producers. Using the technologies and methods applied in DOE's secondary gas recovery project, producers began finding and producing more natural gas from fields that otherwise would have been considered depleted.

To assess the benefits of the project, DOE commissioned the University of Texas, Bureau of Economic Geology, to compare reserves added per well completion in 1993-1994 to those added in 1990-1992, prior to the application of secondary gas recovery technologies. The study found that producers were finding and extracting a much larger amount of gas than before and well above the general trend elsewhere in Texas.

The study also concluded that secondary gas recovery is likely to increase booked reserves of natural gas in southwest Texas by nearly 4 trillion cubic feet through the year 2000, resulting in cumulative gross production revenues that could approach \$1.4 billion.