

Three Penny Productions
presents

HAYNESVILLE

A film by Gregory Kallenberg

74 minutes, HD, 1.85

PRESS KIT

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SYNOPSIS

Set in the backwoods of Louisiana, *Haynesville* follows the historic discovery of the United States' largest natural gas field (a formation called the Haynesville Shale). The documentary examines the effect of the energy boom on three lives caught in the middle of the fervor: A single mom takes up the defense of her community's environmental protections, an African American preacher attempts to use the riches to build a Christian school and a salt-of-the-earth, self-described "country boy" finds himself conflicted as he weighs losing his land to an oil company's offer to make him a millionaire. While tracking these lives, *Haynesville* also takes a hard look at the current energy picture and what the Haynesville Shale could possibly mean for a cleaner and greener energy future.

LONG SYNOPSIS

Haynesville: A Nation's Hunt for Energy takes place in the Louisiana backwoods, and tracks the momentous discovery of the largest natural gas field in the United States (and maybe the world). *Haynesville* examines the historic find (a formation called the "Haynesville Shale") from the personal level as well as from the higher perspective of the current energy picture and pending energy future.

As the Haynesville Shale boom erupts, the film focuses on three lives caught in the middle of the fervor: A single mom takes up the defense of her community's environmental protections, an African American preacher attempts to use the riches to build a Christian school and a salt-of-the-earth, self-described "country boy" finds himself conflicted as he weighs losing his land to an oil company's offer to make him a millionaire.

While tracking the effects of the find on these people's lives, *Haynesville* explores the current energy situation in the United States. The film takes a hard look at what the scale of the Haynesville (170 trillion cubic feet or the equivalent of 38 billion barrels of oil) could mean to the nation's energy picture. In a never-seen-before on-screen discussion, environmentalists, academics and energy experts hash out the idea of trying to find cleaner energy sources, and how the Haynesville's vast reserves of natural gas could possibly help provide an important part of the nation's energy answer.

STORY SUBJECTS AND QUOTES

Kassi Fitzgerald is a single mother of three (two of which still live at home) and community organizer fighting for the fair treatment of land and landowners by gas companies who wish to drill to the Haynesville Shale beneath their land. She organizes groups of people to collectively bargain for the best offer from the gas exploration companies.

Kassi speaking on what got her motivated to help her community:

The gentleman who lives on the corner- who is Hispanic- signed with the very same day with the very same people who offered me \$2,500 for \$350 with no land protections- the standard lease... and it made me mad. And when I get mad, I get galvanized.

In reference to the effect drilling may have on landowners:

These people can't just pick up and move. They're still gonna live here. And the quality of life has got to still be a good quality of life. One of the reasons that I have shouted from the mountaintops so to speak is because I did not want people unfairly treated. From the difference in what they're paying people based on socioeconomics to not taking people's homes and lands seriously and protecting it, and there is a lot that can go wrong. Everybody out here is on wells. Protecting our water is a big deal. And I realize that things going wrong don't happen very often, but it only takes one time.

Mike Smith is a real estate appraiser who, over the last 30 years, has acquired bits of land his family didn't want to amass a plot of over 300 acres. In the summer of 2008, he was offered over \$1 million in bonus checks and even more in product profits to allow the drilling on his land where his family lineage has lived, farmed, and hunted for generations.

Reliving the moment he became a millionaire:

So my cousin that joins me over here, he said 'Well, we're talking to Petrohawk, and we're gonna make them an offer and do you want to be in with us, cause you join us on the fence line.' And I said, 'Yeah I'll do whatever you want to do.' I said, 'It'll be a package deal for them.' He said, 'Well, we're gonna ask \$3000 an acre.' And I thought, 'Oh man, they'll never give that.' And within 30 minutes he called back and said, 'They accepted the offer.' And then the dollar signs started rolling. I said, 'Oh my god... 300 and something acres at \$3000 [an acre]. That's over a million bucks, man!

In reference to gas companies drilling on his land:

I was the only one in my family that wanted this place. I've been through some hard times to keep it. And then for it to all change... They say it'll, it can be real close to it. But it's gonna be different... it's gonna be a lot different.

Pastor Reegis Richard is a pastor in northwest Louisiana who believes the Haynesville shale is a gift from God, which will enable him to realize a grand dream of creating a Christian academy for believers in the small town of Mansfield, Louisiana (located in the heart of the Haynesville shale discovery). Having come from a troubled youth filled with drugs and violence, pastor Reegis is determined to create a place where young people can escape from the temptation of life on the street.

