



National Energy Board

Office national de l'énergie

CANADA'S ENERGY FUTURE 2018 SUPPLEMENT



NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION

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1. Background

The National Energy Board's (NEB) Energy Futures (EF) series explores how possible energy futures might unfold for Canadians over the long term. EF analyses consider a range of impacts across the entire Canadian energy system. In order to cover all aspects of Canadian energy in one supply and demand outlook, the extensive crude oil, natural gas, and natural gas liquids (NGL) production analyses are described at a relatively high level. A series of supplemental reports is able to address impacts specific to the supply sector, creating an opportunity to provide additional detail.

Natural gas prices are a key driver of future natural gas production and a key uncertainty to the projections in the [Canada's Energy Future 2018: Energy Supply and Demand Projections to 2040](#) (EF2018). Natural gas prices could be higher or lower depending on demand, technology, geopolitical events, and the pace at which nations enact policies to reduce GHG emissions.

EF analysis assumes that over the long term, all energy produced, will find markets. The timing and extent to which particular markets emerge, whether demand growth over/undershoots local production, whether export/import opportunities arise, and whether new transportation infrastructure is built, are difficult to predict. This is why simplifying assumptions are made. The analysis in this supplemental report continues the EF tradition of assuming these short-term disconnects are resolved over the longer term.

The EF series of natural gas, crude oil, and natural gas liquids (NGL) supplement reports include four EF cases.

Table 1.1 EF2018 Natural Gas and Crude Oil Production Assumptions/Cases

Variables	Reference	High Price	Low Price	Technology
Oil Price	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate
Gas Price	Moderate	High	Low	Moderate
Carbon Price	Fixed nominal C\$50/tonne	Fixed nominal C\$50/tonne	Fixed nominal C\$50/tonne	Increasing CO2 cost reaching nominal C\$336/tonne in 2040
Technology Advances	Reference assumption	Reference assumption	Reference assumption	Accelerated
Notes	Based on a current economic outlook and a moderate view of energy prices	Since price is one of the most influential factors in oil and gas production, and varies over time, the effects of significant price differences on production are analyzed		Considers the impact of greater adoption of select emerging energy technologies on the Canadian energy system, including technological advances in oil sands production; and the impact on the Canadian energy system of higher carbon pricing

This natural gas production supplemental report includes a detailed look at the Reference Case, followed by results from the other three cases. In the Technology Case, technological advances focus on oil sands production and not natural gas; therefore, natural gas prices are assumed to be the same in the Technology Case. The natural gas price assumptions in the High and Low Price cases differ significantly from the other cases.

All cases have the same assumption for liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports from British Columbia (B.C.)'s coast. LNG exports start at 0.75 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in 2025 and double in 2026 to reach 1.50 Bcf/d. Additional volumes are assumed in 2030, increasing total LNG exports to 2.25 Bcf/d in 2030 and 3.0 Bcf/d in 2031. Figure 2.5 in [EF2018](#) shows the assumed LNG export volumes. Additional natural gas production from LNG exports leads to additional NGL production.

The Appendix includes a description of the methods and assumptions used to project natural gas production, and detailed data sets for all cases—including annual wells drilled, production decline curve parameters, and monthly production, all by stratigraphic and geographic grouping. The Appendix is available in this document, and the data from the Appendix and chart data in this supplemental report is also [available](#).



2. Reference Case

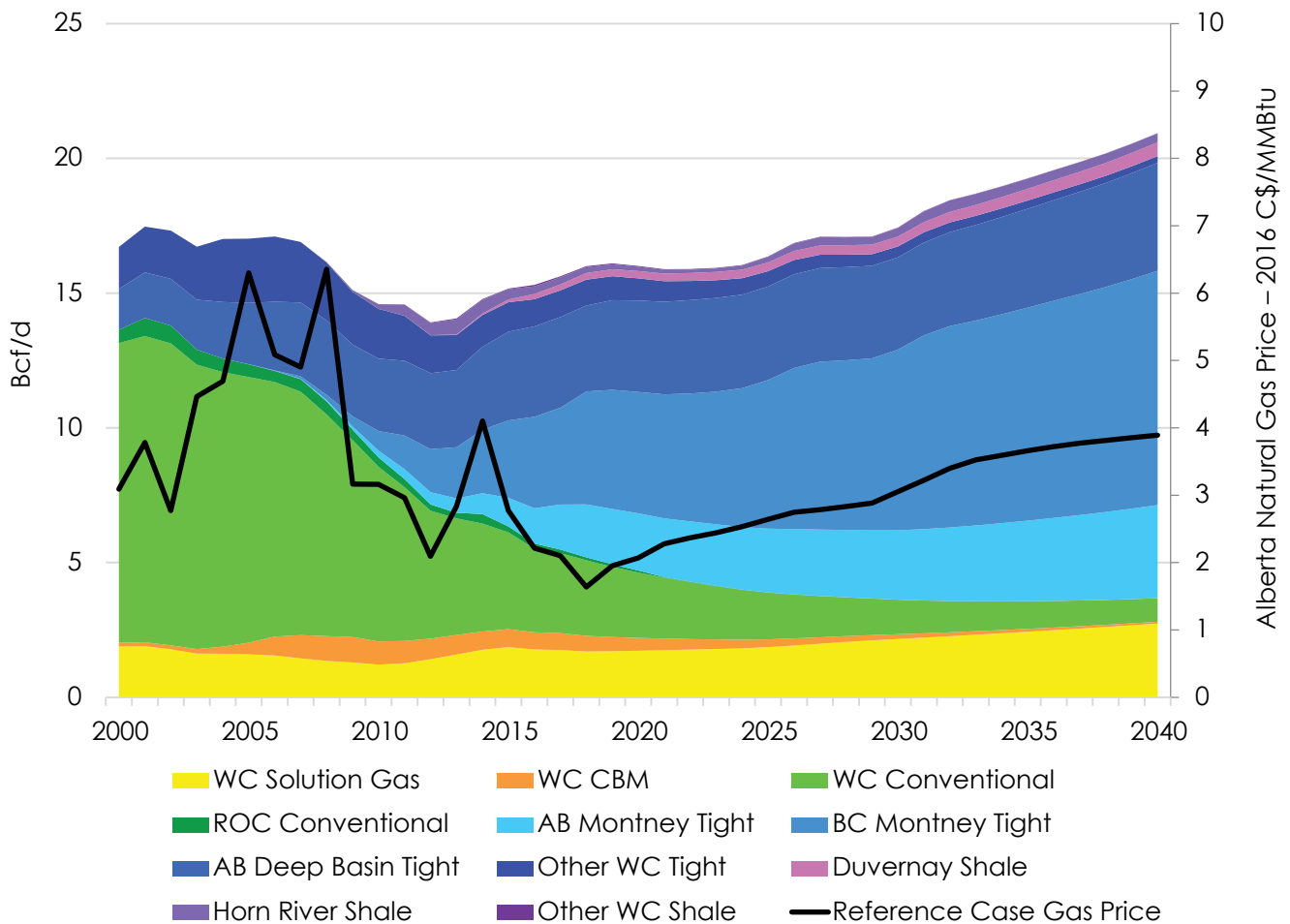
2.1 Production by Type of Gas

- Canadian gas production has remained steady in the last few years despite declining gas prices since 2014 (Figure 2.1). This was driven by, in part, drilling to evaluate gas resources expected to supply LNG exports off Canada's West Coast. Meanwhile, new gas-processing plants helped debottleneck some gas-gathering systems. Most importantly, however, natural gas liquids in some gas plays drove gas drilling and production despite low gas prices, while the cold winter of 2017-18 increased seasonal demand. Production is expected to remain steady to 2025 as low, western Canadian natural gas prices persist in the near term and are slowly alleviated by 2025 as infrastructure is built. After 2025, when LNG exports are assumed to begin, production starts to increase as gas prices¹ rise and additional drilling to supply LNG exports occurs. Historical production in Canada peaked in 2001 at 495 million cubic metres per day ($10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$) or 17.5 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d); in 2017 production was 442 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (15.6 Bcf/d) and by 2040 it's projected to increase by 34% to 593 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (20.9 Bcf/d).
- Production from the Montney Formation, a large gas resource extending from northeast B.C. into northwestern Alberta, has grown significantly over the past six years. Production of Montney [tight gas](#) increased from no production prior to 2006 to almost 149 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (5.3 Bcf/d) in 2017, or 34% of total Canadian natural gas production. The majority of Canadian production growth over the projection period comes from the Montney, with its production reaching 344 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (12.1 Bcf/d) in 2040, or 58% of total Canadian gas production. The majority of gas that will supply LNG exports is assumed to be sourced from the Montney, leading to faster production growth around 2025 and 2030, as seen in Figure 2.1.
- The Alberta Deep Basin—a tight gas play which flanks the Alberta foothill—produced 95 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (3.4 Bcf/d) in 2017. Production grows modestly as natural gas and NGL prices increase, reaching 114 $10^6\text{m}^3/\text{d}$ (4.0 Bcf/d) by 2040.

¹ The natural gas price includes an adjustment, starting in 2020, for methane abatement. It works out to about \$0.02/mmBtu for gas from gas wells and \$0.09/mmBtu for solution gas from oil wells.

- The Duvernay and Horn River Basin shale gas plays currently produce small amounts of natural gas, and production from both grows modestly over the projection period. The Duvernay is an emerging shale play in Alberta that contains natural gas, NGLs and crude oil. The Horn River in northeastern B.C. is more established, but the formation lacks NGLs, and is currently uneconomic to drill. However, a small amount of the gas to be exported as LNG is assumed to come from Horn River Basin, and the slight increases in production can be seen in Figure 2.1. Combined, production from the two plays increases from 14 10⁶m³/d (0.5 Bcf/d) in 2017 to 24 10⁶m³/d (0.9 Bcf/d) in 2040, with the Duvernay making up 60% of the total in 2040.
- Production from [conventional](#) and [coalbed methane](#) natural gas resources—which do not rely on horizontal drilling and [multi-stage hydraulic fracturing](#)—declines steadily over the projection period as new drilling in them is uneconomic using Reference Case price assumptions. Western Canadian (WC) conventional production—not including [solution gas](#)—made up 55% of total production in 2006 and 23% in 2017; it continues declining to 4% in 2040.
- Solution gas production is based on Reference Case oil production from conventional, tight, and shale oil production ([Canada’s Energy Future 2018 Supplement: Conventional, Tight, and Shale Oil Production](#)). It increases gradually over the next 25 years, making up 13% of total Canadian production in 2040.
- Production from the Rest of Canada (ROC) is minimal over the projection period and is discussed in more detail in the next section.

