

Natural Gas: Update on Well Water Testing, Seismic monitoring and County web page. March 19, 2012

Central North Carolina Seismic Survey Update – March 16, 2012

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12 stations/landowners have been lined up. This all they will take.

Plans are for 3 installation teams to be in the county March 23-26, 2012.

To protect the seismic equipment and to ensure accurate data collection names of the landowners and sites will not be released. However Extension is working with Dr. Wagner to have a news article in the Sanford Herald. She is also working with an independent filmmaker to document the process.

Well Water Testing Update – March 16, 2012

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Duke is planning on taking 50 samples and USGS is planning on 50 samples (with 10 overlapping) - so a total of ~ 90 wells to be sampled. To date 25 landowners have been signed up. Difficult in signing is the lack of well construction records or well tags. There is a possibility of identifying some well with the use of a well camera, but the Division of Water Quality section that is knowledgeable in using this equipment will be closing in June.

USGS wells will be tiered, with the more detailed samples on the 10 focused wells (these wells are closest to Butler #3 and Simpson #1 existing wells). They will be tested for Helium, Radium isotopes, Natural Gas Isotopes, Major Ions/Metals, Volatile Organic Compounds Semi Volatile Organic Compounds (SVOC), Dissolved Inorganic Carbons (DICs), Dissolved Organic Carbons (DOCs), and Stable Isotopes. Specifics items are to be determined based on available funds. Cost of testing these wells is running around \$4,000. The 40 areal wells will be tested for dissolved gases and major ions. Duke University may provide VOC and gas isotope analyses on the other 40 as well; waiting for confirmation. Cost of testing these wells is running around \$1,000. We can expect an updated well site map by May 1, 2012

The study will also include the testing of an active spring located off Steel Bridge Road. The spring is producing 5 gallons of water a minute.

The national USGS is conducting an assessment of the undiscovered oil and gas potential in our area. The Reservoir Assessment Report and information on the gas reserve located in Lee County has not been determined. Only estimates are available.

USGS is over budget and need financial assistance. They are trying to get more funding from the USGS, but that commitment has slowed as they move further into the fiscal year. Start time for sampling well will be within 2-3 weeks. The process has been delayed to do obtaining records of well construction. They have had great interest from landowners to have their well tested. USGS recently mailed out 160+ permission forms to those properties that have well records that have not yet contacted them about the sampling. USGS could easily use another \$20-30k.

County one-stop information site for Natural Gas

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There is a link on the county website <http://www.leecountync.gov/>, left hand column located under "Residents". Clicking on this link will take you to the information that Cooperative Extension has assimilated on Natural Gas Exploration
The direct link is <http://lee.ces.ncsu.edu/content/NaturalGasExploration>