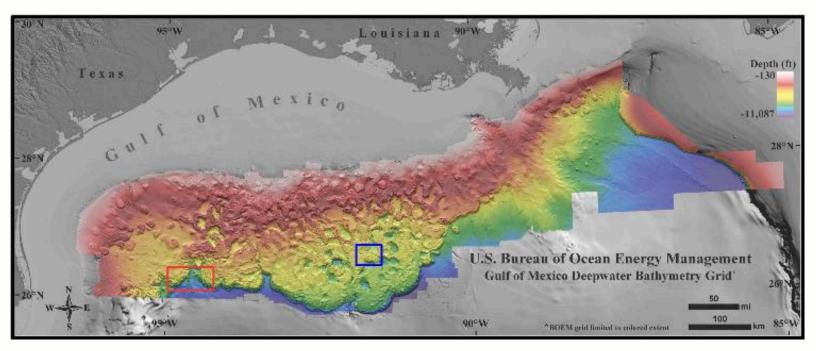


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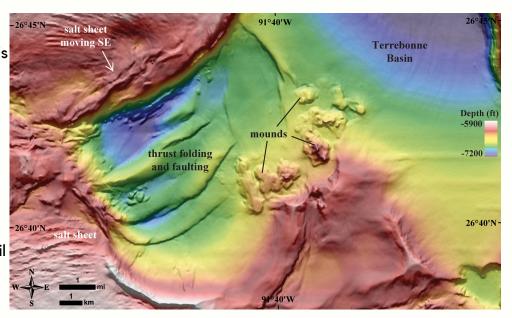
On the Cover From the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).



This is the Northern Gulf of Mexico deepwater bathymetry grid created from 3D seismic surveys. The grid defines water depth with 1.4 billion 40-by-40 ft cells and is available in feet and meters. BOEM grid coverage is the area defined by the color in this image. Shaded relief is vertically exaggerated by a factor of five.

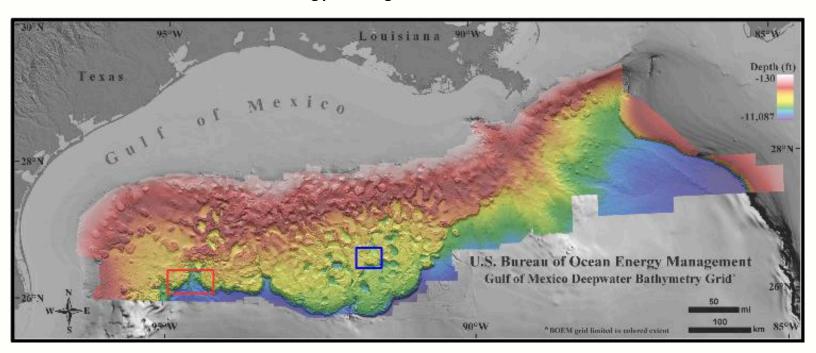
BLUE RECTANGLE: Features formed by the dynamic processes shaping the GOM, specifically salt movement and natural hydrocarbon seepage. This site is located in the southern end of the Terrebonne Basin within the Walker Ridge protraction. Thrust faulting and folding is due to southeast verging lateral movement of allochthonous salt. Movement of salt is what gives the Gulf of Mexico seafloor its rugose nature, also creating faults and fracture networks which provide pathways for oil and gas seeps. These particular expulsion mounds were formed as a result of basin compaction and compression, resulting in upward gas migration McConnell and Kendall,

2002].



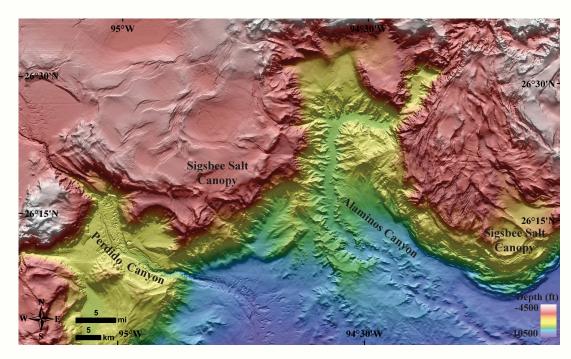
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On the Cover From the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).



