

NOGS LOG

July 2006

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JULY AND AUGUST ACTIVITIES

NOGS Events

July 10 - NOGS Luncheon

Rob Cunningham, Remote Sensing/GIS Coordinator for LSU School of the Coast & Environment, Natural Systems Modeling Group, will present "A Shining Star in the Katrina Disaster: LIDAR", on the use of LIDAR-derived topographic data in post Katrina rescue efforts, and flood and storm surge modeling.

(See Page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

LE PAVILLON HOTEL

Check with concierge or
desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

ADMISSION:

with reservation \$25.00

without reservation \$30.00

Student Member with reservation Free

August 7 - NOGS Luncheon

Ken LaBry of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc. will speak on process and methodologies of shallow hazard identification.

August 24-25 - 10th Annual GOM Deepwater Technical Symposium

The Symposium is a joint effort between the Delta Section of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), New Orleans Geological Society (NOGS), and American Association of Drilling Engineers (AADE). New Orleans Hilton Riverside. Register at <http://www.spe-delta.org/>.

Dear NOGS members and advisors,

FROM THE EDITOR

I am excited about taking over the *NOGS Log* editorship for 2006-2007. As I take over the responsibility from Paul Post, I am grateful for Paul's leadership in pulling the *NOGS Log* and website back together during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As I begin my term as editor, my personal goal is simple - to provide the membership with a volume of information that is of interest professionally and personally. In particular I hope to get feedback from you in response to what you read in the Log, hear at luncheons or your observations and opinions about local geology and industry. Send your comments to log@nogs.org (include Log Comments in the subject line) and they will be published. I look forward to an exciting year as NOGS grows with New Orleans.



Robert Rooney
Editor *NOGS Log*
E-mail: log@nogs.org

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from the President

“In The Beginning....”

...But this isn't Genesis, and despite the inundation of our NOGS household, the foundation which our Society rests remains strong, and its inhabitants resolute. We were very lucky, not only in the preservation of all NOGS records, but also in the preservation of our Board.

This past year we had a GREAT Board which kick-started the organization by early October. If I was a company, there isn't one person I would not consider hiring based upon the past year's experience.

In June of 2005 Bret Hampton held a meeting in which he had us determine the priorities of the organization. The focus was to be on membership. Post-return, that not only has not changed, but also has become even more critical. EVERY member is important and needs to be served. Bret, a long-time member and committee Chairman, was an outstanding leader and super-organized. He set up the Board meeting teleconferences through Shell, which facilitated our re-emergence as rapidly as it could have occurred. Despite his transfer to Houston, he continues to be a big help on a number of issues, such as honors and awards.

Scott Wainwright stepped up immediately as President, per the NOGS Constitution. Scott ran tight Board meetings, and made sure the big things got done.

The continuity that you voted into our Constitution and By-Laws has given me the experience to pick up where these two leaders left off, not to mention for those holding other offices.

Bob Murphy stepped in as Vice-President, and agreed to run for a succeeding term. He has picked up where Scott left off in organizing our monthly luncheon speakers, and his sense of humor belies his experience in moving an organization forward.

Dave Balcer came into the Treasurer's position ice cold, but did a magnificent job balancing the accounts, manipulating the cash flow, and then putting the information into plain English so those of us less mathematically inclined could understand NOGS resources. In a few months, following an anticipated deal closing, Dave and I will sit down representing our respective employers as partners in an offshore venture. Doing business with members you already know professionally is one of the best things about NOGS involvement. You already know something about your partner - or opponent!

Tom Hudson, as NOGS Secretary, provided detailed, accurate and timely minutes of all the meetings. You don't know how important meeting minutes really are until someone cannot remember how we voted, or what the specific language of a document ought to have been. Tom was the conscience of our Board, and though I would not necessarily agree with everything discussed, I appreciated his viewpoint, and especially from a man who clearly lives his principles. I wish I had the discipline to fall asleep reading a book, rather than nodding off watching the last two minutes of a playoff game.

The job of Director is a four-year commitment, three years on the Board and then Nominations Chairman. This year, former President and Honorary Life Member George Rhoads moves off the Board and into nominations. George has been a major contributor to awards judging for more than 20 years, in addition to numerous other NOGS responsibilities. He is a steadying influence and reasoned contributor.

