

# What's Shaking in the Barnett Shale?

STEP Dallas, August 11, 2015

[BSEEC.org](http://BSEEC.org) @BSEEC

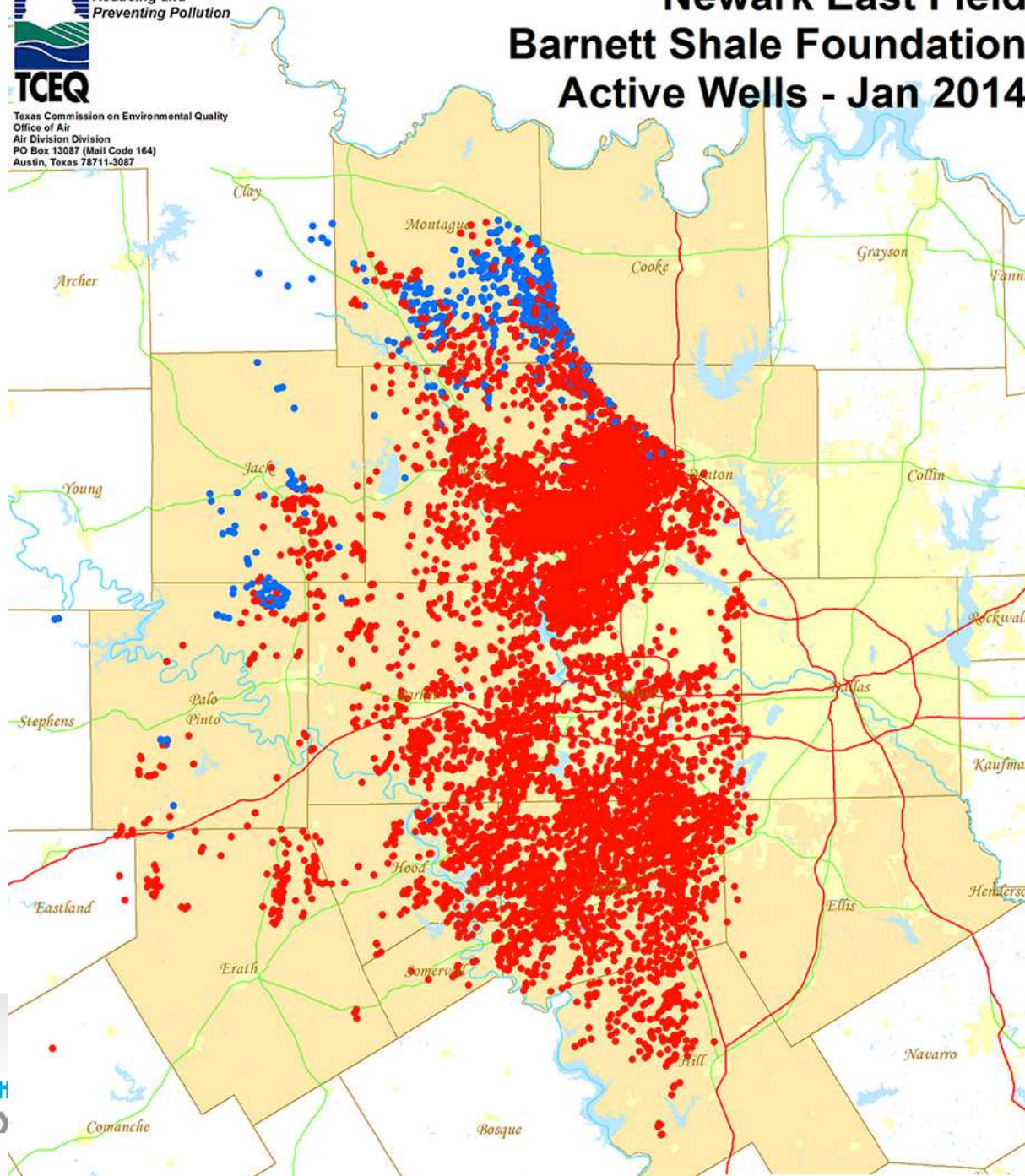


**Barnett Shale**  
Energy Education Council



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
Office of Air  
Air Division Division  
PO Box 13087 (Mail Code 164)  
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

