

At the end of 1975 Canada's proven liquid hydrocarbon reserves, which include conventional crude oil and natural gas liquids (propane, butane and pentanes plus), amounted to 8.2 billion bbl (1.3 Gm³). This is comprised of 6.6 billion bbl (1.0 Gm³) of crude oil and 1.6 billion bbl (254 Mm³) of natural gas liquids. At the 1975 annual production level of 618 million bbl (98.3 Mm³), the life index (reserves to production ratio) for conventional crude oil and natural gas liquids increased for the first time in five years to 13.2 years as production slowed down due to reduced exports. Reserves added in 1975 totalled 56.6 million bbl (9.0 Mm³), and of this amount, 20.4 million bbl (3.24 Mm³) were attributable to revisions, 31.5 million bbl (5.01 Mm³) to extensions of established fields and only 4.6 million bbl (731 000 m³) to new discoveries. According to the Canadian Petroleum Association (CPA), proved remaining marketable reserves of natural gas increased by about 226,360 million cubic feet (6 410 Mm³) to a total of 57.0 trillion cubic feet (1 614 Tm³) in 1975. Using the 1975 level of production, the life index for natural gas increased to 21.3 years. In compiling its reserve estimates, the CPA assumed that delta gas would be brought to market via the same pipeline system as the Prudhoe Bay gas, and therefore delta gas could be categorized as proven. This is not the case for the Arctic islands; a minimum reserve base is required before this gas could be considered within economic reach. Therefore gas reserves that have been found in the Arctic islands and offshore areas are classified as probable rather than proven. Alberta with 45.32 trillion cubic feet (1.28 Tm³) of marketable gas reserves accounted for 80% of Canadian reserves at the end of 1975.

Canadian refinery capacity increased by 60,000 b/d (10 000 m³/d) in 1975 due primarily to the addition of Imperial Oil Enterprises Ltd.'s large new refinery at Edmonton, Alta. At the end of 1975, crude oil refining capacity of Canada's 38 operating refineries totalled 2,083,000 b/d (331 000 m³/d).

Alberta. During 1975 crude oil production in Alberta decreased by 203,000 b/d (32 000 m³/d) to 1,208,000 b/d (192 000 m³/d) and accounted for 85% of total Canadian crude oil production. Of this amount, synthetic crude oil production from the Athabasca tar sands contributed 43,189 b/d (6 867 m³/d) in 1975.

Both exploratory and development drilling footages increased slightly in Alberta in 1975, partly due to provincial incentive programs but primarily because of substantial increases in field prices for both oil and gas. Drilling statistics show that development drilling increased 5% to 7.19 million ft (2.19 million m) and exploratory drilling increased 12% to 4.78 million ft (1.46 Mm). Despite increased efforts, no large oil discoveries were made in 1975.

The shallow gas-bearing formations of southern Alberta continued to be the principal target for explorers in the province and several discoveries were recorded. The drilling program to evaluate the British Block, which got under way late in 1973, resulted in the discovery of additional reserves of 2 trillion cubic feet (.057 Tm³). Drilling for gas increased by 239 wells to 1,958 in 1975.

According to an appraisal of Alberta's oil sands completed in 1973 by the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board (AERCB), there is an ultimate in-place reserve of crude bitumen of 1,000 billion bbl (159 Gm³) of which 250 billion bbl (39.7 Gm³) are recoverable by known methods of technology. The bulk of the recoverable reserves are located in the Athabasca deposit with the remainder distributed between the Cold Lake, Peace River, Wabasca and Buffalo Head Hills deposits. Of the 250 billion bbl (39.7 Gm³) of recoverable synthetic crude oil, only 26.5 billion bbl (4.2 Gm³) are amenable to open-cast mining methods and all of this is located in the Athabasca deposit. The remaining 223.5 billion bbl (35.5 Gm³) are expected to be eventually recovered by in situ recovery techniques which are still in the experimental stage of development. At the present time Great Canadian Oil Sands Limited's 50,000 b/d (8 000 m³/d) is the only production from the oil sands; they have been in operation since 1967. Construction of Syncrude Canada Ltd.'s project was expected to be about 30% complete by the end of 1975. Predicted 125,000 b/d (20 000 m³/d) operation is