

Upper Cretaceous Eagle Ford, Eaglebine, Woodbine and Tuscaloosa Shale plays, Mexico to Maine

Tom Bowman¹

¹EVP Evaluations, Geology and Geophysics, ZaZa Energy Corporation

Abstract

The Upper Cretaceous Eagle Ford shale was first tapped in 2008 and now has around 21 active fields and according to the Texas Railroad Commission, last year the shale produced 914 million cubic feet of natural gas per day and 326,978 barrels of oil per day (through October 2012). The Upper Cretaceous Shale section in Central Texas trends across Texas from the Mexican border across Southern United States Gulf Coast Region and is in outcrop along the East Coast up to the state of Maine. It is Upper Cretaceous in age resting between the Lower Cretaceous Buda Lime and the base of the Austin/Selma Chalk. This section is referred to as the Eagle Ford shale in the Southwest Texas counties and is regionally referred to by many names such as the Boquilles, Eagle Ford, Woodbine, Maness, and Tuscaloosa shale. These formations, regardless of the name, are typically dark, organic-rich, brittle, fractured, fossiliferous, pyretic, siliceous, and calcareous dark-grey to black shale. In its full extent, this shale play could be the largest unconventional resource play in the world.