Figure 2.1 Reference Case Production and Gas Price

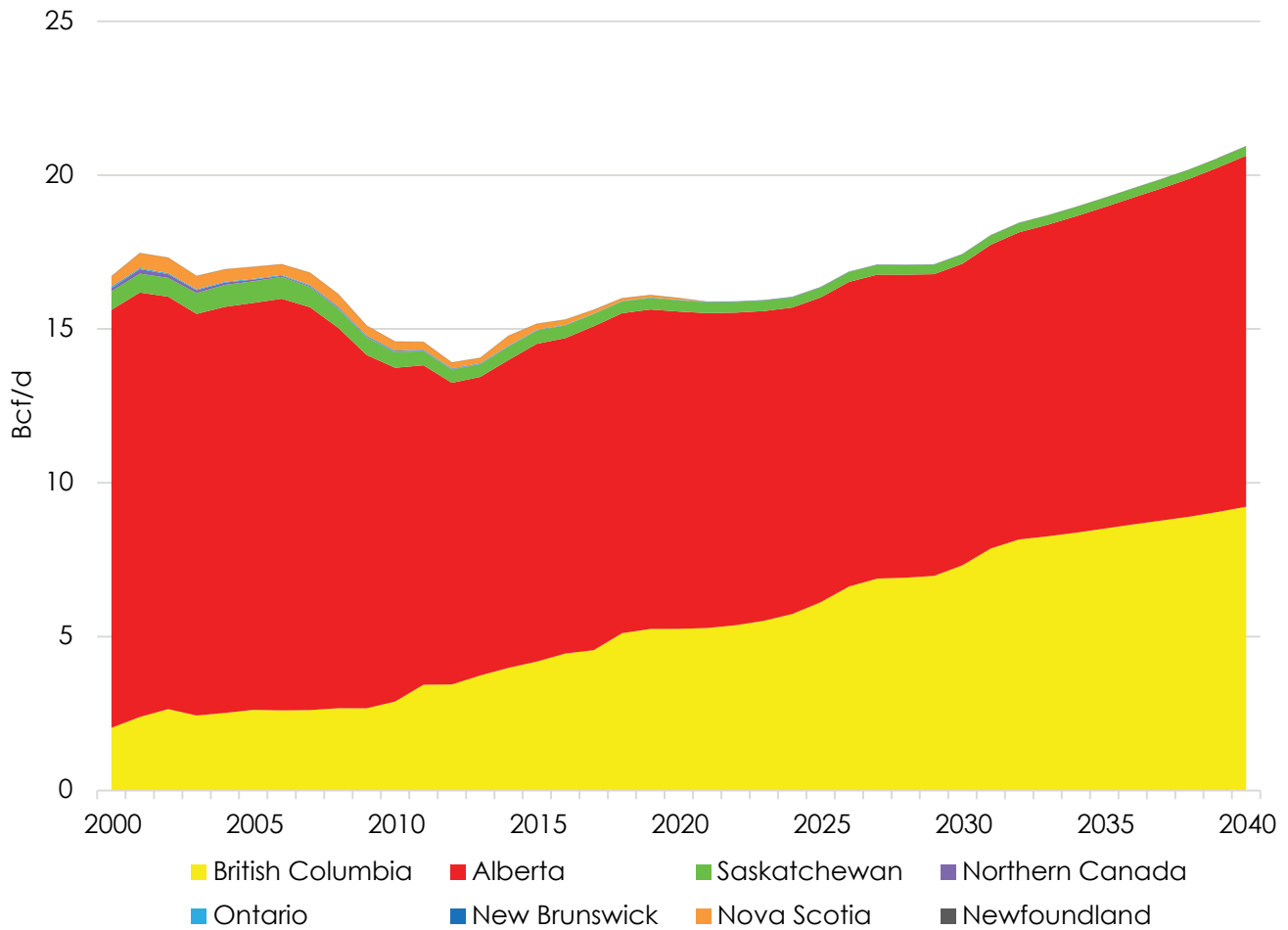


Note: WC = Western Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba)

2.2 Production by Province

- Alberta continues to be the largest natural gas producer, though B.C.'s share increases over the period as Montney production grows (Figure 2.2). Saskatchewan gas production, which is mostly solution gas (see [Appendices C1-C4](#) for gas production by grouping), declines slightly then gradually increases over the projection period.

Figure 2.2 Reference Case Production by Province



- Natural gas production in Atlantic Canada continues to decline over the projection period. Onshore natural gas production in New Brunswick falls to near zero by 2040. Offshore natural gas production in Nova Scotia is assumed to decline steadily and ceases at the end of 2020 for both the Deep Panuke and Sable projects.² Given relatively high costs for offshore exploration and current provincial policies for onshore gas exploration, no new Atlantic Canada gas fields are projected to come online.³

² These timelines were estimated at the time of analysis. More recently, Deep Panuke ceased production as of May 2018 and Sable ceased production as of December 2019.

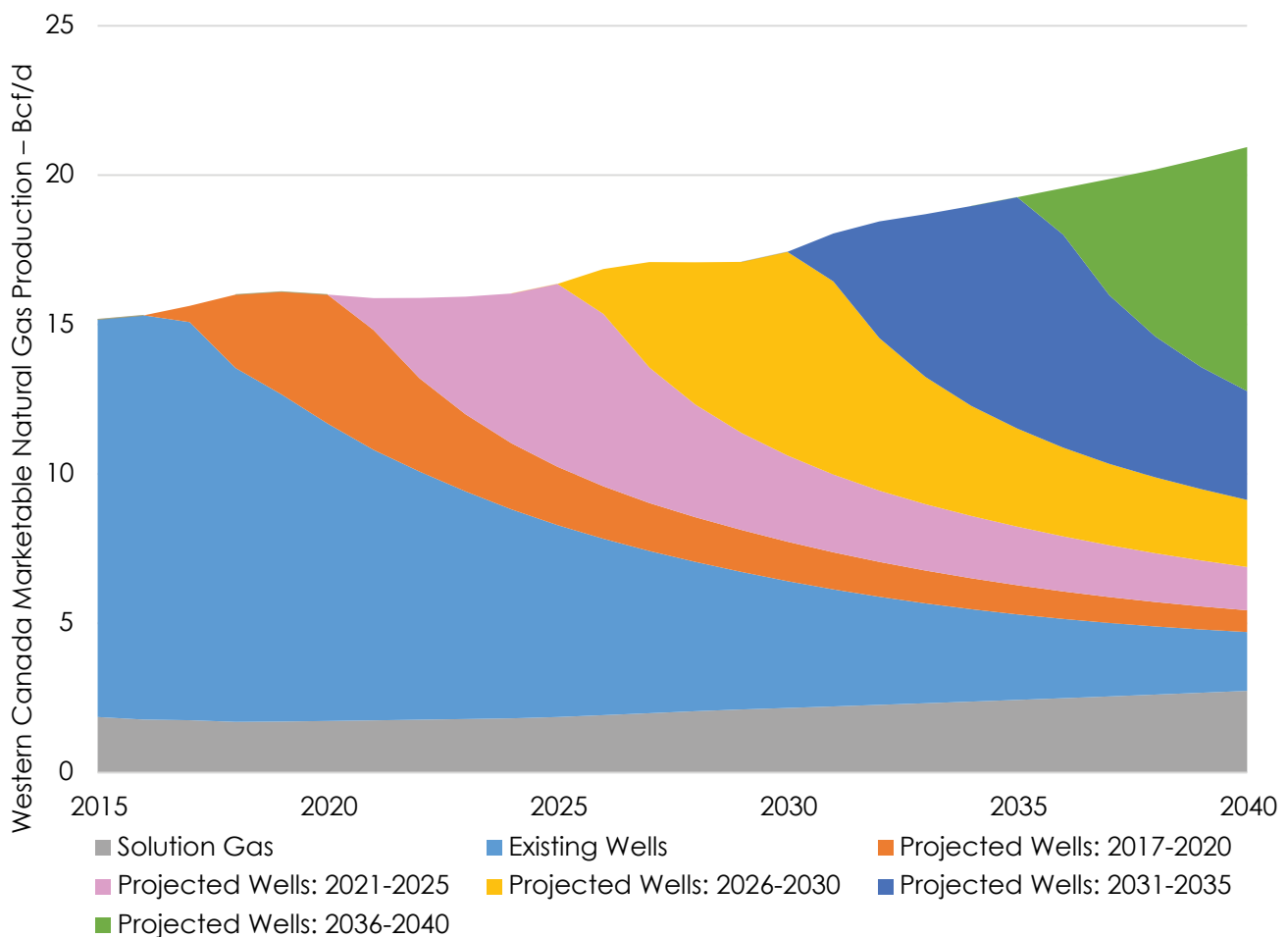
³ Gas production occurs from the oil projects offshore Newfoundland, however, that gas is either flared, vented, re-injected, or used on a platform to generate electricity, and does not reach markets.

- Ontario and northern Canada natural gas production continue to decline over the projection period. Northern Canada’s natural gas production at Norman Wells⁴ stopped in February 2017 after the line that carries Norman Wells oil south, Line 21, was shut down after a riverbank near Fort Simpson became unstable. The line has since been approved to re-open, and production is expected to re-start with an estimated time of January 2019. Gas production out of Norman Wells is estimated to be at the level it was before the shutdown, and then declines over the projection.
- Significant natural gas resources exist outside western Canada (see section 2.5), but are not projected to be developed over the projection period given economics, distance to markets, drilling moratoriums, and other factors.

2.3 Production by Well Vintage

- Figure 2.3 shows production by groups of well years. If no new wells were drilled from 2017 onwards, production would drop to 56 10⁶m³/d (2.0 Bcf/d) by 2040, not including solution gas.
- Production in each of the five-year increments increases over the projection period as gas prices and capital expenditures increase, increasing drill days and wells drilled (see [Appendices B1.1 – B1.4](#) and [Appendices B2.1-B2.4](#) for detailed drill days and wells by year for each grouping).

Figure 2.3 Reference Case Production by Well Vintage

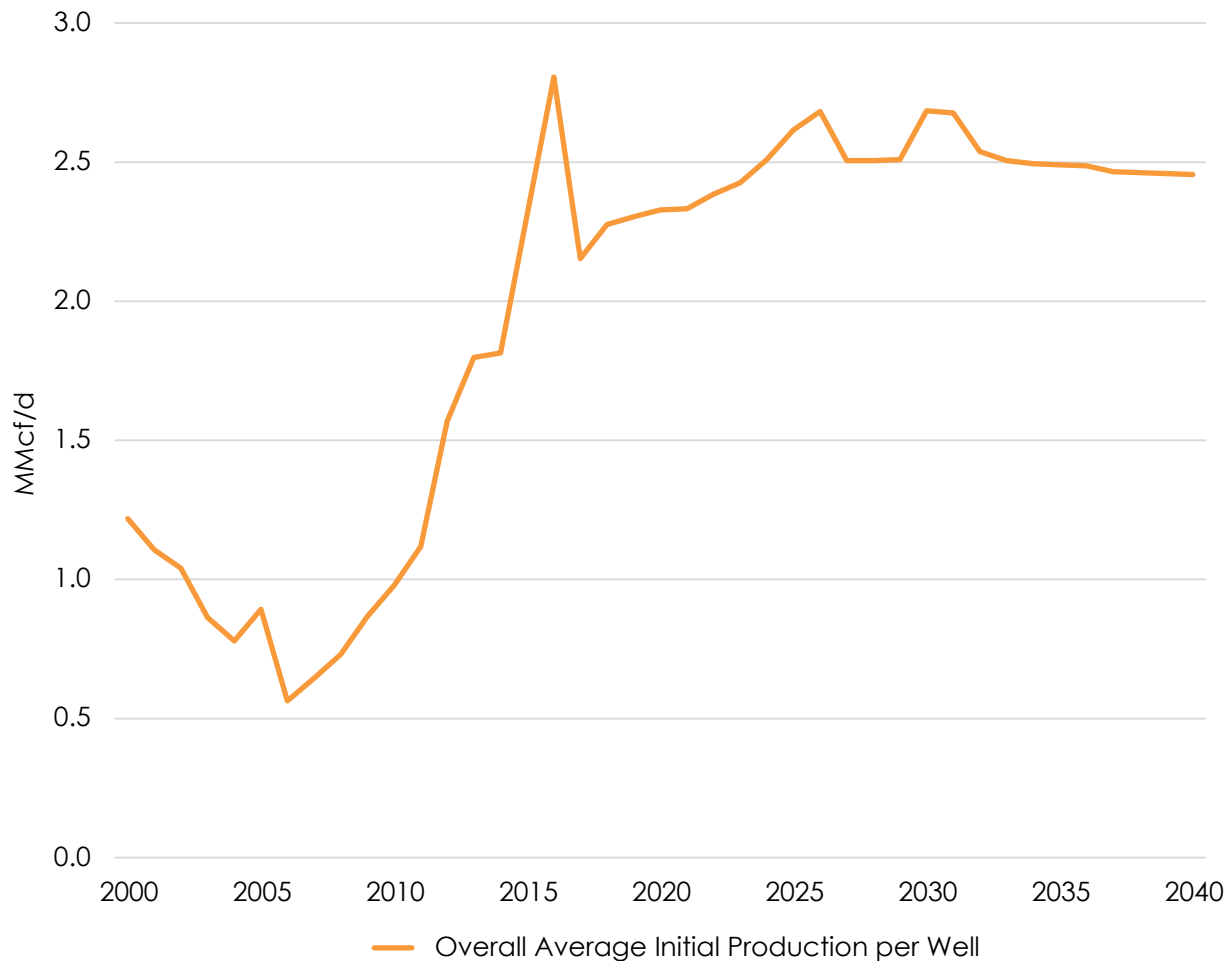


4 Norman Wells accounts for most of the natural gas production in the Northern Territories. Ikhil is the other gas-producing field.

