



McHenry, Where? *If you travel Highway 158 or happen to be in downtown Bronte or Robert Lee, you have probably seen the blue or purple trucks coming through town. They seem to travel in groups of at least four trucks and run through Coke County several times a day on Highway 158. I'd seen them several times before I was able to read the sign on the door – Super Aggregate * McHenry, Illinois. One of our commissioners explained they were hauling fracking sands from near Brady to all points west.*



Safety First! *More crime and vehicle accidents are two of the drawbacks accompanying increased oil and gas activity. Currently, we are on the fringe of the oil and gas activity and haven't seen many accidents or had many crimes reported which trace directly to the "oil boom". However, Coke County Sheriff Wayne McCutchen urges residents to be vigilant in reporting suspicious activity and to be extremely careful when traveling on roadways becoming increasingly clogged with oilfield traffic. The photo at left was taken Thursday afternoon, March 21, 2013, at the intersection of Highway 277 and Highway 158 in Bronte.*

The Basics of Oil & Natural Gas
Source: LPOperating.com
Supply vs. Demand

Supply
Oil and Natural Gas hydrocarbons are decayed plants and animals from millions of years ago. They cannot be replaced. Our domestic supply is limited to the cost and participation to get it out of the ground. We have been relying on foreign imports to feed our needs. Approximately 70% of our daily usage is from imported oil. We are constantly looking for more economical ways to reduce our dependency on foreign oil. It will not happen anytime soon.

Demand
Domestic consumption of oil and natural gas is constantly changing. The fact is the United States and the rest of the world are very dependent on hydrocarbons for our day to day lives. There is no substitute for oil. Although wind, solar, and hydro will help offset the world demand for oil, we have yet to see another way to make a plastic bottle!

Upstream vs. Downstream
The term "upstream" refers to the process of exploration and production. The U.S. is the world's third largest producer with more than 500,000 wells and 4,000 platforms producing nearly 2 billion barrels of oil annually.

The term "downstream" is the process by which crude oil is converted to petroleum products we use every day. Nearly 165,000 miles of pipeline transport crude from the field or ocean platforms to the 141 U.S. refineries, where 15 million barrels of oil is processed each day and delivered to more than 161,000 retailers across the country.

Petroleum Products from Crude
Gasoline is the life blood of our country and allows for an unprecedented level of freedom. Diesel fuel is critically important to our economy powering trucks and freight trains that transport 70% of this nation's goods. The use of natural gas has increased in popularity for those who wish to heat and cool their homes using a clean, safe and clean-burning alternative. Heating oil, extremely popular in the northeast, is used by 8.5 million households.

Finding Oil & Natural Gas – Know Your Team
An important aspect of oil and natural gas exploration is knowing where to look. That job falls to the geologist who employs science and reasoning to raw data. Over the last few years, the technology used to locate and evaluate prospects (commercially exploitable accumulation of oil and natural gas) has

Wide Load! *For several years, residents in Coke County and the surrounding area became accustomed to wind turbine parts being transported on our highways – complete with pilot cars. As the wind fields around us were completed, this traffic slowed to a trickle. Now, we are moving over for and being stuck behind trailers hauling drilling rigs, heavy machinery and huge tanks (left).*

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