

Oil, Gas, and Other Regulated Wells Overview

General Description

The Division of Mineral Resources maintains a data management system on wells regulated under the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law (OGSML). More than 75,000 wells have been drilled in New York for oil, natural gas, solution salt mining, stratigraphic, injection, geothermal, brine disposal, and underground gas storage. Electronic records exist for roughly 40,000 wells, of which about 12,000 are active. All of this data is created and maintained for the use of the Division of Mineral Resources and is covered by a disclaimer regarding its use.

Data Collection Methodology

Regulated operators provide information to the Division of Mineral Resources through various regulatory filings. Most of the information in this dataset comes from the Well Completion Report, the organization report for registered companies, and the application to drill, deepen, plug back, or convert a well. This information is used to track the history of a wellbore from its inception to final plugging, and it helps the Division of Mineral Resources regulate the oil and gas industry in New York State. Some well data is given confidentiality status according to Section 23-0313 of the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law and Section 87-2 of the New York State Public Officers Law. Please see <http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/1605.html> for more information on confidential well data.

Production data is acquired from the annual well reports operators submit to the Division of Mineral Resources in the spring of each year. This data is kept confidential for six months and is released to the division's public webpage in early July. Production information is not contained in this dataset but is available from the link contained in the individual well's record.

Statistical and Analytic Issues

The DEC database (<http://www.dec.ny.gov/energy/1603.html>) is updated nightly to provide access to information from new permits and completion reports as they are submitted to the Division of Mineral Resources.

Limitations of Data Use

This data has not been field verified, but approximate locations are expected to be within 100 meters of the actual well location. The data should not be used for determining precise distances to buildings, property boundaries or other features. It is most useful for determining the general locations of wells. Coordinate locations are approximate. The latitude and longitude are in the NAD83 datum. The dataset reflects the status of all wells in the Oil and Gas Wells database as of the previous business day. Wells currently afforded a confidential status are included, but all confidential data is redacted.