# Newark East Field Barnett Shale Foundation Active Wells - Jan 2014



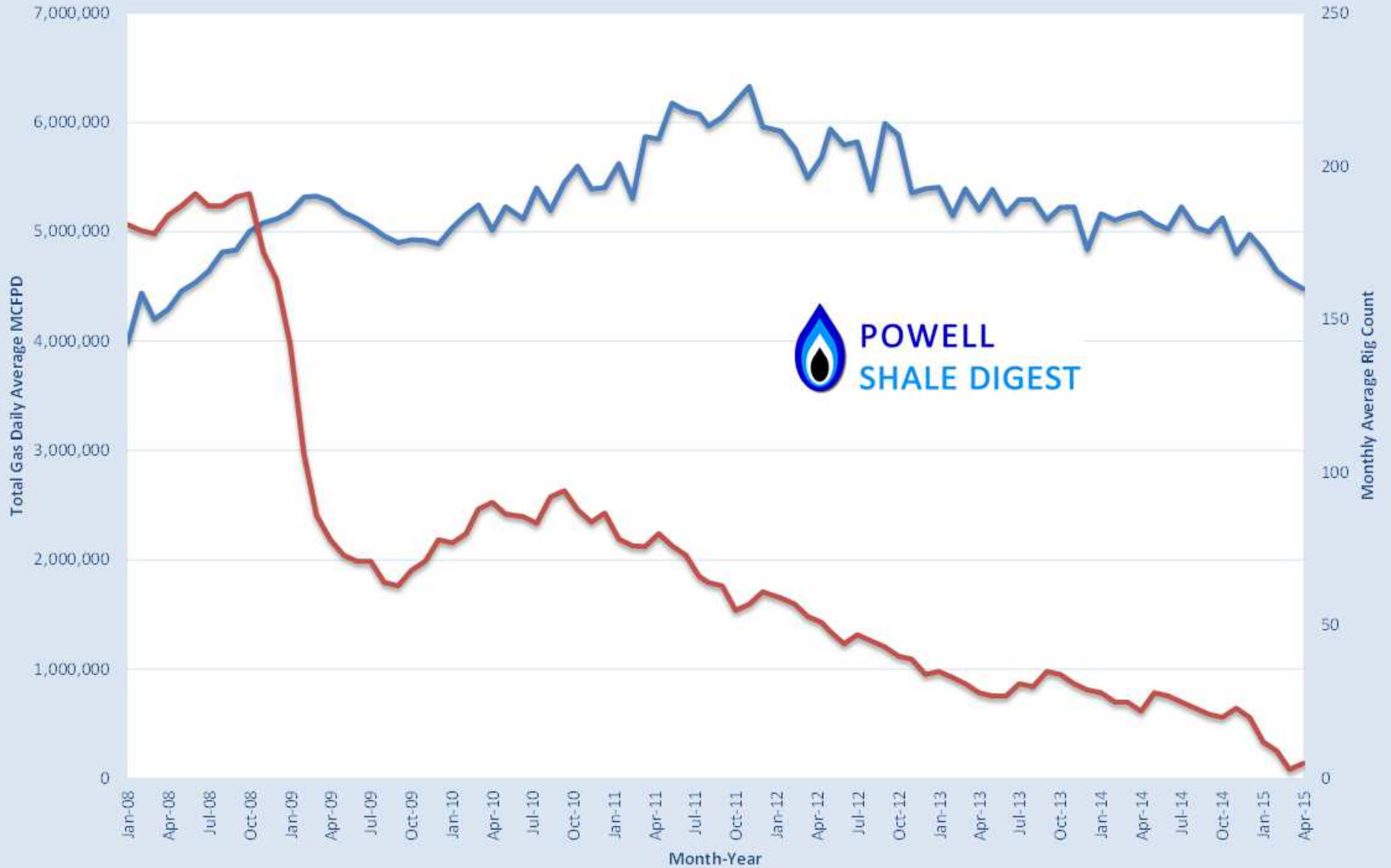
**Barnett  
Energy**

# Barnett Shale Facts

- The Barnett Shale was the first energy shale to be developed and therefore is the birthplace of the shale energy revolution. Hydraulic fracturing combined with horizontal drilling are the miracle technologies that made it happen.
- The Barnett Shale covers 25 counties and 5,000 square miles in North Texas, an area which has a population of over 5 million people.
- Over 20,000 wells, mostly horizontal natural gas wells, have been drilled since 2002.
- This drilling and producing activity is a major economic engine in North Texas and the State of Texas.



