

Unconventional Oil and Gas

Unconventional Resources: An unconventional resource refers to an oil or gas-bearing unit where the permeability and porosity are so low that the resource cannot be extracted economically through a vertical well bore and instead requires a horizontal well bore followed by multistage hydraulic fracturing to achieve economic production.

Unconventional resources fall into two broad categories:

1. A widespread, low permeability and porosity gas and/or oil charged horizon. If the horizon is composed primarily of shale, it is referenced as a “shale gas” or “shale oil” resource; and
2. Low permeability and porosity portions of an oil or gas pool that cannot be developed through conventional drilling and completion processes

Currently, virtually all wells being completed in the province are classified as unconventional. This is because the exploration industry can economically develop these widespread resources through the application of horizontal drilling and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing.