2.4 Well Initial Productivity

- Industry focus on deeper resources has increased the average initial production (IP) rate of western Canadian gas wells. The average IP per well was lowest in 2006 at 0.56 million cubic feet per day (MMcf/d) as many low productivity, shallow wells were being drilled (Figure 2.4). In contrast, the average IP for all wells drilled in western Canada was 2.15 MMcf/d in 2017—a large jump over the last decade because of increased targeting of deeper resources with horizontal drilling and [multi-stage hydraulic fracturing](#). The average IP over the projection is expected to remain high as operators continue focusing on productive, deeper wells. IPs are also expected to remain steady over the projection: improved drilling and completion technology is expected to offset increased development of non-core⁵ areas after operators fully develop their core acreage.⁶ The bumps in 2025 and 2030 reflect the additional drilling of the Montney and Horn River plays for LNG export—both of which have high IP rates (see [Appendices A3.3, A4.1, and A4.2](#) for IP and other decline parameters by year for each grouping).

Figure 2.4 Western Canada Average Well Initial Production by year



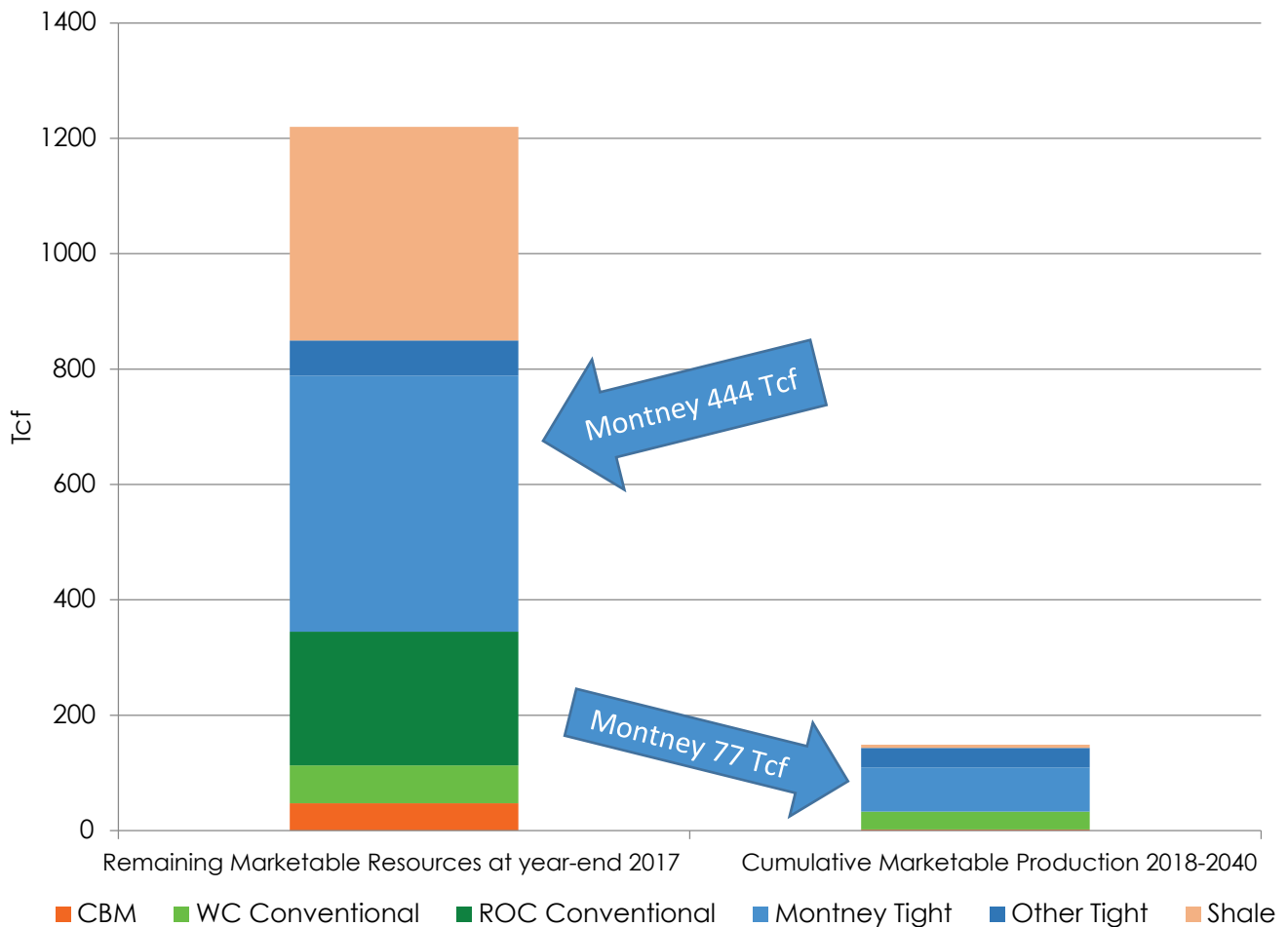
5 Core areas include the most economic prospects.

6 Historical and projected drill days, wells drilled, and well decline parameters by grouping are in [Appendices B1.1 – B1.6, Appendices B2.1 – B2.6, and Appendices A3 and A4](#).

2.5 Marketable Natural Gas Resources

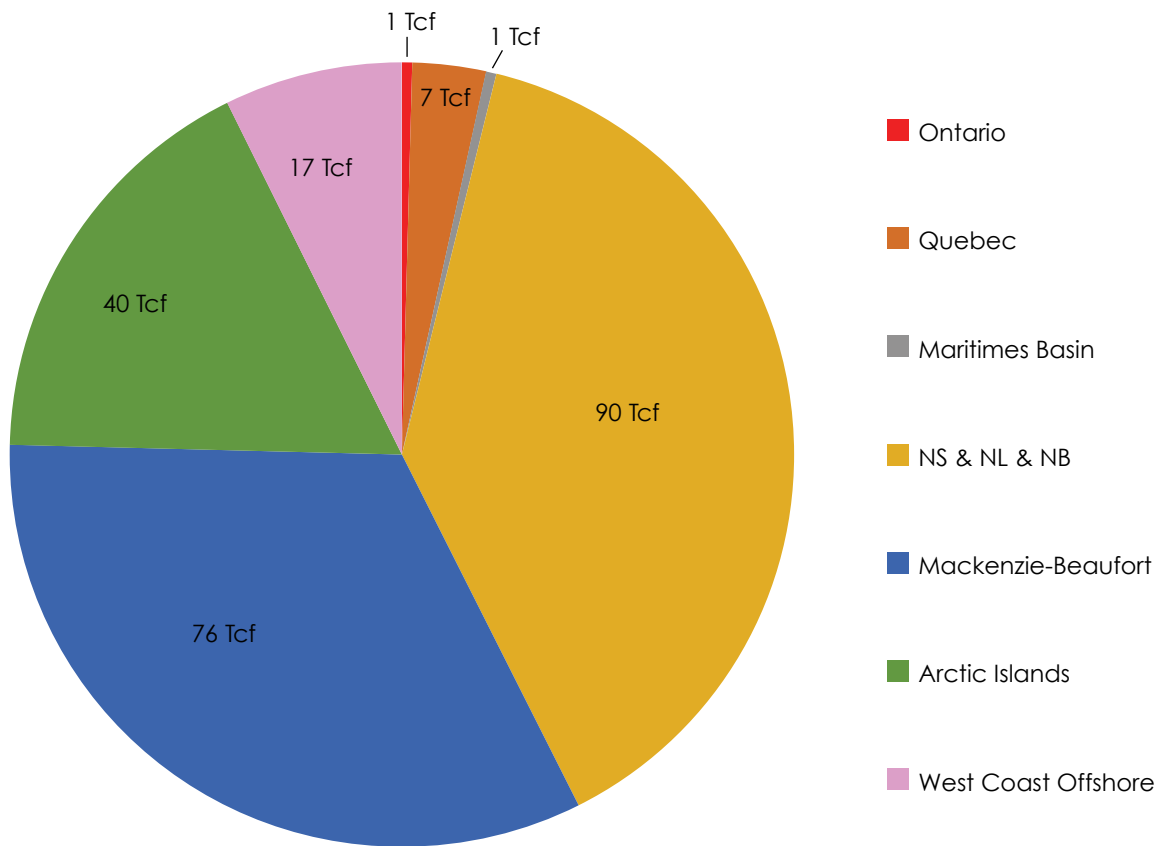
- Canada has abundant natural gas resources. With existing technology, the amount of remaining marketable gas available to be developed as of year-end 2017 is estimated at 1 220 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) or over 200 years of supply at current production. Canada currently produces 5.7 Tcf per year. From 2018 to 2040, total production will be 149 Tcf—just 12% of Canada’s 1 220 Tcf potential. For the Reference Case, Canadian resources are still projected to contain 1 071 Tcf at the end of 2040, or 188 years of production at 2017 production. See the [EF2018 Appendices](#) for a breakdown of resource by type of gas and area.

Figure 2.5 Gas Resources versus Projected Production



- Western Canada contains a significant amount of Canada’s natural gas resource. The rest of Canada also has significant resources with the majority located in northern Canada (Figure 2.6).

Figure 2.6 Rest of Canada (ROC) Gas Resources





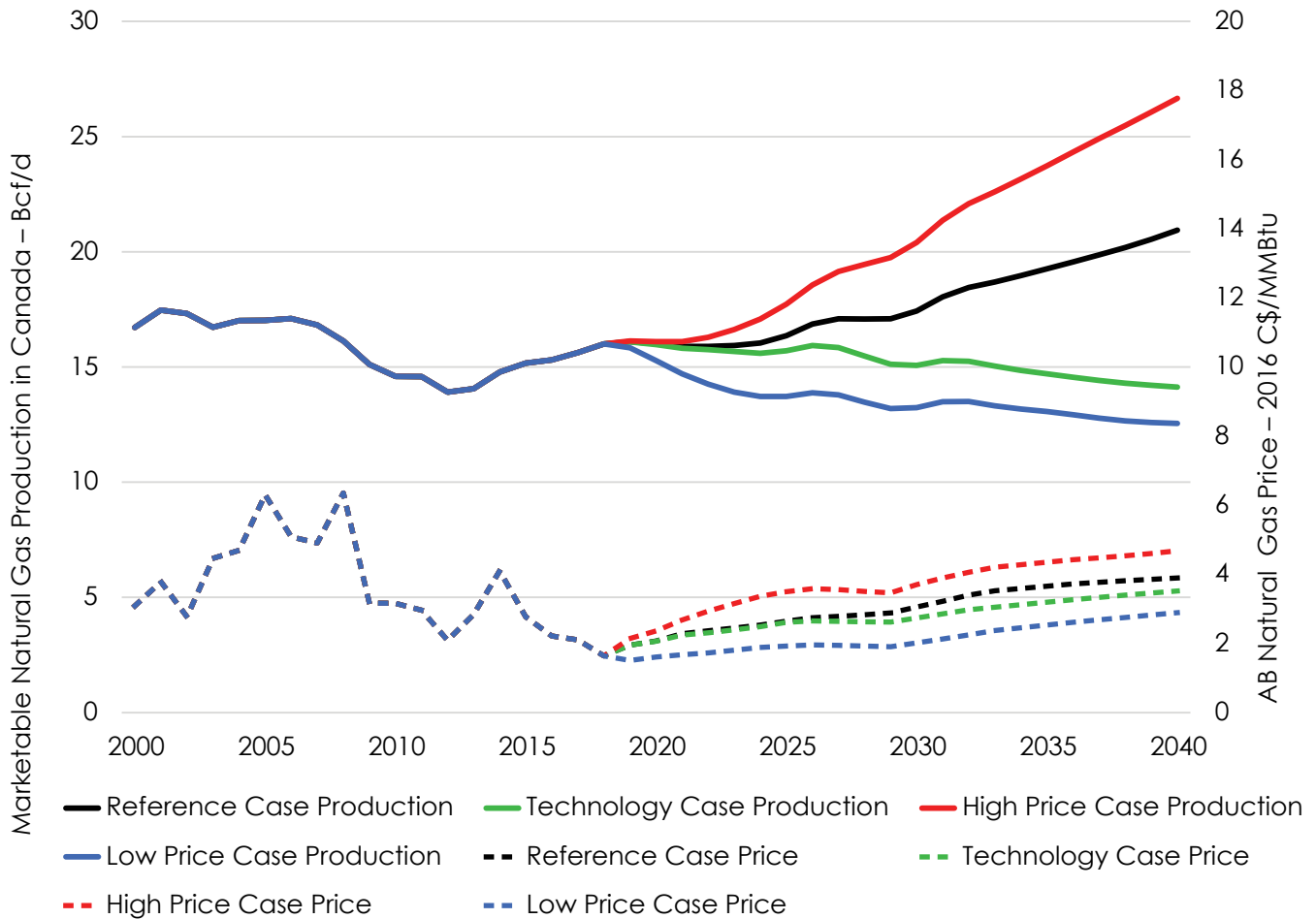
3. All Cases

- Natural gas production varies between the cases, especially for the High and Low Price cases (Figure 3.1). All cases show the same focus on more economic deep and tight gas resources. The projections for the rest of Canada, and for LNG exports, are the same in all four cases.
- In all cases except for the Low Price Case, production is expected to decline over the short term before eventually increasing from year to year to the end of the projection period. In the Low Price Case, sub-\$4 per million British thermal units gas prices are not high enough to enable sufficient revenues to fund capital expenditures to drill enough new wells for production from new wells to outpace the decline in production from older wells. As a result, total production declines over the entire projection. Production drops to 355 10⁶m³/d (12.6 Bcf/d) in 2040, or 40% lower than the Reference Case.
- The High Price Case projection reaches 755 10⁶m³/d (26.7 Bcf/d) in 2040, or 27% higher than the Reference Case. This is largely from a compounding effect over the duration of the projection, where higher prices cause more drilling and more production—which in turn leads to more revenue. These higher revenues generate higher capital expenditures and more drilling and production in subsequent years, and so on⁷. However, this analysis makes the assumption that markets will exist and infrastructure will be built as needed and does not address the question of where this production would be consumed.

