

NOGS LOG



March 2009

Volume 49, Number 9

Upcoming Events and Activities

March 2 - NOGS Luncheon

*** At the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***
Free validated parking in hotel garage

Guest speaker Dr. Peter D. Warwick, Research Geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Energy Resources Program, will present "USGS Assessment of Undiscovered, Technically Recoverable Oil and Natural Gas Resources in Tertiary Strata of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain and State Waters, U.S.A."

(See page 7 for Abstract and Biography)

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME ADMISSION:

Check with concierge or
front desk for location

Lunch served at 11:30am

with reservation \$30.00

without reservation \$35.00

Student Member with reservation Free

March 26-27 - Louisiana Groundwater & Water Resource Symposium

At LSU in Baton Rouge. See announcement on page 8.

April 6 - NOGS Luncheon

Guest speaker Bernie Regel, Chevron, will present "Use of 4D Seismic in Reservoir Management."

April 17 - SGS/NOGS at the Zephyr's Ballpark

7:00PM. More information in the April LOG.

April 27 - NOGS 2009 Annual Golf Outing

Money Hill Golf & Country Club in Abita Springs. See announcement of page 17.

April 29 - Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists

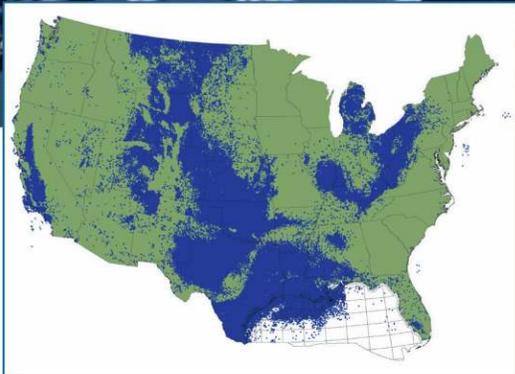
Shell Auditorium, Shell Building in New Orleans.. See announcement of page 12.

May 14 - NOGS Technical Seminar & Core Display

Shell Auditorium, Shell Building in New Orleans.. See announcement of page 15.

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 Correspondence and all luncheon reservations should be sent to the above address.
 Sent to press on February 26, 2009.



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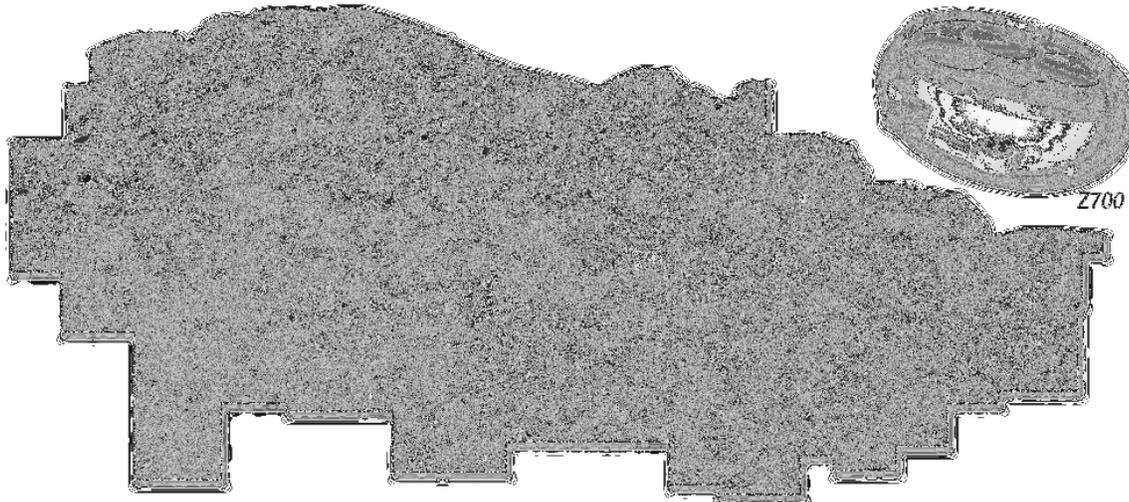
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By the end of 2009 our entire database will have been processed using Curved Ray Migration and an additional 500 blocks of depth data will have been added.



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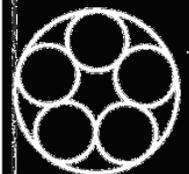
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from the President

In the February LOG I made reference to the 273 AAPG members whom I was certain were members of NOGS as they claim or are assigned affiliation with a local society (NOGS). A diligent review by our Nominations Chairman Al Baker revealed 105 of these AAPG members are not currently active NOGS members. E-mails and letters have been sent inviting these colleagues to re-join NOGS. Our current membership stands at about 520. Bringing these other professionals back into our Society is important, particularly with AAPG 2010 just around the corner. Likewise a letter written by Ed Picou in 2003 urging NOGS members to join the AAPG is republished in this issue of the LOG.

The AAPG leadership would like to come to New Orleans to conduct a "town hall" type meeting in April. This will be open to all NOGS and AAPG members and spouses and will probably be an evening event. This will also serve as a farewell tour stop by AAPG President Scott Tinker. Also attending will be Rick Fritz, Executive Director of AAPG and Bill Fisher, Chairman of the AAPG Foundation.

Our up and coming events include a seminar by Dr. Royhan Gani of UNO on "Deltaic Reservoir analog: integration of outcrop, core, GPR, and fluid-flow modeling in Cretaceous Strata, Wyoming." The seminar will be held at the Shell Annex Auditorium on May 14th, 2009. Royhan also plans on displaying the cores from a deltaic sequence.

The Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) is trying to schedule a June 2009 workshop with Dr. Earnest Mancini on "Microbial Processes in the GOM". Ideally this also will be held at the Shell Annex. Check the LOG for more details on both of these events.