Pastor Reegis speaking on the effect the Haynesville has had on his congregation:

We've seen our offering literally triple as a result of the Haynesville Shale. And so I think it's very important for us not to be naïve in our thinking that the Haynesville Shale is not impacting our ministry because it is.

Pastor Reegis speaking on his goals for his community:

We're interested in empowering people and teaching people what we've learned. You know I grew up in a two-bedroom shack with seven people, living amongst critters. You know that's what it's about. It's about empowerment- and teaching people that you don't have to live like that. You don't have to be like that. You can rise above that.

ENERGY EXPERT SUBJECTS

Dr. Tad Patzek is chairman of the Department of Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering at The University of Texas at Austin. He earned his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Silesian Technical University, Poland in 1980. Dr. Patzek's research involves mathematical modeling of earth systems with emphasis on multiphase fluid flow physics and rock mechanics. In a broader context, Patzek works on the thermodynamics and ecology of human survival and energy supply schemes for humanity. He has participated in the global debate on energy supply schemes by giving hundreds of press interviews and appearing on the BBC, PBS, CBS, CNBC, ABC, NPR, etc., and giving invited lectures around the world.

Robert Bryce is a freelance journalist and the current managing editor of *Energy Tribune*. His most recent book, *Gusher of Lies: The Dangerous Delusions of Energy Independence* (2008) has been heralded as "visionary, even revolutionary" by *The New York Times*. In 2004, he published *Pipe Dreams: Greed, Ego, and the Death of Enron*, which told the story of the energy corporation's unraveling. His work has been published in numerous magazines and newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *Slate*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and *the Washington Post*. He resides in Austin, Texas.

Bill McKibben is an American environmentalist and writer and the founder of 350.org, an international climate campaign. Bill frequently writes about global warming, alternative energy, and the risks associated with human genetic engineering. Random House published his first book, *The End of Nature*, in 1989 after being serialized in the *New Yorker*. It is regarded as the first book for a general audience about climate change, and has been printed in more than 20 languages. Beginning in the summer of 2006, he led the organization of the largest demonstrations against global warming in American history. Bill currently resides with his wife and child in Ripton, Vermont. He is a scholar in residence at Middlebury College.

Michael Skelly, a Houston renewable energy businessman, was the Democratic candidate for Texas's 7th congressional district in the U.S. House of Representatives. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Harvard Business School, Skelly has worked in the Peace Corps, in ecotourism, and in energy firms. He most recently served as the chief development officer for Horizon Wind Energy, the third largest wind company in the United States.

Mike Tidwell is founder and director of the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, a grassroots nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness about the impacts and solutions associated with global warming in Maryland, Virginia, and DC. He is also an author and filmmaker who predicted in vivid detail the Katrina hurricane disaster in his 2003 book *Bayou Farewell: The Rich Life and Tragic Death of Louisiana's Cajun Coast* and the 2008 commentary *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America's Coastal Cities*. Tidwell has been featured in numerous media outlets including NBC's *Meet the Press*, NPR, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. He is also the co-host of the nationally syndicated radio show "Earthbeat," which features groundbreaking global warming news and interviews live from the nation's capital.

Mike Sloan, Founder and President of Virtus Energy, has consulted exclusively on renewable energy issues for 20 years. Sloan has provided technical support services to commercial ventures employing various renewable technologies (including solar, wind, landfill gas, geothermal and hydropower) for existing and prospective generation projects in North America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Hawaii. Sloan has served in numerous leadership roles within the Texas' renewable energy community since 1997, such as Chairman or Co-chair of the Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association, Texas Solar Energy Society, Texas PUC's Renewable Energy Work Group, Austin Sustainable Energy Task Force, Wind Subgroup of Gov. Rick Perry's Energy Cluster Initiative. Between 2002 and 2008, Sloan served as the Managing Consultant of The Wind Coalition, during which time Texas became the #1 market for wind in the U.S. Mike holds engineering degrees from Notre Dame (B.S.) and the University of Texas at Austin.

Dan Jarvie is an analytical and interpretive organic geochemist. He has studied or been involved in evaluation of conventional petroleum systems around the world, but is most noted for his ongoing work in unconventional shale-gas exploration particularly the Barnett Shale of the Fort Worth Basin, Texas. His specialties include source rock characterization especially for resource assessments, but also detailed source rock characterization for conventional petroleum systems analysis including bulk and compositional kinetic determination, high-resolution light hydrocarbon and fingerprint analysis, and pyrolysis studies. Dan is now president of Worldwide Geochemistry, LLC, working as a consultant to industry.

