DRILLING ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES

January 17, 1844 to December 31, 1899

January 1, 1900 to December 31, 1924

January 1, 1925 to December 31, 1949

January 1, 1950 to December 31, 1974

January 1, 1975 to December 31, 1999

January 1, 2000 to January 6, 2011

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS & REGULATIONS
1863 PA enacts first anti-pollution law preventing running of tar and distillery refuse into creeks
1870 NY mandates plugging of abandoned oil and natural gas wells to prevent freshwater contamination
1873 OH enacts law regulating methods of casing and plugging of oil and natural gas wells
1890 PA enacts first law requiring non-producing and plugging oil and natural gas wells
1899 TX enacts law on groundwater protection, well development, and plugging
1914–1919 First relief well to control a blowout used in the oil field in Oklahoma
1921 First experimental use of seismic surveying
1921–1924 Start of Great Depression
1927–1933 First large-scale carbon dioxide-enhanced water recovery, Scurry County, TX
1933–1945 WWII
1956–1957 Great depression

OIL & GAS TECHNOLOGY
1839 Natural gas in Fredonia, NY, by William Hart
1859 First use of gas in a street engine in Elmira, NY
1863 Pennsylvania first law against open burning of gas
1870 Internal combustion engine invented
1872 First practical incandescent lamp invented
1876 Incandescent lamp patented
1879 Wright brothers take first flight
1907 Thomas Edison invents incandescent lamp
1908 First Model T
1913 Lane Brothers’ first flight
1915 First gas station
1925 First commercial nuclear power plant
1945 World’s first nuclear explosion
1955 First integrated circuit
1960 First large-scale geothermal power plant, The Geysers, CA
1965 Oilseeds and Animal Oils

ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS & REGULATIONS
1935 Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission (IOGCC) established (OK, TX, CO, IL, NM, and KS)
1944 Multiple states enact moratoria on aspects of oil and gas conservation and environmental regulation to support war effort
1946 KS Board of Housing authorized to regulate oil field site disposal
1947 Bureau of Land Management created by President Harry Truman
1948 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA)
1949 Oil & Gas Technology
1952 W. A. Mullins Shippingport, PA
1954 First integrated circuit
1957 First man walks on the moon (Neil Armstrong)

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