A series of seminars open to all is being offered at UNO on Subsidence. Some of our worthy and experienced members' attendance and participation would likely be appreciated. The NOGS Office will e-mail announcements in the future.

The AAPG student chapter at UNO is being re-activated, the new chairman is Scott Wessels, scottwes@gmail.com. They plan on sponsoring geological talks-your help is appreciated.

Don't forget our up and coming social events under the tutelage of our President-elect Tom Klekamp. The annual Golf tournament is one of our top events and last year was up to pre-Katrina attendance levels. There is plenty of room for volunteers for this event. Profits go to the Bill Craig Fund in the Memorial Foundation. The date of this year's tournament is April 27th.

The NOGS/SGS Zephyrs outing is coming up in the spring and is always quite fun. The kids in particular enjoyed the fireworks after last year's game.

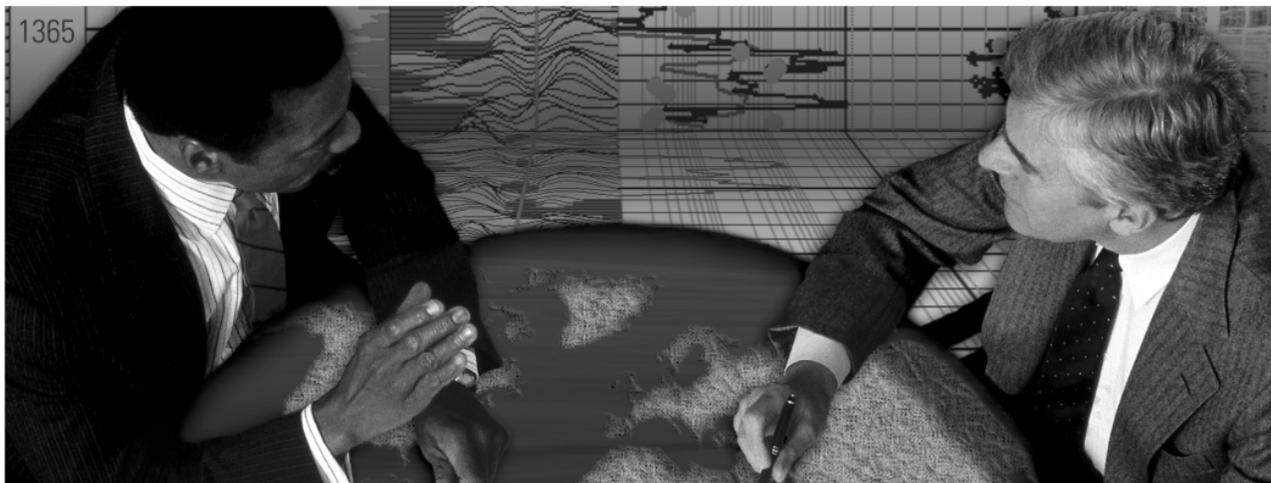
The October 18 Field Trip guide book is currently being edited by Duncan Goldthwaite and Tom Klekamp. The Vol. IV Oil & Gas Fields of SE Louisiana needs more volunteers and submittals. Many of our independents and retirees are ideally situated to present a short field case study. These volumes are a great guide to new professionals in our area. We still receive significant royalties from publications that are over a decade old. Contact Tom Bergeon or myself.

AAPG 2010 is going to require many volunteers. The event is April 18-21, 2010 and is wedged between two New Orleans social events: The French Quarter Festival and the first weekend of Jazz Fest. Contact Tom Hudson, Dr. Nancye Dawers or Art Johnson to volunteer your services. Some of the filled chairmanships are: Robert Rooney, sponsorships; Dave Garner, field trips; Duncan Goldthwaite, short courses; James Swaney, career opportunities; Mike Ledet, Bill Whiting, and Fran Wiseman, volunteers coordination; and George Rhoads, finances.

I have received several compliments on the new design of our web site-please use it. Kudos to our webmaster, Ed Picou.

Bill

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March 2 NOGS Luncheon Presentation

*** at the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome ***

USGS Assessment of Undiscovered, Technically Recoverable Oil and Natural Gas Resources in Tertiary Strata of the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain and State Waters, U.S.A.

presented by

Peter D. Warwick

U.S. Geological Survey, Reston VA

ABSTRACT

In 2007, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) conducted an assessment of the technically recoverable undiscovered oil and gas resources in Tertiary sediments underlying the U.S. Gulf of Mexico Coastal Plain and State waters. For purposes of the assessment, an Upper Jurassic-Cretaceous-Tertiary total petroleum system (TPS) was defined for the Gulf of Mexico Basin by the USGS Tertiary Assessment Team. Tertiary strata were divided into the following stratigraphic study intervals: 1) Wilcox Group (including Midway Group and the basal Carrizo Sand of the Claiborne Group (Paleocene-Eocene); 2) Claiborne Group (Eocene); 3) Jackson and Vicksburg Groups (Eocene-Oligocene); 4) Frio-Anahuac Formations (Oligocene); 5) Lower, Middle, and Upper Miocene; and 6) Plio-Pleistocene. Based on a generalized structural, stratigraphic, and depositional model, the assessed

stratigraphic intervals were subdivided into 1) up-dip, stable shelf assessment units (AUs), 2) mid-dip, expansion (extension) zone AUs, or 3) down-dip, slope and basin floor AUs. A significant controlling factor for the location of the mid-dip expansion zone AU is the location of underlying, stratigraphically older shelf margins. Recent discoveries of coalbed gas in Paleocene Wilcox strata led to recognition of a new petroleum system that had not been previously assessed by the USGS. In total, 33 conventional and four continuous (coalbed gas) assessment units were defined. Using a geology-based assessment methodology, the USGS estimated a mean of 113.7 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered natural gas, a mean of 690 million barrels of undiscovered oil, and a mean of 3.7 billion barrels of undiscovered natural gas liquids in the assessed AUs.