# Barnett Shale total Gas Daily Avg. & Mo. Avg. Rig Count 1-1-2008 to 5-1-2015



Sources: Railroad Commission of Texas, RigData

— Total Gas MCFGPD — Mo Avg Rig Count

# Technology

- The relatively stable production in the Barnett Shale shows that oil and gas is a technologically driven industry.
- Barnett Shale wells that were classified as “monster wells” years ago are now the norm.
- It is also interesting to note that the greatest technological gains historically come during periods of low energy prices.



# Economic Impacts of the Barnett Shale: Perryman Study

- Current gains in business activity and tax receipts related to the Barnett Shale
  - \$11.8 billion
  - More than 107,650 permanent jobs
- This economic activity generates annual tax receipts of \$480.6 million to the local government entities, including cities, counties, and school districts and \$644.7 million to the State of Texas
- Approximately 86% of the output and 84% of the jobs are concentrated in four “core” counties: Tarrant, Denton, Johnson and Wise



# Thanks to hydraulic fracturing:

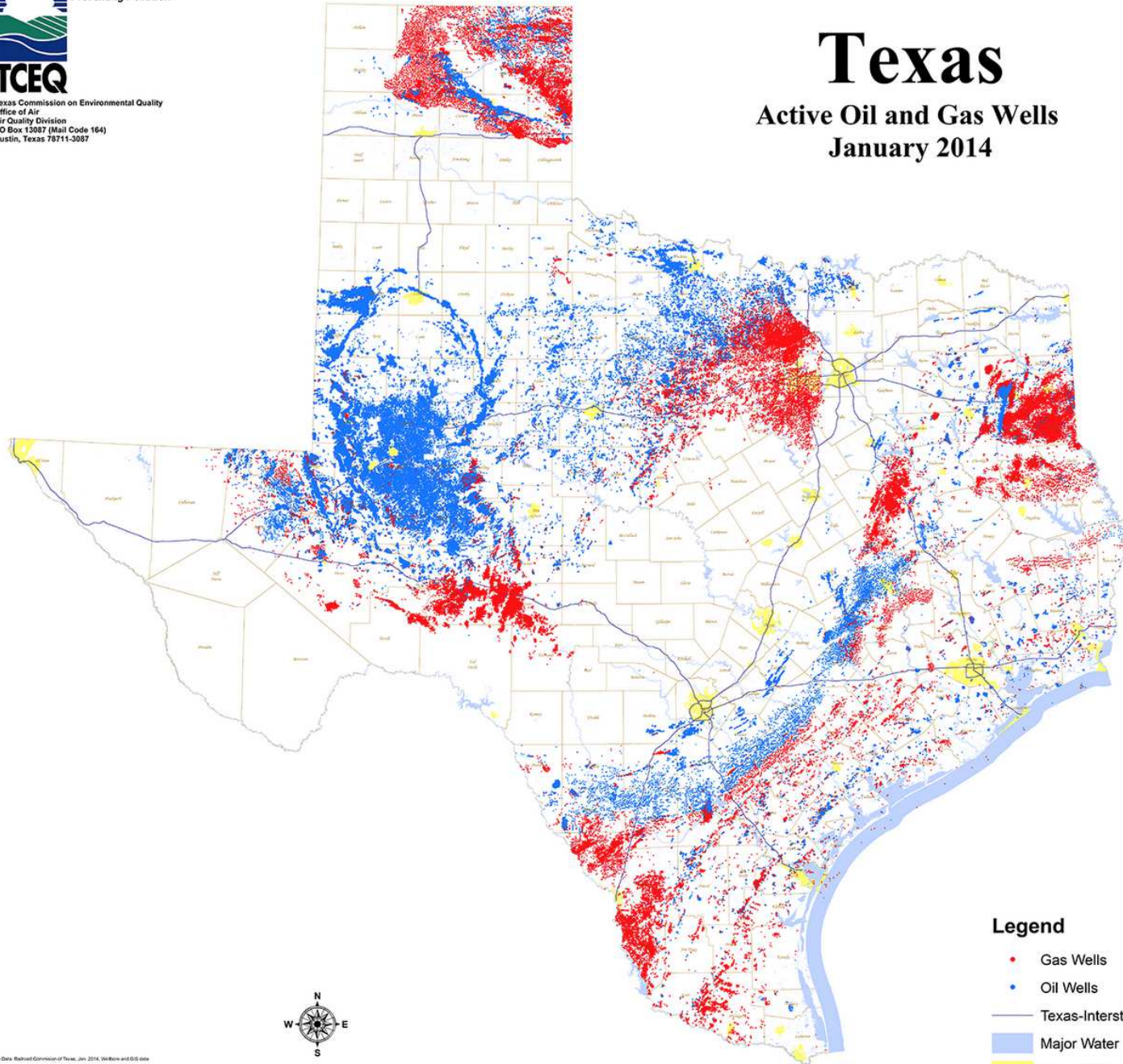
- These economic benefits are being replicated all over the United States.
  - Total economic benefits of oil and gas activities in the U. S., including multiplier effects, are estimated to include almost \$1.2 trillion in gross product each year and more than 9.3 million permanent jobs.
  - When ripple effects throughout the economy are included, oil and natural gas exploration and production supports nearly 7% of the U.S. economy.



