

Newsletter

August, 2025

SIPES Houston Energy Entrepreneurs



Be excited for:

- ❖ **Events: Convention, and Impact of Oil to Houston**
- ❖ **News: Politics, Foreign, science, and business**

- ❖ **Secret Surprises So Make Sure to Stay Tuned!**

[Image Citation: SIPES Houston. \(n.d.\). Oil rigs \[Photograph\]. SIPES Houston. Retrieved from https://sipeshouston.org](https://sipeshouston.org)



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Letter From The Editor

- Zane Bey-

Greetings, my name is Zane Bey. I work as an intern for Tanner Bowersox, chairman of SIPES. Outside of summer time I study as a graduate student at Rice University in energy geoscience. Last year I graduated from Tulane University, where I researched mass wasting on Venus using synthetic aperture radar and GIS data in the department of Earth and Environmental Science. My first internship was at the Bureau of Land Management in the Carlsbad, New Mexico Field Office. Although I was born here in Houston, I spent many years living overseas as a member of an oil and gas family. This included

Malaysia, UAE, Qatar. Despite the people constantly changing, I learned to appreciate the geological communities' importance on connection. Especially when it extends across country borders. Which is why, when asked, I immediately jumped at this opportunity.

My goal with restarting this newsletter is to help keep you all informed with news from every sector. Both about the happenings in SIPES and the world of earth science around us. To achieve this I have divided the newsletter into four separate categories: political news, global news, science news, and business news. Many intelligent and creative thinkers populate this community. Through this newsletter SIPES will be able to better connect one another.

I deeply appreciate this opportunity and look forward to meeting you all. Thank you to Tanner Bowersox for guiding me. May your rigs keep gushing with oil.

- Zane Bey, writer of SIPES newsletter



SIPES HOUSTON
ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS

SIPES Houston Chapter

The Society of Independent Professional Earth Scientists (SIPES) is the only national organization designed exclusively for the independent or consulting professional prospector. Members include geologists, engineers, geophysicists, CEOs, and investors.

The Houston Chapter of SIPES is the largest local chapter of the SIPES National organization, which is based in Dallas. Part of the richness of SIPES is the networking and communication that propagates between the chapters in these oil communities.

When you see the SIPES Certificate of Membership, you can always be sure that you are dealing with honest and reputable geoscience professionals. Please visit our national website for more details.

Interested in joining us? Learn more about membership and the Houston chapter, or register for upcoming luncheons and events, where speakers discuss petroleum geology, engineering, and other oil and gas business topics



How To Find Us:

- ❖ Located: 3242 Summerland Drive. Manvel, TX 77578
- ❖ Website: www.sipeshouston.org
- ❖ Mail: SipesHoustonChapter@Gmail.com

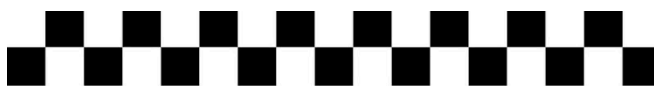
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Newsletter	Zane Bey	mzbey30@gmail.com



Previous Events:

Last month SIPES had an incredibly fun minigolf!



PETROLEUM CLUB OF HOUSTON

PCOH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION

4TH ANNUAL
MINI GOLF
TOURNAMENT

NASCAR & TALLADEGA NIGHTS EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

CHECK IN: 2:00PM | SHOTGUN START: 2:30PM

FOURSOME TEAM \$495
INDIVIDUAL \$135
SPECTATOR \$50

FIXED PRICED TICKETS INCLUDES:
18 HOLES, OPEN BAR & ON COURSE FOOD

EVENT SPONSORS



FOR RESERVATIONS OR SPONSHIPS:
MEMBER@PCOH.COM



AD BREAK

Our digital age moves faster than ever. Trends, fashions and fads are impossible to keep up with. We are here to help you look slick no matter the times in our fantastic hats!



We are proud of what we do here and want to help you feel the same. Whether you're an oil man or woman, we have the perfect way to show off your work.

Hat: \$50

Link: [Shop - SIPES Houston](#)

STICKERS STICKERS STICKERS!!!

Come check out our amazing bumper stickers! No better time to represent your oil than when you're using it.



