

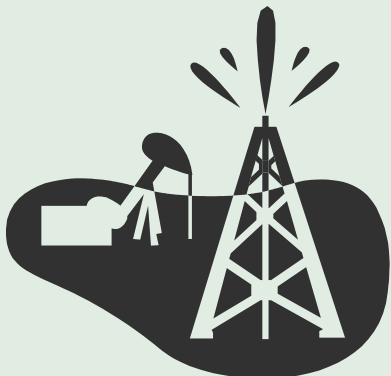
# Oil Development in Laramie County

## *Historical Perspective*

A number of oil wells were drilled in Laramie County in the 1970s and 1980s. These historical wells were vertical oil wells drilled in the Denver-Cheyenne Basin at depths of 8,000 to 9,000 feet below the surface.

New oil wells in the 'Niobrara Play' are also located in the Denver Basin within southeast Wyoming, western Nebraska and the Front Range of Colorado. Vertical wells are drilled to depths greater than 7,000 feet below the surface. At that depth, wells extend horizontally to depths greater than 12,000 feet.

Fracturing fluids are pumped to the horizontal well and released under pressure to extract oil from the surrounding shale formation. The horizontal "fracking" is conducted in stages and is an early step in oil extraction.



## Who's In Charge?

### **OIL & GAS CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The mission of the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission is to promote the beneficial and environmentally responsible development of Wyoming's oil and gas resources. The Commission requires oil and gas operators to provide an acceptable surety or other guaranty prior to operating in Wyoming. The agency's drilling inspectors conduct inspections of plugged and abandoned wells for release from the operator's bond. Well construction must meet industry and agency standards and siting of facilities such as pits must be protective of public health and the environment.

### **WYOMING STATE ENGINEER'S OFFICE**

The Wyoming Constitution defines that all natural waters within the boundaries of the state are declared to be the property of the state. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office (SEO) is charged with the regulation and administration of the water resources in Wyoming. Water rights can be issued to anyone who plans to make beneficial use of the water and is administered "first in time - first in right". The SEO administers all temporary water use agreements, including water supplies for oil and gas development.

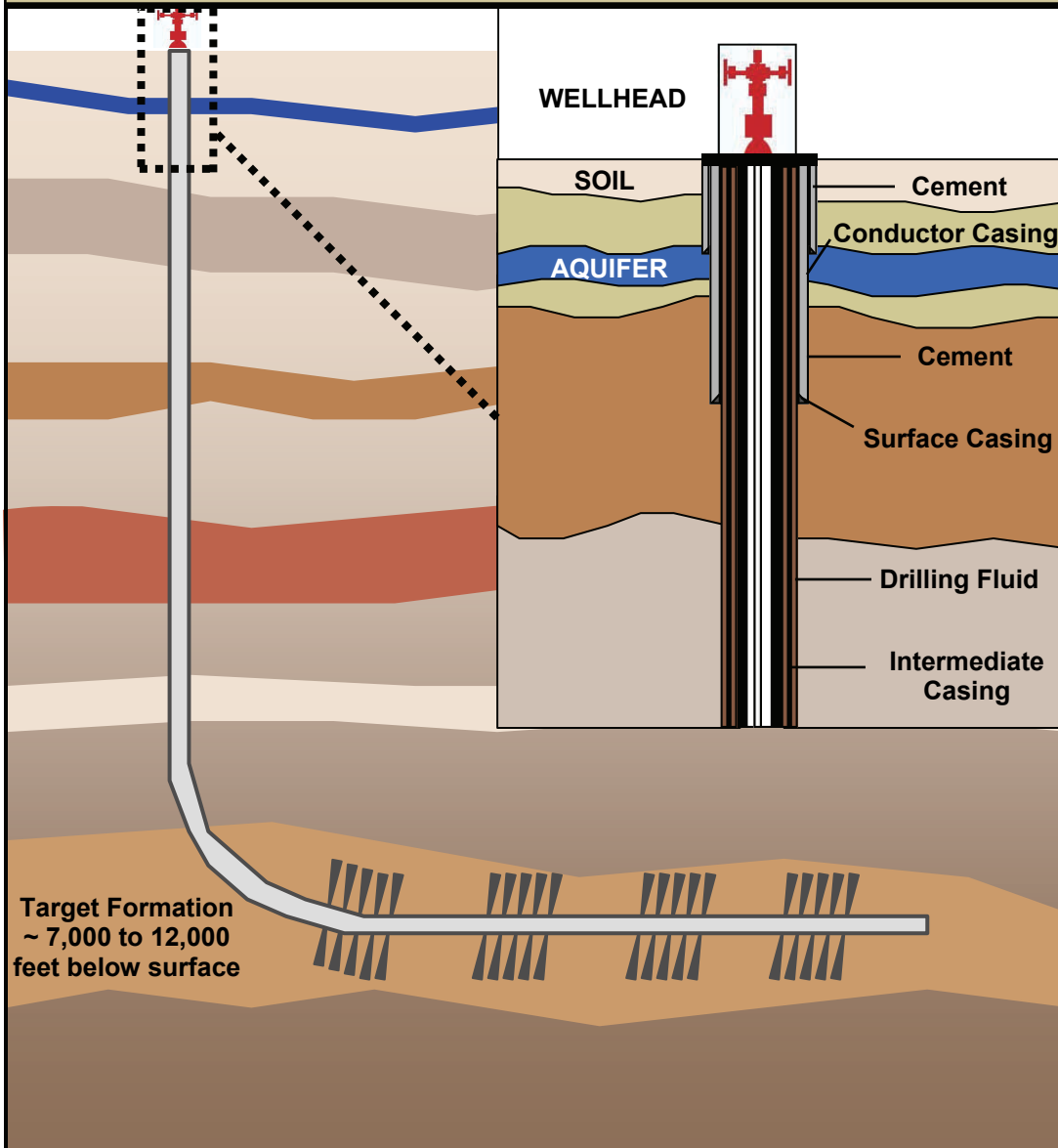
### **WY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) was created in 1973 and participates in activities which protect, conserve and enhance the environment while supporting responsible stewardship of our state's resources. DEQ is responsible for enforcing state and federal environmental laws including: Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Environmental Quality Act, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, Superfund Amendments and Title III Reauthorization Act and the Federal Surface Mining Reclamation and Control Act.

## Watch the Video

A great video of drilling and fracturing is available at the following link: <http://www.northernoil.com/drilling.php>

# Oil Well Construction



## Contact Information

### WY Oil & Gas Conservation Commission

2211 King Blvd.  
Casper, WY 82602  
(307) 234-7147  
<http://wogcc.state.wy.us/>

### WY State Engineer's Office

122 West 25th Street  
4th Floor East  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
(307) 777-6150  
<http://seo.state.wy.us/>

### WY Department of Environmental Quality

122 West 25th Street  
4th Floor West  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
(307) 777-7781  
<http://deq.state.wy.us/>

## Know Your Rights

**Water Rights:** The State Engineer's Office holds water rights. The water rights database is accessible at <http://seo.state.wy.us/wrdb/index.aspx> and new permits are viewed through e-Permit (same site). Most of the drilling in Laramie County occurs within the groundwater control area.

**Mineral Rights:** The County Clerk's Office is the official repository of all land records for Laramie County. However, mineral rights are very detailed searches and individuals should hire a title company or abstract researcher. The Clerk's Office cannot research the rights.



Prepared by

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