

NCGS LOG

October 2026
Volume 69 No. 4

LAUNCHING FROM A BEACH RIDGE

The Louisiana geology beneath
Starbase Louisiana, Vermilion Parish

GULF OF MEXICO

CHENIER RIDGE

OILFIELD CANAL

HOLOCENE MARSH AND MUDFLAT CLAY

soft, high water content, organic-rich

SCHEMATIC — VERTICALLY EXAGGERATED

BURIED CHENIER SAND

SILTY MUDFLAT STRINGERS

BASAL SHELL LAG

HOLOCENE / PLEISTOCENE UNCONFORMITY

PLEISTOCENE PRAIRIE FORMATION

stiff, overconsolidated — the bearing stratum



On the Cover

Starbase Louisiana

On the cover. A schematic cross-section through the Starbase Louisiana site at Pecan Island, Vermilion Parish, looking east along the coast. A Starship ascends above the chenier ridge – the sandy, shell-rich beach ridge that gives Pecan Island its name and its few feet of relief above the surrounding marsh. Below the surface is the foundation problem: a wedge of soft, organic-rich Holocene marsh and mudflat clay thickening seaward, interrupted by silty mudflat stringers and two buried chenier sand bodies, and floored by a basal shell lag resting on the Holocene / Pleistocene unconformity.



“We’re preparing to build a spaceport that, until now, has only existed in science fiction. SpaceX was founded to bring about a future where humans are out exploring amongst the stars, which will only be possible when we make going to space as routine as flying on an airplane. Starbase, Louisiana will unlock that future.”

-Elon Musk, CEO of SpaceX

The cover illustration is an original drawing produced with Claude (Anthropic AI), at the direction of the editor. It is a schematic interpretation based on published descriptions of chenier plain stratigraphy, not a reproduction of any survey, log, or existing figure.

From the Editor

Hello friends,

September brought us back together as our monthly meetings resume. We all enjoyed and excellent talk from David Schneider on the developments in the Wilcox of the GOA. This month we have another excellent speaker to expand our understanding of the Wilcox, this time from a microfossil perspective. It is great to see the rooms full for our speakers.

Our next meeting is on Oct. 14, again at Zea's in Covington. I encourage all members to attend and learn about Palynology from Dr. Vann Smith.

As always, I encourage professionals, academics, and graduate students to grow your network and share your research through NOGS. If you are a member, please attend the monthly meetings, and encourage any colleagues to do so as well. I wish a happy Labor Day to all!

Sincerely.

Eric Fischer

Eric Fischer

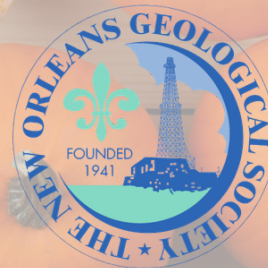
2026/2027 NOGS Log

Editor





A MESSAGE FROM THE 2026/2027 NOGS PRESIDENT CHARLES MILLER



Dear NOGS Members,

As we enter October, hopefully some cooler weather will be on the way. We have another exciting month ahead as we continue our NOGS meetings and begin looking toward plans for 2027.

I want to extend a sincere thank-you to David Schneider of LLOG Exploration (A Harbour Energy Company) for joining us at our September meeting and delivering an excellent presentation on the Salamanca Deepwater GOA Wilcox Development. David provided valuable insight into this exciting deepwater project, and we appreciate him taking the time to share his knowledge and experience with NOGS members. Thank you as well to everyone who attended in person or joined us by zoom and helped make our September meeting a success.

I would also like to recognize and thank Emmitt Lockard for once again serving as Chairman of the Deepwater Technical Symposium. Emmitt's leadership, dedication, and many years of volunteer service have been instrumental in the continued success of this important industry event. We are extremely grateful for his commitment to NOGS and the symposium. As we look ahead, we will soon kickoff the planning committee for the 2027 Deepwater Technical Symposium. I look forward to working with our committee members, volunteers, and partners SPE-Delta and AADE as we begin preparing for another successful event.

Our next NOGS meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14, at Zea's Northshore. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Vann Smith of Ellington Geological Services, who will present "Applications of Palynology in the Oil Industry and Beyond." His presentation will explore the diverse applications of palynology in hydrocarbon exploration, biostratigraphy, and other areas of geoscience. Networking begins at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch and the program at noon. I encourage everyone to register and join us in-person or by Zoom for an interesting and informative presentation.

As we move into the final months of 2026, we continue to welcome speaker recommendations, presentation ideas, and suggestions from our members. Your participation and involvement are what make NOGS such a valuable organization for our local geoscience community. If you have a topic or speaker you would like us to consider, please reach out to us at admin@nogs.org.

We are also always looking for articles and materials for our monthly NOGS LOG. If you would like to contribute content or just come across an interesting geology topic that members might be interested in, please share with us by emailing admin@nogs.org.

Thank you for your continued support of NOGS and for the time and effort so many of you contribute throughout the year. I hope everyone enjoys the fall season, and we look forward to seeing you at our October meeting and other upcoming NOGS events.

Charlie

Sincerely,
Charles Miller III
President, New Orleans Geological Society

OCTOBER MEETING

Applications of palynology in the oil industry and beyond



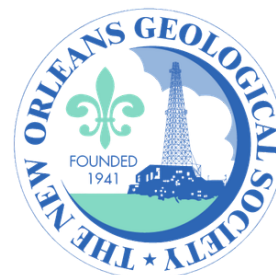
Presented by:

Dr. Vann Smith

Ellington Geological Services

Palynology, the study of organic microfossils, has a broad variety of applications in hydrocarbon exploration, carbon capture and storage, academic biostratigraphy, paleoecological/paleoclimatic research, archeology, and forensics. Palynological research examines diverse groups of organisms, including pollen, plant and fungal spores, invertebrate remains, algae, and other unicellular organisms. The utility of palynology will be explained using examples from previous and ongoing research projects. These projects include palynological analysis of the Chicxulub impact crater in Mexico and analysis of multiple Paleogene Wilcox Group well sections and outcrops in Texas. Particular focus will be given to the identification and significance of strata deposited during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM) in the Gulf of Mexico.

More about our Presenter: Dr. Vann Smith is a palynologist currently employed at Ellington Geological Services in Houston, Texas. A New Orleans native, he obtained his BSc in Geology and Geophysics from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 2011, his MSc in Earth and Environmental Sciences from Tulane University in 2015, and his PhD in Geology and Geophysics from LSU in 2020. He recently completed a postdoctoral research project at LSU under the supervision of Dr. Sophie Warny. His current research interests include the biostratigraphy of the Wilcox Group and biotic changes during the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum (PETM).



Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Zea's Northshore

11:30 am Networking

12:00 noon Program & Lunch

NOGS Members: \$30

Guest: \$40

Virtual Option Available

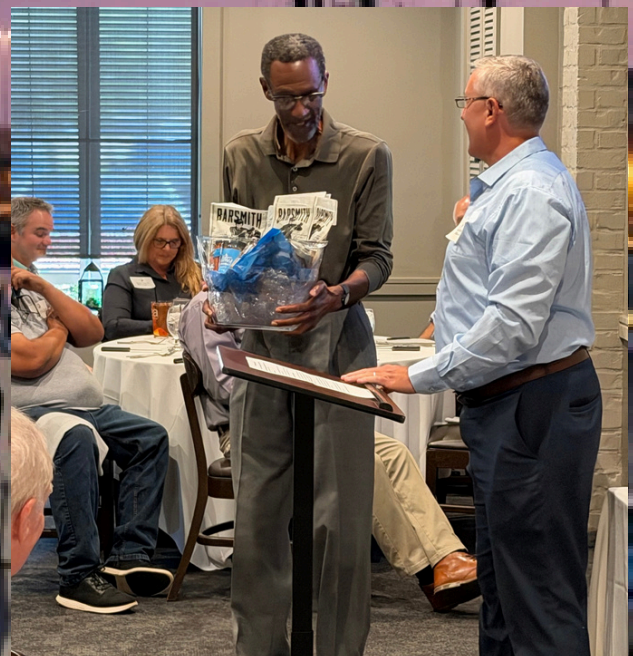
**REGISTER
NOW!**

THANK
YOU!



Emmitt Lockard
For another great

Deepwater
Technical Symposium





PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE

Why Sponsor?

- Logo recognition on all meeting promotional emails and marketing materials
- Three minute presentation to highlight your company, product, or service before the program begins
- Opportunity to introduce the guest speaker at the meeting
- Direct exposure to NOGS members, industry professionals, and decision-makers in the Gulf Coast energy community



Display Table at the luncheon to showcase your company, products, or services.



Your Logo Featured on all meeting announcements via email and the NOGS website.



3-Minute Presentation to introduce your business to all attendees. Two Event Tickets for you and a guest.

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY - \$300!
LIMITED OPPORTUNITIES — FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED



NOGS is seeking speaker and topic ideas for upcoming meetings. Know someone with valuable industry insights or have a topic you'd like to see covered? Send us your recommendations—we're building a strong lineup and welcome your input.

Email us with your suggestions: admin@nogs.org

The Geology beneath Starbase Louisiana

By Eric Fischer with drafting and illustration assistance from Claude (Anthropic). All geologic interpretation, source verification, and conclusions are the author's.

On August 25, SpaceX and Governor Landry announced Starbase Louisiana: a \$100 billion spaceport on 125,000 acres of Vermilion Parish marsh near Pecan Island, construction from 2027, first launch in 2029. Almost none of the coverage has been about the ground, which is where the story must begin.

STARBASE LOUISIANA

at a glance

\$100B

capital investment,
largest in state history

125,000

acres of marsh,
former Exxon tract

3,000

direct jobs, average
wage \$92,600

THE PROJECT

Vermilion Parish, south of LA Hwy 82 near Pecan Island — 50 mi south of Lafayette

2026

Announced

2026–27

Permits expected

2027

Construction begins

2029

First launch

Five launch complexes, two pads each; propellant production, power generation, vehicle processing and housing.

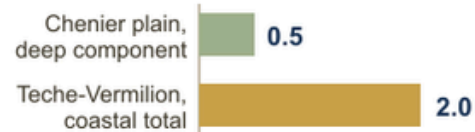
THE GROUND

chenier ridges



125 mi long, 12–19 mi wide; ridge relief 7–20 ft

SUBSIDENCE, ft per century



60% or more of that occurs in the uppermost 16–33 ft of section.

THE INVESTIGATION

from coastal use permits on SONRIS

20

soil borings, 100–200 ft

19

test pits, 10 ft deep

3

permits, and counting

P20260653 borings · P20260753 test pits · P20260831 roads and facilities.
Those depths are not marsh characterization — they are hunting the Prairie surface.

Sources: Louisiana Economic Development; CPRA 2023 Coastal Master Plan; LDENR SONRIS coastal use permits.

Starbase

Continued

Two kinds of island. Pecan Island is not an island. South Louisiana has two kinds, and telling them apart is where this starts. The Five Islands — Avery, Weeks, Jefferson, Belle Isle, Côte Blanche — are piercement domes off the Jurassic Louann salt: roughly circular, tens of feet of relief, still moving (Figure 1). Pecan Island is the other kind: a chenier, the Creole French term Russell and Howe kept in 1935 rather than flattening it into "beach ridge" — an elongate ridge of beach sand and shell with a few feet of relief, one of a set running 125 miles from Sabine Pass to Southwest Point. When the Mississippi ran west the coast built seaward as mudflats; when it switched east, waves winnowed the abandoned flat into a shore-parallel ridge of sand and shell. Penland and Suter date the landward Little Chenier–Little Pecan Island trend to about 2,500 yr B.P. One was pushed up from below over geologic time, the other thrown up by waves over centuries. They converge only in function: both are the only ground above water when the plain floods, which is why the Coles Creek people built the Morgan Mounds on this ridge.