This is the Northern Gulf of Mexico deepwater bathymetry grid created from 3D seismic surveys. The grid defines water depth with 1.4 billion 40-by-40 ft cells and is available in feet and meters. BOEM grid coverage is the area defined by the color in this image. Shaded relief is vertically exaggerated by a factor of five.

RED RECTANGLE: Alaminos and Perdido Canyons in new detail. The canyons funnel sediments to create an intermingling basinfloor fan system hundreds of meters thick. Core sampling determined that drainage from the Rio Grande River provides coarse, sandy sediments to the Perdido system [Damuth et al., 2006], whereas cores and well logs in Alaminos Canyon reveal primarily fine-grained deepwater clastics and hemipelagics [Bouma et al., 1968; Meyer et al., 2005].



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor...

Hello everyone,

In this issue of the NOGS Log

Brittany George, current NOGS Secretary and a geologist working in the underground energy storage program within the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, Office of Conservation, Injection & Mining Division, has graciously contributed a short article with photographs describing her recent field trips and work experience with salt

The 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium will be held August 14th through the 17th at the Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA. On August 14th NOGS is pleased to offer four Geological continuing education pre-symposium training courses: "Observing Source Rocks on Seismic Data"; "Carbon Capture and Storage: An Industry Primer"; "Introduction to Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Environmental Regulations" and "Professional Geoscientist Exam (ASBOG) Preparatory Class". Register or renew your NOGS Membership and receive a \$50 discount when you register for the Deepwater Technical Symposium courses through NOGS. Also, The American Petroleum Institute Delta Chapter will host the 25th Annual Joint Industry Luncheon with guest speaker Holly A. Hopkins, Vice President, Upstream Policy, American Petroleum Institute.

NOGS will resume lunch and technical presentations on September 11th at Zea's on the North Shore. Eric Zimmermann, COO of LLOG Exploration, will be our guest speaker.

Please consider upcoming volunteer opportunities: "Super Saurus Saturday" at the Louisiana Children's Museum October 19th and Girl Scouts "BIG believe in Girls" event at Nicholls State University, Thibodeaux, LA on October 12th

I encourage professionals, academics and graduate students to share your research and grow your network. Become an active NOGS Member, consider writing a short article in the NOGS Log or, better yet, provide a short lunchtime presentation at a monthly meeting. Volunteer to work NOGS events or offer you services as a Board Member.

Until September....

Brian Bothner

Brian Bothner 2024/2025 NOGS Log Editor



JARED BULLOCK

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2024/2025 NOGS PRESIDENT

Greetings to all NOGS members & NOGS LOG readers!

Happy (belated) Independence Day to all! I hope everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July holiday filled with your own kind of celebration whether that was fireworks, swimming, boating, grilling, or just beating the "dog-days-of-summer" heat in the AC!

I've heard that phrase on repeat recently: the "dog days" of summer. Do you know the origin of this phrase? According to the Old Farmer's Almanac (in publication since 1792), the "dog days" of summer traditionally refers to a period of particularly hot and humid weather occurring during the summer months of July and August in the Northern Hemisphere. In ancient Greece & Rome, these days were believed to be a time of drought, bad luck, and unrest, when dogs and men alike would be driven mad by the extreme heat. Today, the phrase doesn't conjure up such bad imagery. Instead, the Dog Days are associated purely with the time of summer's peak temperatures and humidity.

This period of sweltering weather coincides with the year's heliacal (meaning "at sunrise") rising of Sirius, the Dog Star. Sirius is part of the constellation Canis Majoris—the "Greater Dog"—which is where Sirius gets its canine nickname, as well as its official name, Alpha Canis Majoris. Sirius is the brightest star in the sky, not including our own Sun.

In ancient Greece, Egypt, and Rome, it was believed that Sirius's dawn rising in mid-to-late summer contributed to the extreme weather of the season. In other words, the "combined heat" of super-bright Sirius and our Sun was thought to be the cause of summer's sweltering temperatures. The name "Sirius" even stems from the Ancient Greek seírios, meaning "scorching."

For the ancient Egyptians, Sirius's dawn rising (known to them as Sothis) also coincided with the Nile River's flood season. They used the star as a "watchdog" for that event. Of course, the appearance of Sirius does not actually affect seasonal weather here on Earth, but its appearance during the hottest part of summer ensures that the lore surrounding the star lives on today!