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UNO Geology Student Disaster Fund

The University of New Orleans has set up a student Disaster fund to assist the students with financial needs as a result of Hurricane Katrina related obstacles such as the high cost of daily travel from Baton Rouge and Lafayette. If you wish to make a contribution to this fund, please mail a check payable to “UNO Foundation Geology Relief Fund” c/o:

Dr. Mark Kulp
Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences
University of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA 70148

July 10 Luncheon Presentation

A Shining Star in the Katrina Disaster: LIDAR

presented by

Rob Cunningham

School of Coast and Environment, Louisiana State University

ABSTRACT

A FEMA official declared the Louisiana LIDAR dataset the most accessible and valuable geospatial dataset they have ever encountered in responding to a regional disaster. Completed in 2003, the LOSCO/FEMA LIDAR Project provided the backdrop and data tools for initial emergency response including rescues, daily flood depth determinations, dewatering calculations, insurance settlements and hurricane surge model verification.

In the rescue phase the LIDAR DEMs were used to determine water depths for military vehicles, boats and helicopters responding to distress calls. On August, 31st, two days after the storm NOAA began producing daily flood depth maps for the region derived from the dataset. A web site provided

information for estimating real-time flood depths for individual houses and structures using Tele-Atlas Maps with the LIDAR DEM backdrop. Daily estimates of water volumes derived from the DEMs were used to estimate pumping requirements and time estimates for the dewatering phase.

The LIDAR dataset is currently being used by FEMA and the insurance industry to determine flooded depths of individual structures, eliminating the need for expensive field investigations and surveys. It is also being used by hurricane surge modelers to reconstruct and fine-tune the Katrina event with an extensive array of surveyed high water marks and topographic detail.

BIOGRAPHY

Rob Cunningham began teaching at LSUNO out of the Army in 1973 and became a research associate affiliated with the LSU Center for Wetland Resources in 1976. He was an on-site, LSU contractor for the Corps of Engineers in New Orleans until 1996.

Since then he has served as the Remote Sensing/GIS Coordinator for LSU School of the Coast & Environment, Natural Systems Modeling Group and is currently working with the post Katrina/Rita analysis team.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JULY 5, SO CALL THE NOGS OFFICE - TODAY!

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next luncheon will be August 7. Ken LaBry of C.H. Fenstermaker & Associates, Inc. will speak on process and methodologies of shallow hazard identification. (Ken LaBry was originally scheduled to be the July 10 luncheon speaker.) Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the e-link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.



Last month's NOGS Luncheon speaker Tim Axtman (center) with Mike Fein and Scott Wainright, at the LePavillon Hotel

Bill Whiting has also been judging awards as long as George, and is also an Honorary Life Member. He is entertaining to be with, always has solid opinions, and can find the little errors that need to be corrected.

I have known Al Baker from committee work since the late 70's, and also as an offshore partner in a number of successful ventures. He is also a former President and Honorary Life Member, who is concise and prepared. Al knows there is a time and place for everything, thereby teaching me the critical nature of a cold beer.

Then there is our Elected Editor, Paul Post. Paul and I first got to know each other in an outplacement office in 1995. Paul got your NOGS Log in front of you, and has fought the printing battles and deadlines, as well as finding material for your entertainment and informational pleasure. Paul's greatest value, however, is that he says what is on his mind, not what you necessarily want to hear. Paul has also not only agreed to keep writing for the Log, but will also be our new Employment Counseling Chairman.

I am certain that every member of the Board would agree that we saved the best for last. Our Office Manager, Annette Hudson, is an "old school" individual who has gone so far above and beyond her paid duties, that just saying "thank you" would be an embarrassment. Annette was checking in, and checking on NOGS even while in hurricane exile in Tennessee. When I was asked to run for President, Annette was the first person I called. Had she planned on retiring, I would not have accepted the nomination. Annette was also responsible for the planning and execution of NOGS's first post-Katrina entertainment event, a BYO get-together at the Garden Gate in Metairie in mid-November. She was our eyes and ears of the organization while most of us were still displaced. She was the major mover and facilitator for the December get-together at Ed Picou's home in mid-December. This organization has come back as far as it has, as quickly as it has, largely on Annette's shoulders.

Getting to know and professionally work with people like this is the reason to be an active member. The opportunity to get known by your peers makes dealing and drilling easier and more enjoyable. Active membership opens doors to you, which would otherwise be closed, because you already know the individual.

At the upcoming luncheon we will honor these outgoing Board members, as well as present some of NOGS highest honors. Come out and make some contacts. It's risk-free! And as I learned during my exile, there is nothing more important in a community than its people.