# Texas

## Active Oil and Gas Wells

### January 2014



#### Legend

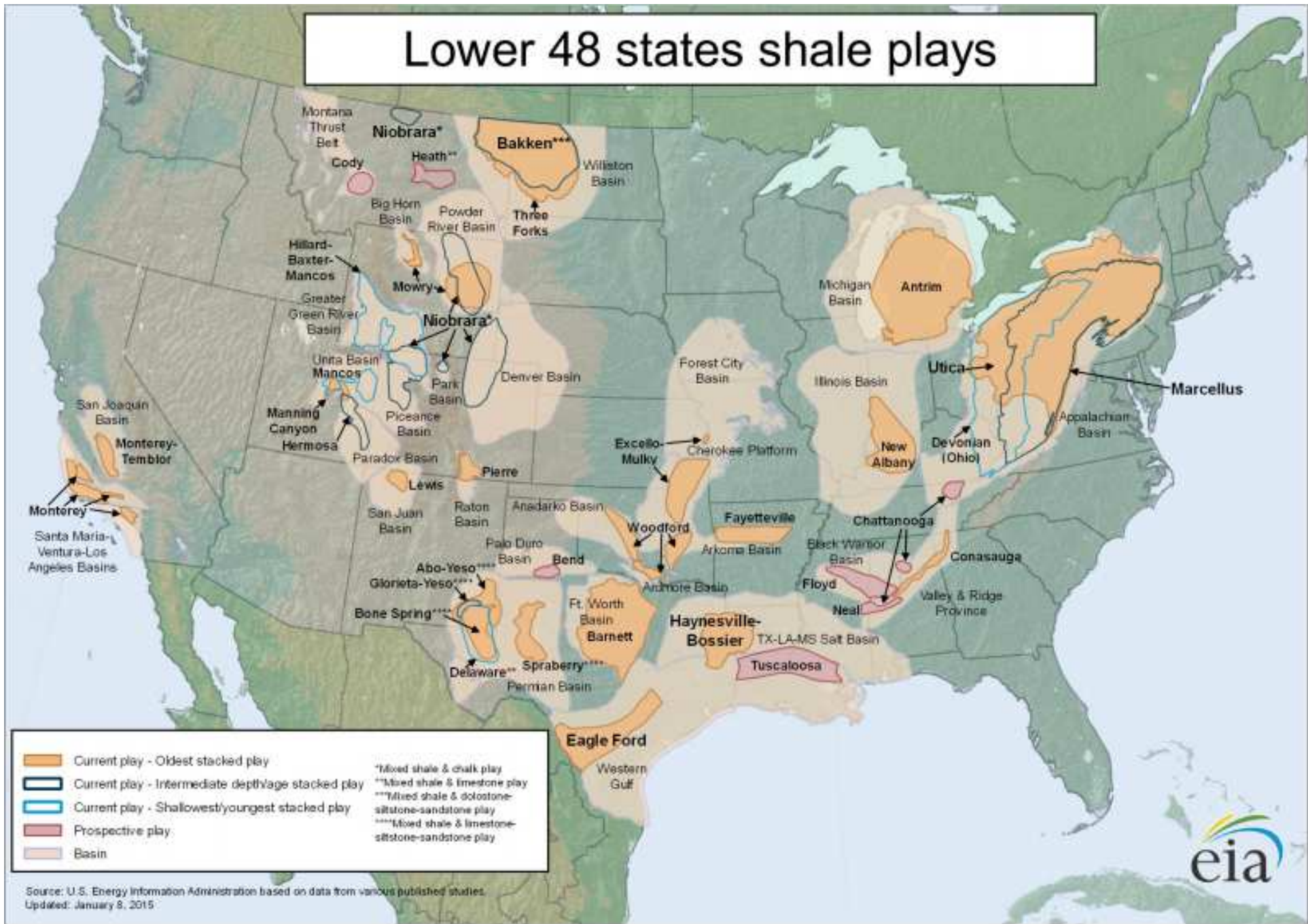
- Gas Wells
- Oil Wells
- Texas-Interstates
- Major Water
- Major Cities
- Counties

