

# FORT WORTH NEWS BUREAU

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## Energy Companies Present Barnett Shale EXPO to Involve, Educate Public

FORT WORTH – Gas industry leaders are partnering with regional chambers of commerce to present the Barnett Shale EXPO, an interactive event to educate the community about the economic impact of the Barnett Shale play, and update stakeholders about developments and opportunities related to gas exploration.

The event will include a trade show atmosphere for energy companies and vendors, procurement and employment opportunities, and public education activities at the Fort Worth Convention Center, Wednesday, May 16, 2007, 1:30-8 p.m. In addition, noted economist Ray Perryman will discuss results of an economic impact study at a noon luncheon.

Presenting sponsors are EnCana Oil and Gas, Devon Energy Corporation and XTO Energy Inc. The *Star-Telegram* is presenting media sponsor.

“The Barnett Shale’s impact on our economy and our way of life is so enormous, this collaborative event will offer something of interest and value for both business and consumers,” said Bill Thornton, president and CEO of the Fort Worth Chamber.

Breakout sessions during the Expo will focus on issues such as water consumption, roads, pipelines, noise and safety concerns, property values and mineral rights. Industry professionals and academia from throughout the region will lead those discussions, some of which will be offered in Spanish.

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Elected officials from all Barnett Shale communities will be invited to the EXPO, as well as state commissioners, water boards and congressional delegations. To help meet the growing demand for energy industry workers, the EXPO will also provide career information to job seekers and college students.

Ninth-grade high school students from Fort Worth ISD who are talented in math and science will be invited to participate in a science project competition to learn about careers in geology, chemistry, technology, physics and environmental science. Projects will focus on students' solutions to issues and challenges surrounding the industry, and scholarships will be awarded for the top projects.

Sponsorships for the Expo ranging from \$2,500 to \$25,000 are available through the Fort Worth Chamber, or a single exhibit booth (10' x 10') space can be purchased for \$500. Call 817-336-2491 x 243.

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*The Barnett Shale Expo is presented by industry leaders EnCana Oil and Gas, Devon Energy Corporation and XTO Energy, Inc., in cooperation with regional chambers of commerce and energy industry partners. This interactive one-day program will educate residents and update stakeholders on the economic impact, new developments and opportunities related to gas exploration in the 12-county Barnett Shale area.*