Lore or not, the ancient Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians are still correct – July and August are hot! As we all fully embrace the "dog days" of summer, don't forget to mark your calendars now for several upcoming NOGS events. The NOGS board has been working hard to plan an event-filled fall for our members.

Just around the corner on August 15 -16th is the 27th Annual Gulf of Mexico Deepwater Technical Symposium in New Orleans, LA. Pre-symposium training across multiple disciplines is being held on the 14th. Check out deepwaternola.org for more info!

We will kick off our fall monthly luncheons on Wednesday, September 11th at Zea's in Covington. Our speaker will be Eric Zimmermann, COO of LLOG Exploration. Because of the great turnouts last year, NOGS will also be hosting fall socials on the North & Southshore in September. Please be on the lookout for the email announcements soon! Finally, the NOGS board has approved to add an event for the holiday season this November. On Saturday, November 2nd from 1:30-4:00pm NOGS will be hosting a family-friendly holiday party at Rock-N-Bowl. Mark your calendar as more details will be available soon!

Stay cool,

Jared Bullock NOGS 2024-2025 President



2024/2025 NOGS BOARD OF DIRECTORS





















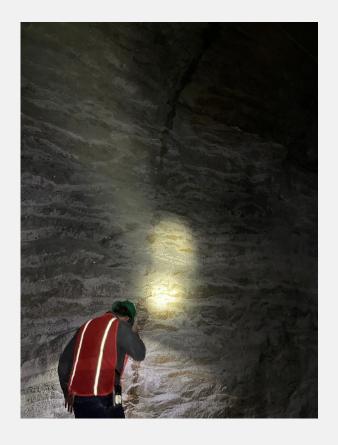
Domes to Beds: My Recent Salt Mine Experiences as a Regulator

Brittany George

If someone had asked me five years ago which specialization I'd have in geology for my career, or even what aspect of geology excited me the most, salt would not have been at the top of my list. On my radar, sure, but nowhere near the top. And yet here I am, a geologist who helps regulate the State's salt cavern storage projects. It's been almost two years now since I started with the State, and I love it.

My job has taken me to facilities across Louisiana, from the southwest to just south of Baton Rouge. The most exciting facility I've visited in Louisiana has been Morton Salt's facility at Weeks Island, part of the Five Island Trend salt domes that dot the middle of the coast in an arcuate pattern. Last March, my fellow regulators and I took a tour to around 1500' below the ground surface.





As we descended to each level of the mine, the temperature rose. On the deepest level, the temperature was above 90 F. We saw areas that appeared to the purest halite salt, bright white and crystalline in places, as well as shear zones and other areas of anomalous, darker salt. There were zones where it was evident there water was intruding into the salt, as it pooled on the floors of the mine and tinged the salt yellow. Our guide described the pockets of methane gas that can be present, and the care they take when mining new areas of the salt.

Domes to Beds: My Recent Salt Mine Experiences as a Regulator

Continued

What struck me immediately about the mine was the pure scale of it. Weeks Island is a room and pillar mine that has been carved into a gridded pattern for stability. Each level of the mine is around 100 feet deeper than the next, and the ceilings are incredibly high. It's amazing now to look back at the pictures from the trip and how we and the carts were dwarfed in such a large cave.



What also surprised me was the air inside the mine contained so much salt dust that I could stick my tongue out and taste the air. It showed in the beam of our headlamps and headlights of the carts. On the rails of the stationary machinery, the previously airborne salt particles settled like the finest snow that resembled powdered sugar to the touch.

Domes to Beds: My Recent Salt Mine Experiences as a Regulator

Continued

Less than a month after visiting Weeks Island, I was fortunate to visit a bedded salt mine in Poland called Wieliczka. I wrote about this experience a few months ago in June's edition of the NOGS Log, so for more information about that, please see that article. The mine was once extensively mined for its salt but is now a cultural tourist attraction within a labyrinth filled with religious and cultural iconography. There's even supposed respiratory benefits to visiting the mine (that I can personally attest to, as someone with asthma). Geologically, this salt is much less pure halite, which is expected given it's bedded salt versus domal salt. Some



deformation exists, but there are clear, defined layers of clay and other minerals, including other salts, interbedded with halite.

Both experiences have given me newfound respect for a world that had thus far eluded me, especially before this position. Professionally, the salt world has a very "small world" aspect, and everyone truly does know everyone. The field does not come without its challenges (think, Bayou Corne), but it's field experiences like this that allow us to better understand and work to solve the problems that may arise with salt cavern storage.

