

**U.S. Geological Survey  
Digital Data Series DDS-69-Y**

***National Oil and Gas Assessment Project:*  
Oil Shale and Nahcolite Resources of the Piceance Basin, Colorado**

By U.S. Geological Survey Oil Shale Assessment Team

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
KEN SALAZAR, Secretary

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
Marcia K. McNutt, Director

For sale by U.S. Geological Survey Information Services  
Box 25286, Building 810  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225-0086  
Telephone (303) 202-4200

For more information about the U.S. Geological Survey and its products:  
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## **Introduction**

This report presents an in-place assessment of the oil shale and nahcolite resources of the Green River Formation in the Piceance Basin of western Colorado. The Piceance Basin is one of three large structural and sedimentary basins that contain vast amounts of oil shale resources in the Green River Formation of Eocene age. The other two basins, the Uinta Basin of eastern Utah and westernmost Colorado, and the Greater Green River Basin of southwest Wyoming, northwestern Colorado, and northeastern Utah also contain large resources of oil shale in the Green River Formation, and these two basins will be assessed separately.

Estimated in-place oil is about 1.5 trillion barrels, based on Fischer assay results from boreholes drilled to evaluate oil shale, making it the largest oil shale deposit in the world. The estimated in-place nahcolite resource is about 43.3 billion short tons.

## **Contact Information**

This volume is one of a series of products resulting from the National Oil and Gas Assessment project of the U.S. Geological Survey. Inquiries about this CD-ROM or the project should be addressed to:

Ronald C. Johnson, Project Chief

U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25046, Mail Stop 939

Denver Federal Center  
Denver, CO 80225-0046

Telephone: (303) 236-5546

E-mail: [rcjohnson@usgs.gov](mailto:rcjohnson@usgs.gov)



***Click here to return to  
Main Contents***

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## Using This CD

The descriptive and interpretive text chapters of this volume are in PDF format. Use Adobe Acrobat Reader, version 7.0 or later to access these chapters.

Contained on this CD-ROM are tabular data and graphical data in support of the assessment. The chapter text PDF contains links to the data and images. Data-table files in various formats are presented, usable in spreadsheet and database software. Graphical and summary-table files are presented as portable document format files (.pdf files) and spreadsheets.

GIS information is presented in the Spatial folder and its subfolders that contain the spatial data and documentation. The Spatial folder can be found on Disc 2.

The Spatial/Doc folder contains metadata for the Piceance Basin spatial data in .htm format. Metadata can also be found embedded with the Spatial Data in .xml format for use in ESRI's ArcCatalog.

## Contents of This CD-ROM

When the CD-ROM is opened, the following folders appear on the screen:

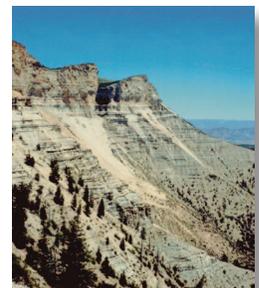
OPEN\_FIRST—from OPEN\_FIRST.pdf in this folder, navigate to the ReadMe file, pages of chapter titles, spatial data.

READ\_ME—you can access the ReadMe file from this folder also.

REPORTS—listing of, and links to, the chapters, plus the supporting data.

SUPPORT DATA—folder containing files for the histograms and spreadsheets used in Chapter 7.

SPATIAL DATA—folder containing the ReadMe\_spatial.pdf for the GIS data that can be found on Disc 2.



*Click here to return to*  
**Main Contents**