

Unconventional petroleum exploitation VII: layer-parallel drilling

The exploitation of unconventional petroleum resources hinges in part on drilling *along and within* petroleum-bearing strata, rather than *through* them. This kind of drilling is commonly called “horizontal drilling”, which is adequate to describe drilling in horizontal strata (as is shown at right). However, modern drilling technology allows drilling in almost any orientation, so the more general term would be “layer-parallel drilling” (as is shown below).