Sticker: \$10

Link: [Powered By Organic Oil Car Magnet - 1 - SIPES Houston](#)



Upcoming Events:

SIPES HOUSTON
ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS

The near-miss and discovery of the Shwe Gas Field Complex, offshore Myanmar

In late 2003, Daewoo International drilled the Shwe-1 exploration well in Myanmar's Rakhine Basin, targeting shallow amplitude anomalies (DHIs) but initially encountering gas traces in poor-quality sands and a deeper shale zone. A sidetrack well, drilled just 310m away, discovered over 60m of gas-bearing Pliocene sands, leading to the eventual discovery of over 5 TCFG across multiple biogenic gas fields. The reservoirs, located at depths of 2900-3300m, are complex stratigraphic traps formed by shingled turbidite lobes, with appraisal drilling over the next decade defining two key Pliocene intervals (G3.2 and G5.2) connected through extensive sand injection processes. Daewoo's comprehensive coring program was crucial in unraveling this intricate reservoir architecture. Production began in 2013 with wells SHD-K, SHD-G, and SHD-I, and subsequent discoveries in the Rakhine Basin include Thalin, Shwe Yee Htun, Mahar, and Shwe Pyi Htay. Dr. Stephen Cossey is a geologist with a PhD from the University of South Carolina, who began his career in uranium and oil & gas exploration with Conoco and BP before founding Cossey & Associates Inc., a deepwater clastics consulting firm. Over the past 30 years, he has developed extensive deepwater field databases, conducted global field courses, and consulted for over 150 companies, with ongoing projects in Somalia, Belize, and Mexico.

Date & Location:

Thursday, August 28th
Petroleum Club

Time:

Wine Served 11:00am
Lunch Served 11:30am

Purchase Ticket:**Speaker:**

Dr. Stephen Cossey
U3 Explore



Updates From the Capital:

What's new from Capitol hill? Here's the latest on funding and regulations so you know where to put your sandbags and your money bags.

When Oil Prices Become Machines of War

President Trump is set to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska to push for a ceasefire in the Ukraine war, leveraging economic pressure through oil-related tariffs and sanctions. Earlier this month, he imposed a 25% tariff on India over its purchases of Russian oil, which U.S. officials say funds Moscow's military campaign. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has urged European allies to match Washington's hard line by restricting Russian energy revenues, warning that more secondary tariffs on Russia's trading partners are possible if talks fail. Trump sees this meeting as a prelude to a larger summit with both Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy aimed at securing peace.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

California Struggles to Balance Climate Goals and Oil Money

After years of aggressively targeting California's oil industry to meet ambitious climate goals, Gov. Gavin Newsom and Democratic lawmakers are now negotiating with oil companies to boost drilling in Kern County amid fears of \$8 per gallon gas after two key refinery closures. The shift marks a pragmatic retreat from hardline policies as officials seek to stabilize supply, contain costs, and avert political fallout. Supporters argue increased in-state production could reduce reliance on imports, while environmental groups warn it would undermine public health protections and climate commitments without solving the underlying refinery crisis.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

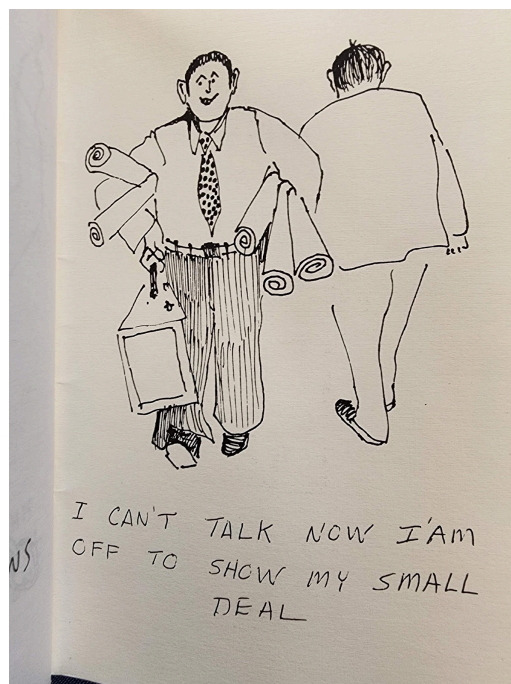


Oil On Trial by the Gavel

Oil companies Sunoco and ExxonMobil are petitioning the U.S. Supreme Court to dismiss a lawsuit filed by Boulder, Colorado, which seeks damages for climate impacts allegedly caused by burning fossil fuels. The firms argue that state level public nuisance and consumer fraud claims over global emissions are unconstitutional, since such issues fall under federal jurisdiction. Legal experts note the Court may be more inclined to hear this case than a similar one it declined from Honolulu in 2024, especially with the Trump administration expected to support the companies' position. The outcome could shape whether state and local governments can hold energy producers liable for climate change costs.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

Joke Break!