BIOGRAPHY

Peter Warwick obtained a M.S. in Geology from North Carolina State University in 1982 and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Kentucky in 1985. His scientific and technical specialties include sedimentology, stratigraphy, coal and petroleum geology, organic petrology and geochemistry, field geology, and geographic information systems (GIS). He is currently employed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) as a research geologist in the Energy Resources Program. His experience includes coal- and hydrocarbon-related research, exploration, and resource assessments in various sedimentary basins in North and South America, Europe, and Asia. His present

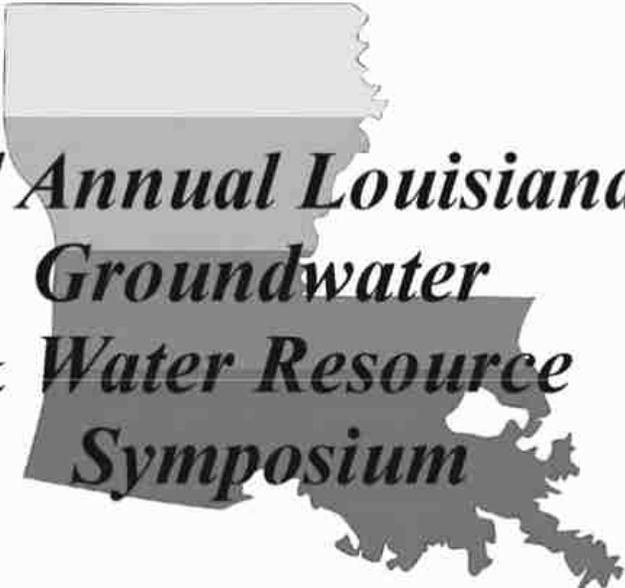
research focus is on petroleum geology and coalbed methane resources and understanding methanogenic processes in organic-rich deposits. He is a member of the ASTM International, American Association of Petroleum Geologists (former President of the Energy Minerals Division), Geological Society of America (former Chair of the Coal Geology Division), Society for Sedimentary Geology (SEPM), The Society for Organic Petrology (former President), and is a member of the editorial board of the International Journal of Coal Geology and the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Bulletin.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 28 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

“And Looking Ahead...”

The next NOGS Luncheon will be April 6. Guest speaker Bernie Regel, Chevron, will present “Use of 4D Seismic in Reservoir Management.” Contact the NOGS office to make your reservation.

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First call for abstracts

Abstracts due March 6, 2009

Expanded Abstracts due March 16, 2009

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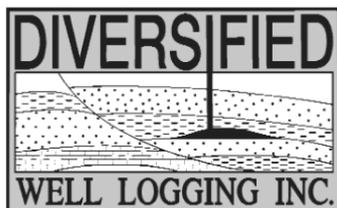
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February 9, 2009

Dear Fellow NOGS Member,

I have always considered membership in professional organizations an important part of my career development. You, as a member of NOGS, have taken the first important step.

However, I am asking that you now take the next important step to become a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. Whereas NOGS represents our petroleum and related geoscience industries locally, the AAPG is our standard-bearer both nationally and internationally and has benefits only a larger organization can offer.

AAPG member benefits are too many to enumerate in this brief letter. However, I ask that you review the enclosed **Inside AAPG** brochure. It outlines all of the programs and activities sponsored by the Association. Also enclosed is a copy of the AAPG Membership Value Pyramid which graphically shows how all-embracing the AAPG Professional Community is constructed. (Available at www.aapg.org/member/pyramid.)

For less than 20 cents a day, you can receive the benefits of AAPG membership. Nowhere, in any profession, can such a value be found at such a low price.

Many AAPG programs and activities are subsidized by the AAPG Foundation to enable members to participate in programs at a reduced cost. The Basic Programs listed at the base of the pyramid are, to me, worth the annual dues.

To have at your finger tips the ability to electronically search the entire AAPG *Bulletin* from 1917 to present day is a huge knowledge resource advantage.

The monthly AAPG *Explorer* newspaper provides members with extensive coverage of AAPG activities and publishes top-notch articles analyzing industry trends and technological innovations.

These two superior monthly publications are just the beginning of member benefits.

I encourage you to log onto the AAPG Web site at www.aapg.org and explore in depth the information it provides. The Web site has become the defining information resource for members. One can order AAPG publications online, print application forms, check the schedule for future meetings — regional, national and international, and many, many other items, including daily news of interest to the oil industry.

In the past 42 years I have missed but a few of the Annual AAPG Conventions. I find these meetings a “must attend” event. The technical programs at these conventions present topical technical sessions, both in oral and poster format, on the latest developments in petroleum exploration, exploitation, and in environmental and energy mineral subjects.

AAPG member registration is less than that for non-members—a strong incentive to join the Association.

As one who has benefited handsomely from my 54-year membership in AAPG, I strongly urge you to not delay completing the enclosed necessary forms for joining.

As you can see by the enclosed application, I have already signed as your sponsor. Please contact me by phone or e-mail if I can provide any information or assistance. (Applications available online at www.aapg.org - Membership - Join)

Best regards,

Edward B. Picou, Jr.

Enclosures



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PETROLEUM GEOLOGY FOR NON GEOLOGISTS

The New Orleans Geological Society is presenting a one day course on “Petroleum Geology for Non Geologists,” 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM on Wednesday April 29, 2009 in the Shell Auditorium, Shell Building, 701 Poydras Street, New Orleans. The course will consist of a brief introduction to Basic Geology, followed by a review of how oil and gas are formed, how they are concentrated into reservoirs, the geological and geophysical methods used in exploration, and an overview of drilling and completion practices.