Michael Fein

NOGS CONTACT LIST

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MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

		Company	Phone	E-mail
2006-07 Chairman	Scott A. Wainwright	Mustang Energy	504-889-2700	swainwright@mustangenergy.com
2006-07 Secretary	Michael N. Fein	W & T Offshore	504-831-4171	mikef@wtoffshore.net
2006-07 Trustee	Edward B. Picou, Jr.	Consultant	504-529-5155	epicou@bellsouth.net
2006-07 Trustee	Robert W. Sabate'	Energetix Petroleum LLC	504-861-4335	saboil@aol.com
2007-08 Trustee	Doug Cristina	Mustang Energy	504-889-2700	dcristina@mustangenergy.com
2007-08 Trustee	TBA			
2008-09 Trustee	David E. Balcer	Chevron	504-592-6752	dbalcer@chevrontexaco.com
2008-09 Trustee	TBA			

AAPG DELEGATES

Term Ends

2007	Thomas C. Bergeon	Shell	504-728-6480	thomas.bergeon@shell.com
2007(a)	J. Stephen Tissue	Chevron	504-592-6030	stevetissue@Chevron.com
2008	Irion Bordelon, Jr.	Cimarex Energy	504-586-3023	lbordelon@cimarex.com
2008	Carol Rooney	Consultant Geologist	504-835-1909	
2008(a)	James Cearley III	Chevron	832-854-2655	james.cearley@chevron.com
2008(a)	Arthur T. Cerniglia	CIG Exploration	504-780-0097	cigexploration@yahoo.com
2009	David E. Balcer	Chevron	504-592-6725	dbalcer@Chevron.com
2009	William Whiting	Consultant	504-947-8495	bootscon@aol.com
2009(a)	Nancye Dawers	Tulane University	504-862-3200	ndawers@tulane.edu
2009(a)	David Cooke	MMS	504-736-2609	david.cooke@mms.gov

NOGS and GCAGS Appreciative of 2005 Donations

NOGS, on behalf of the GCAGS, expresses thanks to the following sponsors that have allowed the GCAGS to keep the 2005 donations. The donations were for the cancelled convention that was to be held in New Orleans in September of 2005. Of the donations, 65% goes towards GCAGS scholarships and operations, and 35% to NOGS as the host society.

Sponsorship Level	Company	Agreed to allow GCAGS to keep donation
Titanium	Shell Exploration & Production	\$20,000
Platinum	Dominion Exploration & Production Inc.	\$11,000
Platinum	Chevron	\$5,000
Gold	Helis Oil & Gas Company, L.L.C.	\$7,500
Gold	Kerr-McGee Oil and Gas Corporation	\$7,500
Silver	Anadarko Petroleum Corp.	\$5,000
Silver	BP GoM DeepWater	\$5,000
Silver	ExxonMobil Exploration Company	\$5,000
Silver	McMoRan Oil & Gas LLC	\$5,000
Silver	W & T Offshore Inc	\$5,000
Silver	Taylor Energy Company	\$4,500
Silver	Devon Energy Corporation	\$3,000
Silver	Marathon Oil Company	\$2,500
Silver	Woodside Energy (USA) Inc.	\$2,500
Silver	LLOG Exploration Offshore, Inc.	\$2,500
Bronze	Apache Corporation	\$1,000
Bronze	Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation	\$1,000
Bronze	Zot Oil & Gas, Inc.	\$1,000
Bronze	AAPG Division of Professional Affairs	\$1,000
Patron	Stone Energy	\$500
Patron	William M. Whiting	\$250
Patron	George Duwe Stanton	\$100
	Total	\$95,850

2005 GCAGS Transactions Available For Purchase

2005 GCAGS Transactions can be ordered from the Bureau of Economic Geology / UT Austin. The cost is \$40.00 plus \$3.79 shipping. To purchase, call (512) 475-9513, fax (512) 471-0140 or send an email to pubsales@beg.utexas.edu. To order online or to print out an order form, go to www.beg.utexas.edu/mainweb/pubs01.htm.

✂ **Hurricane Katrina - What Happened? A Field Trip:** Steve Nelson of Tulane's Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences has organized a field trip for those interested in learning what happened during the Katrina flood. The trip visits some of the devastated areas of New Orleans, and offers a geological and historical perspective on the flood. Those sincerely interested in participating can contact Dr. Nelson at snelson@tulane.edu.

Below are photos along Warrington Drive, north of breach, courtesy of Stephen Nelson. The field trip website along with photographs and other links is located at: <http://www.tulane.edu/~sanelson/Katrina/index.html>.



✂ **Drilling to Gabbro in Intact Ocean Crust,** D.S. Wilson, et al: The following abstract was published online April 20, 2006 at *Science* DOI: 10.1126/science.1126090 (<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1126090v1>).

