
News Release

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For Immediate Release

Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Provides Third Quarter Drilling Update

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - Louis Dreyfus Natural Gas Corp. (NYSE: LD) today provided an update on its third quarter drilling activities. During the three months ended September 30, 1999, the Company drilled a total of 39 wells in its Gulf Coast, Permian and Mid-Continent core regions, 35 of which were successfully completed as producers.

The Lower Wilcox Trend of South Texas continues to be an area of significant reserve and production growth. The Fitzhenry #1 recently began production at 25 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd), representing the highest initial rate to date for the Company's Lower Wilcox wells. The Company owns a 53 percent working interest in this well with Lundberg Operating Company, et al and partner Hallwood Petroleum owning a combined 35 percent and Seisgen Exploration Inc. owning 12 percent. Other notable completions include the Leon Barnes #3, with production of 5 MMcfd, and the Leon Barnes #4 at 5.5 MMcfd. The Company owns a 100 percent working interest in both of the Leon Barnes wells. The Company also owns a 42 percent working interest in a Wilcox discovery located in Zapata County, Texas, which began production at an unstimulated rate of 7.4 MMcfd at 7,800 psi flowing tubing pressure. The Company is currently testing 1 well and drilling 3 others targeting the Lower Wilcox, with plans to drill 6 to 8 more by year end. Additionally, the Company has a 44 percent working interest in High Island 116-B2, an offshore discovery announced last month by the operator, Forest Oil Corporation. This well is expected to commence production in the fourth quarter.

In the Permian region, 22 wells were drilled and successfully completed in the Sonora area of West Texas, with a working interest of 100 percent. The Toro 27-1, located in Southeast New Mexico, began production from the Morrow at 1.5 MMcfd and 200 barrels of oil per day, and has an additional Wolfcamp pay zone located behind pipe. The Company owns a 90 percent working interest in this well. In the Mid-Continent region, the Company has a 100 percent working interest in the Strack Wheat and Cattle #1 well, which was completed in the Morrow formation and is producing 8.5 MMcfd.

For the remainder of 1999, the Company has plans for 30 to 40 more wells in the Sonora area, 5 to 8 wells in southeast New Mexico, and 10 to 15 wells in the Mid-Continent region.

Mark Monroe, President and Chief Executive Officer, commented "Our drilling program continues to position the Company exceptionally well for future growth. The significant Wilcox discovery in Zapata County, Texas, bordering Mexico, illustrates success in implementing our strategic plan to expand our drilling program beyond Lavaca County and to pursue opportunities along the entire Wilcox trend. With the third consecutive success at our Toro Grande prospect in southeast New Mexico, we have drilling plans for another 7 Morrow wells and up to 12 Wolfcamp locations. The Strack discovery in our Oklahoma Watonga-Chickasha program resulted in identification of an additional 7 Morrow drill sites".

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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>