This course should be of significant benefit and interest to anyone who in one way or another works with geologists and geological data, such as land personnel, secretaries, draftsmen and computer programmers and processors.

Instructors will be Duncan Goldthwaite - Consulting Geologist, Robert Branson - Consulting Geologist, Bruce Robertson - Consulting Geologist, and Devi Subramaniam- Drilling Engineer, Chevron.

Cost will be \$35.00 per participant. Course notes and mid-morning refreshments will be provided.

Persons interested can register by sending a check for \$35.00, made out to the New Orleans Geological Society, to:

New Orleans Geological Society
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When registering, please give your name, your work or home address and telephone number and company affiliation, if any.



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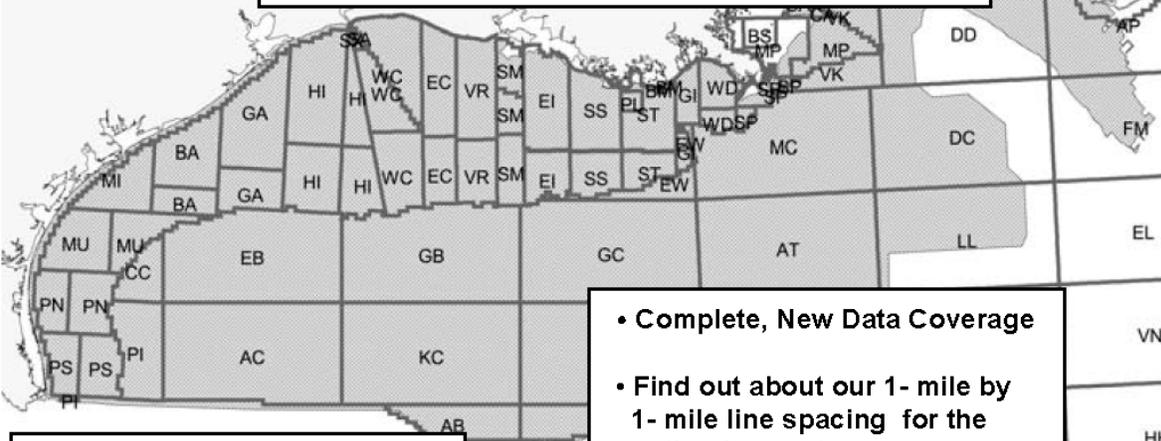
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Deltaic Reservoir Analog: Integration of Outcrop, Core, Ground Penetrating Radar, and Fluid-flow Modeling in Cretaceous Strata, Wyoming

May 14, 2009 9:00 AM–3:00 PM
Shell Auditorium, One Shell Square 701 Poydras, New Orleans

Presented by: Dr. M. Royhan Gani, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences,
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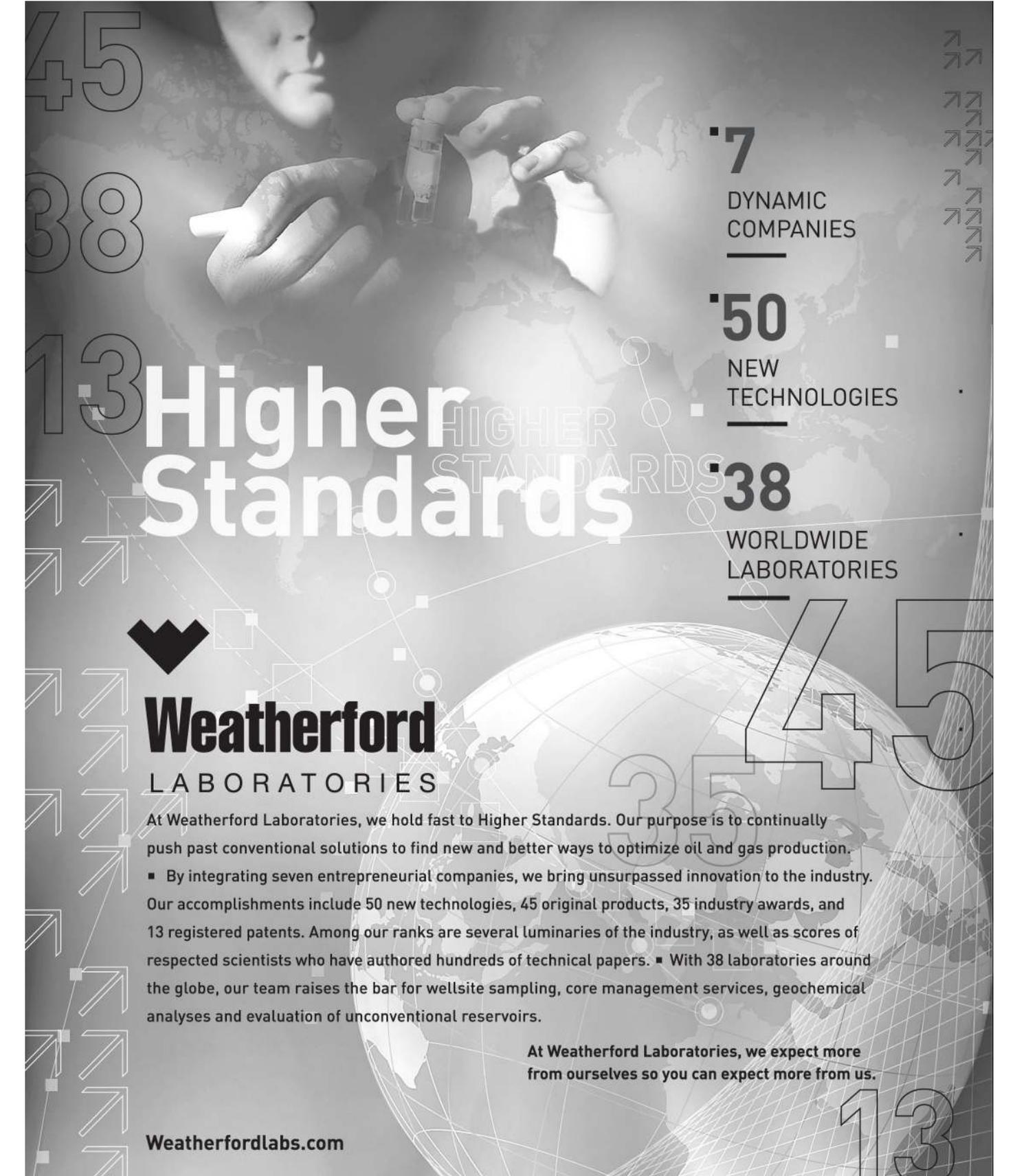
Seminar Description