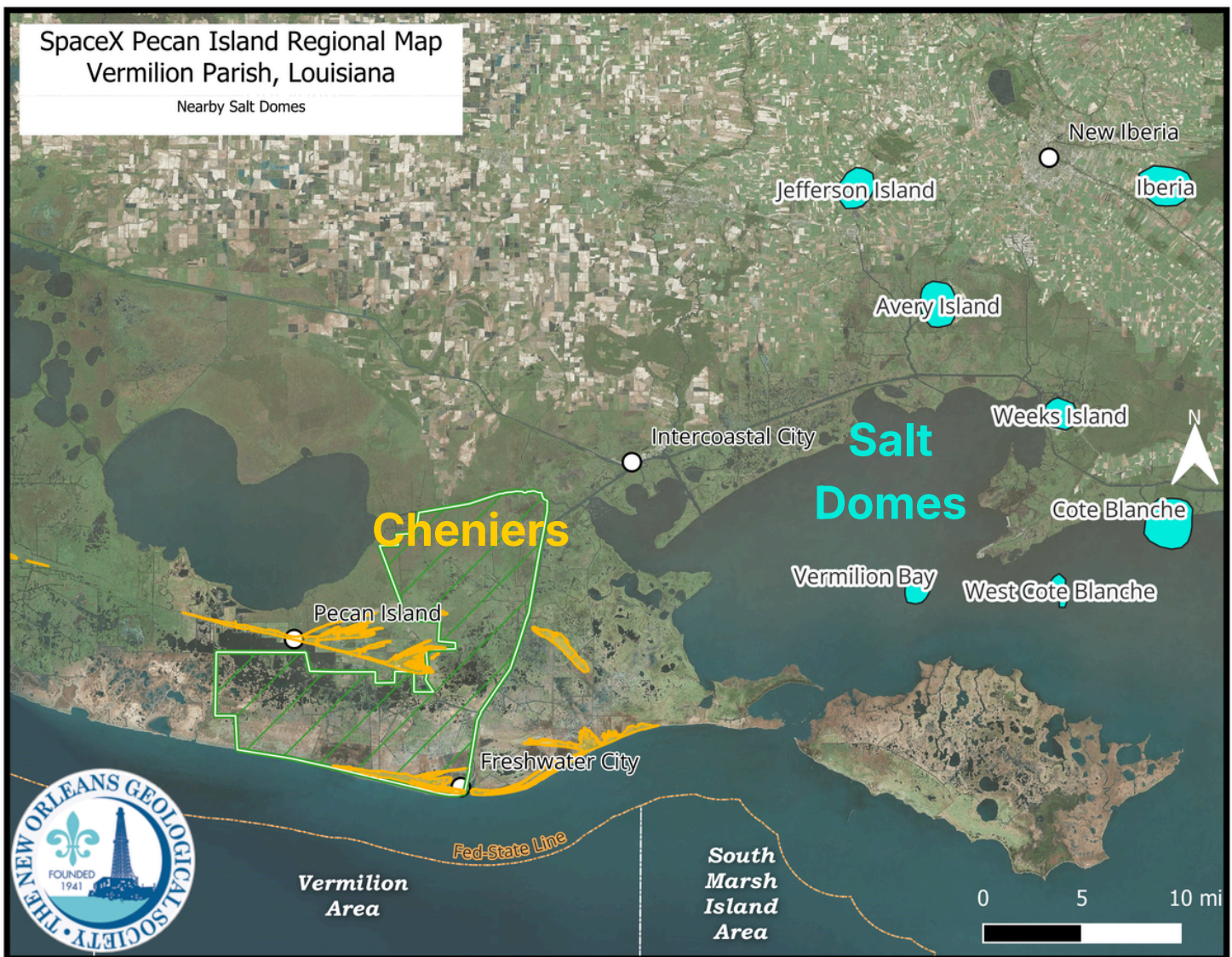


Figure 1. Salt domes of south Louisiana against the chenier plain. The piercement domes (cyan) rise off the Jurassic Louann salt and are roughly circular with tens of feet of relief. Pecan Island is an elongate chenier — a wave-built ridge of sand and shell with a few feet of relief and no salt beneath it. Belle Isle lies east of the map area.

Starbase

Continued

That distinction decides everything downstream. Salt gives you something stiff at depth. A chenier gives you a few feet of sand over soft Holocene clay, and below that the overconsolidated Pleistocene Prairie Formation — the only horizon on the property that will carry a load.

So how deep is it? Shallower than you might guess. O'Leary and Gottardi put the chenier plain Pleistocene at roughly 33 ft, against 984 ft beneath the delta plain. At the planned marine facility site at Freshwater City, the driller's log from a 1984 water well (#113-878) indicates it may be at 65 ft, where soft reduced blue muck gives way to oxidized brown clay (Figure 2). The Prairie surface was subaerially weathered during the last lowstand, and oxidation is its signature.

That number explains the drilling. Coastal use permits P20260653 and P20260753 cover 20 soil borings 100 to 200 ft deep and 19 test pits at 10 ft, plotted in Figure 4. Nobody needs 200 ft of hole to find a contact at 65 ft. You need it to characterize the bearing section beneath the contact, because pile design requires control well below the tip. The question is how much Pleistocene you want under a launch pad.

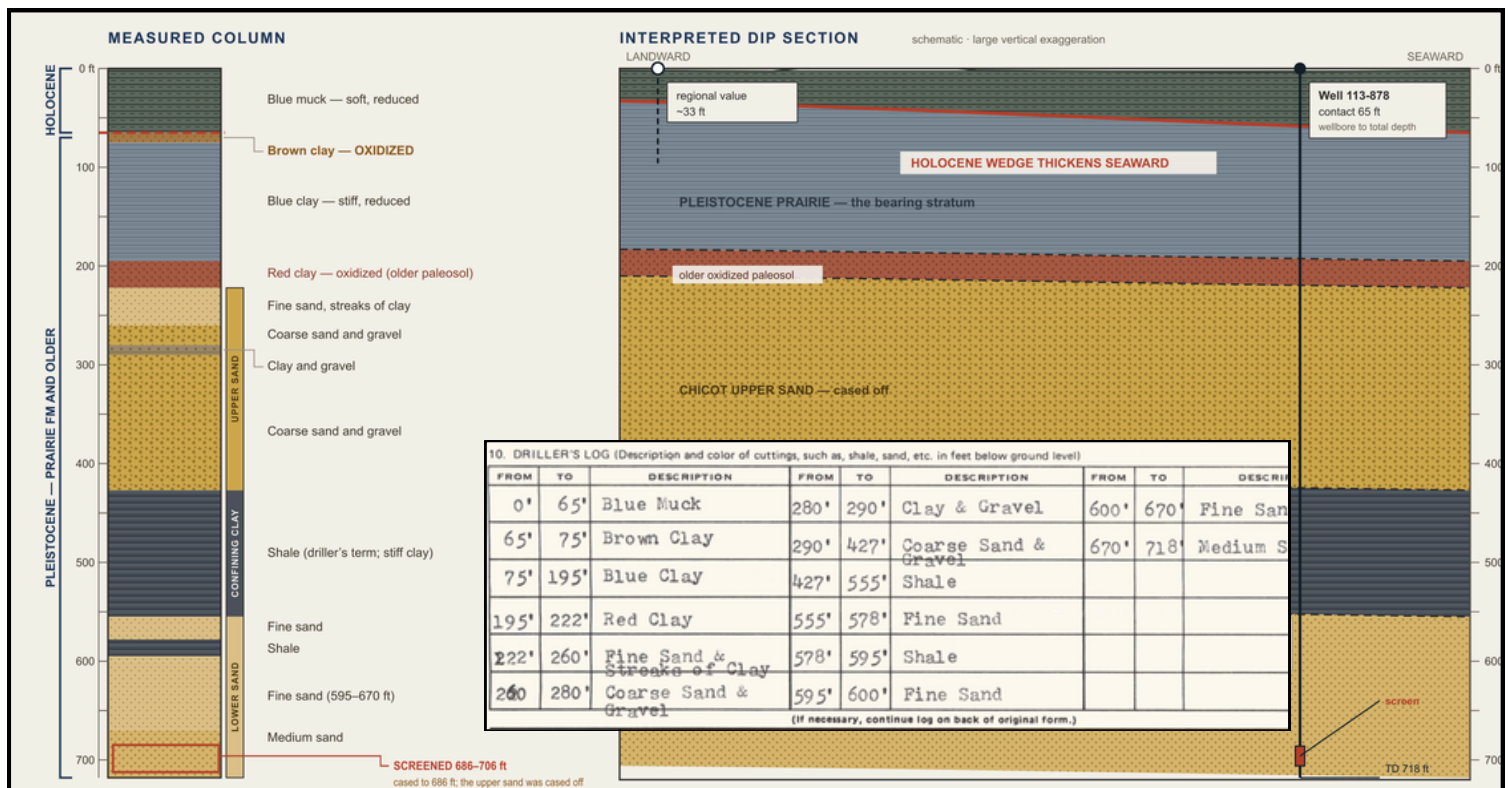


Figure 2. The Holocene/Pleistocene contact at the marine facility site. Left, driller's log from Well #113-878 (1984) near Talen's Landing, plotted as a measured column; the change from soft reduced blue muck to oxidized brown clay at 65 ft is interpreted as the contact, the Prairie surface having been subaerially weathered during the last lowstand. Right, interpreted dip section between the regional value of about 33 ft and the 65 ft well pick, showing the Holocene wedge thickening seaward. Section between control points is interpretive.