FACTS AND FIGURES FROM *HAYNESVILLE*

- The Haynesville Shale is the fourth largest gas find in the world and the largest in the United States containing an estimated recoverable resource of 230 trillion cubic feet of gas. For perspective, 1 trillion cubic feet of gas could provide enough energy to drive 1.75 MILLION trips from Los Angeles to New York in an average sedan.
- The amount of gas in the Haynesville Shale alone (230 Trillion cubic feet of natural gas) could run all of America's energy needs for 9 years without help from any other source.
- The Haynesville Shale contains 3 times the amount of energy as the largest oil field in America (Prudhoe Bay, Alaska). It also contains 40% more energy than the total oil reserves of Brazil and Mexico combined.
- Coal plants create over 50% of electric production in the United States.
- According to the American Lung Association, 24,000 people a year die prematurely because of pollution from coal-fired power plants. And every year 38,000 heart attacks, 12,000 hospital admissions and an additional 550,000 asthma attacks result from power plant pollution.
- Approximately 70% of our crude oil is imported from overseas including product from Venezuela, Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia- to name a few.
- Only 1.5% of our total energy consumption comes from wind power.
- A mere .01% of our total energy consumption comes from solar power.
- Currently, there is no utility-level storage solution for electricity, which makes the intermittent sources of wind and solar energy incapable of managing 100% of our power needs until a battery solution is developed which could take upwards of 30 years if we begin to seriously invest in the technology starting today.
- Natural gas emits much less carbon dioxide than either of these fuels – about 30% less than oil and 50% less than coal.
- With natural gas being found in abundance in the United States due to new drilling techniques and new technologies such as the Haynesville Shale, our natural gas reserves have nearly tripled in the last 5 years with even more reserves unproven.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Gregory Kallenberg, Director/Producer

Gregory is the director and producer of *Haynesville*. His credits include his directorial debut, *Eating Levi*, an internationally successful film about Levi Oliver and his quest for competitive eating fame. Kallenberg's background is in film and writing, with a focus in journalism and television. Prior to filmmaking, he wrote for *Esquire*, *The New York Times*, *Texas Monthly*, *Austin American Statesman's XL* magazine and other publications. Mr. Kallenberg also developed stories and wrote for Bluefield Productions, an award-winning company producing shows for History Channel, A&E and others. Kallenberg attended the University of Texas and received a Bachelor of Science in film. Kallenberg also attended the film program at the University of Southern California.

Mark Bullard, Producer

Mark began his film career as an editorial assistant at Fox Studios, working under editor Thomas J. Nordberg (*U Turn*, *Any Given Sunday*, *I Love You Phillip Morris*). He has since contributed to over a dozen (mostly independent) productions in a wide range of capacities, including producer, editor and cinematographer. Bullard was a producer and editor of the award-winning music documentary *Lubbock Lights*, editor of the documentary *Eating Levi*, which premiered at the Amsterdam International Documentary Film Festival and a producer on *Blood Trail*, now in worldwide distribution by Lion's Gate.

Other work, again in various capacities, includes short films, television productions (HBO, IFC) and corporate productions (Whole Foods, Microsoft). Julia Roberts appeared in a short documentary he directed about the Baja 1000--the most grueling off-road race in the world, and he is currently producing *Haynesville* with Gregory Kallenberg.

Chris Lyon, Editor

Stepping away from his brief, narrative film background, Chris began working on *Haynesville* as his first feature-length documentary edit in the fall of 2008- helping to shape the director's vision of a heart-achingly beautiful Louisiana backdrop with an exciting gold rush story. Outside of *Haynesville*, Lyon produces and fosters small narrative films in the burgeoning Louisiana independent film scene in addition to working on studio feature films and network television sets.

Patrick Long, Associate Producer

Patrick produced, directed, shot and edited *The Jackson Hole Journal*, 24 half-hour documentaries on the pioneer history of Jackson Hole, for which he won The Wyoming State Historical Society's Documentary of the Year. He co-produced, edited and contributed photography for *When the Buffalo Roam*, a half-hour documentary on national and local policies affecting the last, free-roaming American Bison herd in Yellowstone National Park. That film was a finalist at the 1999 Jackson Hole International Wildlife Film Festival. This program has been distributed internationally to promote interest and understanding of this complex situation. More recently, Mr. Long completed *All Rendered Truth*, an hour-long documentary on self-taught artists in the American South. The documentary was a featured selection in a variety of film festivals including The Telluride Film Festival, The Asheville Film Festival, Southern Circuit, and was featured in a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Southern Arts Federation.

