

17.1 **Progress on AMSO's RD&D pilot test program**

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American Shale Oil LLC (AMSO) is a joint venture between IDT Corporation and Total S.A. and is one of three companies holding RD&D Leases in Colorado's Piceance Basin issued by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Our strategy is to demonstrate and commercialize shale oil recovery from the illitic shale in the Garden Gulch member of the Green River Formation. Results from AMSO's research program and pilot design and construction are reviewed. A logging and geochemical characterization program in collaboration with Schlumberger-Doll Research has been completed. High-pressure pyrolysis and heater demonstration experiments development have been conducted at Shale Technology LLC under conditions expected in our in-situ retorts. In addition, a rock mechanics program with Agapito Associates and New England Research has characterized differences between shale from the Parachute Creek and Garden Gulch members. Our baseline hydrological monitoring program in collaboration with Western Water and Land is completed and all permits for our pilot retorting test are in place. The pilot test design has been modified to include a branched heater well and a vertical production well to enhance convection. Infrastructure is in place at the pilot retort site, construction of the oil and gas and surface processing facilities started in April, and drilling and completion of the heater and production wells is planned for winter. The pilot test will be conducted in the first half of 2011.