

Indiana Geological Survey

Petroleum Topic Report

Description of Publication No. 108 (Logan, 1931)

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Publication 108 (Logan, 1931, currently out of print), or "Pub 108" as it is commonly known, primarily contains driller's logs (brief descriptions of penetrated strata and other pertinent information), of hundreds of early wells drilled in Indiana. For many of these wells, Pub 108 contains the only information presently available. The quality of the descriptions is variable and tends to be rather cursory. The reader should note that no geophysical logs were run on the wells reported in this text because the volume's 1931 publication date precedes by several years the first use of such logs in Indiana (thought to be 1938 -- see Zuppann, 1996).

During the 1950s, Indiana Geological Survey (IGS) geologists went into the field and attempted to verify the reported location and other data for every petroleum test well that had been drilled in Indiana. This "field checking" program yielded mixed results for wells contained in Pub 108. Although many well locations and their elevations were verifiable, many others were not. Additionally, the completion type and/or other well data associated with Pub 108 wells remains uncertain or unknown to this day. Records in the IGS's online Petroleum Database Management System (PDMS) at <http://igs.indiana.edu/pdms/> will ultimately identify these uncertainties; however, to date, no systematic review has been undertaken to determine which well records in the PDMS actually reflect qualitative information reported in Pub 108. Additionally, most well records in the PDMS do not indicate whether the corresponding well is contained in Pub 108, although this indication will be made at some time in the future.

References

Logan, William N., 1931, The sub-surface strata of Indiana: Indiana Department of Conservation Publication 108, 790 p.

Zuppann, Charles W., 1996, Answer of the month: Indiana-Kentucky Geological Society, February Newsletter, p 1.