

Devonian carbonate reservoir. In 1976 a third well, A-02 drilled one mile (1.6 km) southwest of the F-72 A discovery, encountered the same reservoir horizon some 1,200 ft (360 m) structurally higher and tested 5,400 bbl (900 m³) of oil a day. Although further drilling is required to determine the commercial significance of the Bent Horn accumulation, this was the first important discovery of oil in the Arctic islands in what has been essentially a gas-prone region.

There were no new wildcat gas discoveries in the Arctic islands in 1975; however, two successful gas delineation wells were drilled in the large Drake Point gas field on Melville Island. One, sited from a reinforced ice platform, confirmed production six miles (9.7 km) offshore to the east. An outpost gas well onshore also extended reserves in the Hecla gas field. In the first months of 1976, two additional gas wells in the latter field were both drilled from reinforced ice platforms; one well produced hydrocarbons in a sandstone horizon deeper than the main productive unit, while the second extended the field six miles (9.7 km) to the northwest in the offshore. Panarctic has indicated that potential reserves in these two gas fields may be in the order of 10.6 MMMMcf (300 billion m³), making them the two largest gas accumulations in all of Canada.

Also early in 1976, a new gas discovery was made in the Jackson Bay G-16 well, drilled from shore-fast ice off Ellef Ringnes Island in 200 ft (60 m) of water. This find adds to the potential already indicated in this sector by the King Christian and other previous gas discoveries.

Eastern offshore region. There were 11 wells drilled off the east coast in 1975 compared with 19 completions in 1974; five new holes were put down in the first nine months of 1976. The most active area was the Labrador Sea where, despite icebergs, deep water and a very brief season for exploration, six wells were drilled in 1975. Three significant gas discoveries by the Eastcan group resulted from drilling only six prospective structures on the Labrador shelf, including Bjarni in 1973 (confirmed by testing in 1974), Gudrid in 1974 and Snorri recently. The latter well indicated hydrocarbons in 1975 on mechanical logs, but was not tested until 1976, when gas flows of 9.8 MMcf (280 000 m³) a day were recorded along with condensate at 235 bbl (37 m³) a day.

Drilling south of the Labrador Sea declined significantly in 1975 with only two wells put down on the Grand Banks, two on the Scotian shelf, and the first well to be drilled in the Bay of Fundy, compared with eight Grand Banks and nine Scotian shelf wells for 1974. No discoveries resulted. The decline in activity was due to the poor results encountered. Exploration on the Scotian shelf was given a boost in early 1976 when Petro-Canada, the national oil company, became a participant in exploration and planned to spend more than \$24 million in drilling six wells there in 1976. Of the five 1976 wells drilled off the east coast in the first three quarters of the year (all on the Scotian shelf), four were financed in whole or in part by Petro-Canada; however, all were dry. No drilling on the Grand Banks or in the Gulf of St. Lawrence was anticipated for 1976.

At the end of the third quarter of 1976, among four drilling units at work off Labrador were three for the Eastcan group and one for BP and partners, which included Petro-Canada. Wells at two of the sites were suspended short of projected depth during 1975 due to the lateness of the season.

Other offshore regions. There was no drilling activity in Hudson Bay in 1975, and none anticipated for 1976. The last two offshore wells in this region were drilled in 1974 by the Aquitaine group. The last wells off the west coast were put down in 1969, and although some interest has been shown in further drilling, activity has been temporarily suspended.

13.2.2.2 Gas

Exploration and development drilling for gas continued the upward trend in 1975 in the western provinces. Completions rose by 9.3% over 1974 to 2,080 wells. Of these, 1,958 were in southeastern Alberta, indicating the industry's continued