From Jim Bob Jackson's Oilman's Joke Book
Thanks to Bill Smith for the reference



Updates From Across the Borders and Oceans:

In an age of globalization one must pick up newspapers from every country. We are here to help. We have brought you important updates from around the globe.

Germany Speaks Out Against Chinese Oil

German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul, speaking in Tokyo, accused China of enabling Russia's war in Ukraine by supplying about 80% of Russia's dual-use goods and serving as its largest buyer of oil and gas. He warned that this undermines both European and Indo-Pacific security, criticized Beijing's actions in the Taiwan Strait and South China Sea, and linked China to North Korean military aid to Moscow. Wadephul contrasted the lack of U.S. trade penalties on China with Trump's 25% tariffs on India over Russian oil purchases, underscoring what he saw as inconsistent U.S. policy.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

World Oil Market Report

The IEA's August 2025 Oil Market Report projects global oil demand to rise by about 700 kb/d in both 2025 and 2026, reaching 104.4 mb/d, though growth has been downgraded due to weaker consumption in major economies like China, India, and Brazil. Supply is set to outpace demand, with output boosted by OPEC+ fully unwinding its voluntary cuts and non-OPEC+ producers—especially the U.S., Brazil, and Canada—continuing to expand. Refining activity is hitting record highs, inventories have grown for five consecutive months, and oil prices remain under pressure, recently dipping to around \$67/bbl amid expectations of ample supply despite new sanctions on Russia and Iran.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



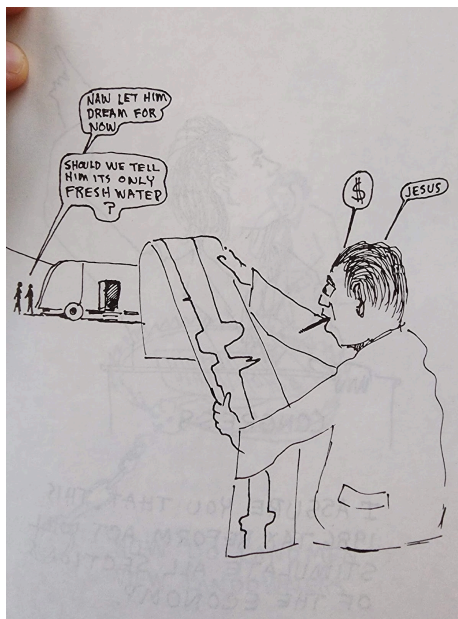
What's Brewing in the Beakers:

Of course we also bring you news straight from the labs so you can stay up to date on *oil* the facts.

A New Approach Could Fractionate Crude Oil Using Much Less Energy

MIT engineers have developed a new membrane technology that can separate crude oil into its components by molecular size rather than by boiling, potentially cutting the energy needed for oil fractionation by up to 90%. Conventional distillation accounts for about 6% of global CO₂ emissions, but this thin-film polyimide membrane—adapted from water desalination methods—resists swelling, maintains precise pore sizes, and efficiently filters heavy and light hydrocarbons. Scalable using existing industrial manufacturing, it could replace or supplement traditional fractionation columns, offering a far more energy-efficient and climate-friendly approach to producing fuels like gasoline, diesel, and heating oil.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



From Jim Bob Jackson's Oilmans Joke Book
Thanks to Bill Smith for the reference

Portfolios, Prices, Patents, and Performances

From one business person to another I worked hard to bring you news from the field in hopes it will help your company grow.