⁷ Cost inflation is kept the same in all cases. Given higher or lower drilling levels, drill day cost inflation could vary between the cases. LNG export assumptions are the same in all cases, and thus do not affect capital expenditures differently between the cases.

- The Technology Case has carbon prices rising to \$336/tonne in nominal dollars by 2040 – almost seven times as much as the other cases’ carbon price of \$50/tonne. Gas prices are also slightly lower than the Reference Case (Figure 3.1). Lower gas prices and higher carbon costs result in less revenue and, therefore, less capital expenditures and less gas drilling, leading to lower gas production. Solution gas is also lower in this case since the projection of conventional oil production in the Technology Case is also lower⁸. Production drops to 355 10⁶m³/d (12.6 Bcf/d) in 2040, or 40% lower than the Reference Case.⁹

Figure 3.1 Gas Price and Production Projections by Case



8 See [Canada's Energy Future 2018 Supplement: Conventional, Tight, and Shale Oil Production](#) for more details.

9 The \$50/tonne carbon price is equivalent to a cost of \$0.22 per thousand cubic feet of marketable natural gas produced, and the \$336/tonne carbon price works out to almost \$1.50 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). This estimate assumes an average 0.05 tonnes of CO₂ per Mcf of raw natural gas production, 0.08 Mcf of gas use per Mcf, and 16% volume shrinkage in converting from raw to marketable natural gas.



4. Considerations

- This analysis assumes that over the long term, all energy production will find markets and infrastructure will be built as needed. However, a lack of markets for Canadian natural gas production could reduce the prices Canadian producers receive relative to the Henry Hub price and impact gas production trends.
- These projections describe what is possible today given price, economics, technology, geology, and other assumptions. Actual production could be different given other unforeseen factors like demand, weather, processing plant outages, etc.
- Gas production depends on price, but also on recovery technology, drilling efficiency and costs. Should technology or costs advance differently than assumed, capital expenditures and well production projections would be different than modelled here.
- Canada has abundant natural gas resources.

Appendix

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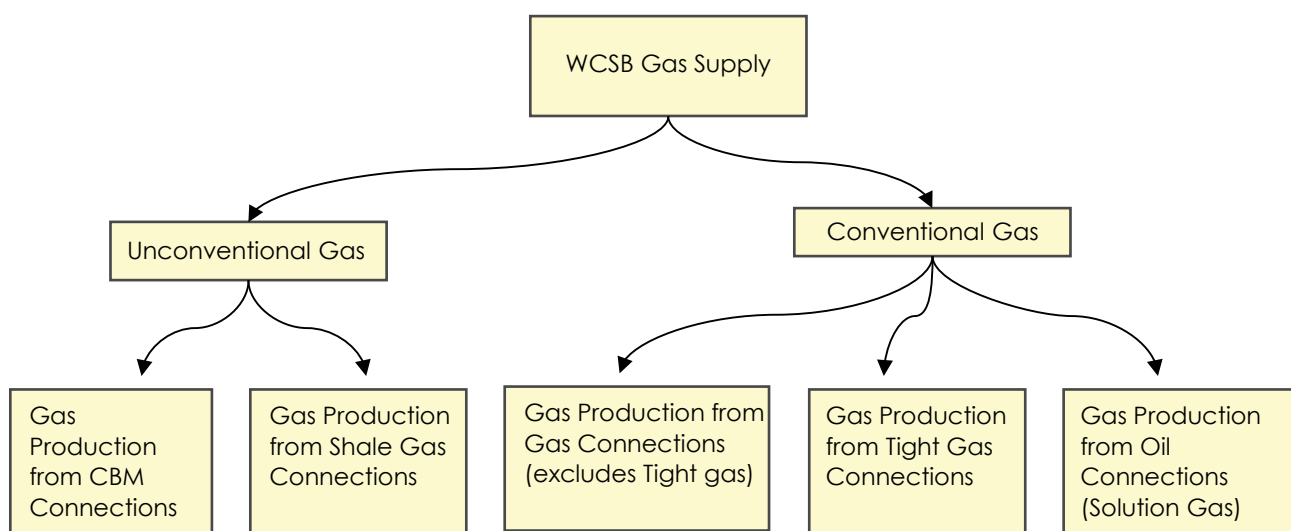
Appendix A1 – Method (Detailed Description)

Canadian natural gas production from 2018 to 2040 will consist of conventional and tight gas production from the WCSB with contributions from Atlantic Canada, Ontario, coalbed methane (CBM) production from Alberta, and shale gas production from Alberta and B.C. Analysis in this report includes trends in well production characteristics and resource development expectations—used to develop parameters that define future natural gas production from the WCSB. Different approaches were used for other regions of Canada where production is sourced from a smaller number of wells.

A1.1 WCSB

To assess gas production for the WCSB, gas production was split into five type categories as shown in Figure A1.1.

Figure A1.1 - WCSB Major Gas Production Categories



The method to determine gas production associated with conventional gas wells (including tight gas), CBM wells, and shale gas wells is described below. Production decline analysis on historical production data was used to determine parameters that define future performance. The method to determine gas production related to oil wells (solution gas) is described in Section A1.1.2 of this appendix.

A1.1.1 Groupings for Production Decline Analysis

Different groupings by type of gas well were made to assess well performance characteristics. Conventional, tight, and shale gas wells were grouped geographically on the basis of the Petrocube areas in Alberta, B.C., and Saskatchewan, as shown in Figure A1.2. These wells were also grouped by geological zone. In this analysis, gas production from the Montney Formation is separate from the other tight gas sources.

Figure A1.2 - WCSB Area Map



Within each Petrocube area and zone, gas wells were grouped by year, with all wells existing prior to 1999 forming a single group, and separate groups for each year from 1999 through 2040.

CBM wells in Alberta were also grouped primarily by zone into three categories:

- Horseshoe Canyon Main Play
- Mannville CBM, and
- Other CBM

Within each of the three categories of CBM resources, wells were also grouped by well year. For the Horseshoe Canyon Main Play and Other CBM categories, there is a single grouping for all wells existing prior to 2004, and separate groupings for each year thereafter. For Mannville CBM, a single grouping was made for all wells existing prior to 2006, and separate groupings for each following year.

In total there are about 150 gas resource groupings representing western Canada, each with its own set of decline parameters for each year.

A1.1.2 Method for Existing Wells

The method applied to make the gas production projections for existing wells differs from what is done to project production for future wells. For **existing wells**, production decline analysis on historical production data is done on each grouping (gas type/Petrocube area/geological zone and by well year) to develop two sets of parameters.

1. Group production parameters – describing production expectations for the entire gas resource grouping.
2. Average well production parameters – describing production expectations for the average gas well in the grouping.

The method for the production decline analysis on existing wells is described below. The group production parameters and average well production parameters resulting from this analysis are contained in Appendices A.3 and A.4, respectively.

In the model, the group production parameters are used to make the production projection for existing wells. For each of these groupings, a data set of group marketable production history is created. The data sets for group marketable production are generated as follows:

- Raw well production for gas connections in each grouping is summed by calendar month getting total group raw production by calendar month.
- The total group raw production by calendar month is multiplied by an average shrinkage factor that applies to the grouping and divided by the number of days in each month to get total monthly marketable gas production and marketable gas production rate (MMcf/d) for each calendar month.
- Using this data set, plots of total daily marketable production rate versus total cumulative marketable production are generated for each grouping.

The data sets for average well production history are created as follows.

- The raw well production by month for each connection in the grouping is put in a data base.
- For each entry of production month for each well, a value of normalized production month is calculated as the number of months between the month the connection began producing and the actual production month (this is the normalized production month).
- The raw production for wells in the grouping is summed by normalized production month and then multiplied by the average shrinkage factor that applies to the grouping, providing total marketable production by normalized production month.
- The marketable production for normalized production month is then divided by the average number of days in a month, or 30.4375, giving the production rate for the average well in the grouping by normalized production month.
- Using this data set, daily marketable production rate versus cumulative marketable production for the average well were generated for each grouping.

For conventional gas wells, the following procedures are applied in performing production decline analysis using the group and average well historical production data sets:

- **Production Decline Analysis for the Pre-1999 Wells**

In each grouping, the group rate versus cumulative production plot for the grouping of gas wells on production prior to 1999 is the first to be evaluated. In all groupings a stable exponential decline for the past several years was exhibited. The group plot for all the wells prior to 1998 yields a current marketable production rate, a stable decline rate applicable to future production, and a terminal decline if seen fit.

- **Production Decline Analysis for 1999 - 2017 Wells**

After the initial aggregate well year is evaluated for a grouping, each year is evaluated in sequence, from 1999 through 2017.

