

Pilot test of AMSO's CCRTM in-situ oil shale process

Roger Day¹, Alan Burnham¹, John Foulkes³, James McConaghy², Leonard Switzer III¹, Pierre Allix⁴

¹American Shale Oil LLC, USA, ²Antero Engineering LLC, USA, ³TOTAL S.A., USA, ⁴TOTAL S.A., France

American Shale Oil, LLC (AMSO), is owned 50% each by IDT Corporation and TOTAL, SA. It has constructed and begun to operate pilot test facilities to assess the heat and mass transfer characteristics of its Conduction, Convection, Reflux (CCRTM) In-Situ Oil Shale Process. The underground facilities include a vertical production well and a deviated heater well that intersects the production well at two depths. The retort region is surrounded by six wells that monitor the retort progress by optical fiber temperature measurements, microseismic emissions, continuous active source seismic monitoring, and electrical resistance tomography. The surface facilities collect and process the produced oil and gas vapors, and the naphtha fraction is returned to the retort to provide proper reflux action underground. The pilot test is expected to continue into 2012.