Sampling an intact sequence of oceanic crust through lavas, dikes, and gabbros is necessary to advance the understanding of the formation and evolution of crust formed at mid-ocean ridges, but has been an elusive goal of scientific ocean drilling for decades. Recent drilling in the eastern Pacific Ocean in Hole 1256D reached gabbro within seismic layer 2, 1157 meters into crust formed at a superfast spreading rate. The gabbros are the crystallized melt lenses that formed beneath a mid-ocean ridge. The depth at which gabbro was reached confirms predictions extrapolated from seismic experiments at modern mid-ocean ridges that melt lenses occur at shallower depths at faster spreading rates. The gabbros intrude metamorphosed sheeted dikes and have compositions similar to the overlying lavas, precluding formation of the cumulate lower oceanic crust from melt lenses so far penetrated by Hole 1256D.

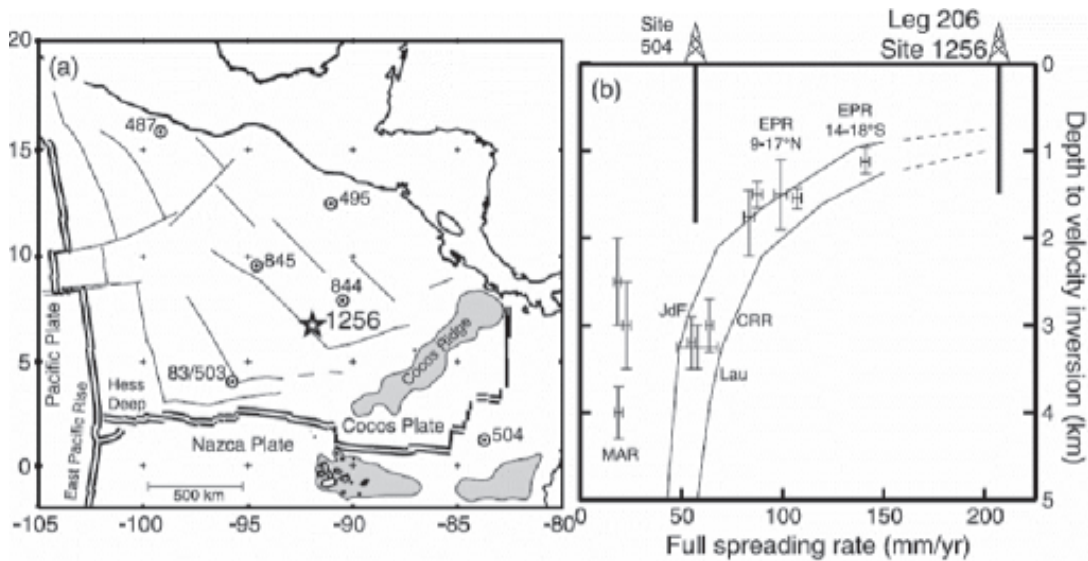


Image from: D.A.H. Teagle, D.S. Wilson, G.D. Acton, and the ODP Leg 206 Shipboard Party, The "Road to the MoHole" Four Decades On: Deep Drilling at Site 1256; *Eos*, Vol. 85, No. 49, 7 December 2004, can be found online at: http://paleomag.geology.ucdavis.edu/research/acton/Publications/2004_Teagle_Eos.pdf

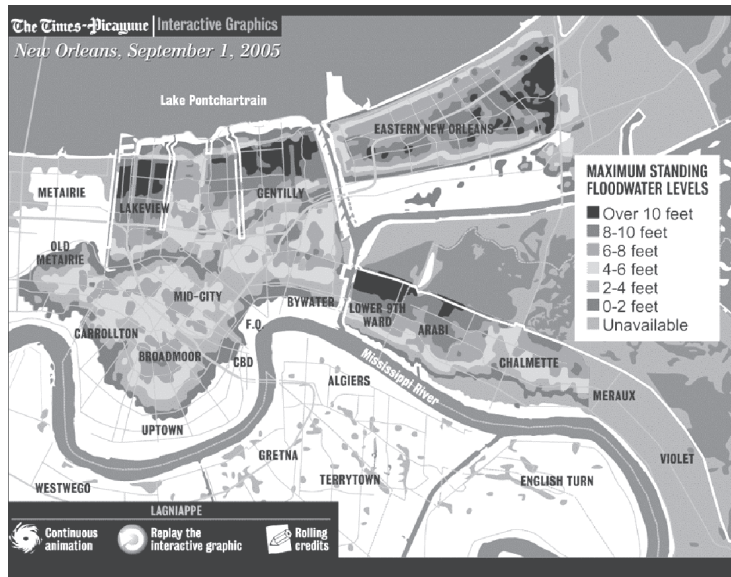
✂ **Times Picayune - New Orleans Flood Graphic:**
The New Orleans Times Picayune has created a time-lapsed graphic that illustrates the chronology of the flooding of New Orleans.

