

Drilling practices and challenges: with some of the deepest and longest laterals in Canada, what are some of the challenges and successes in the Duvernay

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Horizontal exploitation of the Duvernay reservoir commenced in 2011. Since the rig release of that well, hundreds of additional wells have been rig released. As of today, 357 wells have been placed on production. Since that first lateral, drilling practices in the Duvernay have steadily evolved to deliver longer and more productive laterals while requiring less rig time and capital.

FCOG members have drilled >90% of the total Duvernay wells in their operations area. Data from these wells is shared amongst members both via public data available and open discussion within the group. Over the history of the play, the genesis of drilling practices has evolved from simplistic use of mud motors to various rotary steerable assemblies now becoming the norm. The ability to produce detailed comparison of practices has allowed each member to advance their own technology at an incrementally faster rate and achieve significant cost savings, while at the same time, reducing the same costly mistakes other companies have observed. A review of practices, both historic and current will be presented.