

The Evolution of the American Shale Plays: Where We Are and How We Got There

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ABSTRACT

Since around 2006 the exploration, appraisal and development of shale reservoirs in the Lower 48 has seen a dramatic escalation, first starting with the gas productive shale reservoirs then followed by those that are liquid productive. The result has been a total renaissance for the domestic E & P industry. Each of the plays, which total approximately 14 that have seen substantial development, underwent an evolutionary cycle that was driven by the roles of the various functions that contribute to the success of any given play: land, geologic, drilling, completion and production. As each play progresses through the evolutionary cycle, the role of each function changes accordingly. Even though all of the plays have certain common characteristics, Richard will attempt to point out something uniquely different about each of the 14 plays that might aid in a better understanding of plays yet to be discovered.