

Fairways plans southern expansion of Smackover program in Alabama

Fairways Exploration & Production has staked a 14,500-ft wildcat in eastern Escambia County, Alabama, south of an exploratory test drilled by the company in early November.

Fairways' 1 Nalty "5-11" (API 01-053-20638) is scheduled to be drilled in the ne ne sw of section 5-1n-12e. The company's venture is expected to bottom in the Paleozoic, targeting oil pays in the Smackover.

One and one-half miles to the northeast is Sonat Exploration's 1 Nalty Unit "33-15" in section 33-2n-12e. It was abandoned in 1987 at a total depth of 13,800 ft in the Smackover.

Three and three-quarters of a mile north of Fairways' new location is the company's 1 Cedar Creek Land & Timber "17-14" (API 01-053-20634) in section 17-2n-12e. The wildcat was drilled to a total depth of 13,466 ft with five-inch casing set on bottom. Fairways was last reported waiting on completion tools at the anticipated Smackover oil producer.

Ten miles further to the north are numerous Smackover oil wells recently completed by Sklar Exploration and Pruet Production along the far southern edge of Conecuh County in the rapidly expanding Cedar Creek field. Several Smackover wells have tested at rates of up to 400 bbls of crude per day.

Smackover drilling is spilling into northeastern Escambia County, with Sklar recently permitting or drilling several tests in the area. One of the company's latest permitted ventures -- the 1 Cedar Creek Land & Timber "5-1" (API 01-053-20633) -- is slated to reach a depth of 12,488 ft in the Paleozoic. It is expected to be drilled in section 5-3n-12e.

Earlier Paleozoic tests drilled in northeastern Escambia County reached depths of around 12,400 ft.