The interactive graphic is located at the following link: <http://www.nola.com/katrina/graphics/credits.swf>

✂ **Websites of Interest:**

A True vertical thickness and true stratigraphic thickness calculator is available online through Velocity Data Bank's Quick Look Tools website located at: <http://www.velocitydatabank.com/TVT/>.

Louisiana Department of Natural Resources' Stats & Facts News Page: <http://dnr.louisiana.gov/sec/execdiv/pubinfo/stats-facts/stats-facts-2006-04.pdf>.



Robert Rooney

Local Student is Earth Science State Fair Winner

Alexis Englade of John Curtis takes 3rd place in the State in Earth Sciences for her project Dissolution of Calcite in Organic and Inorganic Acids. Alexis was a guest at the NOGS May 8th luncheon.

Dissolution of Calcite in Organic and Inorganic Acids

By Alexis Englade

The purpose of my project was to determine both quantitatively (mass loss in grams) and qualitatively (pits/etchings on the hexagonal-rhombohedral crystal shape), the effect organic (Acetic and Oxalic) and inorganic (Hydrochloric and Sulfuric) acids have on the dissolution of calcite. The application of this project was to test the stability of calcite (Calcium carbonate, CaCO_3) under different conditions; in my case, varying the time and molarity of acids. My study could also be applied to studying the affects of acid rain (sulfuric acid) on certain calcite based building materials.

I was fortunate enough to be able to use equipment at a university geology lab that enabled me to actually see up close, (after coating my samples with carbon) using a scanning electron microscope, the affects of the acid on my calcite samples.



NOGS 2006 GOLF “OUTING”

Money Hill Golf and Country Club has hosted our golf tournament since 1999. Our thanks go out to Tim Hogan, the club pro, and his staff for all their help. The weather was perfect as usual. Since moving the tournament to Abita Springs, we have yet to be threatened with bad weather. I don't recall any rainouts or delays since the great flood at Lakewood +/- 15 years ago.

This year I trimmed down our usual venue. Volunteers and committee members were scattered due to Katrina. All of our files from previous years were destroyed by flooding. I did not ask for donations or hole sponsors; however, unsolicited contributions from several companies helped make this a successful event.

Our special thanks go out to the “gang” from Diversified Logging, and Halliburton. The Kleiberts have been providing a steak dinner for the golf tournament longer than I can remember. Ernest Bergeron and Pat Roberts, with Halliburton, have been supplying drinks and setting them up on the course. I hope they will continue the tradition for many years to come.

Several others helped supply refreshments, Leslie Broussard with Diversified Logging for her usual fare of margaritas, Janet Verret with Omni Labs for also providing margaritas on the back nine, and Mark Glanzer for all the iced down Corona's and snacks.

Several companies donated door prizes and cash, they are:

DOMINION
TAYLOR ENERGY
ORX
CLOVELLY OIL
LEGACY
LABAY
GEODRAFT
BEACON
PALEODATA
HARDEN INTERNATIONAL
SEITEL
WESTERN GECO
PETRO LOG

KEVIN GUILBEAU
MIKE ANDERSON
JIM ORTH
HARALD WERNER
BILLO'LEARY
LEON PROUT
ANTHONY CATALANATO
AL BAKER
ART WATERMAN
WILL SASS
WAYNE COOK
BARBRAKELTY
GARY TRENCHARD



**More Golf Outing Photos
are on the NOGS website!!**



I would also like to thank Annette Hudson for again handling the registration and Art Christensen for taking the photographs. If I failed to mention someone, please don't take it personally.

Next year I plan on having a full staff back plus one. The rumor is that Tim Kleibert wants more involvement (like he's not doing enough already). And yes, we will be asking for sponsors, volunteers, and donations. I expect next year will be the best yet, so mark your calendars for MAY 7, 2007.

Jeff Jandegian



NOGS Membership News & Information

This is your page. We would like to fill it with your news. In addition to professional news from our members; e.g., promotions, transfers, moves, new employer, etc., we also welcome your success stories. Please e-mail items to log@nogs.org.

