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Making Cents of the North Texas Gas Boom

Fort Worth Chamber to Take Part in First Ever Barnett Shale EXPO

(Fort Worth) — Almost overnight North Texans have discovered they're living on top of one of the largest energy deposits in the nation. Naturally they have questions about how this affects them. Now there is one place for all the answers: The Barnett Shale EXPO.

This free community-wide event is from 1:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, May 16, at the Fort Worth Convention Center. The EXPO will feature a roster of speakers, more than 100 booths, technology demonstrations, school projects and free consumer advice. There also will be a real drilling rig, large-scale exhibits of the geological history of the Barnett Shale, maps of current and future drilling sites and a series of before-and-after photographs of neighborhood drill sites.

Also, economist Ray Perryman will present the first complete look at the economic impact of the Barnett Shale on the 14 counties affected by it. His report breaks out the data county by county, gives a comparison of the energy industry's standing to the overall North Texas economy, and looks toward the future in terms of growth and revenue to be expected from the gas boom.

"As the most important economic development of our generation, the Barnett Shale gas play has the potential to benefit many of us," said Bill Thornton, president and CEO of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. "The expo is the place for neighborhood groups, landowners, families, job seekers and small businesses to come and learn what this gas boom means to them personally."

Several energy companies have joined with the Fort Worth Chamber to sponsor the first ever EXPO, which will cover the opportunities presented by the Barnett Shale.

Among the topics to be addressed at the EXPO are:

- negotiating and renegotiating mineral right leases
- water and other environmental safeguards
- job and business opportunities

- new technology for urban drilling areas
- current and future drilling activity

The scale of urban drilling from the Barnett Shale is unprecedented in modern time, with 790 active natural gas wells in Fort Worth alone. Across the region there are nearly 12,000 active wells, with most in rural or semi-rural areas. The U.S. Geological Society estimates the size of the Barnett Shale around 25 to 30 trillion cubic feet of reserves — enough to supply all gas-heated homes in the U.S. for more than five years.

The Fort Worth Chamber is one of several North Texas chambers participating in the EXPO. The other chambers include Arlington, Azle, Bowie, Bridgeport, Burleson, Cleburne, Colleyville, Crowley, Decatur, East Parker County, Fort Worth Metropolitan Black, Fort Worth Hispanic, Hurst-Euless-Bedford, Jacksboro, Lake Granbury, Mansfield, Mineral Wells, North West Metro, Saginaw and Weatherford.

Presenting sponsors for the EXPO include Devon Energy Corporation, EnCana Oil & Gas, XTO Energy, Inc. The Fort Worth Convention Center is located in downtown Fort Worth at 1201 Houston Street, Fort Worth, 76102. More information about the Barnett Shale EXPO is available at barnettshaleexpo.com.

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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.