Banks Rethink their Investments in Energy's

A Bloomberg analysis shows financing from the six largest Wall Street banks for oil, gas, and coal projects fell 25% in the first seven months of 2025, led by sharp pullbacks at Morgan Stanley, amid political backlash against ESG commitments and departures from net-zero alliances. While banks insist their transition plans remain, they are avoiding riskier renewable investments, leaving private equity to fill some gaps on costly terms. The lending slowdown also reflects softer oil prices, cautious upstream spending forecasts—the first decline since 2020—and broader geopolitical uncertainty, signaling reduced demand for bank funding without a wholesale shift toward wind and solar.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



Too Much Supply and Less Demand?

The International Energy Agency warns that global oil markets are heading for a record surplus in 2025 as demand growth slows sharply while supply surges. Weaker-than-expected consumption in major economies like China, India, and Brazil has led the IEA to cut its demand growth forecast to 680,000 b/d for 2025, the smallest annual gain since 2019, while OPEC+ and non-OPEC+ producers ramp up output, aided by the unwinding of voluntary cuts. Refining activity is near record highs, inventories have risen for five straight months to multi-year peaks, and prices have slipped to around \$67/bbl, reflecting expectations of a well-supplied market despite new sanctions on Russia and Iran

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

Monthly Updates:

Bakers Hughes Rig Count (as of August 15th):

In America: 539 (Land: 524, Offshore: 13, Inland waters: 2).

Texas: 242 rigs.

WTI Oil (on the left) and Natural Gas Nymex (on the right) Prices Weekly Report
(8/13/2025-8/19/2025):



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July, 2025

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- Zane Bey, writer of SIPES newsletter



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ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS

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Interested in joining us? Learn more about membership and the Houston chapter, or register for upcoming luncheons and events, where speakers discuss petroleum geology, engineering, and other oil and gas business topics



How To Find Us:

- ❖ Located: 3242 Summerland Drive. Manvel, TX 77578
- ❖ Website: www.sipeshouston.org
- ❖ Mail: SipesHoustonChapter@Gmail.com

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The Chili Cook-Off Czar	Scott Leaseburge	leaseburgeexp@gmail.com
Website Chair	Andrew Muñoz	andrew@4cast.io
Deal Buyers	Jeff Allen	Jeff@AllenEnergyLLC.com
Newsletter	Zane Bey	mzbey30@gmail.com



Previous Events:

Last month Julie DeWees Sparks gave a talk on “The Impact of the Oil Industry to the Growth of Houston”. She also introduced her new book “Under Texas Skies” which comes out on November 15th. Make sure to check it out.





AD BREAK

Our digital age moves faster than ever. Trends, fashions and fads are impossible to keep up with. We are here to help you look slick no matter the times in our fantastic hats!



We are proud of what we do here and want to help you feel the same. Whether you're an oil man or woman, we have the perfect way to show off your work.

Hat: \$50

Link: [Shop - SIPES Houston](#)

STICKERS STICKERS STICKERS!!!

Come check out our amazing bumper stickers! No better time to represent your oil than when you're using it.



Sticker: \$10

Link: [Powered By Organic Oil Car Magnet - 1 - SIPES Houston](#)



Upcoming Events:



SIPES HOUSTON
ENERGY ENTREPRENEURS

Predicting Lithium Concentrations in the Smackover using Machine Learning

The chemical composition of high salinity groundwater, or brine, is important to understand for quantifying the availability of both water and critical mineral resources. The Smackover Formation is part of a regionally important petroleum and brine system in the Gulf Coast region of the southern United States (U.S.) and includes high Li concentrations (> 400 mg/L) in the brines. In this study, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment—Office of the State Geologist used published and newly (2022) collected brine Li concentration data to train a random-forest (RF) machine-learning model using geologic, geochemical, and temperature explanatory variables. Predicted brine Li concentrations from the RF model at approximately 1,000 to 3,000 meters depth across the Smackover Formation ranged from 3 to 420 mg/L. Uncertainty in the mapped RF model predictions—based on the 90th percentile prediction interval across the Li map—were used with formation thickness and porosity information to calculate the range of the Li mass in Smackover Formation brines. This study provides an example of using machine learning to predict deep brine chemistry for a critical mineral resource evaluation.

Dr. Kathy Knierim is a research hydrologist with the US Geological Survey Lower Mississippi-Gulf Water Science Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. She received her B.S. in geology from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio in 2007 and her M.S. in geology and PhD in Environmental Dynamics from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 2009 and 2015. Her research focuses on groundwater, water quality, and machine learning.