**In Memory of
William Harwell Wise**
May 25, 1921 - September 23, 2005

William Harwell Wise, a NOGS member since 1964, passed away on September 23, 2005 in Austin, TX, he was 84 years old. He was born May 25, 1921 in Springhill, the son of Bryan Jefferson Wise and Bertha Sanders Wise. He graduated from Springhill High School in 1938 and served from 1942 to 1946 in both the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres, initially as an enlisted seaman and after completing officer's candidate school at Columbia University and the University of South Carolina, as an ensign. Following his service, he completed his education at the University of Oklahoma earning a B. S. in Geology. He worked for Carter Oil Company in Shreveport, where he was instrumental in the exploration and development of the North Shongaloo Red Rock field. He later worked for Humble Oil and Exxon in Jackson Mississippi and New Orleans where he retired in 1986. He was active in the Society of Professional Well Log Analysts, serving as its chairman in 1968. He was a member of the New Orleans Geological Society for 52 years and also a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Since 1964, he has been a resident of Metairie, La. He is survived by his wife Dorothy Elizabeth Nowlin Wise, sons, William Harwell Wise, Jr. of Austin, Tx and Jon Wesley Wise of Metairie, La; 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

**New NOGS
Members
May 2006**

Jerald M. Furphy
Chevron
Earth Scientist
935 Gravier St
New Orleans, LA 70112
504-592-6151

Cliff Greenbaum
GRN of Houston
Manager
2425 Fountainview - # 270
Houston, TX 77057
713-781-4700

REINSTATED

Wayne Allen Cook
Seitel Data
Marketing Representative
1100 Poydras St. - Ste 2900
New Orleans, LA 70163
504-582-2290

REINSTATED

Mark A. Hanan
Minerals Management Service
Unitization Geologist
1201 Elmwood Park Blvd
New Orleans, LA 70123
504-736-2650

REINSTATED

Stephen A. Nelson
Tulane University
Associate Professor/Chairman
Department of Geology
6823 Saint Charles Ave
New Orleans, LA 70118
504-862-3194

South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

Not the Dead Sea this month ...

- On May 8, **Kerr-McGee Corp.** announced a subsalt, natural gas discovery in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico at the Claymore prospect located in Atwater Valley 140. The Claymore #1 well was drilled in 3,700' of water, to a total depth of approximately 25,000'. More than 150' of net pay in multiple zones was encountered. "The initial data indicates this reservoir contains dry gas with very high rock quality," said David A. Hager, Kerr- McGee chief operating officer. Hager added that, "We plan to finalize the evaluation of this well, and immediately drill a side-track appraisal well to define the aerial extent and potential resources." Pre-drill resource estimates were 100 - 250 MMBOE. Kerr-McGee operates Claymore with a 33.5% WI. Partners include Dominion Exploration & Production, Inc. (31.5% WI), Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC (25% WI) and Woodside Energy (USA) Inc. (10% WI). The lease was originally acquired by Shell in OCS Sale 157, 1-August-96 for a bonus of \$157,620. The rig will remain on location and begin drilling the side-track appraisal well, approximately 4,600' northeast of the discovery well to test the down-dip limit of the reservoir. Immediate appraisal of Claymore will delay the planned spud of the Norman prospect located in Garden Banks 434.
- On May 9, **Noble Energy, Inc.** announced the Lorien field in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico commenced production April 27, 2006 achieving its gross production target of ~19,000 BOPD and 25 MMCFGPD. Lorien is located on Green Canyon 199 in 2,177' of water and is a two-well, subsea development with a 13 mile tieback to a nearby host. Noble Energy is the operator of Lorien with a 60% WI. Hydro Gulf of Mexico, L.L.C. has a 30% WI, and Davis Offshore, L.P. has a 10% WI. The lease was most recently acquired by Phillips in OCS Sale 182, 1-June-02 for a bonus of \$17,466,000. ConocoPhillips sold its interest in Lorien in April, 2004 to Noble and its partners.
- On May 16, **Dominion E & P** confirmed that production had begun from the Rigel and Seventeen Hands fields, in Mississippi Canyon 296 and 299, respectively. MC 296 was acquired by Dominion and Mariner, 1-July-1999 for \$3,214,080. MC 299 was acquired by Dominion, Spinnaker and Murphy, 1-June-00 for \$835,500. Rigel field is in 5,200' and the Seventeen Hands field is in 5,800' of water. Both fields are operated by Dominion and employ subsea tiebacks to a host platform owned by Chevron in Viosca Knoll 900. The combined design rate for the two fields is 160 MMCFPD. Dominion operates both fields and owns 53% of Rigel and 38% of Seventeen Hands. Dominion's partners in Rigel are Mariner Energy and Newfield Exploration, the Seventeen Hands project partners are Murphy Oil Corporation and Hydro Gulf of Mexico LLC.
- New Orleans-based **Coldren Oil and Gas Company** and Harvey-based **Superior Energy Services** announced 16-May that they will purchase \$625 million worth of shelf properties in the Gulf of Mexico from Noble Energy Inc. In a somewhat complex arrangement, Superior Energy acquired a 40% interest in Coldren Resources, LP, a subsidiary of New Orleans-based Coldren Oil and Gas, created for the Noble purchase. Coldren Resources will purchase 520 wells and 158 platforms from Noble consisting of shallow-water properties that span the GoM. Production from these assets currently totals approximately 5,000 BOPD and 90 MMCFGPD, net to Noble Energy, ~20,000 BOEPD. As of 1-March-2006, Noble Energy's proved reserves for the assets being sold

