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PEMEX to Drill 30 New Natural Gas Wells in Coahuila, Tamaulipas States

by LADB Staff

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On April 18, the state-run oil company PEMEX announced plans to begin drilling 30 new natural gas wells in two northeastern states by year-end 1995. According to PEMEX officials, the new wells should help boost production capacity in the Tamaulipas-Coahuila region by about 40% to about 400 million cubic feet per day. According to the announcement, the new wells will be located in the Burgos basin in Tamaulipas state and the Sabinas region of Coahuila state. PEMEX officials said an increase in production in the northeastern states could help address problems in distributing natural gas to manufacturers in northern Mexico, who must either import gas from the US or face long delays in obtaining supplies from southern areas of Mexico due to an inadequate pipeline system.

According to a PEMEX study, the Tamaulipas-Nuevo Leon- Coahuila region is thought to contain substantial deposits of "non-associated" or "dry" gas, which is found separately from crude oil deposits. In contrast, roughly 90% of Mexico's total production of natural gas last year consisted of "associated" gas, or deposits found alongside crude oil in wells located in Tabasco and Campeche states. The PEMEX report projected natural gas output in 1995 at 3.83 billion cubic feet per day, compared with output of 3.63 billion cubic feet in 1994.

On a related matter, in April PEMEX announced the discovery of three offshore oil fields in Tabasco state. The latest discovery is located 44 km off the shore of the coastal city of Frontera, Tabasco state. According to PEMEX sources, this field could generate about 5,000 bpd of crude oil, plus "a considerable" amount of natural gas. Two other fields were located 10 and 14 miles off the shore of Tabasco this year. PEMEX did not reveal an estimated capacity for these fields. (Sources: Reuter, 04/18/95; La Jornada, 04/11/95)

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