

BOARD HISTORY

The State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama was established in 1945 to regulate the development of the State's petroleum resources. The creation of the Board was the culmination of the previous 80-year period of intermittent oil and gas development that at times included wasteful practices. The Board was established to prevent waste and ensure the conservation of the State's petroleum resources while protecting correlative rights of owners.

Alabama became an oil producing state with the first commercial discovery of oil at Gilbertown in Choctaw County in February 1944. In May 1945, the Legislature created the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama in its present form, which consists of three people who are appointed by the Governor of Alabama for staggered terms of six years each and with the State Geologist, as State Oil and Gas Supervisor, serving as ex officio secretary of the Board.

Walter B. Jones, third State Geologist of Alabama, became the first State Oil and Gas Supervisor and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1961. Other State Geologists and Oil and Gas Supervisors following Jones have been Philip E. LaMoreaux, who served from 1961 to 1976; Thomas J. Joiner, who served from 1977 to 1981; Ernest A. Mancini, who served from 1982 to 1996; and Donald F. Oltz, who served from 1996 to 2002. Berry H. (Nick) Tew, Jr., is the present State Geologist and State Oil and Gas Supervisor. To date 25 people have been appointed and served as Members of the State Oil and Gas Board. The present Board Members are James H. (Jim) Griggs, Chairman; Charles E. (Ward) Pearson, Vice-Chairman; and Rebecca Wright Pritchett, Member.

For more information on the history of the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama, consult Oil and Gas Report 19, "A History of the Origins and the Early Years of the State Oil and Gas Board of Alabama." Numerous other publications regarding the petroleum resources in the State by the State Oil and Gas Board and Geological Survey of Alabama are available. A listing of these publications can be generated by clicking on "Publications" and searching by keyword for "oil."