Rob Senska, Cinematographer

Rob is a graduate of SFASU's film program and has been heavily involved in a wide variety of projects. On *Haynesville*, Senska was charged with bringing a certain narrative cinematic style to what would be his first feature-length documentary. Only just prior to being brought on board with *Haynesville*, Rob moved to Shreveport, Louisiana where he has begun contributing to the local independent film community by helping to grow grassroots movements for regional filmmaking.

Jay Weigel, Composer

Jay is a composer, producer, conductor, contractor, and arranger for film, television, records, and concerts working out of New Orleans. He has worked in the Film/TV world for over 25 years. His recent work can be heard in the four Tyler Perry films, HBO's *Little Britain, USA*, Jim Carrey's *I Love you Phillip Morris* and several documentaries and independent films. From 1998-2001, he worked as an orchestrator, assistant conductor, and head music preparatory for Terence Blanchard as well as assisting George S. Clinton and Christopher Lennertz record in New Orleans. As an arranger and orchestrator he has worked with REM, Chris Thomas King, Judith Owen and several projects with Hal Wilner. Additionally, original work has been commissioned by the Kennedy Center, Louisiana Philharmonic, St. Louis Cathedral, University of Southern Mississippi Symphony, and the Acadiana Symphony to name a few.

DIRECTOR Q&A

with Joel Greenberg – Contributing Editor for “The Energy Roadmap”

Q: How did you come across the story of the Haynesville Shale?

A: Actually, the project was born out of a casual conversation in a local diner. Someone asked me if I'd heard of this huge energy find called "The Haynesville" and how "it was going to make everybody rich". I remember the story being told almost as if it was a tall tale, like I was being let in on the locale of hidden gold strike or Blackbeard's treasure. The idea got me very excited and, for better or worse, when I get I excited I usually pick up a camera and start filming.

Q: At what point to did you see how important this could be?

A: On the personal story side, it was when I first met Kassi and saw what she was doing. The idea that a single mom and full-time nurse would also take on the defense of her community's environmental protects, showed me the importance of the human issues at a microcosmic level. On a larger, more macrocosmic level, the Haynesville kept growing in potential reserves and quickly became an epic energy field. At that point, I realized that this wasn't just a story about people caught in an energy boom. It was also about how the Haynesville could help change our current trajectory and contribute to the US's energy future.

Q: How did your views on energy change as you made the film? In other words, how did the subject change you?

A: The initial idea of *Haynesville* was to tell the story from the human side, so, initially, I'm not sure I was really focused on the energy side of things. It was when we realized the scale of this find, that I found myself really diving deep into the energy issue. One of the things that hit me pretty hard was how much coal we use, and how dirty it is as a fuel source. That really moved me into a direction where I was looking for answers that would counter coal. This led us to the conclusions that the film makes about where the United States needs go in order to have cleaner, greener and brighter energy future.

Q: What's the one story you think you'll tell your grandkids about the film?

A: How *Haynesville* presented me with my first opportunity to eat squirrel. You'll have to see the film for that to make sense.

Q: In the end, how did things turn out differently than what you expected before you started making the film?

A: Without giving anything away, there was a lot that turned out differently. It's documentary filmmaking, so you never really know how it's going to end. I find that to be a really exciting aspect about this form of storytelling. It's also maddening but really exciting. Speaking to the "energy" side of the story: When we first started, the talk about our energy future seemed to be going in a different direction. Now it appears that the energy argument is heading towards the place the jives more with what our experts conclude in the film. Presently, the road is rising to us. It's pretty exciting.

Q: Thinking back, what gives you the most satisfaction about making the film?

A: I'm very proud that this film was conceptualized, shot, edited, scored and finished in Louisiana. There are those who think that any and all films have to have a foot or hand in New York and Los Angeles. *Haynesville* proves them all wrong. I'm also proud of the team that was assembled for this film. From my production partner Mark Bullard to editor Chris Lyon to the hyper-talented cinematographer Rob Senska, these guys are as good or better than anyone I've seen on either coast. I'm very proud of all of them and the film that we produced.