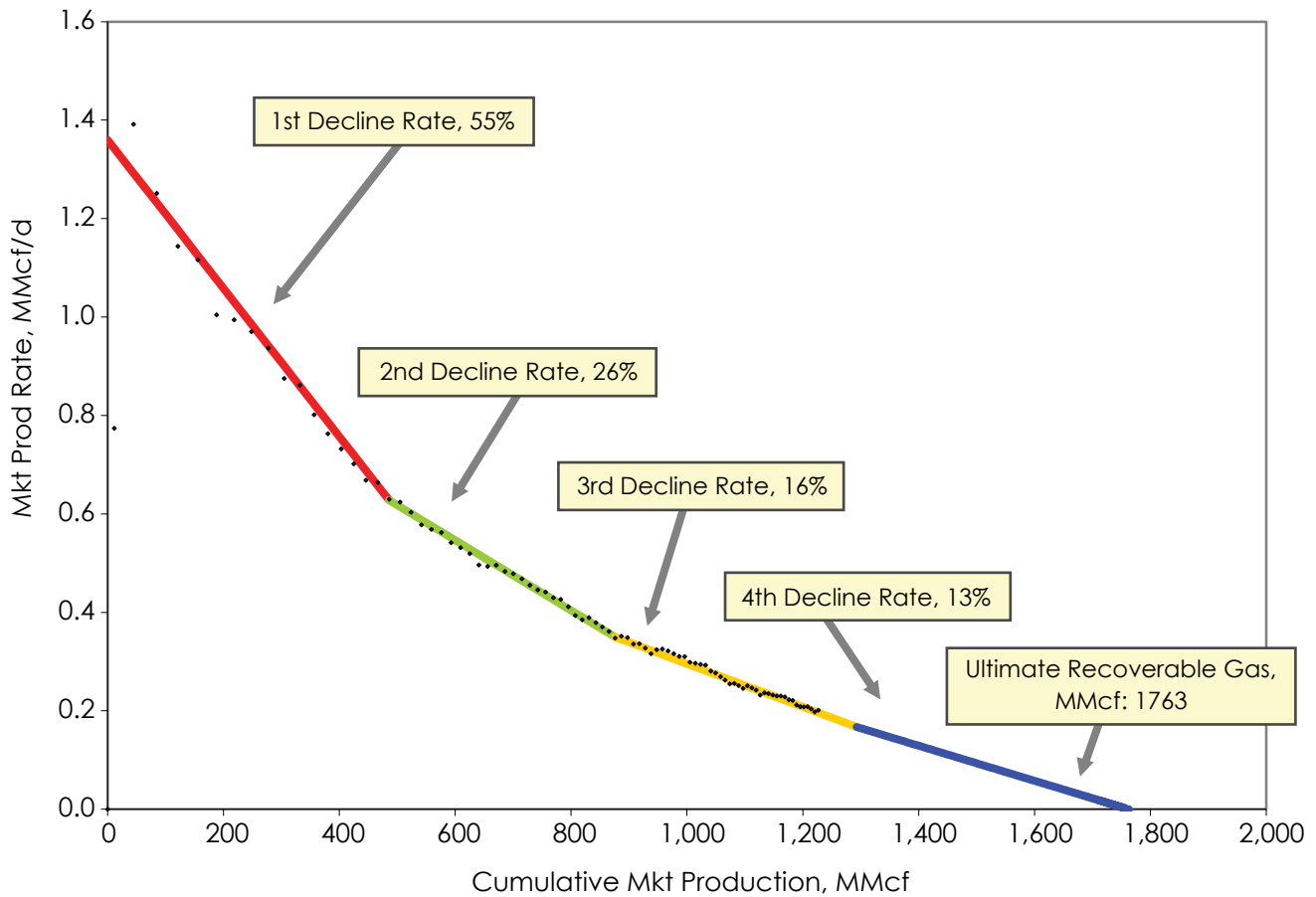
- a. Production Decline Analysis for the Average Well:

For each well year, the rate versus cumulative production plot for the average well is evaluated first to establish the following parameters that describe the production profile of the average well over the entire productive life:

- Initial Production Rate
- First Decline Rate
- Second Decline Rate
- Months to Second Decline Rate- usually around 18 months
- Third Decline Rate
- Months to Third Decline Rate- usually around 45 months
- Fourth Decline Rate
- Months to Fourth Decline Rate- usually around 100 months.

Figure A1.3 shows an example of the plots used in evaluation of average well performance, and the different decline rates that are applied to describe the production.

Figure A1.3 – Example of Average Well Production Decline Analysis Plot



Source: NEB analysis of Divestco Geovista well production data

For the earlier well years, the available data is usually sufficient to establish all of the above parameters. For more recent well years, the duration of historical production data becomes shorter and the parameters describing the later life decline performance must be taken from that determined for earlier well years. In the example shown in Figure A1.3, the available data is sufficient to determine parameters defining the first, second, and third decline periods for the well, but the parameters defining the fourth decline period must be assumed based on the analysis of earlier well years.

It is assumed that, unless the historical data for the well year indicates otherwise, the fourth decline rate will equal the terminal decline rate for the grouping established through evaluation of all pre-1999 wells, and that period of the terminal decline rate will commence after 120 months of production.

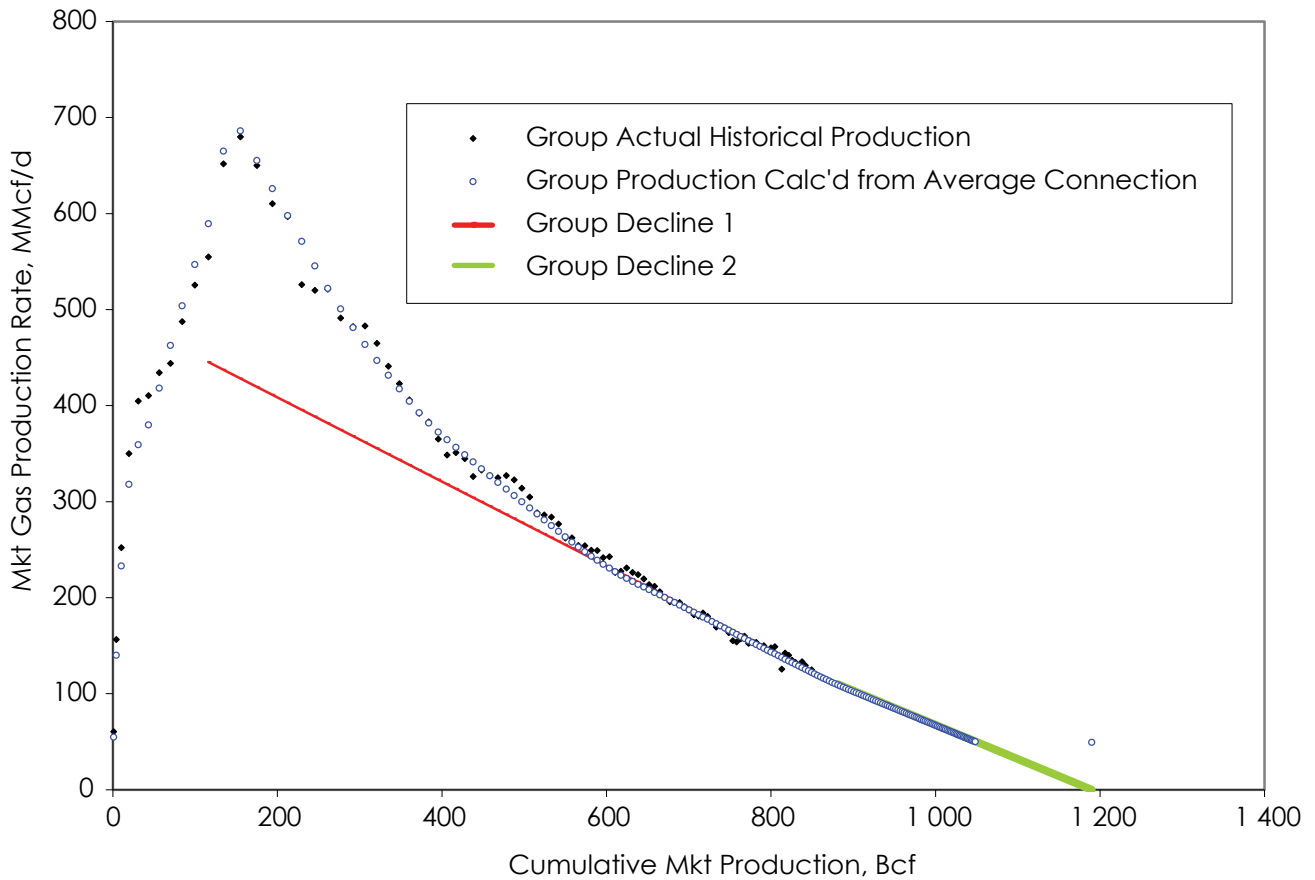
The decline parameters determined in this manner for average wells are available in Appendix A4.

b. Production Decline Analysis for the Group Data:

Once the performance parameters for the average well are established, the procedure focuses on evaluation of group performance parameters.

As a first step, the average well performance parameters are combined with the known 12-month well schedule to calculate the expected group performance. This is plotted with the actual group performance data. If the data calculated from average well performance data does not provide a good match with the actual historical production data for the group, then the average well parameters may be revised until a good match is obtained between calculated group production data (from average well data) and actual group production data. An example of the group plots described here is shown in Figure A1.4.

Figure A1.4 – Example of Group Production Decline Analysis Plot



Source: NEB analysis of Divestco Geovista well production data

The following group performance parameters are determined from the group plot:

- Production Rate as of month one
- First Decline Rate
- Second Decline Rate (if applicable)
- Months to Second Decline Rate (if applicable)
- Third Decline Rate (if applicable)
- Months to Third Decline Rate (if applicable)
- Fourth Decline Rate (if applicable)
- Months to Fourth Decline Rate (if applicable)

In the earlier well year groupings (2001, 2002, etc.), the actual group data is usually stabilized by the current date at or near the terminal decline rate established via the pre-1999 aggregate grouping. In these cases a single decline rate sufficiently describes the entire remaining productive life of the grouping. In these cases the expected performance calculated from average well data has little influence over determination of the group parameters.

In later well years (2015, 2016, etc.) actual group production history data cannot provide a good basis upon which to project future production. In these cases the expected performance calculated from average well data is vital to establishing the current and future decline rates.

Group performance parameters determined in this manner are available in Appendix A3.

The production decline analysis procedure described above is also applied to the CBM groupings and shale gas. Mannville CBM connections have a different performance profile than the other gas resources in the WCSB. While gas wells for all other groupings can be described by an initial production rate that declines in a relatively predictable manner, Mannville CBM connections go through a dewatering phase with gas production increasing over a period of months to a peak rate. After the peak rate is reached decline will occur. Thus a slightly different set of parameters is used to describe performance of the average well for Mannville CBM, with initial production rate being replaced by “Months to Peak Production” and “Peak Production Rate”.

The shorter production history of shale gas makes it more difficult to establish long-term decline rates based on historical data. Nevertheless, decline rates that describe the full productive life of shale gas wells are still estimated based on the NEB’s view of ultimate gas recovery for the average well.

A1.1.3 Method for Future Wells

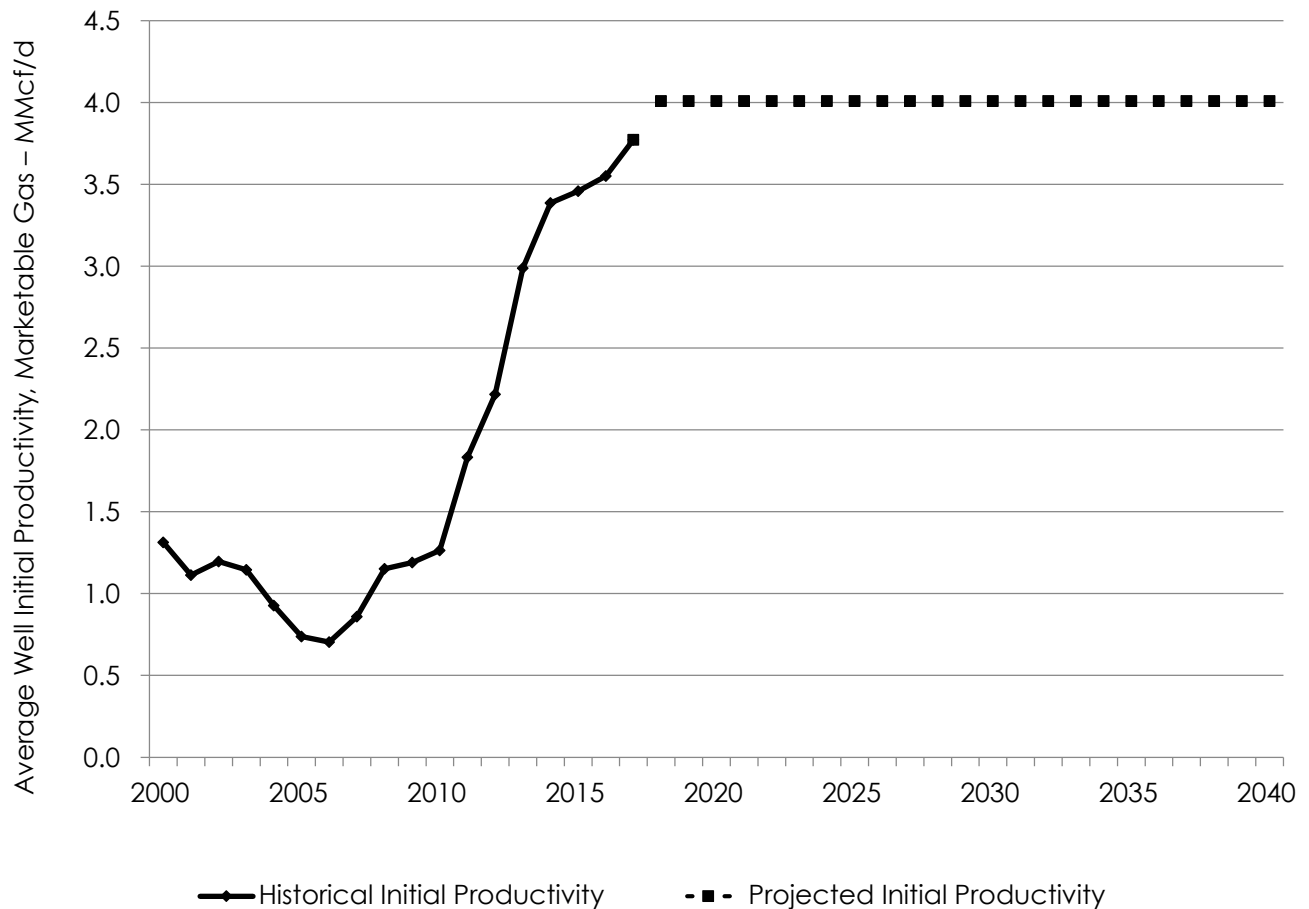
For future wells, production is estimated based on the number of projected wells and the expected average performance characteristics of those wells. The drilling projection is used to estimate the number of future gas wells. Historical trends in average well performance parameters, obtained from production decline analysis of existing gas wells, are used to estimate average well performance parameters for future well years.

