

Record locator for EnergyWire spill database published May 12, 2014

Below is a guide to the data in each column of the spill data, by column name.

State: Indicates the state where the spill occurred. See below for the state agency that provided the data.

County: Where the spill took place, if provided by the state

City: Most states do not provide. In Pennsylvania, it often reflects townships.

Company: The owner of the well where the spill occurred or the entity state officials consider to be the responsible party.

API Number: Widely used identifying number for oil and gas wells. Provided where available. Where possible, the number was standardized to be a 10-digit number including the numbers for state, county, and individual well number.

Facility Name: Where provided by the state. Well sites are often named after the surface landowner.

Date: Usually the date the spill occurred or was discovered. In some cases, it reflects when the spill was reported to state authorities.

Material Spilled: Different states use different terms for drilling wastewater, including "salt water" and "produced water."

Amount Spilled: Where provided by the state. If more than one material was spilled, the volume is combined.

Unit: Barrels, gallons, mcf, pounds, etc.

Amount Recovered: Where available

Was Water Affected? Depending on how the state reports the data, the column could indicate "Yes," or "No" or name the type or body of water. Not every state provides such information.

Cause: Most states do not provide this. Those that do vary from long descriptions to one- or two-word statements

Latitude: Where available

Longitude: Where available

Notes: These are the verbatim comments of inspectors or other state personnel responding to the spill, contained in records provided by the state. They are not notes or comments of EnergyWire or E&E Publishing.

Sources of the data:

Alaska: Department of Environmental Conservation, provided after request.

California: California Emergency Management Agency,
<http://www.calema.ca.gov/HazardousMaterials/Documents/Spill%20Release%20Reporting/Archive%20Spill%20Reports/Hazmat%20Spill%20Reports%202013.xls>

Colorado: Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, data downloaded from "Database" on agency website, supplemented with information from an information request to the agency.

Kansas: Kansas Corporation Commission, provided after a request under state open-records law

Montana: Department of Environmental Quality, provided after request

New Mexico:
<https://wwwapps.emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd/ocdpermitting/Data/Incidents/Spills.aspx>

North Dakota: Department of Mineral Resources, purchased by EnergyWire

Ohio: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, provided after a request under state open-records law

Oklahoma: Oklahoma Corporation Commission, provided after request

Pennsylvania: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, raw number provided after request.

Texas: <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/environmental/spills/h8s/index.php>

Utah: Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, provided after request

West Virginia: Department of Environmental Protection, provided after request

Wyoming: Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, provided after request