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## **Regional Trends and Exploration Potential for Coal Bed Methane in Louisiana**

Drilling in central North Louisiana in the prolific Paleocene-Eocene Wilcox has established the presence of numerous coal beds. On-going investigations by the Louisiana Geology Survey (LGS) has defined a Central Louisiana Coal Bed Methane Basin (CELCOM) from detailed study of Caldwell and LaSalle, Parishes, Louisiana. Previous study in the area appear to indicate that the CELCOM may be extended to the southwest, doubling, possibly tripling the size of the basin. In fact, CELCOM represents a small portion of a larger Tertiary Coalbed Methane Basin which covers parts of seven southeastern states. CBM production was established in Louisiana in the Russell Coal in 1989 with the Torch Operating Co. #3 Greer well in Section 21, T14N, R3E, Caldwell Parish. The Torch #3 Greer came in flowing at 50 mcf/d and 65 bblw/d. More recently and in the same coal, the Woods Oil and Gas Co. IPCO #1 in Section 5, T11N, R3E, produced 15 mcf/d and no water from an unstimulated well. In the area of detailed study in Caldwell and LaSalle Parishes, LGS has determined that the Russell Coal is generally between 12 and 15 feet in thickness. LGS calculated gas in-place for the Russell Coal in T11N-R3E (using 115 scfg/ton coal) and estimated 51.2 bcf potential recoverable coal bed methane. Based on other coal bed studies in the region, this gas in-place estimate may be comparatively low, however, more knowledge gained from test and production from coal bed methane wells in the CELCOM should provide more reliable estimates.