NOGS is taking a Summer Break Join us in August for the



Monthly Lunch Meetings will resume in September



September 11 - Lunch Zea's Northshore
September 19 - Northshore Kickoff Event
September 26 - Southshore Kickoff Event
October 2 - Lunch Southshore
November 2 - Holiday Kickoff Event
November 6 - Lunch Northshore
December 4 - Lunch Southshore

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PAYING MEMBERS WILL BE SENT A BALLOT FOR THE 2024/2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

DRILL BITS



OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES BY AL BAKER

During June 2024, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) approved 63 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Ten of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 53 permits were for deepwater wells. There was 1 new well permit issued in deepwater.

The 1 deepwater new well permit was for a development well. LLOG Exploration Offshore received the new well permit for their Keathley Canyon 686 #4 well in Leon Field.

On June 28th, S&P Global Petrodata indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 48, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 35 rigs, of which 27 were under contract. The marketed rig supply was 3 rigs more than the previous month, and the contracted rig supply was 1 more than last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 56.3%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 77.1%. By comparison, the June 2023 total fleet utilization rate stood at 82.4% with 34 rigs in the marketed supply out of the 47 rigs in the fleet.

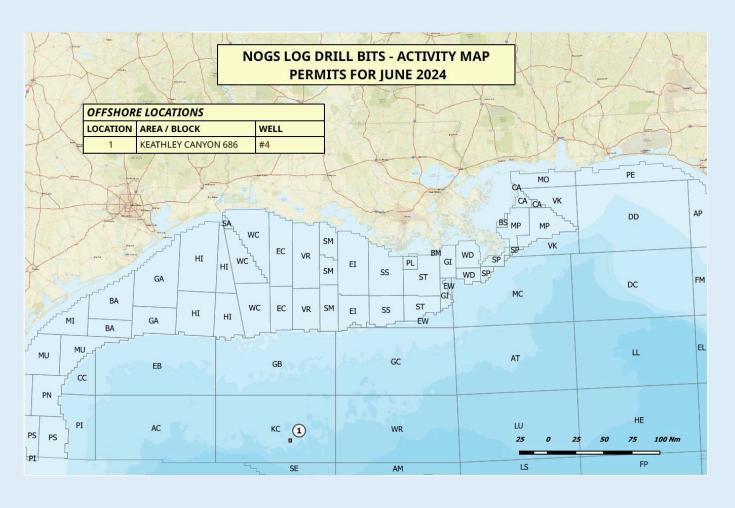
On June 28th, Baker Hughes reported that there are 19 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 2 less than last month and 70.4% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 3 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 16 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs include 1 each in the Eugene Island, South Timbalier and Main Pass Areas. The deepwater rigs include 7 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 2 rigs each in the Alaminos Canyon, Walker Ridge, Keathley Canyon and Green Canyon Areas and 1 rig in the Garden Banks Area.

On June 28th, the Baker Hughes total U.S. rig count stood at 581 rigs, which is 19 fewer than reported at the end of May 2024. Of the 581 rigs, 479 (82.4%) are oil rigs and 97 (16.7%) are gas rigs. Five rigs are listed as miscellaneous. Of the 581 wells being drilled, 518 (89.2%) are horizontal and 18 (3.1%) are vertical. A year ago, there were 674 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current 93 rig decline corresponds to an 13.8% decrease in rigs year over year. Nationally, Texas has the largest number of rigs with 277, which is 47.7% of the total number of rigs in the U. S. Louisiana currently has a total of 40 rigs, which is the 2 less than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 107 rigs.