Q: How do you think the film will weather time? Think it'll be relevant five years from now? Ten?

A: I hope the film's legacy is that it served as a starting point for the nation's discussion on how to reach a better and brighter energy future. I think the film's future relevance will be gauged at how we all react to its current message: That we have to start the energy conversation and acting on it now before it's too late.

Q: What do you want the audience to walk to away from *Haynesville* with?

A: I want people to understand that energy is complicated, and that it has a cost -- both human and environmental. I also want the audience to take what they experience in the film and help find a place for themselves in helping propel the United States down the path of the nation's energy future. Mostly, I want the audience walking out with the feeling that they've seen a great film and gotten a true taste of what it's like to be in the middle of an energy boom.

Q: What's next for the *Haynesville* crew?

A: While getting *Haynesville* out there is our primary focus, Mark and I have started the "dream" process on other projects. We like the area, we have a great team here in Louisiana and we're jonesing to get the cameras rolling again. Is it an extension of *Haynesville*- more of a human-interest type of story? I'm not sure. I can say that I'm very proud of what we did on *Haynesville* and look forward to our filmmaking future. Stay tuned.

HAYNESVILLE: A NATION'S HUNT FOR ENERGY

By Cynthia Fuchs, PopMatters Film and TV Editor
Published: June 1, 2010

We're Gonna Be Building Something

"This was the energy development in America that no one foresaw," says Robert Bryce, author of *Gusher of Lies*. He's talking about the 2008 discovery of the Haynesville Shale, the largest natural gas field in the United States. Located in northwest Louisiana, the field inspired a scramble to exploit it, oil companies looking to lease or possess the rights to drill some 12,000 feet below the earth's surface, "injecting" billions of dollars into the state's economy, even, according to some estimates, sparing it from "the worst effects of the national slowdown."

But even as the shale play brought benefits, it raised questions. Chief among these, according to Bryce, is a persistent, widespread dependence on fossil fuels. Even if natural gas has been called a "bridge" between dirty fuels (coal and oil) and renewable but intermittent resources (wind and solar), it still involves drilling at tremendous depths and so, the potential for errors, namely, toxic effects on surrounding land and water. Indeed, as Bryce speaks, it's hard not to hear warnings that now pertain to the BP oil spill.

This and other questions are explored in *Haynesville: A Nation's Hunt for Energy*, premiering at *Stranger Than Fiction* on the first of June. Gregory Kallenberg's remarkable documentary follows three individuals affected by the Haynesworth Shale find. Tracing a complex set of circumstances, as well as legal, ethical, emotional, and environmental issues—the film begins with the story of Mike Smith, whose family wants to sell their homestead, some 300 acres. Smith is reluctant, telling his interviewers that he's inclined to follow his grandmother's advice never to sell land: "You can always make a living off land," she told him.

Still, Smith's choice seems foregone at the film's start, when he learns that he's receive a one-time check for \$1.27 million, plus 25% of proceeds from wells drilled on his property, even as he extols the beauty of his own bit of "God's country." Because Smith owns his land outright, he faces none of the quandaries facing Kassi Fitzgerald, introduced in the film as a "community activist and self-taught environmentalist." As she describes her decision-making process regarding her tiny parcel (some 3.5 acres), the camera cuts to her lawn, where a set of fake chickens seem to scratch at the dirt. The shot is typical of the film's attention to illustrative and evocative detail: when Smith describes the "great mood" his land puts him in, the camera shows blue skies and vast open spaces; Fitzgerald's options vis-a-vis Chesapeake, the company looking to buy her land, are here visibly limited.

Repeatedly, she appears in tight domestic spaces (chopping vegetables with fury, building a table), as she sorts through Chesapeake's offers, via a "landsman" who chooses to remain anonymously blurred during "negotiations. After she hears that a neighbor ("who is Hispanic," she says) has made a very bad deal with the company, she does research and organizes other small landowners in the area, so that she is soon representing a group owning some 800 acres, all their positions strengthened by their alliance.

That's not to say that Fitzgerald and her neighbors have quite the control they assume they have over their land. While economics professor David Hoaas suggests the Haynesville Shale produces "a Jed Clampett story, if you will," in fact the legal and financial maneuverings of today's Mr. Drysdales are more intricate and more plainly weighted in their favor than back in the day.