Despite the present global emphasis on deep-water exploration and reservoir characterization, much of current and projected global production remains in siliciclastic shallow- and marginal-marine reservoirs. Because of the dynamic interaction of fluvial and basinal (e.g. tides, waves, storms) processes, deltaic deposits are inheritably complex. Various outcrops and subsurface data were integrated to study a Cretaceous delta at the top of the upper Turonian Wall Creek Member exposed along the western flank of the Powder River Basin, Wyoming. Investigation was performed from pore-scale to parasequence-scale to document facies and architectural complexity, along with reservoir properties. Experimentally designed flow-simulations were used to examine effects of facies variability and bedding geometry on breakthrough time, sweep efficiency and upscaled permeability.

Regional sandstone isolith, facies, and paleocurrent maps help to reconstruct the paleogeography and show how the various architectural elements varied across the delta front. The channels, bars, frontal splays, and tidally modulated elements are found only near the distributary mouth, whereas the storm sheets occur extensively away from the distributary mouth. The external shape of the studied delta might be seen as controlled primarily by waves, but the internal facies architecture reveals a far more complex interaction of river, waves, storms, and tidal processes. This challenges the tripartite classification of deltas into river-dominated, wave-dominated, and tide-dominated end member types.

Detailed logging of ichnological variations in several deltaic parasequences are correlated with inferred short- and long-term changes in depositional processes, reflecting various proportions of river, flood, wave, storm, and tide influences that can translate into variable reservoir properties. For this, trend analysis of BI (bioturbation index) log is particularly useful.

The purpose of this seminar is to showcase the internal facies and architectural complexity of deltaic reservoirs. Additionally, display of cores will provide opportunity for the participants to get hands-on experience on how to identify facies, trace fossils, and sequence stratigraphic surfaces in shallow-marine strata.



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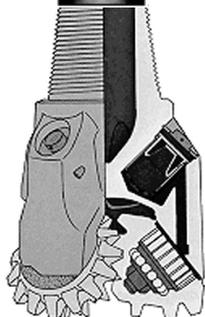
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South Louisiana and Offshore Exploration and Production Activity

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- **McMoRan** on 21-January provided updates on its deep gas exploration activities. Following the July 2007 Flatrock discovery in OCS 310 on SMI 212, five additional successful wells have been drilled in the field. Below is a status report on activities in the area:

| Flatrock Wells | Total Pay Intervals | Net Feet of Pay ⁽¹⁾ | Status |
|--|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| No. 1 (#228) - Discovery Well | 8 | 260 | Producing from <i>Operc</i> section |
| No. 2 (#229) - Delineation Well | 8 | 289 | Producing from Primary <i>Rob-L</i> sand |
| No. 3 (#230) - Delineation Well | 8 | 256 | Producing from <i>Operc</i> section |
| No. 4 (#231) - Development Well | 2 | 116 | Producing from Primary <i>Rob-L</i> sand |
| No. 5 (#232) - Development Well | 8 | 155 | Completing in <i>Operc</i> section: First production expected in 1Q09 |
| No. 6 (#233) - Delineation Well | 2 | 40 | Drilling: Targeting deeper <i>Operc</i> and possibly penetrate the upper <i>Gyro</i> section sands |
| No. 7 (#234) Delineation Well ⁽²⁾ | | | To Spud in 2Q09: Location pending full evaluation of the #233 well currently drilling |

⁽¹⁾ Confirmed with wireline logs.

⁽²⁾ Located 4,000 feet southwest of the No. 6 well

Four wells are currently producing at a gross rate of approximately 200 MMCFGE/D in the field. Per well rates vary depending on the porosity, permeability, pressures and hydrocarbon column of the reservoir being produced. To date, the primary *Rob-L* reservoir has achieved the highest flow rate in the field, over 100 MMCFGE/D. The No. 4 well, which tested at a rate of 124 MMCFGE/D in October 2008, is currently producing at a rate 60 MMCFGE/D, with a targeted rate of approximately 90 MMCFGE/D. The No. 5 development well logged 155 net feet of pay in the *Rob-L* and *Operc* sections, including an additional 30 net feet of deeper pay since McMoRan's 19-November-2008 update. The well is being completed in the *Operc* section with first production expected in the first quarter of 2009. The Flatrock No. 6 delineation well on SMI 217 was spudded on 28-October-2008, and is currently being drilled below 16,000 feet towards a PTD of 19,700 feet to evaluate the *Operc* and possibly to penetrate the upper *Gyro* sand section. In January 2008, wireline logs logged 40 net feet of pay in the *Rob-L* sand section of the No. 6 well.

