
News Release

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For Immediate Release

Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Provides First Quarter Drilling Update

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. (NYSE: LD) today provided an update on its first quarter drilling activities. During the three months ended March 31, 2000, the Company completed 67 of the 71 wells drilled in its Gulf Coast, Permian and Mid-Continent core regions for an overall success rate of 94 percent.

In the Gulf Coast Region, the Company drilled 9 wells in the South Texas Wilcox Trend. A successful offset to last year's discovery in Zapata County, Texas has been tested in two producing zones at rates in excess of 10 MMcfed each. The Company has a 37.5 percent working interest in this well which has the potential for multiple offsets. Other notable completions in this region include the Leslie Ploeger #1 and the Sibley #8 which began production at initial rates of 10 and 13 MMcfed respectively. The Company owns a 78 percent working interest in the Leslie Ploeger well and an 88 percent working interest in the Sibley well. Also commencing production in the first quarter were the Jennings #1 at 8 MMcfed and the Pilgreen #8 at 6 MMcfed. The Company's working interest in these wells are 75 and 45 percent respectively. Currently nine wells are drilling in this area with plans for an additional 22 wells to be drilled this year.

In the Permian Region, the Loco Hills 4-1 located in Southeast New Mexico was completed in the Morrow formation with an initial production rate of 9.4 MMcfed. The Company owns a 38 percent working interest in this well which has two offset wells currently drilling. The Company owns a 70 percent working interest in the State ETA #3 and #4 wells which were recently completed for a combined initial production rate of 5 MMcfed. Additionally, 42 wells were drilled and successfully completed in the Sonora area. Current plans for the Permian Region include another 108 wells to be drilled this year.

In the Mid-Continent, the Company owns a 100 percent working interest in the Gilleran 1-31 in the Watonga/Chickasha play in Oklahoma which began production from the Morrow Sands at 3 MMcfed. This region also included four Morrow/Springer completions with combined initial production of 10 MMcfed. The Company owns an 80 percent average working interest in these wells which have the potential for multiple offsets nearby. In total the Company has drilled 12 wells in this Region with plans to drill an additional 77 wells for the remainder of the year.

Mark Monroe, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented “Last year we completed 210 of 229 wells drilled as producers and added 238 Bcfe of proved reserves at a cost of \$.71 per Mcfe. Although it’s too early to predict full year results for 2000, the program is off to a very good start. Production for the three months ended March 31, 2000, is expected to be up about six percent over last year's first quarter. Additionally, the level of our drilling activity has increased from 17 rigs running in January to 23 now, and 9 of those are targeting Lower Wilcox and Vicksburg objectives in South Texas.

During the quarter we closed a \$12 million acquisition of proved reserves in Brooks County, Texas. Importantly, the field has several low risk, development locations and significant potential in deeper Vicksburg sands.

Our capital Investment budget currently remains at \$210 million. However, based upon prevailing natural gas prices, we expect that our cash flows from operations could fund a much larger budget for additional acquisitions or an increase in the drilling program.”

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Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas is an independent energy company engaged in the acquisition, development, exploration, production and marketing of natural gas and crude oil. Internet address: <http://www.ldng.com>