

Update of New Albany Shale Potential in Illinois, Beverly Seyler and Joan E. Crockett, Illinois State Geological Survey, 615 East Peabody Dr., Champaign, IL 61820, seyler@isgs.uiuc.edu

To date there is no known commercial production of oil or gas from the New Albany Shale in Illinois. However, Illinois well records indicate gas well completions in the New Albany Shale in two areas: from two wells in Westfield in Clark County and three shut-in, subsequently plugged wells in Russelville Field in Lawrence County. Additionally, completed oil zones have been reported in the New Albany Shale in single wells in four fields: Clay City Consolidated Field in 8-5N-10E Jasper County, Johnsonville Field, 4-1S-6E, Lawrence Field in Lawrence County 29-4N-12W, and in Salem Field, Marion County, 20-2N-2E. In each instance other zones were also completed or well records are very old and incomplete; therefore, production from the New Albany Shale cannot be verified. Previous workers have identified that the potential natural gas resources in the New Albany Shale of the Illinois Basin may be related to the following four key factors: organic content of the shale, thickness of the organic-rich shale, thermal maturity as related to depth of burial, and presence of natural fractures. These same factors are pertinent to recent discoveries in several Devonian black shale plays in North America. Total organic carbon values and maturity indicators are within the range of recently developed Devonian black shale plays, suggesting that the emerging black shale play taking place in Indiana and Kentucky may have similar potential in Illinois. This presentation will provide a review and update of these factors in Illinois.