

Shale Plays Revitalize Northeast Gas Activity, David D. Reimers, IHS, Houston, TX 77056, david.reimers@ihs.com

Old and new companies are showing renewed interest in the northeastern U.S., largely due to unconventional resource plays in the Appalachian, Illinois, and Michigan Basins. Higher prices for gas have created an economic incentive to develop shale gas resources to help meet demand. The number of shale gas well completions in the basins of the northeastern U.S. has increased during each of the past 5 years. Of particular importance is a strong increase in activity in the Devonian shales, accompanied by a lesser, but steady increase in the Antrim Shale. The Devonian shale production continues to increase, but the overall total gas production from shales decreased slightly during the same time period. Generated maps illustrate the active basins of these plays and the expansion during this 5-year period. The recent innovations in shale production treatments and the rising price of natural gas have been instrumental in this increase, and drilling in 2007 should continue to follow this trend.