Source Data: Railroad Commission of Texas, Jan. 2014, Wellbore and GIS data.  
This map was generated by the Office of Air Quality Division of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and is for informational purposes only. It does not constitute a warranty, representation, or agreement of any kind. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries. For information concerning this map, contact the Air Quality Division at (512) 239-6434.





# Lower 48 states shale plays



# A Whole Lot is Shaking in the Barnett Shale



**Barnett Shale**  
Energy Education Council

# A whole lot is shaking in the Barnett

- Denton banned hydraulic fracturing, Nov. 4, 2014
- TXOGA and GLO files suits challenging ban, Nov. 5, 2014
- Mansfield drilling ordinances updates, March 23, 2015
- SMU study of Azle 2013-2014 earthquakes, April 21, 2015
- HB 40 becomes law, May 18, 2015
- UTA study of water wells, June 16, 2015
- Environmental Defense Fund methane emissions studies, July 7, 2015
- EPA Clean Power Plan Final Rule, August 3, 2015



# Seismic Activity



**Barnett Shale**  
Energy Education Council

# Recent Earthquake activity across US



**Contact Information:**

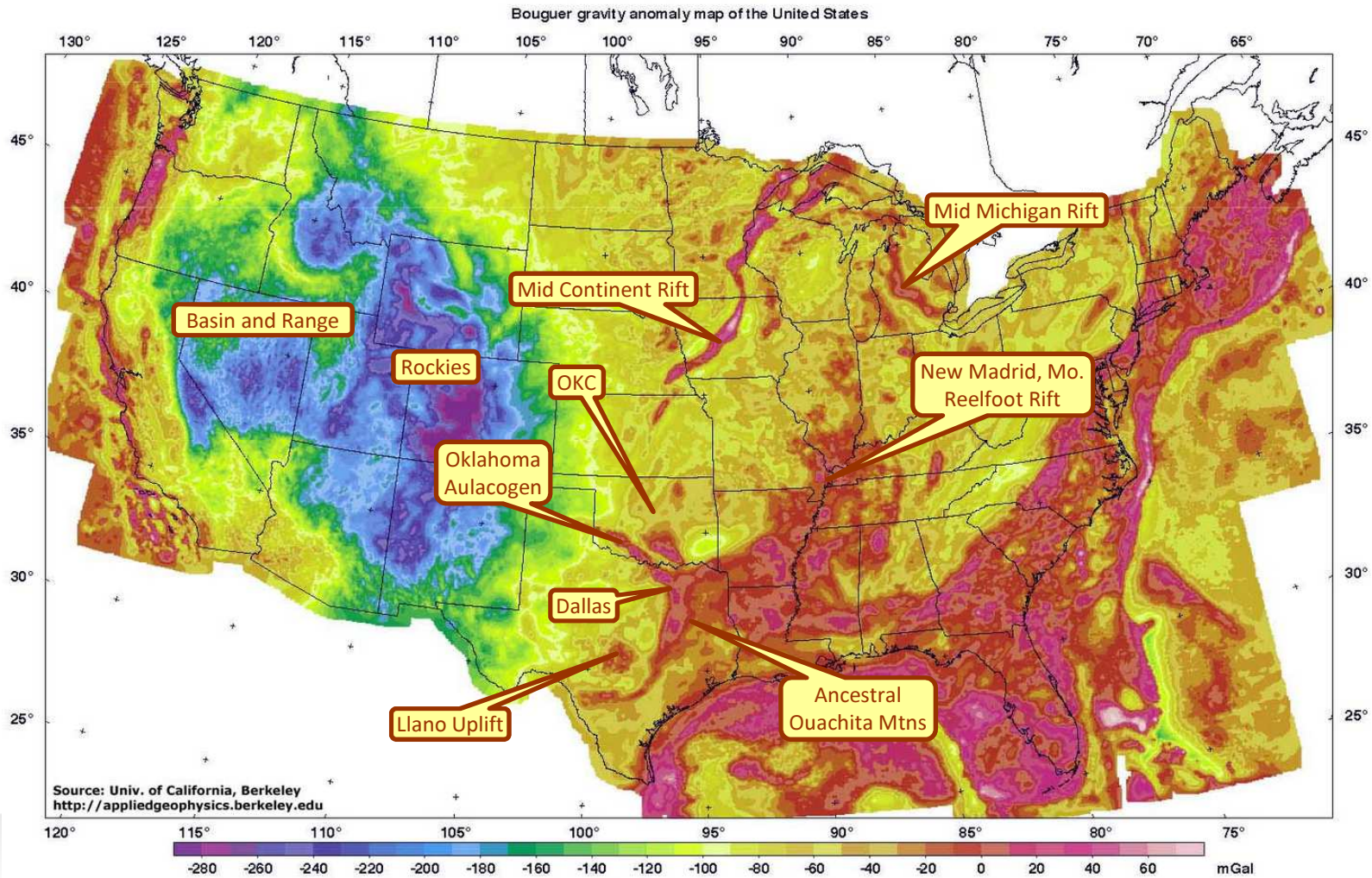
U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey  
Office of Communications and Publishing  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr, MS 119  
Reston, VA 20192

[earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/texas/images/Texas-seis.pdf](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/states/texas/images/Texas-seis.pdf)