A1.1.3.1 Performance of Future Wells

The performance of future wells is obtained in each grouping by extrapolating the production performance trends for average wells in past years. The performance parameters estimated are initial productivity of the average well and the associated decline rates.

In many groupings there are trends of decreasing or increasing initial productivity for the average gas well. Figure A1.5, which shows the initial production rate over time for tight gas wells in the Alberta Deep Basin Upper Colorado grouping. The IP was trending down until about 2006 when horizontal drilling and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing technologies started taking off, which increased the IP over the last decade in this grouping. The initial production rate for future gas wells is estimated by extrapolating the trend in each grouping, and are adjusted if there are any other assumptions such as technological or resource changes. Historical and projected initial productivity values for the average well for all groupings are contained in Appendices A3 and A4.

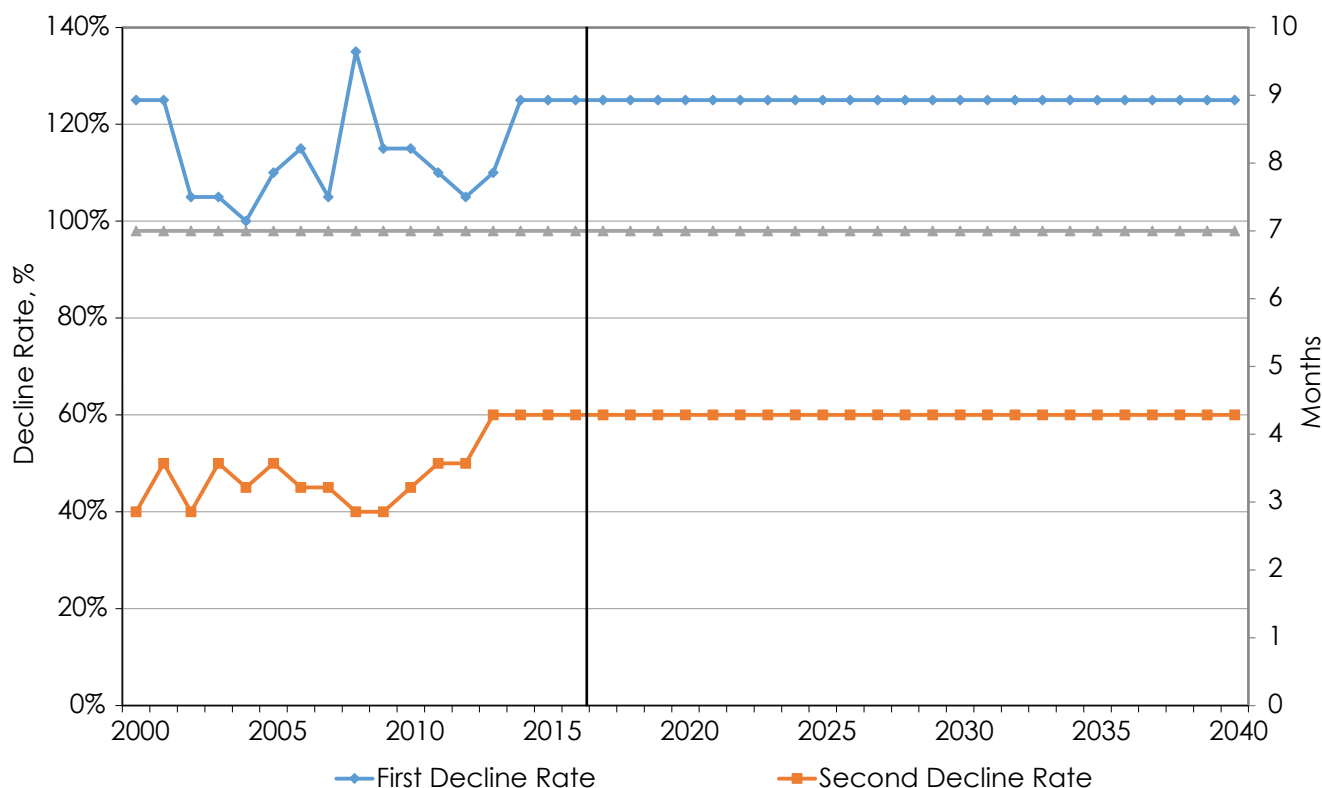
Figure A1.5 – Example of Average IP by Year – Alberta Deep Basin Mannville Tight Grouping



Source: NEB analysis of Divestco well production data

The key decline parameters impacting the near term are the first decline rate, second decline rate, and months to second decline rate. Figure A1.6 shows the historical and projected values of these key decline parameters for the average well in the Alberta Deep Basin Mannville Tight grouping. As shown in Figure A1.6, trends seen in the decline parameters in past years are used to establish these key parameters for future years.

Figure A1.6 – Example of Key Decline Parameters Over Time - Alberta Deep Basin Mannville Tight Grouping



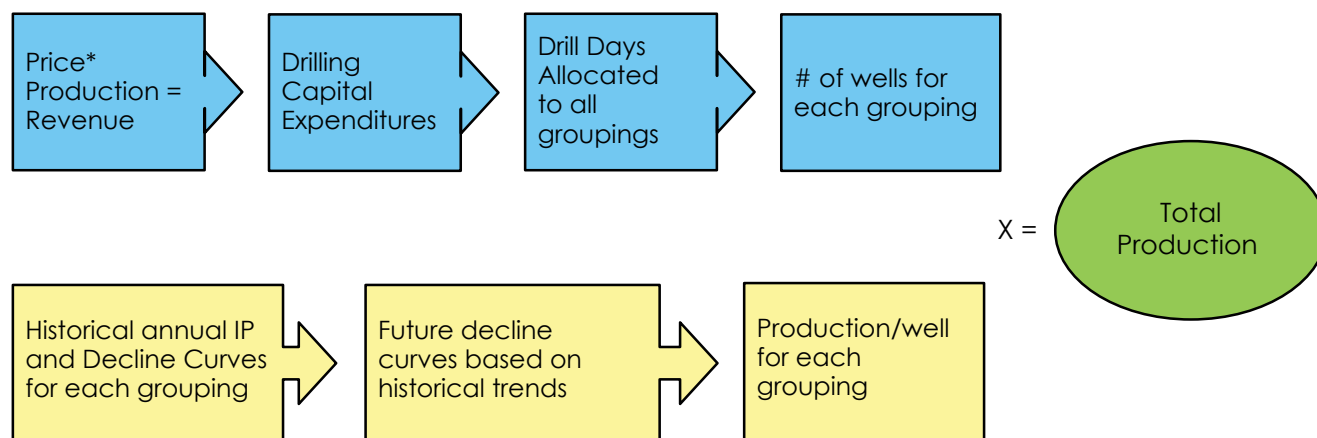
A1.1.3.2 Number of Future Wells

Figure A1.7 shows the method for projecting the number of gas wells for each year over the projection period. The key inputs are amount of re-investment of revenue and the drill day cost. Adjustments to these two key inputs can significantly change the drilling projections. The values projected for the other inputs are estimated from an analysis of historical data.

The Board projects an allocation of gas drill days for each of the groupings. The allocation fractions are determined from historical trends, recent estimates of supply costs, and the Board’s view of development potential for the groupings. The allocation fractions reflect the historical trends of an increasing focus on the deeper formations located in the western side of the basin, increasing interest in tight gas and gas shales in B.C. and Alberta, and further development of liquids rich/wet natural gas. Tables of drill days by year by grouping for each case are in Appendices B1.1 to B1.4.

The number of gas wells drilled in each year is calculated by dividing the drill days targeting each resource grouping by the average number of days it takes to drill a well. Future drill days per well for each grouping are based on historical data, and any assumptions on drilling efficiency or resource changes. Tables of wells by year by grouping for each case are in Appendices B2.1 to B2.4.

Figure A1.7 – Flowchart of Drilling Projection Method



A1.1.4 Solution Gas

Solution gas is gas produced from oil wells in conjunction with the crude oil and currently accounts for over 10% of total marketable gas production in the WCSB. Solution gas analysis is by Petrocube area and is projected by using historical trends and projected conventional, tight, and shale oil production by province ([Canada's Energy Future 2018 Supplement: Conventional, Tight, and Shale Oil Production](#)). The projected solution gas production is deemed to represent all solution gas production (i.e. production from both existing and future oil wells).

A1.1.5 Yukon and Northwest Territories

No production from the Mackenzie Delta and elsewhere along the Mackenzie Corridor is included over the projection, as lower prices have rendered production uneconomic. The Norman Wells field produces small amounts of gas that serve local purposes and is not tied into the North American pipeline grid. Natural gas production at Norman Wells¹⁰ has been halted since February 2017 after the line that carries the gas south, Line 21, had been shut down after a riverbank beneath a portion of the line near Fort Simpson had become unstable. The line has been approved to re-open, and production is expected to re-start with an estimated time of January 2019. Gas production out of Norman Wells is estimated to be at the level it recently was before the shutdown, and then declining over the projection. Cameron Hills production ceased in February 2015.

10 Norman Wells accounts for most of the natural gas production in the Northern Territories. Ikhil is the other gas-producing field.

A1.2 Atlantic Canada

Natural gas production in Atlantic Canada continues to decline over the projection period. Onshore natural gas production in New Brunswick falls to near zero by 2040. Offshore natural gas production in Nova Scotia is assumed to decline steadily and ceases by 2021 for both the Deep Panuke and Sable projects. Given relatively high costs for offshore exploration and current provincial policies for onshore gas exploration, no new Atlantic Canada gas fields are projected to come online.¹¹

Onshore production from the McCully Field in New Brunswick was connected into the regional pipeline system at the end of June 2007 and now operates on a seasonal basis.

Shale gas potential exists in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, however, provincial policies currently prohibit hydraulic fracturing which is required for shale gas development. It is assumed these policies do not change over the projection period.

A1.3 Other Canadian Production

A minor remaining amount of Canadian production is from Ontario. Production from Ontario is projected by extrapolation of historical production volumes. Shale gas potential exists in Quebec, however, provincial policies currently prohibit hydraulic fracturing which is required for shale gas development. It is assumed these policies do not change over the projection period.

11 Gas production occurs from the oil projects offshore Newfoundland, however, that gas is either flared, vented, re-injected, or used on a platform to generate electricity, and does not reach markets.

A2.1 WCSB

A2.1.1 Production from Existing Gas Wells

The future production of existing wells of the resource groupings comprising conventional (including tight gas), and unconventional (including shale gas and CBM), and all solution gas was determined via the production analysis procedures described in Appendix A1. The decline parameters for these groupings are the same for all cases.

The parameters describing future production for all of these groupings are the production rate as of December 2017 and as many as four future decline rates that apply to specified time periods in the future. For the older wells where production appears to have stabilized at a final decline rate, only one future decline rate is needed to describe future group deliverability. For newer wells, the decline rate that applies over future months changes as the group performance progresses towards the final stable decline period. For these newer wells, three or possibly four different decline rates have been determined to describe future performance.

The projected production from existing wells represents the production that would occur from the WCSB if no further gas wells started producing after December 2016. Production from future gas wells supplements the declining production from existing wells.