Starbase

Continued

The investigation is on the public record. In September SpaceX filed a USACE joint permit application under P20260831: a Gulf wharf, Freshwater Bayou Canal dredged to -16 ft, a heavy-haul road, and fill into roughly 518 acres of marsh (Figure 4). The roadway alternatives are the geology restated as a line item. Alternative 2 was an elevated, pile-supported causeway, 18,808 ft of it, founded below the marsh and indifferent to what the marsh does next. It was rejected on cost and schedule. The preferred route is an earthen berm on grade, with piles only beneath the bridges. Along one corridor, then: the bridge is pinned to the Pleistocene, the embankment rides the Holocene.

The drawings put numbers on both halves. Fenstermaker's typical sections set the roadway crown at elevation 6.00 ft against a mean water elevation of 0.585 ft. The Humble Canal bridge is the counterpoint — some 5,500 ft of structure climbing to a deck near 70 ft to carry a 350-ft navigation span. The tallest thing on the corridor is also the only part founded deep.



Figure 3. Marsh and interior water bodies along coastal Louisiana. Photograph by the author.

Starbase

Continued

The investigation is on the public record. In September SpaceX filed a USACE joint permit application under P20260831: a Gulf wharf, Freshwater Bayou Canal dredged to -16 ft, a heavy-haul road, and fill into roughly 518 acres of marsh (Figure 4). The roadway alternatives are the geology restated as a line item. Alternative 2 was an elevated, pile-supported causeway, 18,808 ft of it, founded below the marsh and indifferent to what the marsh does next. It was rejected on cost and schedule. The preferred route is an earthen berm on grade, with piles only beneath the bridges. Along one corridor, then: the bridge is pinned to the Pleistocene, the embankment rides the Holocene.

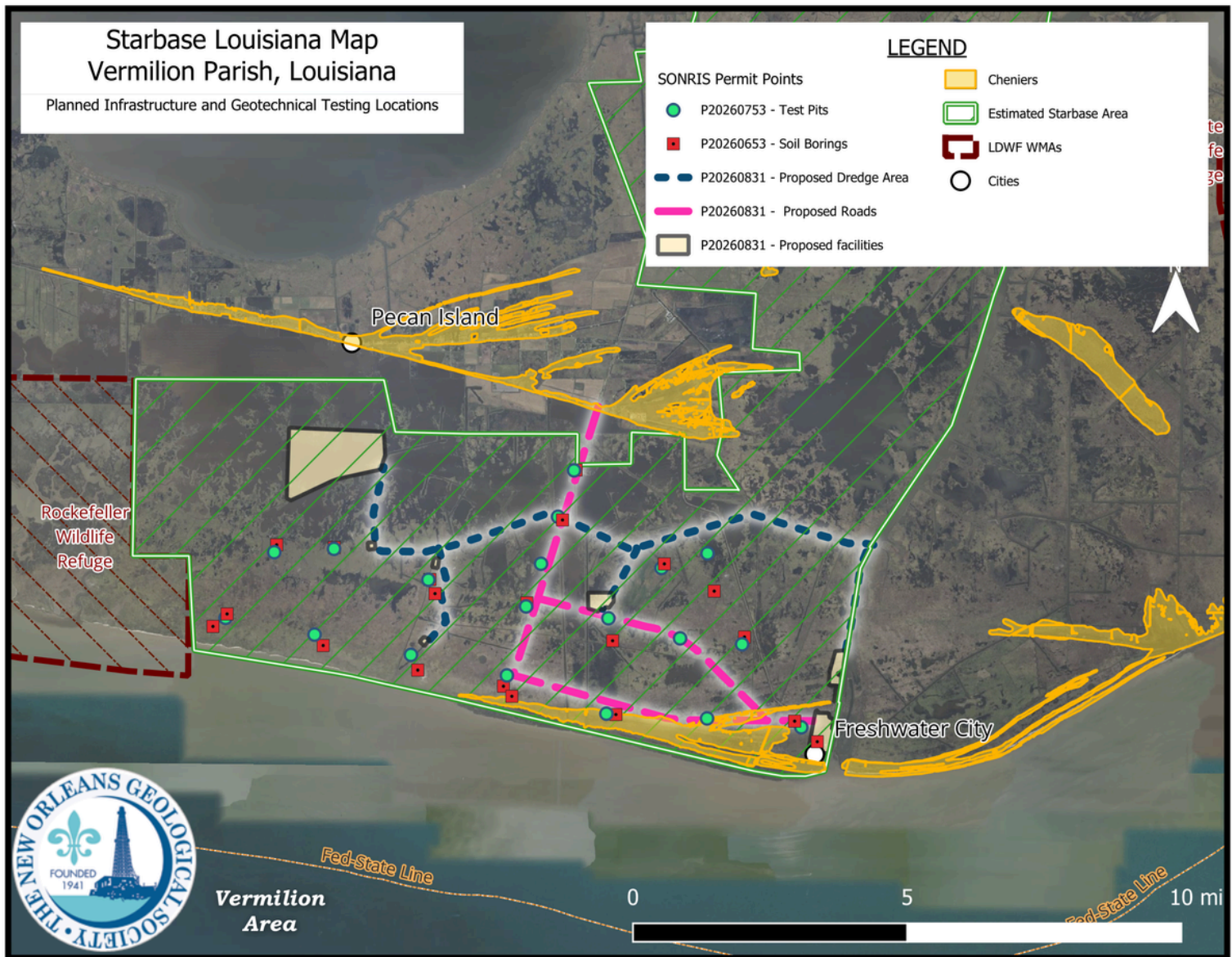


Figure 4. Permit locations from SONRIS. Soil borings (P20260653), test pits (P20260753) and proposed roads and facilities (P20260831), plotted against mapped chenier ridge trends, the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and state WMAs. The investigation points and the proposed road corridor both follow the chenier trends running shore-parallel through the site.

Starbase

Continued

The assessment is only beginning. Fenstermaker's hydraulics report, Appendix H in permit P20260831, modeled water surfaces top out at 2.83 ft even in the 1,000-year event, though the site needs more than eight days to drain. Laura put more than 10 ft over this site in 2020, Rita 10 ft in 2005 and Audrey 6 ft in 1957, and the base flood elevation is 13 to 15 ft. On top of that the report projects another 2.65 to 3.96 ft of relative sea level rise by 2070 — and notes that roughly half of it is vertical land motion. Half the future flood risk on this coast is not the sea arriving. It is the land leaving.

Oil and Gas well logs are insufficient. The data archive is plentiful, there are well over 100 existing O&G wells in the project area, but their logs will not give the data needed. For example, an Exxon well (M36 RA) in the middle of the planned Starbase area shows the typical casing program for the region: drivepipe to about 270 ft, surface casing to 3,048 ft, cemented to surface. Logging runs below surface casing. Across four thousand wells in Vermilion Parish the entire Quaternary was cased and cemented off before a single log was recorded. But it is not lost — it is in the water well records. Drillers completing in the Chicot Aquifer logged the shallow section in plain language because that was the zone they were selling, and those logs are public, referenced to ground level, and uncompiled. The well in Figure 2 (Well #113-878) is one of them. The borings will extend that picture. The water well logs are already there.

A rocket program does not begin with a rocket. It begins with the geotechnical program currently underway to determine how deep the Pleistocene lies and what it will carry. Whatever eventually flies from Pecan Island, the first years of the project belong to geologists.