But as hard as Fitzgerald works to secure both the coalition's financial and environmental well being, her focus and results are very different from those of Pastor Reegis Richard. He and his flock see their good fortune as an act of divine intervention. "The one thing that God requires for us to do is to put a plan together," Richard explains. "He supplies the revenue." The logic is difficult to refute, given how well Richard's church is doing, moved recently from a shabby storefront to a rather impressive new facility for his Temple of Knowledge Church.

While Richard insists he's doing good work with the windfall—directed by God, speaking to him in man voices—the film includes a series of cautionary interviews with energy experts. If the individual landowners seek ways to profit from the shale play, and then to put that profit to various uses, the broader context—namely, the dire costs of "a nation's hunt for energy"—is never lost.

If "people are talking about" fossil fuels and alternatives because of gas prices or "climate change," as energy expert Andy Bowman puts it, they are rarely thinking through the complexities of any given approach. So, when Tad Patzek, chairman of the Department of Petroleum & Geosystems Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, recalls the December 2008 Kingston Fossil Plant coal fly ash slurry spill—"the largest industrial disaster in our country perhaps in a century"—he's speaking specifically to the dangers of coal mining, but the caution extends to any new efforts to exploit natural resources, as these are shaped by lack of oversight, corruption, and cheap shortcuts. The lessons are never quite as learned as they might seem.

NATURAL GAS FIND IN LOUISIANA MAKES JED CLAMPETTS OF PROPERTY OWNERS

The Haynesville Shale may be the largest field ever discovered in the continental U.S.

By Miguel Bustillo, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer
August 01, 2008

SHREVEPORT, LA. — Chris Moreno lost his job managing a print shop two years ago, just after his wife became pregnant and they'd started building a house on 40 acres near the shores of Caddo Lake.

He fretted he'd have to relinquish his humble piece of paradise, where he indulged his country boy's passion for hunting raccoons and catching catfish.

But now fortune has smiled on Moreno: He's poised to become a millionaire, all because of that 40 acres he bought eight years ago for \$45,000.

Landowners here in the piney three-state junction known as Ark-La-Tex recently learned that in this energy-starved era, they may be sitting on the largest natural gas field ever found in the continental U.S. The discovery of the Haynesville Shale, which lies mainly beneath Louisiana but branches into Texas and Arkansas, was disclosed in March by energy companies, which had been quietly buying up drilling rights for months before telling the public.

The news has triggered a flurry of speculation as frantic as anything seen here since a gusher on a Texas hill named Spindletop in 1901 ushered in the modern oil industry. Hordes of landmen, leasing agents for the energy companies, have descended on Shreveport, the unofficial capital of Ark-La-Tex, dangling gaudy sums before landowners in hopes of getting permission to drill beneath their properties. Firms that earlier this year were leasing land for \$200 an acre are now paying upward of \$20,000 an acre, leaving thousands of homeowners dreaming of plasma TVs and sports cars.

Read the full article:

<http://articles.latimes.com/2008/aug/01/nation/na-gas1>

The New York Times

GAS RUSH IS ON, AND LOUISIANIANS CASH IN

By Adam Nossiter

Published: July 29, 2008

MANSFIELD, La. — They had to repeat the amazing number, \$28.7 million, over and over, to make sure it was real and would not go away. Even then, the members of the De Soto Parish Police Jury — the county commission — could hardly believe it.

They laughed, rocked back in their chairs, shook their heads, stared at the ceiling and muttered oaths to each other. “We have — \$28.7 million,” said the president, Bryant Yopp, to settle the matter, definitively if still incredulously. It was nearly one and a half times the parish’s entire annual budget.

A no-holds-barred, all-American gold rush for natural gas is under way in this forgotten corner of the South, and De Soto Parish, with its fat check from a large energy company this month, is only the latest and largest beneficiary. The county leaders and everyone around them, for mile after mile, over to Texas and up to Arkansas, in the down-at-the-heels city of Shreveport and in its struggling neighbors, suddenly find themselves sitting on what could prove to be the largest natural gas deposit in the continental United States.