A2.1.2 Production from Future Gas Wells

Production associated with future gas wells is calculated for each resource grouping using estimates for production performance of the average well and the number of wells in future years. The parameters associated with both of these inputs are discussed in the sections below.

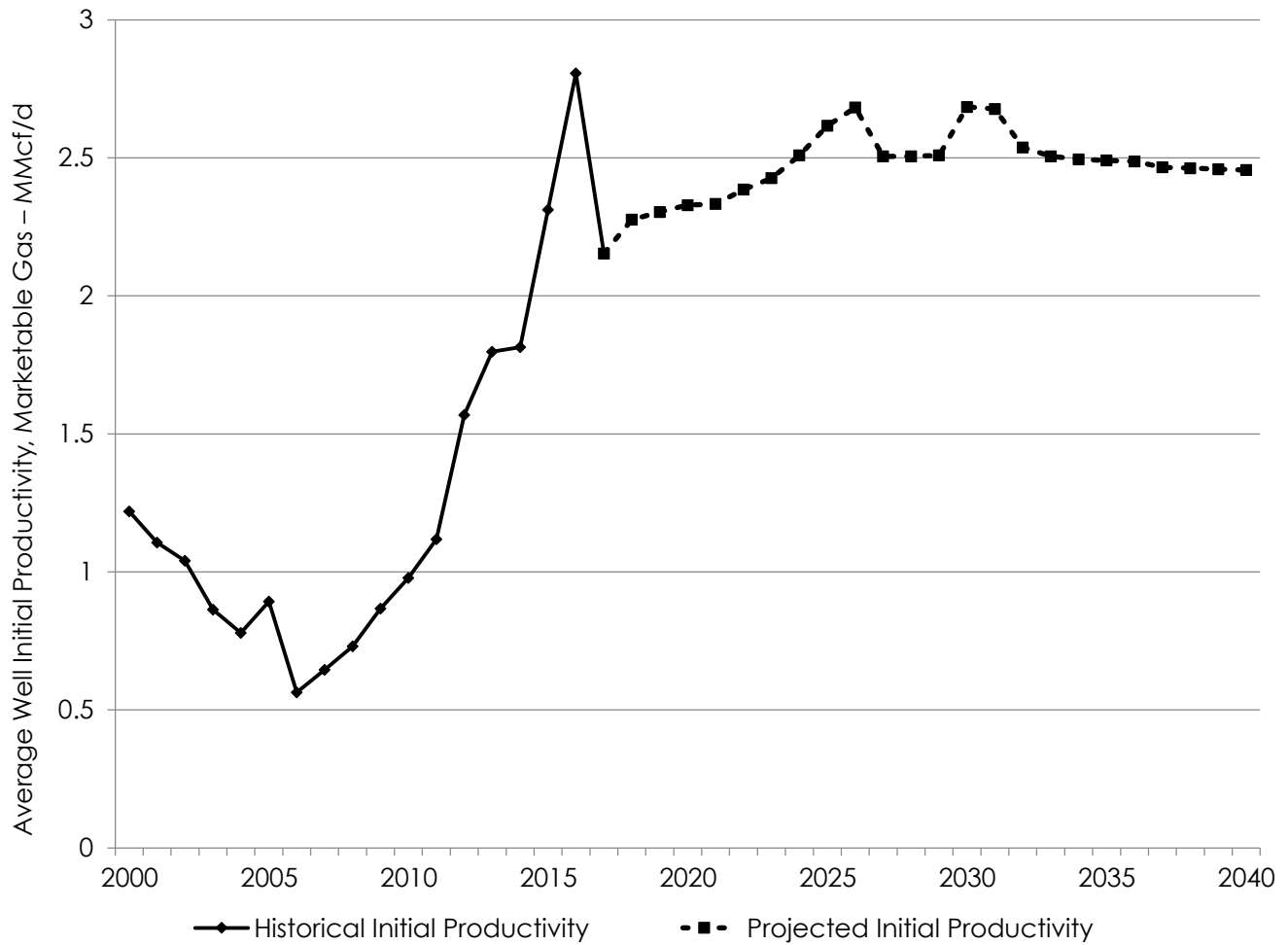
While past projections for existing gas wells have enjoyed a high degree of accuracy, the certainty associated with the projections for future gas wells is less. The key uncertainties are the level of gas drilling that will occur and the production levels of wells. The high and low price cases aim to address the uncertainty inherent in the gas drilling projections.

A2.1.2.1 Performance Parameters for Future Average Gas Wells

The production decline analysis procedures described in Appendix A.1 provide the basis for establishing performance parameters for future gas wells. The trends seen in average well performance for the various groupings of existing wells are used to make an estimate of performance parameters for future gas wells.

With respect to initial productivity of the average gas well, the overall trend for the WCSB is shown in Figure A2.1. After decreases in initial productivity over 2001 to 2006, the trend reversed upward for 2007, remained fairly stable through 2009, and continued upward through to 2015 as higher initial productivity rates from tight gas and shale gas wells began to represent a growing share of the wells drilled in a year. Initial productivity over the projection is almost flat primarily due to holding the rates constant for most gas wells.

Figure A2.1 - WCSB Production-Weighted Average IP by Year, Reference Case



Source: NEB Analysis of Divestco Well Production Data

Table A2.1 shows the historical production-weighted average IP for wells by area by year. Appendices A3 and A4 provide historical and projected performance parameters for all groupings.

Table A2.1 - Production-Weighted Average IP by Year by Area, Reference Case (MMcf/d)

Area	00 - Alberta CBM	01 - Southern Alberta	02 - Southwest Alberta	03 - Southern Foothills	04 - Eastern Alberta	05 - Central Alberta	06 - West Central Alberta	07 - Central Foothills	08 - Kaybob	09 - Alberta Deep Basin	10 - Northeast Alberta	11 - Peace River	12 - Northwest Alberta	13 - BC Deep Basin	14 - Fort St. John	15 - Northeast BC	16 - BC Foothills	17 - Southwest Saskatchewan	18 - West Saskatchewan	Total WCSB
2000		0.155	0.201		0.303	0.346	2.031	2.789	1.582	1.826	0.411	1.793	0.931	1.264	12.792	1.865	8.318	0.049	0.244	1.219
2001		0.130	0.306		0.250	0.317	2.124	3.865	1.113	1.700	0.291	2.060	0.767	1.756	7.846	2.187	4.451	0.051	0.205	1.106
2002		0.127	0.149		0.241	0.277	2.084	4.314	1.208	1.773	0.306	3.246	0.778	1.374	5.074	2.694	4.954	0.086	0.171	1.040
2003	0.032	0.095	0.267		0.171	0.285	1.224	3.132	1.330	1.497	0.283	2.088	0.658	2.557	3.314	1.712	2.365	0.127	0.162	0.863
2004	0.091	0.103	0.176		0.152	0.310	1.088	2.946	1.083	1.602	0.233	1.634	0.533	2.263	1.264	1.937	2.486	0.080	0.161	0.779
2005	0.092	0.083	0.129		0.124	0.208	1.359	4.930	0.956	1.367	0.235	1.714	0.386	1.767	1.949	1.482	2.388	0.115	0.145	0.893
2006	0.128	0.074	0.110		0.107	0.171	1.159	1.950	1.085	0.939	0.172	1.201	0.317	0.851	1.511	0.994	2.195	0.103	0.129	0.564
2007	0.129	0.083	0.124		0.125	0.208	1.086	4.685	1.226	1.286	0.202	1.536	0.353	1.655	1.843	1.402	1.212	0.079	0.129	0.645
2008	0.125	0.112	0.174		0.108	0.162	1.455	3.341	1.087	1.456	0.187	1.510	0.520	1.701	2.111	1.746	2.081	0.073	0.108	0.731
2009	0.084	0.090	0.153		0.149	0.190	0.995	2.536	1.418	2.238	0.182	1.701	0.802	2.315	2.637	2.282	1.811	0.083	0.135	0.867
2010	0.059	0.116	0.109		0.154	0.122	0.867	1.920	1.369	1.633	0.157	1.533	0.463	3.139	2.629	3.897	2.076	0.052	0.112	0.978
2011	0.057	0.123	0.129	3.247	0.154	0.209	1.091	2.789	1.383	1.661	0.161	2.128	0.214	2.891	2.340	4.757	2.602	0.051	0.106	1.118
2012	0.053	0.138	0.153		0.170	0.114	1.668	2.570	0.970	2.031	0.042	2.378	0.080	2.714	2.436	5.218	3.087	0.061	0.853	1.569
2013	0.061	0.079	0.088		0.202	0.136	2.137	1.259	0.692	2.669	0.029	2.924		3.867	2.322	9.194	2.246		0.093	1.798
2014	0.072	0.095	0.171	3.247	0.365	0.603	2.023	1.672	0.799	2.902	0.043	2.412	0.064	3.233	2.328	1.423	2.138		0.204	1.814
2015	0.077	0.091	0.131		0.130	0.209	2.425	4.306	0.723	3.110	0.057	2.672		3.383	2.502	1.834	2.570		0.264	2.312
2016	0.078	0.235	0.273	4.866	0.130	0.726	1.969	3.844	1.550	2.611	0.100	2.946	0.034	3.479	3.345	0.414	2.859		0.264	2.806
2017	0.075	0.036	0.415	5.109	0.104	0.546	2.011	4.615	1.527	2.583	0.105	3.015	0.030	3.479	3.489	1.207	3.002		0.264	2.154
2018	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.237	0.108	0.527	2.023	4.606	1.534	2.588	0.110	3.085	0.030	3.479	3.667	1.068	3.077		0.264	2.276
2019	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.111	0.513	2.028	4.606	1.527	2.591	0.113	3.127	0.030	3.479	3.758	0.977	3.077		0.264	2.304
2020	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.033	4.606	1.519	2.592	0.115	3.127	0.030	3.479	3.851	0.874	3.077		0.264	2.329
2021	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.032	4.606	1.513	2.592	0.116	3.127	0.030	3.479	3.889	0.874	3.077		0.264	2.333
2022	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.030	4.606	1.508	2.593	0.116	3.127	0.030	3.479	3.929	4.605	3.077		0.264	2.385
2023	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.029	4.606	1.506	2.592	0.116	3.127	0.030	3.479	3.931	5.317	3.077		0.264	2.426
2024	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.028	4.606	1.505	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.780	3.077		0.264	2.509
2025	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.027	4.606	1.507	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.937	5.995	3.077		0.264	2.616
2026	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.026	4.606	1.509	2.592	0.116	3.129	0.030	3.479	3.938	6.067	3.077		0.264	2.682
2027	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.025	4.606	1.505	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.776	3.077		0.264	2.505
2028	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.505	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.780	3.077		0.264	2.506
2029	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.505	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.789	3.077		0.264	2.509
2030	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.510	2.485	0.116	3.129	0.030	3.479	3.939	6.094	3.077		0.264	2.684
2031	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.509	2.517	0.116	3.129	0.030	3.479	3.939	6.081	3.077		0.264	2.677
2032	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.506	2.516	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.935	5.907	3.077		0.264	2.538
2033	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.505	2.552	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.809	3.077		0.264	2.505
2034	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.505	2.527	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.934	5.797	3.077		0.264	2.495
2035	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.505	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.933	5.731	3.077		0.264	2.491
2036	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.504	2.592	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.933	5.718	3.077		0.264	2.487
2037	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.504	2.584	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.932	5.640	3.077		0.264	2.466
2038	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.504	2.586	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.932	5.622	3.077		0.264	2.463
2039	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.504	2.585	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.932	5.606	3.077		0.264	2.459
2040	0.075	0.046	0.368	5.290	0.114	0.497	2.024	4.606	1.504	2.586	0.116	3.128	0.030	3.479	3.932	5.590	3.077		0.264	2.456

Source: NEB Analysis of Divestco Well Production Data

The performance parameters projected are the same in all cases assessed in this report. Variance between the cases is affected by applying different levels of gas drilling activity as discussed further in Section A2.1.2.2 of this appendix.

