

Manitoba Oil and Gas Industry Outlook

John Fox¹

Manitoba's oil industry had a record breaking year in 2010. A record 516 wells were drilled. Manitoba oil production increased for the sixth straight year setting a new annual production record of 11.5 million barrels. In Manitoba the focus of drilling activity again last year was the Bakken-Three Forks and Lower Amaranth formations.

The Manitoba Industry Outlook provides an overview of oil industry activity in 2010 and a forecast of 2011 activity; highlights the ongoing Bakken-Three Forks and Lower Amaranth plays; and outlines the Petroleum Branch's new initiatives.

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John Fox is Assistant Deputy Minister, Mineral Resources, Manitoba Innovation, Energy and Mines. The Minerals Division is responsible for promoting and regulating the sustainable development of Manitoba's mineral and petroleum resources. Prior to his appointment as Assistant Deputy Minister, John was the Director of the Petroleum Branch responsible for administration of Crown oil and gas rights, regulation of oil and gas exploration, development and production operations, workplace safety and health matters related to oilfield operations, and evaluation of the province's oil and gas resource potential. Prior to joining the Province in 1989 as the Chief Petroleum Engineer, John worked for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as a senior policy advisor and for Home Oil in various positions of increasing responsibility in the oil and gas operations and reservoir engineering departments. He has co-authored numerous papers on the petroleum resources of the Manitoba portion of the Williston Basin. Mr. Fox received his B.Sc., civil engineering from the University of Waterloo in 1980. He is a member of the Association of Profession Engineers and Geoscientists of the Province of Manitoba.