Already, several dozen people who own parcels of land over the field are becoming instant millionaires as energy companies pay big money for the mineral rights to the gas, which like other energy sources is worth far more than it was last year. Jalopies are being traded in for Cadillacs, plans for swimming pools are being hatched in rusty trailers, and the old courthouse here is packed to the rafters day after day with oil company “landmen” (and women), whose job it is to frantically search the record books for the owners of the mineral rights to land that has become like gold

Read the full article:

<http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2009/08/05/05climatewire-is-shale-gas-the-climate-bills-new-bargaining-2382.html>

WONDERFUEL: WELCOME TO THE AGE OF UNCONVENTIONAL GAS

By Helen Knight, NewScientist Magazine
Published: June 17, 2010

FORGET coal, it's too dirty. Forget nuclear power, it's too expensive and controversial. Forget renewables, they're too unpredictable. To meet our energy needs and cut carbon emissions we need an abundant source of clean, cheap energy, available night and day and in all weathers.

We may be in luck. Natural gas is such a fuel, and it's sitting right under our noses in abundance. Predominantly methane, it's the cleanest-burning of all fossil fuels (see chart), so using gas rather than coal to generate electricity could halve greenhouse gas emissions from traditional coal-fired power plants.

But hang on a minute: aren't natural gas reserves depleting just as quickly as oil? And aren't most reserves found in countries that might not want to share their riches with the rest of the world? Back in 2006, a political spat in Europe led Russia to temporarily cut off its supply of gas to Ukraine. All of a sudden, gas seemed to have just as many problems as other fossil fuels.

While that may have been the case four years ago, things are changing fast. New technology to extract natural gas from what's euphemistically called "unconventional" deposits means previously gas-poor countries in the Americas, Asia and western Europe could have enough cheap gas to last for another 100 years at present rates of consumption (see diagram).

Unconventional gas tends to be trapped in impermeable hard rock or sandstone, contained within coal seams, or - most promisingly for gas producers - in shale deposits. For Vello Kuuskraa, president of Advanced Resources International, an energy industry consultancy based in Washington DC, unconventional gas "has the potential for changing the long-term outlook for natural gas in a very dramatic way"

CREDITS

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Gregory Kallenberg

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Gregory Kallenberg

Edited by
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Cinematography by
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Post Production Audio Editing and Mixing	Kyle Lamy
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Post Production Assistants	Chris Bailey Frank Alquist Jared Marcell Ruby Rendrag
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Post Production Consultant	Sergio Lopez
Duplication Services	Storyville
Production Accountant	Kathy Malone

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Don Weiner
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The Media Cooperative

Additional Production Accounting

Heard, McElroy & Vestal

Pilot for Aerial Photography

Freddy Phillips

Mountaintop removal footage courtesy of

Michael O'Connell
Haw River Films

Additional still photographs courtesy of

Name of man with DeBerry Pictures
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Diana Raphael
Carolyn Ro
Dave Benscoter
Robert Bryce
Pat Simon
Dr. Tad Patzek
Dr. Andy Link
Dr. David Hoaas
Mike Smith
Kassi Fitzgerald
Matthew and Joseph Fitzgerald
Charlie Rich
Donna Lewing
Michael Skelly
Bill McKibben
Dan Jarvie
Mike Tidwell
Reegis Richard
Sue Harris
Bridge Builders
Pastor Reegis Richard
Shaunda Richard and Family
Joel Greenberg

Special Thanks

Mike Sloan
Andy Bowman
Mr. Raymond
John and Lindsay Atkins
Betty Phillips
Freddy Phillips
Sandi and Jeffrey Kallenberg
Mary and Denny Long
Jenessia Lambright
Andy Rogers
Nancy Long
Ronnie Ebarb
Perry Evans
Lindsay Ellis
David Martineau
Bob Brooks
Ken Peak
Clare France
Sergio Lopez
Randolph Kallenberg
Rick Lowerre
Gary Hanson
Judge Robert Burgess
Sonny Stone
JB Byrd
Sam and Laura Selis
Walter Johnson
Lane Spano
Paul Ebarb
Craig Barclay
Mona Reeve
Kevin McCotter
Vickie Welborn
Shaunda Richard
Cathy Kimbrough
Michael Buttermann
Dr. John Sharp
Ralph Gray
Caroline Roy
Cody Jennings
Cathy Beaudoin
Glenn Dill
Dr. John Sharp
Dr. Michael Webber
Danny Coy
Ken Whitehurst
Greg Lott

Alice Cale
Ted and Alissa Kantrow
Bishop Porter Robert Jones
David Martineau
Judy Williams
Drew, Carol and Christina Bullard
Texas Environmental Defense Fund
The Robinson Film Center
The People of Shreveport
The People of Mansfield, Stonewall and Grand Cane

This film is dedicated to
Heidi, Tobias and Daisy

This film was shot, edited. scored and finished in Louisiana.

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