



FORMERLY POWELL BARNETT SHALE NEWSLETTER - SINCE 2003

# POWELL SHALE DIGEST



## Former Texas Regulator Returns to Europe

Texas is again being represented in Europe by John Tintera who we consider one of the real experts on oil and gas regulatory matters. This time he travels to the Ukraine the first week of June as an expert on regulatory requirements for developing unconventional reservoirs. This is Tintera's 4th trip overseas since leaving as the Executive Director, Railroad Commission of Texas, the state authority over oil and gas after 22 years and forming Sebree & Tintera, LLC, with Ben Sebree, noted capitol attorney and lobbyist.

This trip to the Ukraine is sponsored by a non-partisan Washington DC think- tank, the Atlantic Council. It is part of their Energy and Environment initiative in Europe. It will include meetings in two cities, Kiev and Lviv, and as well as conferences associated with the trip.

The conference will provide a platform for experts from around the world to discuss oil and gas development issues with a focus on unconventional reservoirs. "Texas is the economic envy of the world regarding oil and gas production", says Tintera, "because of the technology, capital investment, and regulatory framework that encourages safe development of the resource." Tintera's presentations focus on the need for a comprehensive framework of regulations that ensure the three priorities of oil and gas development, 1. Public Safety; 2. Environmental Protection; and 3. Economic Development.

A common link Tintera has discerned between Europe and Texas is the ownership of the mineral interests. In Europe, it is not unusual for the commonwealth, nation, or state to own the minerals, not the surface owner. In Texas, mineral interests are frequently separated from the surface ownership. In both models this sets up the possibility of conflict between development and land use. There are solutions though, and Tintera crafts his advice for the specific regions he visits.

Tintera is frequently questioned about the political aspects of the regulatory model in Texas, and his advice to countries that want to develop there unconventional shale gas reserves is "Energy policy is politicized world-wide, and while that is an unavoidable fact, regulators should focus on the science, facts, and due process and let the government officials these sovereign nations address the political decisions needed for development."

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