Coals and black shales in the Middle Pennsylvanian Cherokee and Infermont Groups are becoming increasingly important commercial sources for unconventional gas in eastern Kansas, with over 200 wells being drilled in the Cherokee group -- a cyclothemic unit composed of coals and black shales in the eastern Kansas. Most of these coals are in the Cherokee Group, with a maximum of 250 to 300 scf/ton, some shallow and isotopic analyses ( >1.4m) of methane) for geothermal and geochemical factors influencing the emerging coalbed gas play in the Cherokee and Forest City Basins in eastern Kansas. Analyses of conventionally-produced gases from eastern Kansas indicate that these gases also can have a microbial component, with a thermogenic influence increasing with increasing gas production. Higher gas prices, increasing demand for natural gas, and new technologies have turned coalbed gas into an active energy play in the U.S.A. Coalbed gas now represents 314 TCF (314 billion cubic feet) of gas, which is one of the largest onshore gas resources in the world. Gas production from various basins, states, and countries is expected to follow this pattern. The Cherokee and Forest City basins have shallow eastern flanks that are steep and faulted against the Nemaha uplift. Pennsylvanian coal-bed gas production has occurred in the eastern part of the basin, and is thought to represent a transition between the major producing basins of the Arkoma basin and the D-J basin. Most coalbed gas development in eastern Kansas is in the Cherokee basin, with major production starting in the early 90s. The present viability of these pilot projects has yet to be determined. One potential concern is the long-term viability of pipelines crossing the interstate.