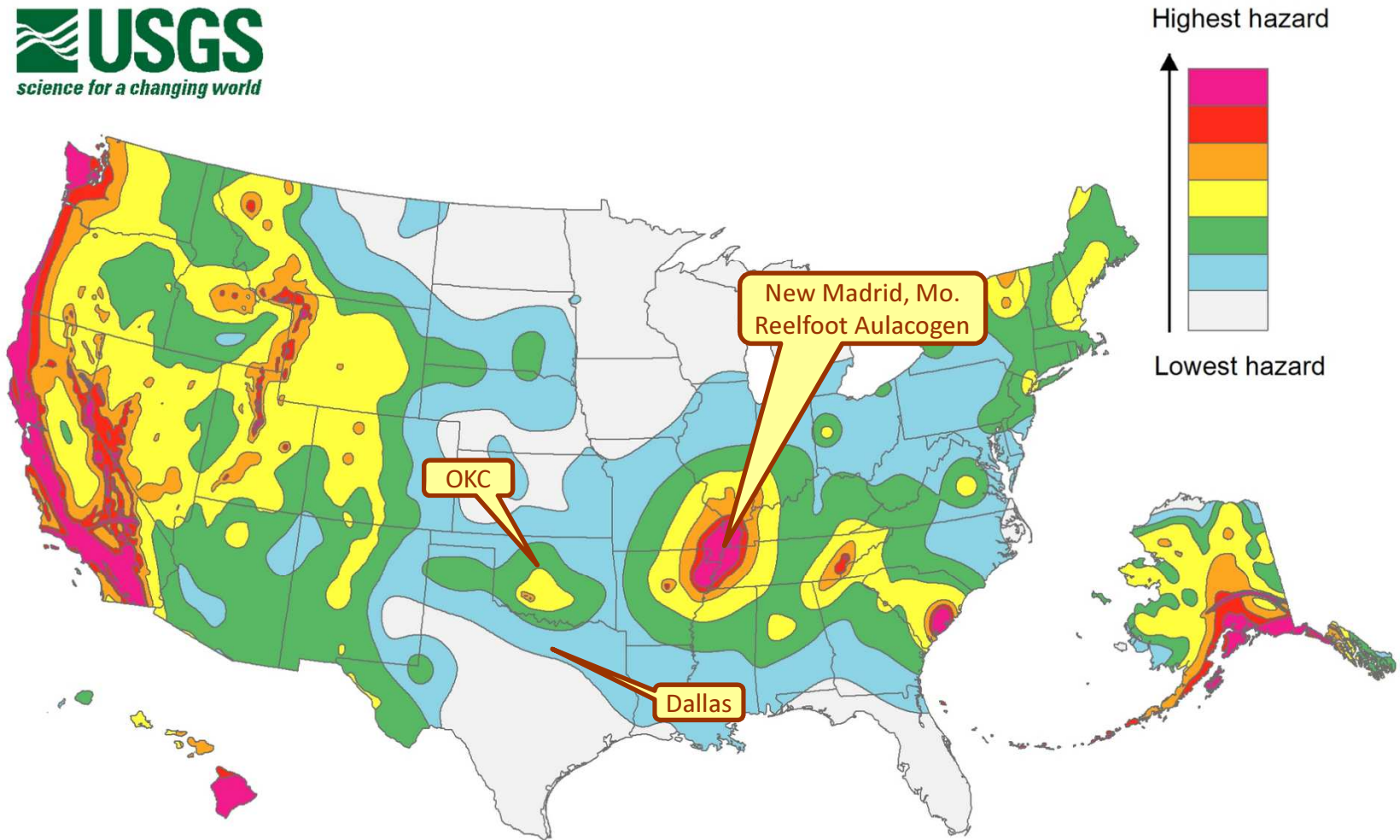


**Barnett Shale**  
Energy Education Council

# US Gravity Map



# USGS Earthquake Hazard Map



# SMU Study of Azle Seismic Activity from 2013-2014

- “Seismic activity began in Nov. 2013 along a mapped ancient fault system near Azle, Texas”
- “On the basis of modeling results and the absence of historical earthquakes near Azle, brine production combined with wastewater disposal represent the most likely cause of recent seismicity.”