Date & Location:

Thursday, July 17th
Petroleum Club

Time:

Wine Served 11:00am
Lunch Served 11:30am

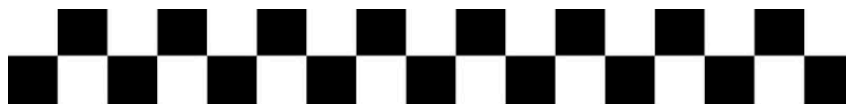
Purchase Ticket:



Speaker:
Dr. Kathy Knierim
USGS



From Mike Gruhn's WebDonuts



PETROLEUM CLUB OF HOUSTON

PCOH YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATION

4TH ANNUAL
MINI GOLF
TOURNAMENT
NASCAR & TALLADEGA NIGHTS EDITION

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

CHECK IN: 2:00PM | SHOTGUN START: 2:30PM

FOURSOME TEAM \$495
INDIVIDUAL \$135
SPECTATOR \$50

FIXED PRICED TICKETS INCLUDES:
18 HOLES, OPEN BAR & ON COURSE FOOD

EVENT SPONSORS



FOR RESERVATIONS OR SPONSHIPS:
MEMBER@PCOH.COM



Updates From the Capital:

What's new from Capitol hill? Here's the latest on funding and regulations so you know where to put your sandbags and your money bags.

Trump's new Megabill Supports Oil Industry

Following up on last month's news, president Trump's new One Big Beautiful Bill Act phases out tax credits for solar and wind projects entering service after 2027 while dramatically expanding support for oil, gas, and coal mandating extensive Gulf of Mexico and onshore lease sales, slashing royalty rates on federal lands, boosting carbon-capture and hydrogen production credits through 2028, and opening millions of acres to coal mining. The law, hailed as transformational by the oil and gas industry, has drawn warnings from renewable energy advocates that eliminating these incentives threatens America's clean-energy leadership and domestic manufacturing capacity.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

New Drilling Tactics May Leave Weak Spots in Economy

President Trump's aggressive "drill, baby, drill" push bolstered by his new energy bill that opens federal lands for drilling, slashes royalties, streamlines permits, and rolls back renewable tax credits has coincided with the U.S. rig count falling to its lowest level in nearly four years, as cheap crude, investor pressure to prioritize dividends over new wells, and technologies that yield more oil per rig have combined to undercut drilling activity. Paradoxically, these efficiency gains mean U.S. output is still on track to set record highs, though the lean rig count could limit the industry's ability to ramp up quickly if prices rise or geopolitical shocks hit.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

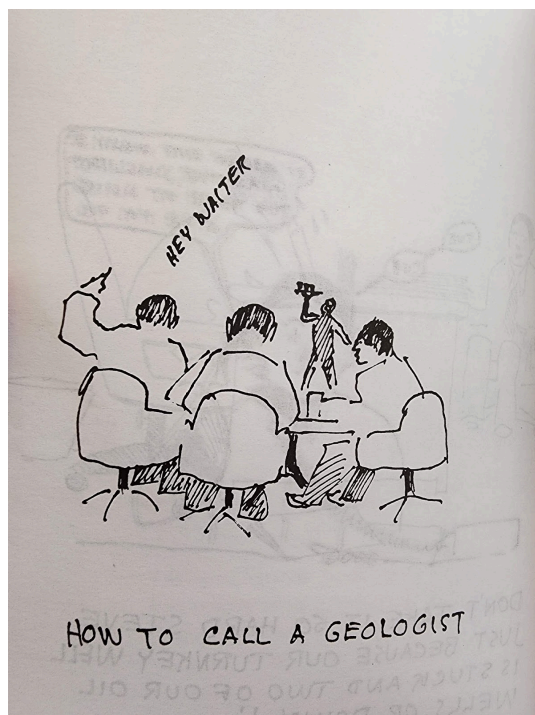


New Complexities with Water and Waste Rights

The Texas Supreme Court held in COG Operating LLC v. Cactus Water Services that produced water the briny liquid waste generated by oil and gas extraction belongs to the producer as “oil-and-gas waste” unless a lease explicitly says otherwise, granting drillers the right to manage, treat, and even commercialize it while shouldering disposal costs. This landmark ruling not only resolves a first of its kind dispute over millions of barrels in the Permian Basin but also paves the way for new recycling and reuse ventures and signals that surface owners must expressly carve out water rights in their leases if they wish to retain them.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

Joke Break!



