

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Provides 2nd Quarter Drilling Update

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. (NYSE: LD) today provided an update on its drilling activities for the second quarter of 2000. During the three months ended June 30, 2000, the Company completed 117 of the 124 wells drilled in its Gulf Coast, Permian and Mid-Continent core regions bringing the year-to-date success rate to 94% on the 195 wells drilled.

In its Gulf Coast Region, the Company completed 21 of the 27 wells drilled along the South Texas Wilcox and Vicksburg Trends. In Zapata County, the two development wells, offsetting the previously announced discoveries in the En Seguido prospect, have been drilled and are awaiting completion. The initial discoveries in this field are currently producing at a combined rate of 50 MMcfd. The Company owns a 38 percent average working interest in these wells. Further north in Zapata County, the Jennings #2 began production and is currently flowing at 4 MMcfd and the El Peyote Trust #7 was completed for 3.4 MMcfd. Working interest in these wells are 100 percent and 36 percent, respectively. Additionally, two new exploratory wells, the Lauro Garza #1 and #A1 are expected to spud within the week testing fault blocks in the Fandango and Comitas prospects.

In Lavaca County, the Freeman #5 well was fracture stimulated and is producing 12.1 MMcfd with 8,100 pounds of flowing tubing pressure. The Company acquired 100 percent interest in this Lower Wilcox producer from Costilla Energy last month. The Company plans to drill several 100 percent owned offset locations, with the first scheduled to commence drilling this week.

Also in the Gulf Coast Region, the Swickheimer #1 discovery, located in Goliad County, Texas, is producing at 9 MMcfd with 8,600 pounds of flowing tubing pressure and the Swickheimer A-1 is flowing at approximately 3 MMcfd. The Company has a 37 percent working interest in the Swickheimer #1 and a 50 percent working interest in the Swickheimer A-1. In Brooks County, Texas, the Longoria #11 and #12 wells were completed for a combined rate of 2.5 MMcfd. Working interest in these wells is 50 percent. The Company has 7 wells completing and 4 wells currently drilling in the Gulf Coast region with plans for an additional 20 wells to be drilled for the remainder of this year.

In the Permian Region, the Loco Hills Welch #4 and the Rio Cinco State #1 in southeast New Mexico were completed for a combined rate of 5 MMcfed. The Company owns an approximate 50 percent working interest in these wells. Additionally, 63 wells were drilled and successfully completed in the Sonora area. Current plans for the Permian Region include another 150 wells to be drilled in 2000.

In the Mid-Continent, the Company owns a 99 percent working interest in the Robison 2-34 which was completed for 5 MMcfed in the Watonga/Chickasha Trend in Oklahoma. The 100 percent owned Vierson 1-7 and the 80 percent owned Spencer wells are currently testing at 2.5 MMcfed and 3 MMcfed, respectively. The Company expects to drill 35 additional wells in the Mid-Continent Region during the next six months.

Mark Monroe, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "Over the last five years our drilling operations have added 755 Bcfe of proved reserves, replacing 161 percent of production during that period. This year is on track to record another strong year of production replacement."

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