The first well on the Tom Sauk deep gas exploratory prospect on Louisiana SL 340 was spudded on 14-August-2008 and as of the report date was being drilling below 17,700 feet towards a PTD of 19,000 feet. McMoRan is currently in the process of logging the well. Tom Sauk, which is located in less than 10 feet of water, is a deep gas prospect which lies below the shallow production at Mound Point Field.

Drilling on the Gladstone East deep gas exploratory prospect on Louisiana SL 340 commenced on 6-November-2008. The well is currently being drilled below 15,600 feet towards a PTD depth of 18,050 feet. The well, which is located in less than 10 feet of water approximately 5 miles east of the Flatrock Field, targets similar potential *Rob-L* and *Operc* sands in the middle-Miocene. The prospect is a deeper pool play, below the western flank of the Mound Point Field.

The Ammazzo deep gas new field wildcat exploratory well, in 25 feet of water, was spudded 22-November-2008 and as of the report date was being drilled below 7,900 feet towards a PTD of 24,500 feet. The Ammazzo prospect is located on the southern portion of a structural ridge extending from the Flatrock and JB Mountain discoveries (located approximately 16 and 11 miles north-northwest, respectively), where productive Middle Miocene *Rob-L*, *Operc* and *Gyro* sands have been discovered.

- ENI on 27-January announced that it had sanctioned two new development projects, Longhorn Phase II and Appaloosa field, both in the Greater Longhorn Area of central Mississippi Canyon. The area includes the ENI-operated Corral Platform, and the Longhorn field currently under development.

The Longhorn Phase II development, sanctioned by ENI in December, 2008 will have a total investment of \$112.9 MM, and will provide for an additional subsea well that will be tied back to the Corral Platform. Expected peak rate production will range from 30 to 50 MMCFG/D. The Longhorn gas development project, located in MC Blocks 502 and 546 in ~2,400 feet of water, is operated by ENI with a 75% WI. Nexen holds the remaining 25% WI. Production at Longhorn is expected to start in July, 2009.

The nearby Appaloosa Unit, entirely held by ENI, consists of MC Blocks 459, 460 and a portion of MC 503 and 504 in ~2,800 feet of water. The Appaloosa unit development was also sanctioned in December, 2008 with a total investment of \$228.1 million. Oil processing capacity at Corral Platform will be upgraded to accommodate Appaloosa's first oil, which is expected in January 2010 with a peak rate of 7,500 BO/D.

These development projects will provide ENI with a further opportunity to increase production and reinforce its operating presence in the Mississippi Canyon area. The ENI-operated Corral platform is expected to become a significant oil and gas processing hub at the edge of the Shelf region in this part of the GoM, with further synergies available in the Greater Longhorn area from an appraisal campaign planned to commence in second half 2009. ENI estimates that the potential of the Greater Longhorn Area in terms of reserves and exploration resources is approximately 100 MMBOE.

- On 29-January, Plains Exploration & Production Company announced an apparent prolific confirmation well at the Friesian Project at GC Block 599.

In November of 2006, the original discovery well, Friesian #1, was drilled in GC 599 to a TD of 29,414 feet and encountered more than 120 feet of net oil pay. The Friesian #2 offset well, located in adjacent GC Block 643 approximately 3,300 feet due south of the initial discovery well, operated by Plains (50% WI) was drilled to a TD of 28,989 feet. Approximately 389 net feet of oil saturated Miocene sands were encountered with three main sand lobes containing more than 210 net feet of high quality oil pay plus a fourth sand lobe with 179 additional feet of oil pay that was not fully evaluated. These four pay sands, all full to base with oil, are the uppermost field pays at the prolific Tahiti field, which is located approximately eight miles to the west across a syncline. Existing data shows strong correlation, both geologic and pressure, from these Miocene field pay sands at Tahiti to the drilled portion of the Friesian #2 well.

--- continued on page 31 ---

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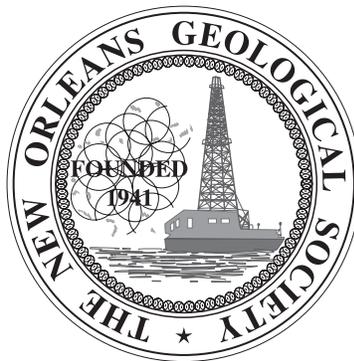
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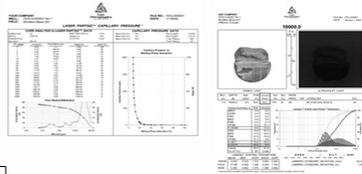
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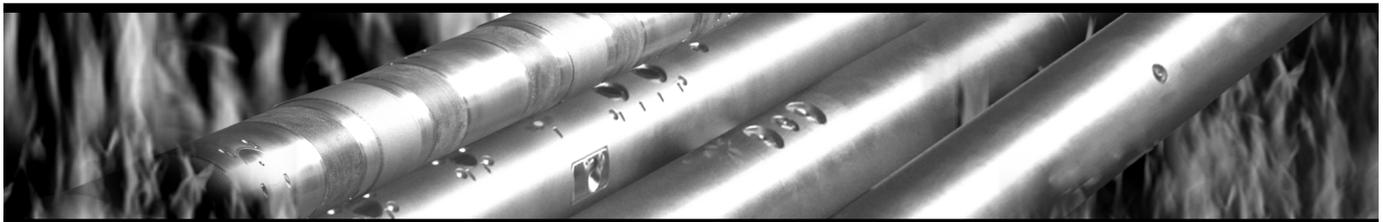
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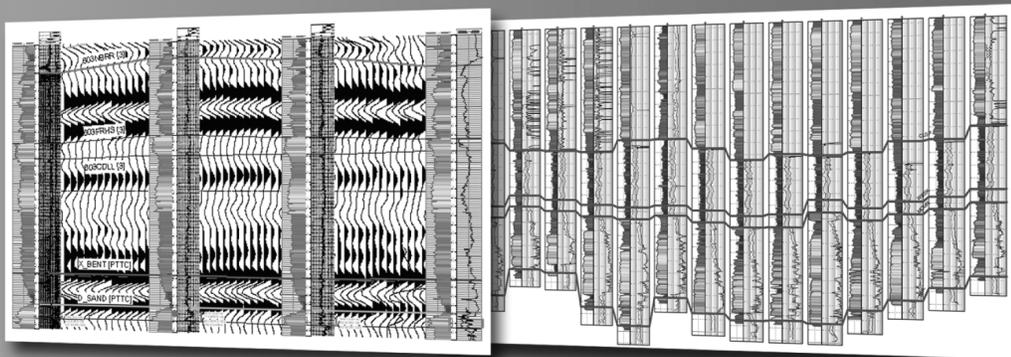


