

scheduled to start production in 1978. Proposals which were put forward by two major oil companies were withdrawn because of large capital outlays required for construction and the risk of not receiving a satisfactory return on investment over the life of the project.

**Saskatchewan.** Saskatchewan's crude oil production declined by 40,507 b/d (6 440 m<sup>3</sup>/d) to 162,088 b/d (25 770 m<sup>3</sup>/d) in 1975, accounting for 11% of the Canadian total. Marketable natural gas production, at 69.0 billion cu ft (1 954 Gdm<sup>3</sup>) accounted for 2.1% of total Canadian production. Total drilling in Saskatchewan amounted to 649,000 ft (198 000 m) compared with 706,000 ft (215 000 m) in 1974. There were no significant oil or gas discoveries made in Saskatchewan during 1975.

**British Columbia.** In 1975 production of crude oil in British Columbia declined by 12,500 b/d (1 987 m<sup>3</sup>/d) to 39,393 b/d (6 263 m<sup>3</sup>/d) and represented 3% of total national production. Net withdrawals of natural gas in the province totalled 426 billion cu ft (12 063 Gdm<sup>3</sup>), down 3% from 1974.

In 1975 exploratory drilling at 292,700 ft (89 200 m) declined by 63,470 ft (19 300 m) from the previous year and development drilling increased by 7,500 ft (2 300 m) to 356,500 ft (108 700 m). There were no significant oil discoveries made in 1975 but several significant gas discoveries were recorded, four of which may eventually prove to be major fields. These discoveries were made in the Grizzly Valley area, the Cecil Lake area, the Kotcho Lake area and Nelson Forks area, all in northeastern British Columbia.

**Manitoba.** Production of crude oil in Manitoba amounted to 12,093 b/d (1 923 m<sup>3</sup>/d) in 1975, down slightly from 1974. All fields in Manitoba are producing at maximum capability. There is no natural gas production in Manitoba. Drilling in the province during 1975 declined by 70% to 21,938 ft (6 687 m). There were no oil discoveries made in Manitoba during 1975.

**Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories and Arctic islands.** Crude oil production north of the 60th parallel is confined to the Norman Wells field in the Northwest Territories. Oil from this field is processed in a small local refinery which serves local markets. Natural gas production declined substantially to 276 million cu ft (7.82 million m<sup>3</sup>) in 1973, because of a substantial reduction in production from the Pointed Mountain field, the principal producing gas field in the Northwest Territories.

There were 44 wells drilled in northern Canada in 1975 for a total of 371,450 ft (113 218 m) compared with 60 wells and 503,227 ft (153 384 m) in 1974. All but five of these wells were classed as exploratory. Of these wells one was classed as an oil discovery and three as gas discoveries and all were located in the Mackenzie Delta. Results of a step-out well drilled by Shell Canada Limited indicate 1 trillion cu ft (28 Tdm<sup>3</sup>) of gas and 80 million bbl (12.7 Mm<sup>3</sup>) of oil. Offshore drilling from man-made islands continued in 1975, while specially-designed drill ships are expected to take exploration even further offshore. In the Arctic islands, no new significant finds of oil or gas were made in 1975; however, three successful step-out wells enlarged the boundaries of three established fields. Also a successful step-out well was drilled eight miles (15 km) from shore in 400 ft (122 m) of water from a floating ice platform. This well substantially enlarged previous estimates of the size of the Hecla field on the east coast of Melville Island. The well is important from a technological as well as a commercial point of view as it marked another major breakthrough in Arctic exploratory drilling technology.

**Eastern Canada.** Aggregate drilling in Ontario declined in 1975 by 10% to 215,553 ft (65 701 m). Exploratory drilling accounted for 46% of the total, down 17% from the previous year. No noteworthy discoveries were made. In Lake Erie, one Devonian gas discovery was recorded by the Consumers Gas Company.