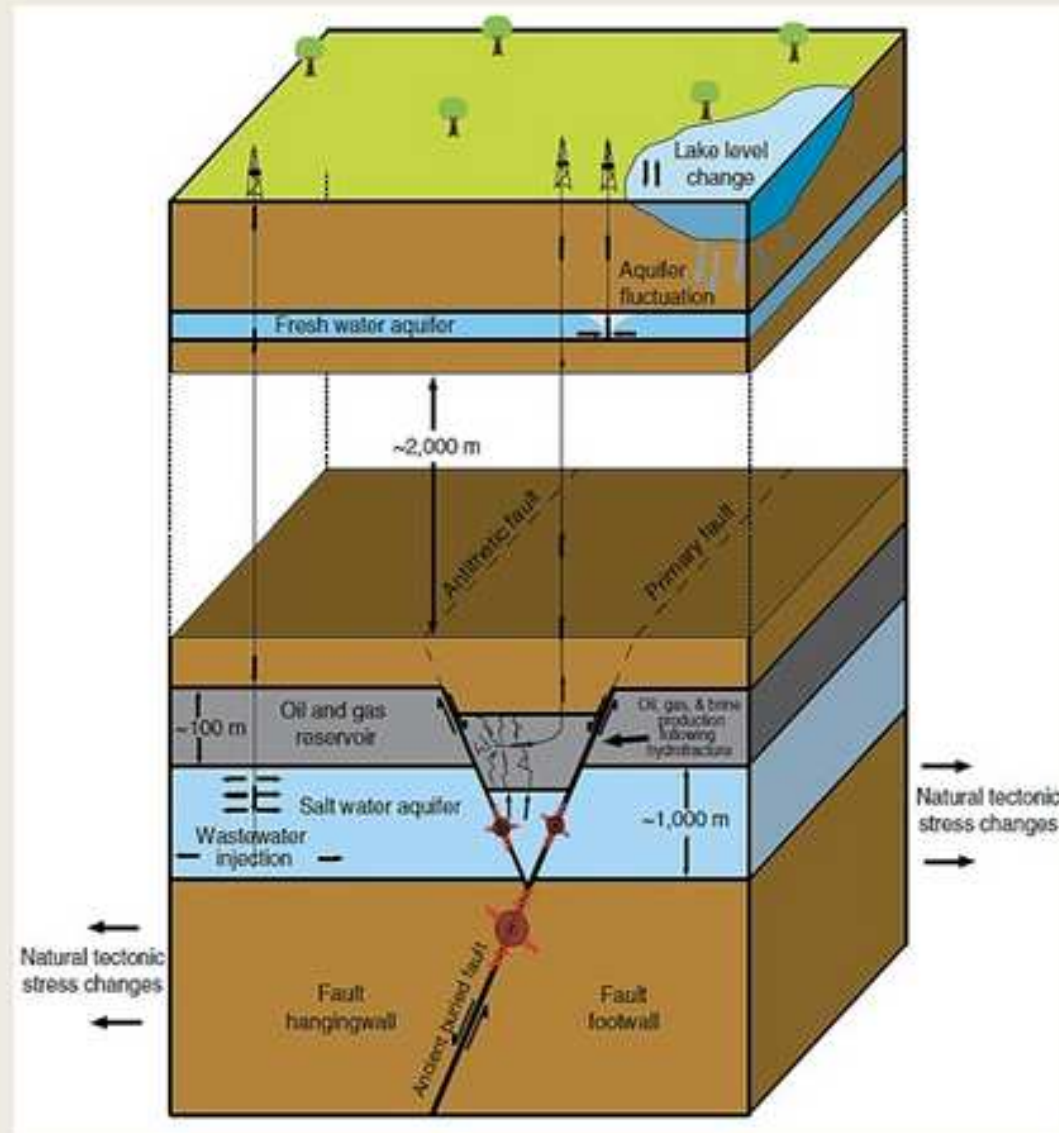


# SMU Study of Seismic Events near Azle, Texas

- “The model shows that a pressure differential develops along one of the faults as a combined result of high fluid injection rates to the west and high water removal rates to the east.”
- “When we ran the model over a 10-years period through a wide range of parameters, it predicted pressure changes significant enough to trigger earthquakes on faults that are already stressed.”
- “Model-predicted stress changes on the fault were typically tens to thousands of times larger than stress changes associated with water level fluctuations caused by the recent Texas Drought.”



## Natural and man-made stress changes that cause earthquakes



Natural and anthropogenic stress changes that may trigger earthquakes in the Azle area. Several natural and anthropogenic (man-made) factors can influence the subsurface stress regime resulting in earthquakes. [Read more](#) in the full report.



**Barnett Shale**  
Energy

# SMU Azle Seismic Study

- “Tens of thousands of currently active injection wells apparently do not induce earthquakes or at least not earthquakes large enough to be felt or recorded by seismic networks.”
- The paper noted that seismic activity and potential correlations need to be assessed carefully since most wastewater injection activities have no connection to seismicity.



# EnerVest Geophysicist Exposed a Major Flaw in the SMU Study

- Analysis showed that the larger seismic sequence began deeper than 20,000 feet below the surface.
- The smaller events identified by SMU's monitors began in the Ellenburger formation which at about 8,000 ft.
- The largest recorded earthquake was a magnitude 3.6, which occurred on Dec. 8, 2013, or several days before SMU's local monitoring network was in place.



# Other Comments

- EnerVest spokesman said the SMU team modeled the wrong fault, and used a groundwater model of a closed system that did not account for dual porosity and permeability in the Ellenberger formation, where EnerVest injected wastewater.
- Andree Griffin, XTO's Vice President of Geology and Geophysics, said "it looks to me like we're in a period of natural tectonism," which is causing earthquakes in Irving, Azle and other areas in north Texas.
- Google "Earth's tectonic plates have doubled their speed"



**Thank You!**



**Barnett Shale**  
Energy Education Council