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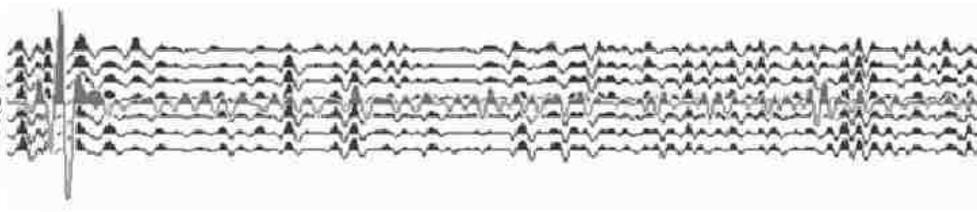
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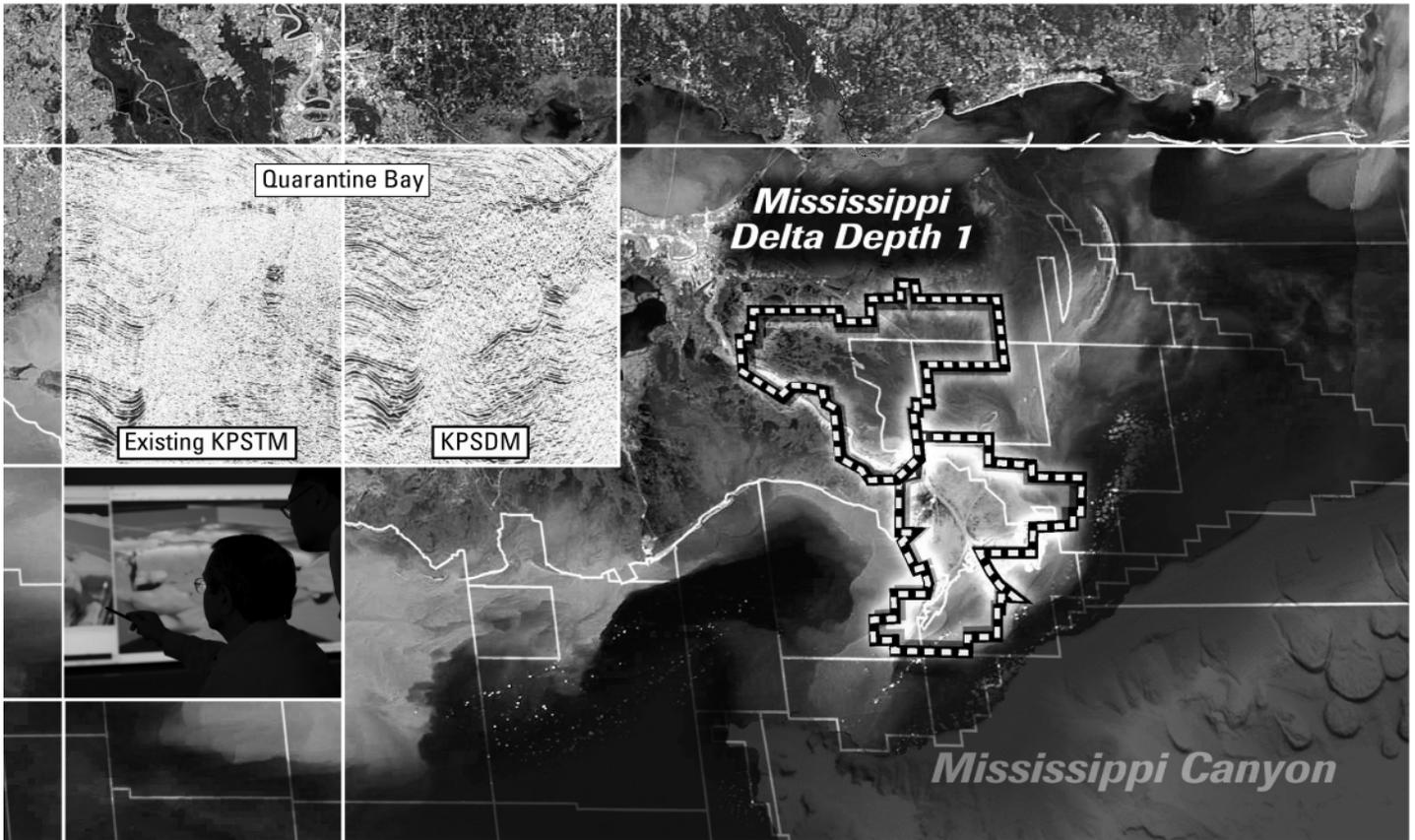
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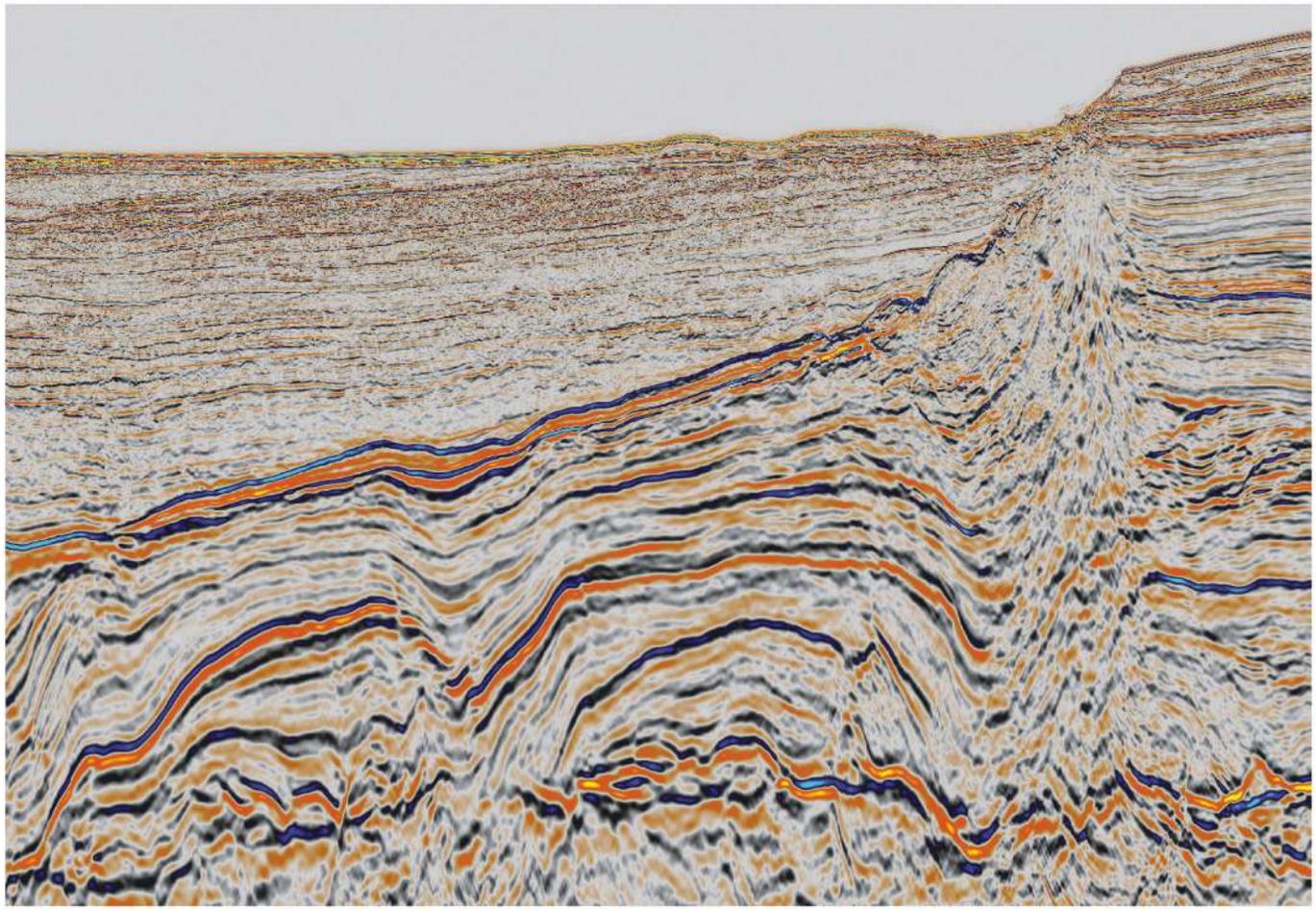
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Drill Bits, continued from page 19