From Jim Bob Jackson's Oilmans Joke Book
Thanks to Bill Smith for the reference



Updates From Across the Borders and Oceans:

In an age of globalization one must pick up newspapers from every country. We are here to help. We have brought you important updates from around the globe.

Tariffs and International Trading Effects on Oil Prices

Oil prices held steady above \$70 a barrel as investors weighed President Trump's threats of 30% tariffs on EU and Mexico goods, the easing of Middle East tensions, and anticipation of his upcoming remarks on Russia and Ukraine sanctions. Despite a more than 5% year-to-date decline, market structure remains mildly bullish. Brent is in backwardation and U.S. distillate stocks are at their lowest since 2005 while OPEC+'s rapid relaxation of supply curbs and looming U.S. trade measures cloud near-term demand outlooks. Traders will now look to this week's OPEC report and China's industrial data for further direction.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

World Oil Market Report

The IEA's July 2025 Oil Market Report shows global oil demand growth slowing to roughly 700 kb/d, its weakest since 2009 outside the COVID year, while supply jumped by 950 kb/d in June and is projected to rise 2.1 mb/d this year on OPEC+ and non-OPEC output gains. Inventory builds, led by Chinese crude and US NGLs, mask tight physical markets, as steep backwardation and strong summer refining margins reflect robust seasonal demand.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



What's Brewing in the Beakers:

Of course we also bring you news straight from the labs so you can stay up to date on *oil* the facts.

Updates on Carbon Capture

SLB's OneSubsea joint venture has won an EPC contract from Equinor to engineer and build two new satellite subsea CO₂ injection systems for Northern Lights phase two, boosting Europe's first open-source carbon capture, transport, and storage chain from 1.5 million to at least 5 million tonnes per year; backed by TotalEnergies, Shell, Equinor, and CEF Energy, work is underway with first deliveries slated for 2026, building on phase one's fully booked success and underscoring the commercial viability of large-scale CCS.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

Production Forecasting in Carbonate Oil Reservoirs

This study presents a CNN-LSTM hybrid deep learning model that fuses multi-well production data (time, choke size, pressure, temperature, injection volumes) with geological parameters (porosity, permeability) and one-hot encoding to forecast oil, water, and gas rates in complex carbonate reservoirs, achieving R² improvements of ~0.2 over simpler networks and exceeding 0.96 accuracy on both synthetic simulations and real Tarim Basin field data

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



From Jim Bob Jackson's Oilmen's Joke Book

Thanks to Bill Smith for the reference

Portfolios, Prices, Patents, and Performances

From one business person to another I worked hard to bring you news from the field in hopes it will help your company grow.

First Quarter Net Income Reports

US oil and gas producers and refiners saw combined first-quarter net income slump to \$19.83 billion down from \$26.39 billion a year earlier driven by lower oil prices (Brent \$75.81/bbl; WTI \$71.80/bbl) and weakened refining margins (e.g. Midwest \$13.13/bbl), even as U.S. crude output hit 13.29 million b/d and natural gas liquids reached 6.99 million b/d; refinery utilization dipped to 86.9%, while natural gas prices climbed to \$4.15/MMBtu, and major players like ExxonMobil, Chevron and Canadian Natural Resources reported year-over-year earnings declines and adjusted capital plans in response.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)



New Uncertainties in the Oil Market

IEA's June 2025 Oil 2025 report warns that rising geopolitical strains—particularly Israel-Iran tensions—are injecting new uncertainties into oil markets even as long-standing drivers shift: China's demand is set to peak by 2027, US shale production growth slows, and booming non-crude liquids expand capacity to 114.7 mb/d by 2030 against 105.5 mb/d of demand, pointing to a well-supplied market that remains vulnerable to major disruptions.

Want to read more? Click here: [Link](#)

Monthly Updates:

Bakers Hughes Rig Count (as of July 11th):

In America: 537 (Land: 522, Offshore: 13, Inland waters: 2).

Texas: 255 rigs.

WTI Oil (on the left) and Natural Gas Nymex (on the right) Prices Weekly Report
(7/9/2025-7/15/2025):