DRILL BITS



NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY KEVIN TROSCLAIR



Recent Energy Headlines

July 2024 Recap

7/26/2024 - BOEM Announces Next Steps for Offshore Wind in Gulf of Mexico - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) announced today that the agency received an unsolicited lease request from Hecate Energy Gulf Wind LLC (Hecate Energy) to acquire commercial wind energy lease(s) on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in the Gulf of Mexico. In response, BOEM is seeking information regarding whether competitive interest exists in the areas included in Hecate Energy's request. The areas are located off the coast of southeast Texas and had been previously identified by BOEM as potential Wind Energy Areas (WEAs) suitable for offshore wind leasing in 2021. WEA Option C totals 74,113 acres, and WEA Option D totals 68,239 acres, for a total of 142,352 acres. Read Full Article

7/24/2024 - Industry Groups React to New Bipartisan Energy Legislation - U.S. Senators Joe Manchin and John Barrasso, the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee (SENRC), respectively, recently launched the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024, a SENRC release posted on the organization's website revealed. In response to the introduction of the act, Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) COO and EVP Dan Naatz said in a statement sent to Rigzone, "IPAA applauds Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso for their collaborative effort in producing the bipartisan Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024". Read Full Article

7/18/2024 - LLOG Strengthens US Gulf Presence After Buying Dozens of Deepwater Blocks - The Louisiana-based private producer is taking on more assets previously owned by Shell as it looks to secure its deepwater future. US independent LLOG Exploration announced this week that it acquired rights to 41 deepwater blocks in the US federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM). Louisiana-headquartered LLOG highlighted that it holds a 100% working interest and is the sole operator of all the blocks that lie in the western and less-developed GOM. The 41 blocks span nearly 236,000 acres in the East Breaks and Alaminos Canyon areas which lie north of LLOG's Blacktip projects. Read Full Article

7/8/2024 - US Oil and Gas president says he supports RNC platform on energy dominance - U.S. Oil and Gas Association President Tim Stewart on Monday said that he supports former President Donald Trump's energy agenda for another term, which includes making the country a dominant energy producer. The agenda, which was published on Sunday, was approved by the Republican National Committee, and vowed to make "America Energy Independent, and then Energy Dominant," by increasing energy production, "streamlining permits, and ending market-distorting restrictions on Oil, Natural Gas, and Coal." Stewart said the association supports Trump's policies because they are "common sense" policies that will make the American economy stronger. Read Full Article

7/4/2024 - Oil production commences from Winterfell in US Gulf of Mexico - The initial two production wells in the first phase are now operational and increasing production levels. Kosmos Energy has announced the commencement of oil production at the Winterfell development in the Green Canyon region of the US Gulf of Mexico. The initial two production wells in the first phase are now operational and increasing production levels. Currently, a third well is being drilled and is due to be completed by the end of the third quarter of 2024. Read Full Article

27th Annual Gulf of Mexico CHARLES TO THE CONTROL OF THE CONTROL O

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GEOLOGY SEMINAR

Carbon Capture and Storage: An Industry Primer

Dr Tip Meckel - Gulf Coast Carbon Center, Bureau of Economic Geology (USA)

August 14, 2024

This one-day short course provides technical professionals, managers, and executives at various stages in their career an in-depth overview of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS), one of the most rapidly emerging sectors in the energy industry and a critically necessary component of all credible low emissions and decarbonization scenarios and plans.

CCS is a safe, reliable, and proven method to safely and effectively remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Under the right conditions, CO2 stored in subsurface geologic formations is permanently isolated.

Many of the aspects of CCS that we will cover as topics and themes on the course will be familiar to participants with experience in oil and gas, but we will focus on how to leverage skills and experience to maximum benefit.

- CCS in the context of Net Zero and the Energy Transition
- Existing and emerging technologies to capture, transport, store, and monitor injected CO2
- Sources of CO2 emissions
- Distribution networks: Pipelines and flow assurance

- Characterizing and selecting potential storage sites
 - Onshore vs offshore
 - Depleted fields and saline aquifers
 - A forensic look at seal integrity
- Risk and uncertainty
- Reservoir surveillance
 - Migration
 - Measuring, monitoring, and verifying
- Permitting, Regulatory, and Policy issues
- Establishing and building successful partnerships
- Project management
- Financing, incentives and cost considerations
- Stakeholder engagement
- Critical success factors for technical and commercial viability

Course cost: \$200

The course will draw on the instructors' decades of first-hand experience on successful (and not so successful) USA and International commercial and technology research projects, including their learnings from applied case studies, a review of the status of current and planned global projects, projections for future growth, and thoughts on how to build a sustainable and rewarding career in the 21st century energy industry.



INTRODUCTION TO WESTERN AND CENTRAL GULF OF MEXICO ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

Instructors:

Brian Boyer, Environmental Consultant, BTGap, L.L.C.

Allen Cowart, VP – Operations Safety & Compliance, J. Connor Consulting, Inc.

