



# Powell Barnett Shale Newsletter

Barnett Shale in the Fort Worth Basin

Current News and Studies

Since 2003

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*Drilling The Dale Operating / Fourth Street 'A' Gas Unit #1H, East Downtown Fort Worth, Texas  
October, 2006, Courtesy of Dale Operating, Photo by Mike Fuentes*

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MICHAEL E. (GENE) POWELL, JR.  
PUBLISHER / EDITOR  
CELL: (817) 614-6979  
[mepowell@barnettshalenews.com](mailto:mepowell@barnettshalenews.com)

P. O. Box 470157  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS, 76147-0157  
OFFICE: (817) 924-1900

WILL BRACKETT  
ASSISTANT EDITOR  
CELL: (817) 480-8657  
[wrb@barnettshalenews.com](mailto:wrb@barnettshalenews.com)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### Gary Schein Joins Dale Resources

**Gary Schein** has joined **Dallas, TX-based Dale Resources** as Manager, Engineering/Technical. **This reunites the highly successful drilling and completion team, fulltime, at Dale Resources** that created some of the most prolific wells in the Barnett Shale using new horizontal drilling and completion technology. **Gary was previously Regional Technical Manager in the Barnett Shale for BJ Services when he worked on those wells. Gary worked with Mike Taliaferro**, Vice President – Operations for Dale **and their team on wells drilled and completed by Dale Operating Company primarily in Tarrant County.**

The fulltime operational expertise of Schein, Taliferro and their geological team is projected to source E&P opportunities for Dale Resources **in the Barnett Shale, outside designated non-compete areas, and other shale plays throughout the country. This drilling/completion/operational ‘track record’ and expertise should make Dale Resources an excellent potential target for companies with leases seeking a partner to drill, complete and operate their leases or to ‘farm-out’ leases to.**

Dale Operating leads all operators, with at least 15 wells, in the list of the biggest producers in **Tarrant County** as measured by the daily gas production in the peak month of production. **The most recent data analyzed, with production to October 1, 2007, shows that the wells drilled and completed by Dale Operating had a peak month average daily production of 3,649 MCGPD** (3.66 million cubic feet of gas per day). **That compares with the average for all 854 horizontal wells in Tarrant County at 2,040 MCFGPD** (2 million cubic feet of gas per day). **Dale Operating’s Gateway Park #3H has been the biggest well in Tarrant County for the past 20 months at 8,455 MCFGPD** (8.5 million cubic feet of gas per day). **That well has produced 3,064,441 MCF (3+ billion cubic feet of gas) in the first 20 months.**

**As a passing note, Gary Schein and Mike Taliaferro have something else in common. When Gary worked with Mike and Dale Operating on the first simultaneously fractured well over two years ago in the Barnett Shale, he named it ‘simo-frac’ which has now become industry jargon. Last year, when describing being able to completely change the direction of a horizontal well while drilling, Mike named that well a ‘hookizontal’ well. That name has now become industry jargon. Teamed together, fulltime, we would expect big producers from this group in the future, and maybe some new Barnett Shale terms.**

## AREA NEWS

### Devon, Chesapeake, & EOG Named to Fortune's Best Companies List

FORTUNE magazine announced January 22 that three energy companies with significant Barnett Shale operations have been named to its "100 Best Companies to Work For" in the U.S. list. Devon Energy Corporation ranked number 48, Chesapeake Energy Corporation ranked number 61 and EOG Resources, Inc. ranked number 64 on the list. The complete list and related stories will appear in the February 4 issue of FORTUNE, and at [www.fortune.com](http://www.fortune.com) on January 22.

A significant factor for the making the list this year is being able to create jobs. The 100 companies on the 2008 list added 67,000 employees to their payrolls in the past year and employ a total of nearly 1.6 million employees, up 16% from the number employed by companies comprising last year's list. Devon and Chesapeake both posted 15% job growth while EOG's job growth was slightly higher at 17%.

Devon's number 48 ranking was the highest among energy companies. The company is fourth among companies with the lowest turnover and eighth in work-life balance. FORTUNE cited Devon for maintaining a healthy corporate culture despite rapid growth. FORTUNE also distinguished Devon for its employee bonuses by noting the average 2006 bonus was \$21,332 with the median being \$9,000.

"Being ranked among the best companies to work for is a great honor for us," said Devon's Chairman and CEO, Larry Nichols. "Among all the resources that comprise Devon, we consider our people to be at the foundation of our strength. Because of that, we strive to be an employer of choice, and we are gratified to be included on FORTUNE's prestigious list."

FORTUNE distinguished Chesapeake by noting that "co-founder Aubrey McClendon meets every new employee". Furthermore, the magazine reported McClendon approved a proposed employee child-care center and then ordered the size of the center doubled and cut the fees in half.

"We are very pleased to have been selected by FORTUNE magazine as one of the 100 best companies to work for in America," McClendon said. "This award is a testament to our outstanding employees who make Chesapeake a leader in the energy industry and in the communities where we operate. We place a premium on creating a challenging and rewarding work environment where our employees can excel."

"We didn't need FORTUNE magazine to tell us this," responded Julie Wilson, Vice President of Corporation Development in Chesapeake's Fort Worth office. "Our CEO, Aubrey McClendon, is flanked by a superior senior management team who inspires and motivates their staff throughout the country. Whether we're in Fort Worth or West Virginia or any point in between,

those of us fortunate enough to work at Chesapeake appreciate what an outstanding company it is. But it's gratifying to know that our peers in the business community recognize this, as well."

FORTUNE distinguished EOG Resources for paying all of its employees in part with stock options – a lucrative benefit given the company's stock price rose 43% in 2007. The magazine also highlighted that EOG matches charity contributions up to \$60,000 per employee per year. EOG also made the list last year as well.

To pick the "100 Best Companies to Work For," FORTUNE worked with Robert Levering and Milton Moskowitz of the Great Place to Work Institute to conduct the most extensive employee survey in corporate America. Of some 1,500 firms that were contacted, 406 companies participated in this year's survey. Nearly 100,000 employees at those companies responded to a 57-question survey created by the Great Place to Work Institute, a global research and consulting firm with offices in 30 countries.

Two-thirds of a company's score was based on the results of the survey that was sent to a minimum of 400 randomly selected employees from each company. The survey asks questions related to their attitudes about the management's credibility, job satisfaction and camaraderie. The other third of the scoring is based on the company's responses to the Institute's Culture Audit, which includes detailed questions about pay and benefit programs and a series of open-ended questions about hiring practices, methods of internal communications, training, recognition programs and diversity efforts.

Any company that is at least seven years old with more the 1,000 U.S. employees is eligible. The deadline for applying for next year's list is March 31, 2008. For an online nomination form, go to [www.greatplacetowork.com](http://www.greatplacetowork.com).

Related Article(s): Business Wire 1/22/2008 *Chesapeake Energy Corporation Named to Fortune List of "100 Best Companies to Work For"*

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Devon Energy Corporation press release 1/22/2008 *Devon Energy Named to FORTUNE's "100 Best Companies to Work For" list* <http://www.devonenergy.com/ir/news/Pages/redirect.aspx?page=1098608&highlight=>

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