Permit content from LDENR SONRIS coastal use permits P20260653, P20260753 and P20260831, including the September 2026 USACE joint permit application narrative, the preliminary road and bridge drawings, and the hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, all by C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates. Well and casing details from LDENR well records.

Selected references

- Russell, R.J., and Howe, H.V., 1935, Cheniers of southwestern Louisiana: Geographical Review, v. 25, p. 449–461.
- Penland, S., and Suter, J.R., 1989, The geomorphology of the Mississippi River chenier plain: Marine Geology, v. 90, p. 231–258.
- Autin, W.J., 2002, Landscape evolution of the Five Islands of south Louisiana: Geomorphology, v. 47, p. 227–255.
- Owen, D.E., 2008, Geology of the chenier plain of Cameron Parish, southwestern Louisiana, in Moore, G., ed., GSA Field Guide 14, p. 27–38.
- O’Leary, P., and Gottardi, R., 2020, Fault-related subsidence in the chenier plain: an example from Cameron Parish, southwestern Louisiana: lacoast.gov/crms.
- CPRA, 2021, Determining subsidence rates for use in predictive modeling, 2023 Coastal Master Plan technical report.
- Louisiana Office of Public Works, water well driller’s log Well #113-878 (1984), Vermilion Parish.
- SpaceX, 2026, Southwest Louisiana Coastal Infrastructure Improvement Project Narrative, USACE New Orleans District joint permit application, September 2026.
- C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates, 2026, LA Inland Road, preliminary permit drawings, job 2260379, sheets 33–41, 18 September 2026.
- Nevlin, B., 2026, Hydrologic and hydraulic analysis, LA Bridge Concepts preliminary design: C. H. Fenstermaker & Associates for SpaceX, Appendix H, 2 September 2026.
- Louisiana Department of Energy and Natural Resources, SONRIS coastal use permits P20260653 (soil borings), P20260753 (test pits), P20260831 (roads, wharf and facilities), Vermilion Parish.

2026/2027 Board of Directors



Charles Miller, III
President



David Culpepper, PG
President Elect



Eric Fischer
Editor



Kaare Egedahl
Treasurer



TJ Hebert
Secretary



Chase Cromwell
Director A



Akinbobola Akintomide
Director B



Anna Strimas
Director C

Calling All Authors!!

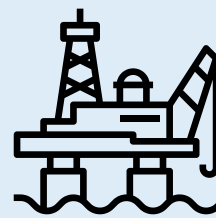


The NOGS LOG invites short articles from industry professionals, academics, and graduate students on topics related to Gulf Coast geology, energy resources, and related disciplines. Submissions may include technical summaries, case studies, research highlights, or industry perspectives.

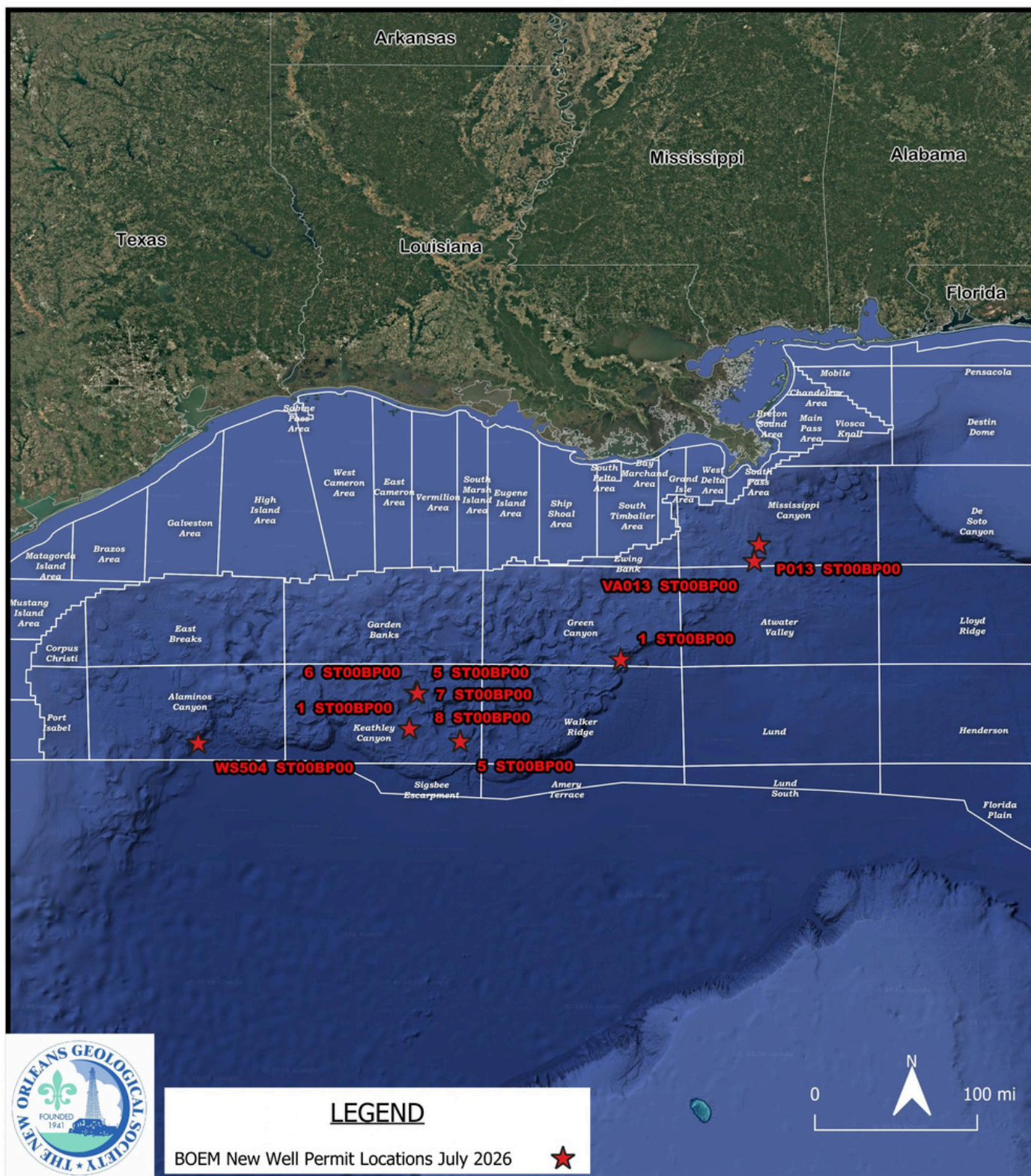
If you are interested in contributing or have a topic idea, please contact the Editor or email admin@nogs.org.

DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY BRIAN BOTHNER

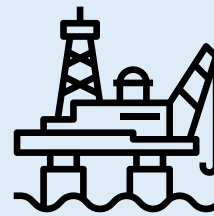


New Well Permit Locations August - September 26, 2026



DRILL BITS

NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA
SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
MAP BY BRIAN BOTHNER

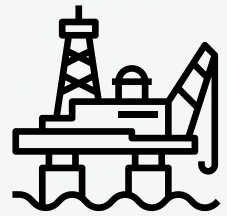


New Well Permit Location Details August - September 26, 2026

API Well Number	APD Approved Date	Company Name	Block Area	Surface Lease Number	Well Type	Well Name	Well Name Suffix	Water Depth (feet)	Rig Name	Surface Latitude	Surface Longitude
2147483647	2026-08-11	Shell Offshore Inc.	AC 815	G19409	Development	WS504	ST00BP00	9067	T.O. DEEPWATER POSEIDON	26.17458444	-94.77440528
2147483647	2026-08-25	Shell Offshore Inc.	MC 809	G05868	Exploratory	P013	ST00BP00	3630	Noble Voyager	28.1774475	-89.11706667
2147483647	2026-08-03	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	5	ST00BP00	6129	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS	26.67951694	-92.57874222
2147483647	2026-08-03	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	6	ST00BP00	6081	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS	26.67912444	-92.56276056
2147483647	2026-08-03	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	7	ST00BP00	6081	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS	26.67875972	-92.56322139
2147483647	2026-08-03	BP Exploration & Production Inc.	KC 292	G25792	Development	8	ST00BP00	6081	T.O. DEEPWATER INVICTUS	26.67878833	-92.56266083
2147483647	2026-09-08	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	GC 953	G36062	Exploratory	1	ST00BP00	5001	Seadrill West Vela	27.01662389	-90.5119025
2147483647	2026-09-04	Shell Offshore Inc.	MC 940	G31534	Exploratory	VA013	ST00BP00	4000	T.O. DEEPWATER PONTUS	28.00794972	-89.16301306
2147483647	2026-09-10	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	KC 785	G25806	Development	5	ST00BP00	6607	Seadrill West Vela	26.19063583	-92.1316475
2147483647	2026-09-16	LLOG Exploration Offshore, L.L.C.	KC 686	G33341	Development	1	ST00BP00	6147	Seadrill West Vela	26.3199025	-92.6437625

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



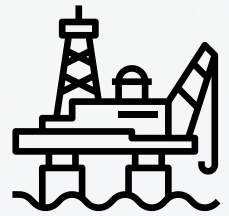
North America Rig Count Report August 2026

North America: 599, change from previous month +11

State/Province	Protraction Area		Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month	
LOUISIANA	East Cameron		1	0	
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon		3	0	
LOUISIANA	Keathley Canyon		1	0	
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon		4	-2	
TEXAS	Alaminos Canyon		1	0	
Gulf of America Total:			10	-2	
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	0	NEW MEXICO	97	1
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	24	0
CALIFORNIA	7	0	OHIO	10	0
COLORADO	13	0	OKLAHOMA	51	1
LOUISIANA	30	3	OREGON	1	0
MICHIGAN	1	0	PENNSYLVANIA	16	-1
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	TEXAS	284	11
MONTANA	3	0	UTAH	13	0
NEBRASKA	1	0	WEST VIRGINIA	9	1
NEVADA	3	0	WYOMING	14	-3

DRILL BITS

OFFSHORE GULF OF AMERICA SHELF AND
DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES
BY BRIAN BOTHNER



North America Rig Count Report as of September 26, 2026

North America: 604, change from previous report +5

State/Province	Protraction Area		Rig Count Value	Change from Previous Month	
LOUISIANA	East Cameron		0	-1	
LOUISIANA	Green Canyon		2	-1	
LOUISIANA	Keathley Canyon		1	0	
LOUISIANA	Mississippi Canyon		2	-2	
TEXAS	Alaminos Canyon		0	-1	
Gulf of America Total:			5	-5	
State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month	State	Rig Count	Change from Previous Month
ALASKA	12	0	NEW MEXICO	97	0
ARKANSAS	0	0	NORTH DAKOTA	32	8
CALIFORNIA	6	-1	OHIO	9	-1
COLORADO	13	0	OKLAHOMA	51	0
LOUISIANA	31	1	OREGON	1	0
MICHIGAN	1	0	PENNSYLVANIA	15	-1
MISSISSIPPI	0	0	TEXAS	283	-1
MONTANA	4	1	UTAH	14	1
NEBRASKA	2	1	WEST VIRGINIA	9	0
NEVADA	3	0	WYOMING	16	2

Guest Column: America's energy strength starts off the Louisiana coast

BY ERIK MILITO AND ERIC ZIMMERMANN

September 25, 2026

That decision deserves recognition. Offshore projects require billions of dollars in investment and often take five to seven years or longer to reach first production before supplying American energy for decades. That long investment horizon also means communities need confidence that today's careers will still exist tomorrow.

Erik Milito

Affordable energy doesn't begin at the gas pump. It begins years earlier with the policy decisions that determine whether America will have the domestic supply needed to keep markets stable when the next global crisis inevitably arrives. Consistent leasing supports consistent production, and consistent production helps cushion American families and businesses from the price shocks that accompany geopolitical instability. Just as important, it provides the long-term certainty companies need to invest in people, training and the skilled workforce that underpins America's energy strength.

The case for BBG3 (Big Beautiful Gulf) grows stronger every time another global chokepoint reminds us how much of the world's energy still depends on someone else's coastline.



The Gulf's advantage is a strategic one. Oil produced off Louisiana's coast doesn't pass through a strait that an adversary can threaten to close, and it doesn't depend on whether a ceasefire holds halfway around the world. It moves through American platforms, American pipelines, American ports and into American markets. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates the Gulf still contains nearly 30 billion barrels of undiscovered, recoverable oil and more than 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, resources that will help meet America's energy needs for decades to come.

The benefits are felt just as strongly here at home.

Every lease awarded today supports years of work for fabrication yards in Houma and Morgan City, marine operators in Port Fourchon, engineering firms in Lafayette and manufacturers throughout Louisiana. Together, these companies form an industrial ecosystem that cannot be switched on and off without consequence.

Guest Column Continued

Eric Zimmermann

Predictable leasing gives companies the confidence to hire apprentices, invest in new equipment and develop the next generation of welders, mariners, engineers, geoscientists and technicians. It creates careers that allow families to build stable lives, buy homes, raise children and strengthen their communities.

Predictability also represents long-term opportunity by creating an economy where people of every background, whether they earn a college degree or learn a skilled trade, can build rewarding careers and pursue the American dream. Affordable energy begins with that opportunity.

It also keeps federal royalty dollars flowing back to Louisiana's coastal parishes, helping fund wetlands restoration and hurricane protection.



BBG3 is the third sale in a schedule established years ago, designed to deliver production long after today's headlines have faded. Its value extends beyond future barrels of oil and cubic feet of natural gas. It helps preserve an industrial workforce, supply chain and culture of innovation that America cannot afford to lose. The benefits of this kind of policy are measured over decades rather than news cycles.

As America marks its 250th year, it's worth remembering that many of the country's most important strategic decisions shared one characteristic: They invested in capabilities that would serve future generations. BBG3 is one more investment in that tradition.

By reinforcing America's offshore industrial base, supporting Louisiana workers and communities and providing reliable domestic energy for decades to come, this lease sale helps ensure that the next generation inherits not only abundant resources and energy security, but the opportunity to turn those resources into lasting prosperity.



