

## The Rule of Capture, Correlative Rights, and Principles of Conservation



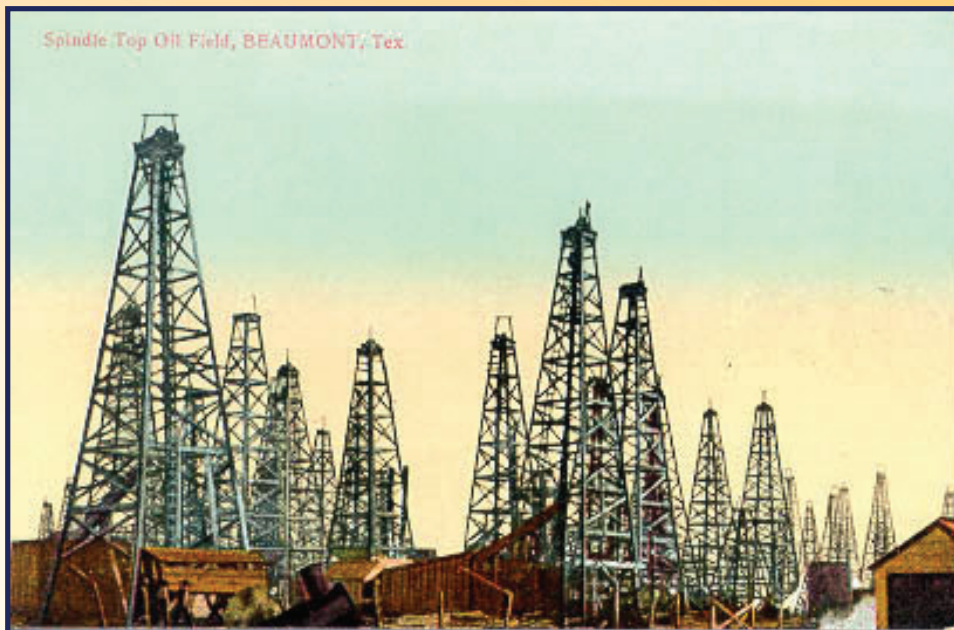
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Fundamentals of Oil, Gas and Mineral Law  
University of Texas School of Law - Continuing Legal Education  
Houston, March 28, 2019

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## Rule of Capture – Excessive Drilling



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## Shale Fracking – Effective Drilling



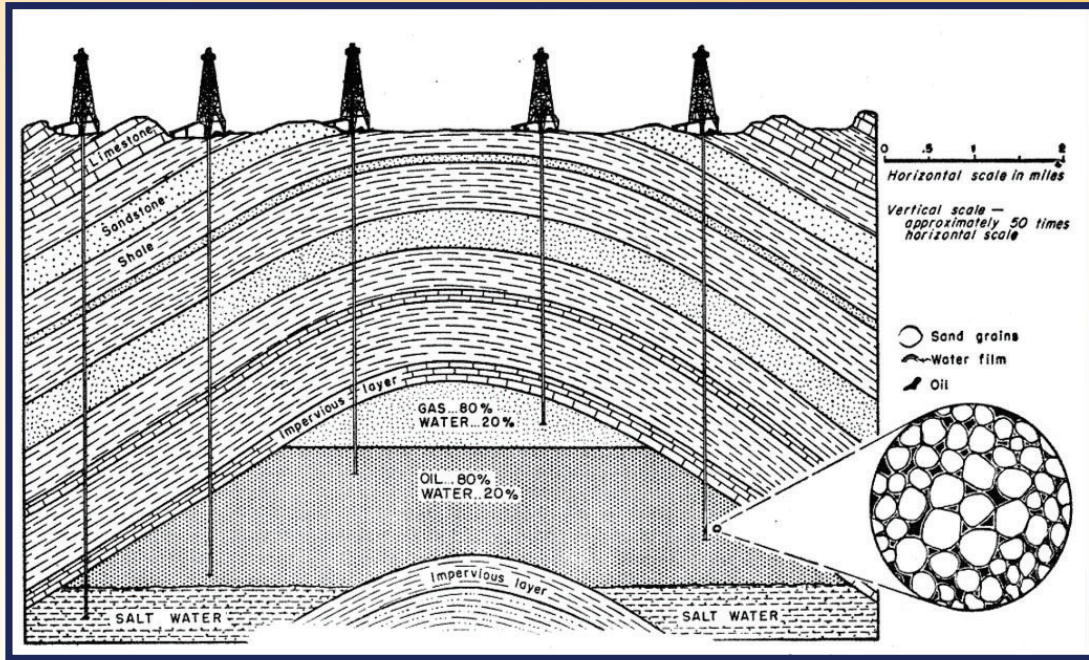
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## Characteristics of Oil & Gas

- **Petroleum:** An organic chemical compound of hydrogen and carbon. The molecular structure of hydrocarbon compounds varies from the simplest, methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ), a constituent of natural gas, to the very heavy and very complex. Octane, a constituent of crude oil, is one of the heavier, more complex molecules ( $\text{C}_8\text{H}_{18}$ ). Natural gas and crude oil are fluids – gas or liquid.
- **Alkanes:**  
methane, ethane, propane, and butane - (gases, used directly as fuels).  
penta-, hexa-, hept-, oct-, non-, dec- etc: pentane up to around  $\text{C}_{17}\text{H}_{36}$  are liquids.
- Located underground – trapped in reservoirs.

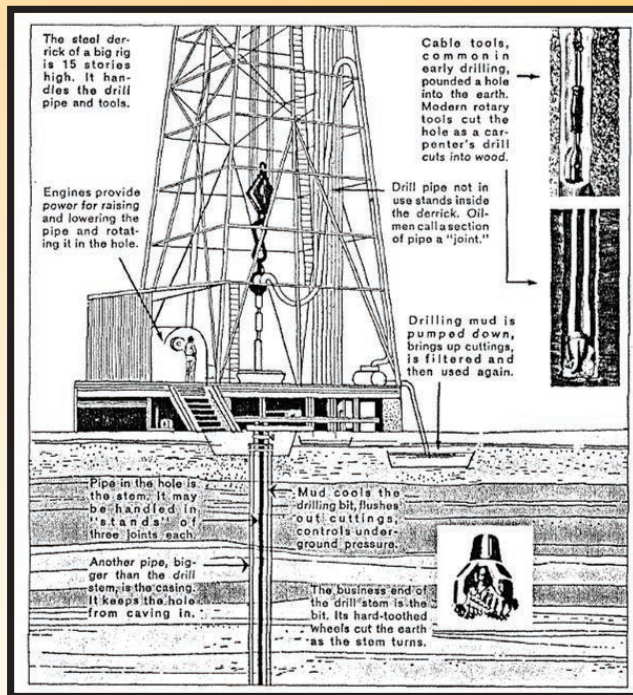
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# An Oil & Gas Reservoir



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# Drilling for Oil & Gas



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