continued on pages 24 and 25



totaled 7 MMBO and 120 BCFG, (~27 MMBOE). The sale is expected to close on or before 30-June. Superior will receive 40% of the profit from the production and it will have the first right to provide its energy services, rental tools, and lift boats for those fields. Superior will also manage the day-to-day operations of the properties. It expects at least \$165 million in work can be provided for the wells by its well-intervention services, rental tools, and lift boats. Less than a year old, Coldren is a privately held company financed with \$100 million from First Reserve, an equity company. First Reserve will supply the cash for about \$105 million of the Noble purchase; the rest will be financed. Noble is selling almost all of its shallow water properties to concentrate on exploration and production elsewhere in the world, and expects proceeds of \$525 million from the sale.

- **Hess Corporation** on 17-May announced preliminary drilling results for its Pony Prospect, on Green Canyon 468. The Pony well encountered approximately 300' of net pay based on LWD data. At the time, the well was at a depth of 29,658', with a planned TD of 32,500'. Hess Corporation has a 100% WI in this well. In OCS Sale 185, held in March 2003, bids of \$7,750,750 by Chevron (100%) and \$308,888 from Nexen and BHP Billiton (each 50%) were rejected. MMS had a mean range of value (MROV) for the block of \$15,000,000 and an adjusted delay value (ADV) of \$14,000,000. At OCS Sale 190 in 2004, five bids were submitted. Hess (100%) submitted the winning bid of \$35,290,892. A group consisting of Dominion E & P and Kerr-McGee (each 50%) submitted the second highest bid of \$27,555,300. The third highest bid of \$21,760,760 was submitted by Spinnaker and Murphy (each 41.66650%) and Westport (16.66700%). The fourth highest bid of \$17,095,000 was from a group consisting of Unocal, BHP Billiton, Nexen, and Anadarko (each 25%). The fifth and lowest bid of \$7,750,751 came from Chevron (100%).
- On 17-May, **McGee Corp.** announced another discovery in the deepwater GoM at the subsalt Caesar prospect. The Caesar #1 well, located in Green Canyon 683 was drilled to a TD of 29,721' and encountered quality oil pay. "The Caesar discovery, on the heels of our recent discovery at Claymore, validates the successful transition of our deepwater exploratory program into the subsalt play," said David A. Hager, Kerr-McGee chief operating officer. Caesar is located in approximately 4,500' of water. Kerr-McGee operates Caesar with a 20% WI. Shell E & P Co. holds a 62.5% WI, and Plains E & P Co. holds the remaining 17.5% WI. Hager added that plans are to immediately core the productive interval, then side-track the well ~4,000' to the north to better determine the potential resources. Development options could include a subsea tieback to Kerr-McGee's 100%-owned Constitution spar, nine miles to the west in Green Canyon block 680. The lease was originally acquired by Shell at OCS Sale 166 in August 1997 for \$757,100. The pre-drill resource estimates ranged from 75 - 200 MMBOE.
- On 19-May, **Dominion E&P** announced that its West Cameron 130 #3 on the GoM shelf reached a total depth of 19,365' and had encountered ~250' of net pay in multiple zones below the existing field pays. Following completion operations, the well was tested at a restricted rate of 11.8 MMCFGPD and 40 BOPD. Construction operations are under way to tie back production through Dominion E&P's WC 130 'B' platform. "These deeper sands will be more fully appraised by continued drilling in this field and on other leases currently in our shelf inventory" said Kevin P. Guilbeau, senior vice president and general manager for Dominion E&P's offshore unit. Dominion E&P owns a 50% WI and is the operator of WC 130 #3. Hydro Gulf of Mexico LLC owns 35% and Mariner Energy Inc. owns 15%.
- On 22-May, **McMoRan Exploration Co.**, the most active deep driller in the region, updated its exploration activities.

The Point Chevreuil exploratory well, located in less than 10' of water in the South Belle Isle Field offshore St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, was drilled to a TVD of 17,011' (17,274'MD). LWD tool and wireline logs indicated 96' of net hydrocarbon bearing sands over a 112' gross interval. Production is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2006. McMoRan has a 25% WI and a 17.5% NRI in the Point Chevreuil prospect. McMoRan also announced today that they and their private partner acquired approximately 2,500 gross acres surrounding the discovery at a recent state lease sale.

