
News Release

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For Immediate Release

Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Announces \$20 Million Acquisition of Proved Reserves and Provides Drilling Update

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma -- Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. (NYSE: LD) today announced a \$20.5 million offshore acquisition and provided an update on drilling activity during the first quarter. The Company has acquired additional working interests in three of its operated offshore properties: High Island 45, East Cameron 129, and South Marsh Island 133. The acquired interests have current production levels totaling 17 million equivalent cubic feet per day and add proved reserves of 21.4 bcfe, of which approximately 90% are natural gas.

During the first quarter of 1999, the Company drilled a total of 48 wells in its Gulf Coast, Permian and Mid-Continent core regions. Of the wells drilled, 44 will be completed as producers, including 5 of the 7 exploratory wells drilled.

Good results continue in the Wilcox Trend of South Texas where four wells have been drilled thus far in 1999 with an average working interest of 81%. Two wells recently completed, the Pilgreen #6 and the Sibley #7, are producing 6,500 mcf and 10,000 mcf per day respectively. Currently, three wells are drilling toward Lower Wilcox objectives and one additional rig is scheduled to begin drilling within the next two weeks.

In other regions, drilling in the Sonora area resulted in 28 wells being successfully completed in the first quarter. In southeast New Mexico, the Company's two Toro Grande wells are producing over 400 barrels of oil and 900 mcf of gas per day.

Mark Monroe, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented, "We are off to a good start with our 1999 drilling and are especially pleased with the acquisition completed during the first quarter. The reserve purchase expands our ownership in properties we currently operate and know well. The economics of the acquisition are superior to some of the drilling we had planned for 1999 and consequently we intend to fund the purchase by deferring the drilling of certain wells planned in the Sonora Field in West Texas and in the shallow waters off the coast of Texas. Our plans for the remainder of 1999 are to remain active drilling and pursuing acquisition opportunities during this period of relatively low costs and attractive opportunities."

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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>