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## News Release

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For Immediate Release

# Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Provides 3rd Quarter Drilling and Acquisition Update

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. (NYSE: LD) today provided an update on its drilling and acquisition activities for the third quarter of 2000. During the three months ended September 30, 2000, the Company completed 169 of the 176 wells drilled in its Gulf Coast, Permian and Mid-Continent regions. For the first nine months of 2000, 371 wells have been drilled with a 95% success rate. Additionally, during the last 45 days the Company closed five acquisitions, investing \$35 million to purchase approximately 45 Bcf of proved reserves.

In its Gulf Coast Region, the Company completed 25 of the 32 wells drilled along the South Texas Wilcox and Vicksburg Trends. In Zapata County, at the En Seguido Prospect the Cavazos and the Lauro Lopez #3 wells were completed for a combined rate of 12 MMcfd. The Company owns a 38 percent working interest in these wells. The initial two wells in this field are currently producing an additional 54 MMcfd. Also in Zapata County, the Lauro Garza #1 in the Fandango Prospect has logged pay and is awaiting testing.

In Lavaca County, the Company owns a 45 percent working interest in the Pilgreen #14 and a 22 percent working interest in the Eaves #3 which were completed for 5 MMcfd and 6 MMcfd, respectively. Additionally, the Company owns a 100 percent working interest in the Migl-Mitchell #6 and the Freeman #8 and a 45 percent interest in the Pilgreen #9 and Pilgreen #11 wells. All of these wells have logged pay and are awaiting testing and completion.

Also in the Gulf Coast Region, the 38% owned Tipton well, a discovery in Goliad county at the Stardust Prospect, has tested at 2 MMcfd before fracture stimulation. Within the Gulf Coast Region, the Company currently has four wells drilling, with plans for seven more wells to be drilled in 2000.

In the Permian Region, the Geronimo #34-1, Geronimo #27-1 and Harrod #7-1 located in the Artesia area of Southeast New Mexico were completed in the Morrow formation for a combined rate of 7.5 MMcfd. The Company owns a 60, 57 and 50 percent working interest in these wells, respectively. In the Sonora area, 61 wells were drilled and successfully

completed in the third quarter. The Company also participated with various small working interests in the drilling of 76 wells, primarily in the Bowdoin field in Montana, during the quarter. For the remainder of 2000, the Company plans to drill another 70 wells in the Permian Region.

In the Mid-Continent Region, the 56% owned Moore 1-30 recently tested at an unsimulated rate of 2.3 MMcfd with 2900 PSI flowing tubing pressure. Additionally, the Company has an average working interest of 80% in five wells which were completed during the quarter for a combined rate of 7 MMcfd. The Company expects to drill an additional 15 wells in this region during the rest of 2000.

Mark Monroe, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "The combination of solid results from both drilling activities and acquisitions is expected to result in a record volume of proved reserves added this year. The previous record was in 1997 when we added a total of 358 Bcfe of proved reserves. Typically, we plan for somewhat reduced drilling activity in the fourth quarter. This year, we have increased our drilling budget by \$10 million to \$220 million in order to maintain a high level of drilling operations through the end of the year."

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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>