Recent Energy Headlines

September 2026 Recap

9/22/2026 - Shell completes sale of interest in Gulf of America platform - Shell Offshore Inc., a subsidiary of Shell plc, has completed the previously announced agreement to sell its 50% non-operated working interest in the Na Kika platform and associated fields in the Gulf of America as well as its 100% owned Coulomb tieback. Shell received approximately \$840 million in cash proceeds, reflecting adjustments between the effective date of July 1, 2025, and closing. The assets were acquired by a subsidiary of Talos Energy and an affiliate of Ridgewood Energy. The transaction supports Shell's efforts to actively shape its portfolio to ensure a resilient and increasingly competitive Upstream business. [Read Full Article](#)

9/24/2026 - Talos Energy Completes Strategic Bolt-On Acquisition of Gulf of America Deepwater Oil Assets - Talos Energy Inc. ("Talos" or the "Company") (NYSE: TALO) today announced the closing of its previously announced acquisition of certain deepwater assets in the Gulf of America from Shell Offshore Inc. ("Shell"), alongside an affiliate of Ridgewood Energy Corporation. The transaction includes a 50% working interest and operatorship in the Coulomb field and a 25% non-operated working interest in the BP-operated Na Kika platform and four associated fields (the "Acquisition"). The final net cash purchase price at closing was \$420 million, which includes the previously escrowed \$42.5 million deposit, and is subject to customary post-closing adjustments. [Read Full Article](#)

9/15/2026 - BP Starts Process to Sell Stakes in Two Gulf of Mexico Projects, Sources Say - British oil major BP has started a process to sell stakes in two of its Gulf of Mexico projects, four people with knowledge of the matter said, in what would be one of new CEO Meg O'Neill's first moves. BP, one of the largest operators in the Gulf of Mexico, has been weighing a sale of minority stakes in the Kaskida and Tiber projects for more than a year, with each estimated to be worth billions of dollars to the company, Reuters has previously reported. [Read Full Article](#)

9/12/2026 - LLOG selects Subsea7 for Who Dat East Gulf of America project - LLOG Exploration has awarded Subsea7 a contract for fabrication and installation work on the Who Dat East development in the US Gulf, a subsea tieback project that will leverage existing deepwater infrastructure to reduce development costs. The award advances the Who Dat East development and demonstrates continued investment in deepwater tieback projects that utilize existing Gulf of America infrastructure. The project provides visibility into future offshore activity, with engineering beginning in Houston and offshore installation work scheduled for 2028. [Read Full Article](#)

9/1/2026 - US Gulf: Viridien commences Walker Ridge Reimaging Extension in US Gulf - Viridien has recently launched its Walker Ridge Reimaging Extension in the US Gulf. With the support of industry partners, the initiative expands on the success of its original Walker Ridge Reimaging program. Fast-track results for this new project are already available. The 4,406 km² extension covers 189 new OCS blocks in the highly prospective Walker Ridge area, in addition to 46.5 blocks overlapping the original Walker Ridge Reimaging program over a 1,085 km² area. The total program coverage of 5,491 km² over 235.5 blocks will deliver a premium exploration dataset across a large acreage position with significant infrastructure-led exploration (ILX) potential. [Read Full Article](#)

advertising rates

The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a non-profit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at nogs.org.

The NOGS LOG is now a digital magazine with live links to your site to reach NOGS Members and support your Society. Please contact Christy Himel admin@nogs.org for placement availability. Full page NOGS LOG advertisers will have their Company LOGO posted on the NOGS Website front page. All advertisers are included on the Society's monthly PowerPoint and listed on the website with a link to their home page. Please check out our website www.nogs.org

CURRENT AD RATES

Full Page 7.5" x 10" \$1,750

Half Page 3.75" x 10" or 7.5" x 5" \$925

Quarter Page 3.75" x 5" or 7.5" x 2.5" \$500

Eighth Page 3.75" x 2.5" \$300

Twelfth Page 3.75" x 1.65" \$188

Note Size 3.75" x 0.75" \$60

Premium Locations Inside Front Cover +30%

Opposite President's Page +20%

Opposite Oral Abstract +20%

Inside Back Cover +30%

Outside Back Cover +40%



Covington Office

1001 Ochsner Blvd., Suite 200
Covington, Louisiana 70433
p: 985.801.4300
f: 985.801.4796

Houston Office

CityCentre Three
842 W Sam Houston Pkwy N
Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77024
p: 281.752.1100
f: 281.752.1199

Scott Office

814 S. Frontage Rd.
Scott, LA 70583
p: 337.408.4000
f: 337.408.4049

www.llog.com

ROCK SOLID SERVICE



© 2013 Core Laboratories
All rights reserved.



Core Lab
RESERVOIR OPTIMIZATION
www.corelab.com
337-837-8616

CALL FOR SPEAKERS!

**Have a great topic that you
would like to present to NOGS
Members at a Monthly
Meeting?**

**Submit your topic and
presentation for our Program
Committee to review**

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)



LSU GEOLOGY & GEOPHYSICS DEPARTMENT SEMINAR SERIES

FALL 2026

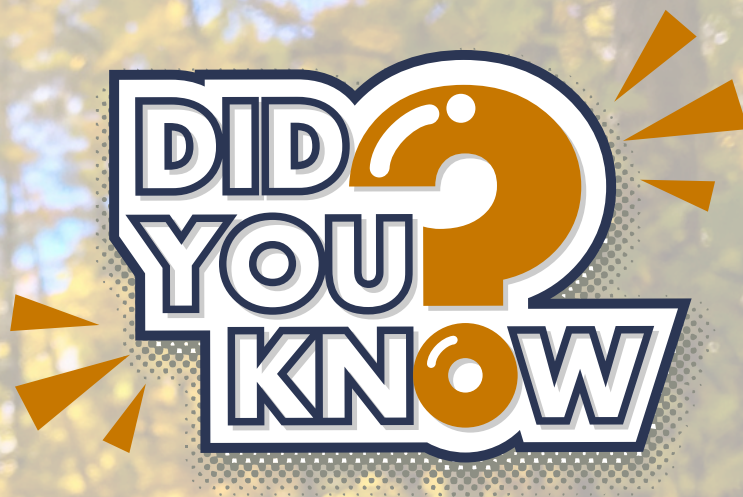
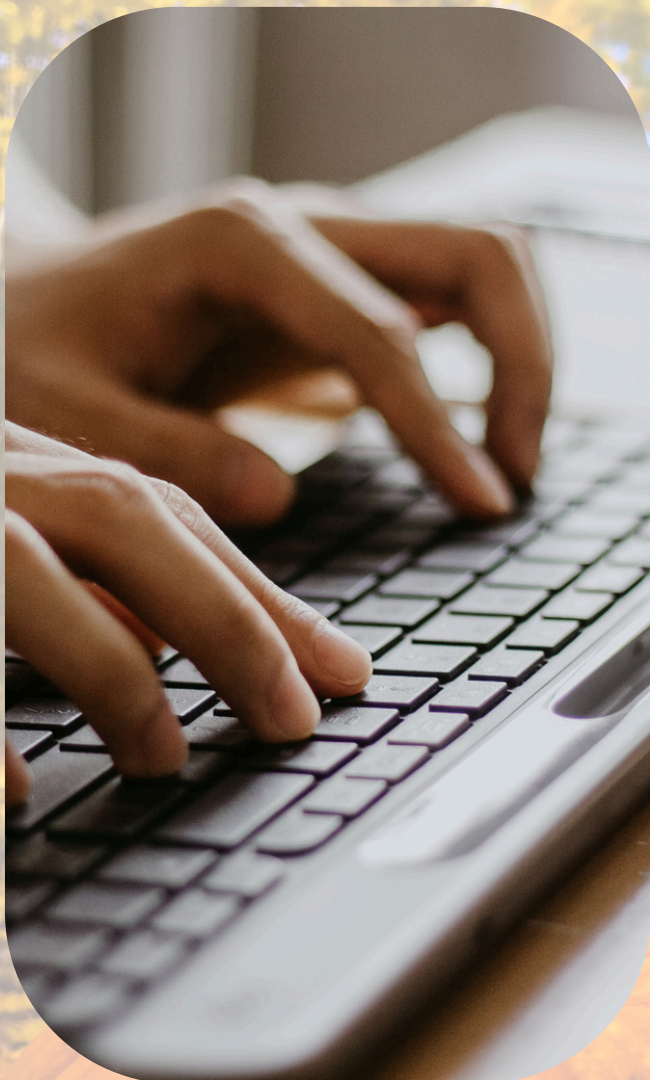
E130 Howe-Russell-Kniffen at 3:30 pm Wednesday
except as noted