The Liberty Canal discovery, onshore Vermilion Ph., was drilled to 16,594'. McMoRan has set a production liner and will complete the well with initial production expected in the third quarter of 2006. The well

was evaluated with LWD tools and confirmed with wireline logs, indicating two intervals totaling 199' gross (125' net) hydrocarbon bearing sands with excellent porosity. The Liberty Canal discovery is located on a significant north-south trending ridge where McMoRan controls 13,000 acres and has several additional exploration prospects. McMoRan is incorporating the results from this well with its 3-D seismic data which could result in expansion of the drilling opportunities in this area. Following completion activities at Liberty Canal, McMoRan plans to commence drilling the Liberty Canal Upthrown exploratory well located two miles northwest of the Liberty Canal discovery. McMoRan and its private partner each have a 37.5% WI, and a 27.7% NRI in the prospect.

On 8-May, McMoRan stated that the Pecos exploratory well, had been drilled to a TVD of 18,795' (19,625' MD). Uphole pay sands evaluated with LWD and wireline logs indicated two hydrocarbon-bearing intervals. The deeper zone contained a net 31' of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a gross 172' interval; the upper zone encountered a net 12' of hydrocarbon bearing sands over a gross 14' interval. A drill-stem test over the deeper zone resulted in a test rate of approximately 15.5 MMCFGPD and 600 BCPD with no water. FTP was 2,700# on a 31/64" choke. Production was expected to commence quickly utilizing nearby infrastructure. McMoRan and its private partner each own a 50% WI and a 36% NRI in the discovery. McMoRan has rights to approximately 3,500 acres comprising the Pecos and Platte deep gas exploration prospects at West Pecan Island in Vermilion Parish. The Pecos prospect was directionally drilled from an offshore location in less than 10' of water to a bottom hole location onshore.

Also on 8-May, the JB Mountain Deep exploration well was drilled to a MD of 24,600' (24,557' TVD). The well was spudded 14-July-05. Interpretation of wireline logs indicated a gross interval of 115' at ~21,900' that will require further evaluation. Wireline logs also indicated an additional, deeper interval of 115' gross resistive sand with the top 30 gross feet of the lower interval having the best porosity. A liner was set to protect the lower zone and the well was to be temporarily abandoned.

The Hurricane #2 development well at South Marsh Island 217 was flow tested at a rate of 38 MMCFGPD and 2,222 BCPD with a FTP of ~8,800# on a 30/64" choke. The well was expected to commence production in May 2006. It encountered pay in the same reservoir as the #1, with porosity development that appears to be equal to, or better than, that well. The #1 discovery well is currently producing at a rate of 38 MMCFGPD and ~1,300 BCPD. The Hurricane #3 development well will spud in the second quarter of 2006. McMoRan holds a 27.5% WI and a 19.4% net revenue interest in this field and has rights to approximately 7,700 gross acres in the Hurricane area, located offshore Louisiana in 10' of water. Production from the Hurricane well goes to the Tiger Shoal facilities, which are also being used to produce the JB Mountain and Mound Point discoveries in the OCS 310/State Lease 340 area.

The Dawson Deep discovery at Garden Banks 625 is being developed as a subsea tieback to Kerr-McGee's adjacent Gunnison spar facility. A successful production test was conducted on the well in April 2006. Initial test rates were limited to approximately 1,500 BOPD and 3 MMCFGPD. McMoRan believes substantial rate improvements are possible when the well is placed on production, which is expected to commence by mid-year 2006. McMoRan owns a 30.0% WI working interest and a 24.0% NRI. Kerr-McGee operates with a 25% WI. Other partners are Nexen Petroleum Offshore U.S.A. Inc. (15% WI), Energy Resource Technology, Inc. (10% WI), and McMoRan's private partner with a 20% WI. Dawson Deep is in over 2,900' of water.

In April 2006, initial production commenced at the Cane Ridge discovery located onshore in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana and King Kong #3 development well at Vermilion 16/17. The Cane Ridge well is currently producing at a gross flow rate of approximately 6 MMCFGPD. McMoRan and its private partner each own a 37.5% WI and a 27.5% NRI.

In May 2006, initial production commenced at the Hurricane No. 2 development well at South Marsh Island 217. The Hurricane No. 2 well is currently producing at a gross flow rate of approximately 34 MMCFGPD, which will gradually be increased. Gross production from the two wells in the Hurricane field approximates 81 MMCFGPD. McMoRan and its private partner each own a 27.5% WI and a 19.4% NRI in the field. The Hurricane No. 3 development well is expected to commence drilling during the second quarter of 2006.

Paul Post

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