

Tribal Oil & Gas

Thursday, 26 February 2009

Tribal Oil and Gas Department

“The Oil and Gas Department of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas shall, at all times, consider the best interests of the Tribe in any matters pertaining to mineral development and revenue generation on Tribal lands. All decisions will be based on those factors which will produce the greatest benefit for the Tribe. Every effort will be made to create a spirit of harmony and cooperation between the Tribe and all entities involved in the use and development of Tribal lands.”

The Oil and Gas Department was established in 1997 by C.W. “Chuck” Rhinesmith, retired geophysicist with Arco Oil and Gas Company, and Glendon Wayne Bullock, retired gas transmission plant operator. Prior to that time, the Tribe was completely dependant upon the operator, Black Stone Oil Company (later Comstock Oil and Gas Co.) and governmental agencies for information on production, revenue and general operation of the field.

Production History:

The Alabama-Coushatta Indian Reservation is located in the heart of the Double A Wells gas/condensate field. Production was first established on the Reservation in 1983 with the A-C #1-9 well which produced from the Midway sand (Paleocene Age). In 1989 the first deep well was brought in when the A-C #2 penetrated the Upper Woodbine sand (Upper Cretaceous Age). Currently there are nine (9) producing gas/condensate wells on Reservation land. This production has been the major source of revenue for the Tribe.

Departmental functions:

The Oil and Gas Department maintains complete files on production, revenue, well files, lease agreements and all data pertaining to the Tribal minerals. The department is responsible for negotiating mineral lease agreements, evaluating well sites, monitoring gas production in real time, negotiating right of way agreements, arranging permits for land use by seismograph crews and other entities requesting temporary occupation of Tribal lands and interacting with Federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, the Minerals Management Service and the Division of Energy and Mineral Development. Over the years, the Tribe has acquired a database consisting of thirteen (13) square miles of 3-D seismic data, well data and production data from the area surrounding the Reservation. Interpretation and evaluation of the geological and geophysical data is ongoing in an effort to study reservoir characteristics and evaluate drilling locations for future development. The department has conducted public seminars for the benefit of Tribal members so that they will have a better understanding of the various activities associated with drilling and production.

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