Plains as operator, and its partner, decided to deepen the Friesian #2 well an additional 3,500 feet to 32,500 feet TVD to test sands equivalent to the prolific Tahiti main field sands; i.e., the M15, M18, M21A and M21B. Several of these Tahiti pay sands were flow tested at rates in excess of 25,000 BOPD. The Ocean Star, the rig which drilled Friesian #2 to its current TD, is not capable the deepening. Consequently, the higher capability semi-submersible Ocean Monarch has been contracted, and is expected to arrive in early March to commence the deepening of the Friesian #2 well.

In addition, early stage commercialization initiatives for Friesian production are under study with multiple parties, with initial production forecast by 2012.

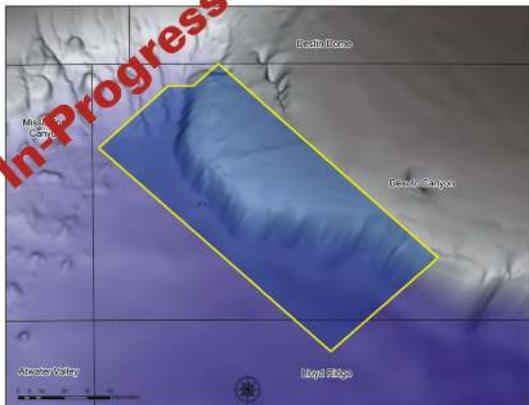
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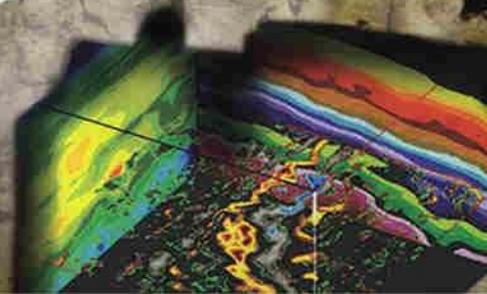
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