

What's new with the New Albany play in Illinois in 2010?

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The modern New Albany Shale in-situ gas play has been well-established in Indiana and Kentucky for over a decade, but the play lags in development in Illinois, despite the source rock being thicker, more widely distributed, and having the potential for wide distribution of both the biogenic, thermogenic and mixed play sub-types. We will discuss many factors that contribute to the play and possible reasons why the play has not been widely pursued in Illinois. Important considerations for gas potential are formation water salinity, thermal maturity and Total Organic content. Important considerations for producibility are natural fractures, mineralogy, which affects brittleness, and present day stress regime. New research should focus on acquiring new formation oil, water and gas chemistry and isotope data from the New Albany as well as adjacent formations. We will show updated play maps, provide interpretations, and offer comments on activity in the New Albany in Illinois.