Date	Speaker
Sept. 2	Welcome back Pizza Party
Sept. 9	<i>Prof. Jianwei Wang, LSU G&G</i> Deep Interior of Planet Earth
Sept. 18 Friday	<i>Prof. Cindy Ebinger, Tulane (NAS)</i> Critical Minerals Bottlenecks: Expediency of Extraction from Waste Streams
Sept. 23	<i>Faculty Meeting – no seminar</i>
Sept. 30	<i>Dr. Shiyun Jin, Gemological Institute of America (GIA)</i> Nanostructures and Special Optical Properties of Gem Minerals
Oct. 7	<i>Dr. Kohei Nimura, National Institute of Polar Research, Tokyo, Japan</i> Deformation and Fluid–Rock Interaction in the Lower Oceanic Crust of Back-Arc Basins
Oct. 14	<i>GSA Connects 2026 – no seminar</i>
Oct. 21	<i>Prof. Sumiti Karunatillake, LSU G&G</i> Mars
Oct. 28	<i>Faculty Meeting – no seminar</i>
Nov. 4	<i>Prof. Virginia Sisson, University of Houston</i> AAPG Grover E. Murray Distinguished Educator “Perspectives on Undergraduate Education and Jade”
Nov. 11	TBA
Nov. 18	<i>Faculty Meeting – no seminar</i>
Nov. 25	<i>No seminar Wednesday before Thanksgiving</i>
Dec. 2	TBA

Thanks to our seminar series
sponsors: L.J Wilbert, Grover E.
Murray, & Marathon Oil Funds



College of
Science
Department of Geology
& Geophysics



**NOGS.org has a
Member Directory available
online!**

**Log in TODAY and UPDATE your
profile with your current
information and even add your
PHOTO!**

**This is a great Member's Only Tool and a great
networking and resource option for you!**

NOGS

D-O-R ENGINEERING, INC.

Reservoir Engineering - 3-D and Geoscience Services

6161 Perkins Rd.
P.O. Box 80812



Bus: (225) 765-1914
Baton Rouge, LA 70898

Thomas L. Davis
Geologist



+35 Years exploration & development
experience in the western US,
overseas and offshore.

Tel: 818-429-4278 tladavisgeo@gmail.com
www.thomasldavisgeologist.com

Prospects, data and field assessments available. Lots of free petroleum geology info at the website.



LaBay
Exploration Co., L.L.C.

4 Autumn Lane, Mandeville LA
(985) 264-3700

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARTHUR

Arthur F. Christensen

arthur_shalimar@yahoo.com

985-893-2013



GEOLOGY
ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT

GEM Consulting, LTD

Emmitt Lockard
emlockard@yahoo.com

Michael Louis Merritt
admin@gemconsultingltd.com

VISIT NOGS Website

WWW.NOGS.ORG



NEW ORLEANS
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION INC.

Founded March 14, 1978, the mission of the New Orleans Geological Society Memorial Foundation is to promote earth-science related educational or scientific purpose by granting of scholarships to outstanding Geology students at the universities in Southeast Louisiana offering a degree in Geology. Donations given in memory of Bill Craig Memorial provide for any earth science related educational or scientific purpose that is a direct benefit to grades K-12 teacher or teachers within the Greater New Orleans Area. This area encompasses New Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes.

THE MEMORIAL
FOUNDATION IS
AN IRS TAX
EXEMPT CODE
#501(C)(3)
ORGANIZATION.
THE FEDERAL ID
IS 72-1220999.
PLEASE
CONSIDER
MAKING A
DONATION TO
THE FOUNDATION.
YOUR INDIVIDUAL
SUPPORT IN ANY
AMOUNT WILL
HELP MEET THE
IRS GUIDELINES
FOR OUR
FOUNDATION.
THANKS!

Thank you!

**TO OUR
DONORS**

Gibbet Hill Foundation - In Memory of Steve & Marion Millendorf, William J. Prutzman, Roger G. Vincent, Ron Youngblood, Uno Numella and Dr. Robert T. Sellars, Jr.

Edward B. Picou

in memory of M.R. "Bob" Douglass

Brian Bothner

Robert Meltz

Tom C. Bergeon

in memory of Art Johnson

William Whiting

Frances A. Wiseman

in memory of Steve Widdicombe, Bill Ward

Robert Burnett

Hilary James Brook

Mark Wojna

In memory of Case Petersen

Bill Haworth

Mark Sunwall

Candace V. Strahan

in memory of James R. Strahan

In Memory of Louis F. Goss,
Sidney J. Waguespack, Jr. and
Shelby W. Smith.

Teresa O'Neill

In memory of Brian J. O'Neill

DONATE



Help Support NOGS!

Spread the word
about these
available resources



PUBLICATIONS OF THE
**NEW ORLEANS
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
(NOGS) 1960-2003**



NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

**OIL & GAS FIELDS OF
SOUTH LOUISIANA**



To purchase
these publications,
[Click here for the
NOGS Store!](#)



The Bureau Store

The official store of the Bureau of Economic Geology

<https://store.beg.utexas.edu/publications/new-orleans-geological-society>

New Orleans Geological Society Publications

Title	Author(s)	Publication Year ▼
 Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010		2010
 Oil and Gas Fields of South Louisiana 2010. CD-ROM		2010
 Meander Belt Deposition, Plaquemine Point		1998
 Northeastern Gulf Coastal Plain Revisited		1997
 Geology of the Ouachita Core Area		1993
 Productive Low Resistivity Well Logs		1993
 Tour of Salt Dome Caprock Features, Winn Rock Quarry		1993
 Geological and Cultural Excursion, Jackson to Natchez, MS		1993
 Introduction to Central Gulf Coast Geology		1991
 Offshore Louisiana Oil and Gas Fields Vol. 2		1987
 Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana Vol. 3 Supplement		1987
 A Tour Guide to the Building Stones of New Orleans		1982
 Tuscaloosa Trend of South Louisiana		1981
 Salt Domes of South Louisiana, Vol. 2		1962
 Tertiary and Upper Cretaceous Depositional Environments of Central Mississippi		
 Oil and Gas Fields of Southeast Louisiana Vols. 1 and 2, bound together		
 Introduction to Ground-Water Hydrology		

Help Support NOGS!

Spread the word about these available resources