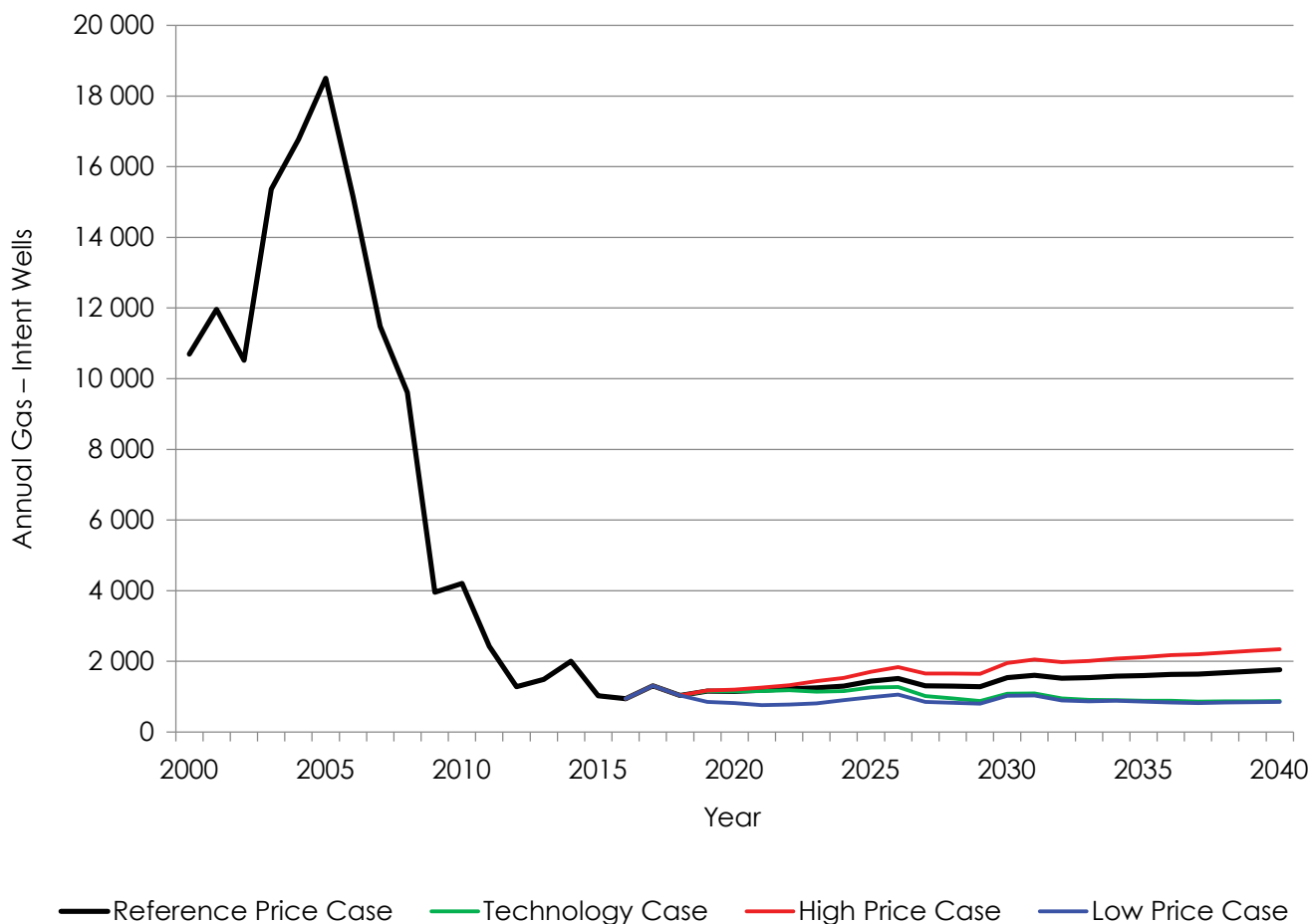
A2.1.2.2 Number of Future Gas Wells

The projected number of wells by year and the projected production performance of the average wells in those years determine projected production of future gas wells. To determine the number of future gas wells, projections of gas drilling activity by grouping are made.

Volatile and unpredictable market conditions are expected to be the primary influences on gas drilling activity. As a result, there is a high degree of uncertainty in the gas drilling activity that could occur over the projection period. The High Price Case and Low Price Case reflect a range of market conditions that may occur over the projection period. Figure A2.2 shows the total projected number of gas wells by year by case.

Projected annual gas wells and drilling days for each grouping are provided in Appendices B1.1 to B1.4 and B2.1 to B2.4.

Figure A2.2 – WCSB Gas Wells by Case



A2.2 Atlantic Canada, Ontario, and Quebec

As indicated in Appendix A1, production from Atlantic Canada and Ontario is based on extrapolation of prior trends. No additional wells over the projection period are assumed to be drilled that would contribute to production at this time.

Marketable production from the Deep Panuke development started in fall 2013. Deep Panuke has begun producing seasonally in the winters, however incursion of water into the reservoir could adversely impact the amount of natural gas recoverable over the lifetime of the project. In this report offshore natural gas production in Nova Scotia declines steadily over the projection period and production ceases by 2021 for both the Deep Panuke and Sable projects.

Provincial policy in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia currently prohibits hydraulic fracturing which is required for shale gas development. It is assumed that these policies do not change and no additional onshore gas wells are drilled over the projection period. Ontario production continues to decline with no additional drilling expected over the projection period.

Provincial policy in Quebec currently prohibits hydraulic fracturing which is required for shale gas development. It is assumed that these policies do not change and no additional gas wells are drilled over the projection period.

Appendix A3 – Groupings and Decline Parameters for Existing Wells

Table A3.1 – Formation Index

Formation	Abbreviation	Group Number
Tertiary	Tert	02
Upper Cretaceous	UprCret	03
Upper Colorado	UprCol	04
Colorado	Colr	05
Upper Mannville	UprMnvl	06
Middle Mannville	MdlMnvl	07
Lower Mannville	LwrMnvl	08
Mannville	Mnvl	06;07;08
Jurassic	Jur	09
Upper Triassic	UprTri	10
Lower Triassic	LwrTri	11
Triassic	Tri	10;11
Permian	Perm	12
Mississippian	Miss	13
Upper Devonian	UprDvn	14
Middle Devonian	MdlDvn	15
Lower Devonian	LwrDvn	16
Siluro/Ordovician	Sil	17
Cambrian	Camb	18
Pre-Cambrian	PreCamb	19

Table A3.2 – Grouping Index

Area Name	Area Number	Resource Type	Resource Group
CBM Area	00	CBM	Main HSC
CBM Area	00	CBM	Mannville
Southern Alberta	01	Conventional	Tert;UprCret;UprColr
Southern Alberta	01	Conventional	Colr
Southern Alberta	01	Conventional	Mnvl
Southern Alberta	01	Tight	UprColr
Southwest Alberta	02	Conventional	Tert;UprCret;UprColr
Southwest Alberta	02	Conventional	Colr
Southwest Alberta	02	Conventional	MdlMnvl;LwrMnvl
Southwest Alberta	02	Conventional	Jur;Miss
Southwest Alberta	02	Conventional	UprDvn
Southwest Alberta	02	Tight	UprColr

Southwest Alberta	02	Tight	Colr
Southwest Alberta	02	Tight	LwrMnvl
Southern Foothills	03	Conventional	Miss;UprDvn
Eastern Alberta	04	Conventional	UprCret;UprColr
Eastern Alberta	04	Conventional	Colr;Mnvl
Eastern Alberta	04	Tight	UprColr
Eastern Alberta	04	Shale	Duvernay
Central Alberta	05	Conventional	Tert;UprCret
Central Alberta	05	Conventional	Colr
Central Alberta	05	Conventional	Mnvl
Central Alberta	05	Conventional	Miss;UprDvn
Central Alberta	05	Tight	Colr
Central Alberta	05	Tight	Mvl
Central Alberta	05	Tight	Montney
Central Alberta	05	Shale	Duvernay
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	Tert
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	UprCret;UprColr
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	Mnvl
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	LwrMnvl; Jur
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	Miss
West Central Alberta	06	Conventional	UprDvn
West Central Alberta	06	Tight	Colr
West Central Alberta	06	Tight	Mnvl
West Central Alberta	06	Tight	Montney
West Central Alberta	06	Shale	Duvernay
Central Foothills	07	Conventional	UprColr
Central Foothills	07	Conventional	Colr;Mnvl
Central Foothills	07	Conventional	Jur;Tri;Perm
Central Foothills	07	Conventional	Miss
Central Foothills	07	Conventional	UprDvn;MdlDvn
Central Foothills	07	Tight	UprColr;Colr
Central Foothills	07	Tight	Mnvl
Central Foothills	07	Tight	Jur
Central Foothills	07	Tight	Montney
Central Foothills	07	Shale	Duvernay
Kaybob	08	Conventional	UprColr;Colr
Kaybob	08	Conventional	Mnvl;Jur
Kaybob	08	Conventional	Tri
Kaybob	08	Conventional	UprDvn
Kaybob	08	Tight	Colr;Mnvl
Kaybob	08	Tight	Tri
Kaybob	08	Tight	Montney
Kaybob	08	Shale	Duvernay
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Conventional	UprCret
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Conventional	UprColr

Alberta Deep Basin	09	Conventional	Mnvl;Jur
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Conventional	Tri
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Conventional	UprDvn
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Tight	UprColr
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Tight	Colr
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Tight	Mnvl;Jur
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Tight	Tri
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Tight	Montney
Alberta Deep Basin	09	Shale	Duvernay
Northeast Alberta	10	Conventional	Mnvl;UprDvn
Peace River	11	Conventional	UprColr
Peace River	11	Conventional	Colr;UprMnvl
Peace River	11	Conventional	MdlMnvl;LwrMnvl
Peace River	11	Conventional	UprTri
Peace River	11	Conventional	LwrTri
Peace River	11	Conventional	Miss
Peace River	11	Conventional	UprDvn;MdlDvn
Peace River	11	Tight	UprColr
Peace River	11	Tight	MdlMnvl;LwrMnvl
Peace River	11	Tight	UprTri
Peace River	11	Tight	LwrTri
Peace River	11	Tight	Tri
Peace River	11	Tight	Miss
Peace River	11	Tight	Montney
Peace River	11	Shale	Duvernay
Northwest Alberta	12	Conventional	Mnvl
Northwest Alberta	12	Conventional	Miss
Northwest Alberta	12	Conventional	UprDvn
Northwest Alberta	12	Conventional	MdlDvn
Northwest Alberta	12	Shale	Duvernay
BC Deep Basin	13	Conventional	Colr
BC Deep Basin	13	Conventional	LwrTri
BC Deep Basin	13	Tight	Colr
BC Deep Basin	13	Tight	Mnvl
BC Deep Basin	13	Tight	LwrTri
BC Deep Basin	13	Tight	Montney
Fort St. John	14	Conventional	Mnvl
Fort St. John	14	Conventional	Tri
Fort St. John	14	Conventional	Perm;Miss
Fort St. John	14	Conventional	UprDvn;MdlDvn
Fort St. John	14	Tight	Mnvl
Fort St. John	14	Tight	Tri
Fort St. John	14	Tight	Perm;Miss
Fort St. John	14	Tight	Dvn
Fort St. John	14	Tight	Montney

Northeast BC	15	Conventional	LwrMnvl
Northeast BC	15	Conventional	Perm;Miss
Northeast BC	15	Conventional	UprDvn;MdlDvn
Northeast BC	15	Tight	UprDvn
Northeast BC	15	Shale	Cordova
Northeast BC	15	Shale	Horn River
Northeast BC	15	Shale	Liard
BC Foothills	16	Conventional	Colr;Mnvl
BC Foothills	16	Conventional	Tri;Perm;Miss
BC Foothills	16	Tight	LwrTri
BC Foothills	16	Tight	Tri
BC Foothills	16	Tight	Montney
Southwest Saskatchewan	17	Tight	UprColr
West Saskatchewan	18	Conventional	Colr
West Saskatchewan	18	Conventional	MdlMnvl;LwrMnvl;Miss
East Saskatchewan	19	Conventional	Solution Gas
New Brunswick	20	Conventional	
Nova Scotia	21	Conventional	
Northern Canada	22	Conventional	
Ontario	23	Conventional	
Quebec	24	Conventional	
Manitoba	25	Conventional	
Newfoundland and Labrador	26	Conventional	

See the [Excel Appendix file](#) for all charts and tables in this Appendix, and for Appendices A, B, and C.