Jerry Landry, Operations Manager, EDI Environmental Services

Course Duration: 1 day Professional **Development Hours (PDH)** = 6

Course Description Introduction to Western and Central Gulf of Mexico Environmental Regulations training class is a must-attend event for new and experienced engineers, geologists, operations, support and HSE professionals who want an introductory class on environmental regulations. The workshop is designed to enhance your skills and knowledge of environmental regulations affecting oil and gas operations in the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico. The course instructors have direct experience assisting oil and gas operators comply with offshore environmental regulations. The schedule includes the following topics: • Offshore Water Permitting Compliance • Spills and Safety and Environmental Monitoring Program (SEMP) • Offshore Waste Management • Offshore Air Quality Regulations

Instructors Biography:

Brian Boyer, Environmental Consultant, BTGap, L.L.C. Brian is the owner of BTGap, L.L.C., an environmental consulting firm located in Lafayette, LA. Brian specializes in oil and gas air quality issues for offshore and onshore oil and gas operations. His current work includes NPDES permit compliance, air emission inventories, air permitting and emission control systems. He has 37 years of experience in the environmental field.

Allen Cowart is Vice President - Operations Safety & Compliance / Special Projects for J. Connor Consulting, Inc. (JCC) Allen has over 34 years of experience in the oil and gas industry. At JCC, he manages services to enhance operational safety and compliance for oil and gas operations (onshore and offshore) which include Safety and Environmental Management Programs (SEMP) compliance, facility inspections, due diligence, hazard analysis, prestartup reviews, written operating procedures, hazard communications plans, critical equipment tracking, and incident investigations. Special Projects services include specialized incident management plans, customized ICS training, exercise facilitation, crisis management plans, security plans, and remediation project management.

Jerry Landry, Operations Manager, EDI Environmental Services Jerry Landry is the Operations Manager at EDI Environmental Services. Prior to EDI, he was the General Manager of an environmental testing laboratory. He has been in the environmental services business for over 30 years specializing in hazardous waste testing, profiling, and RCRA compliance.



Course cost: \$200



PROFESSIONAL GEOSCIENTIST EXAM (ASBOG®) Preparatory Course

Instructor:

William H. Schramm (BA, MS, LAPG334), Chair of Ethics Committee & Subject Matter Expert for National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG)

Course Duration: 1 day Professional **Development Hours (PDH)** = 3.0

Course Description The Licensing Exams for Professional Licensure as required by the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientist is administered twice a year by the National Association of State Boards of Geologists through computer-based testing. I will discuss the reasoning for professional licensing, the statue, requirements of the board, the process of applying for a license, and specifically the exams. I will explain how these exams are scientifically constructed to the highest psychometric standards and then individually graded by a council of examiners, comprised of numerous subject matter experts and the psychometrician. We will discuss the test topics for both the Fundamental and Professional tests as well as how these topics were chosen, the "blueprint," based on the task analysis, and how the tests are scored. I hope to encourage a discussion of topics and typical types of questions and develop a strategy for taking the tests. We will also partake of sample questions as provided by ASBOG®. A list of study materials and sources will be provided.

Instructor Biography

William H. Schramm is a 28-year retired veteran of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. As a Geologist in remediation, he worked closely with industry, consultants, regulators, and private citizens. As Geologist Supervisor, he managed a staff of 16 Geologists and staff. He served as Adjunct Instructor on the staff of the Department of Geology at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and served on numerous Graduate Thesis Committees. After retirement from the state in 2017, Governor John Bel Edwards appointed Mr. Schramm to the Louisiana Board of Professional Geoscientists where he was elected Treasurer (2018), then Chair of the board (2021). Concurrently he was selected to the Council of Examiners as a Subject Matter Expert with the National Association of State Boards of Geology (ASBOG®) and also serves as the Chair of the Ethics Committee. He holds a BA and MS in Geology and a Teaching Certification for K-12 in Science and Earth Science as well as Louisiana Professional Geoscientist License 334. He now consults part time as Senior Geologist with Losonsky and Associates.



Course cost: \$125



OBSERVING MATURING SOURCE ROCKS ON SEISMIC DATA

Instructor:

Dr. Tim Matava, Geological and Geophysical Integrated Modeling, Inc. (GGIM)

Course Duration: 1/2 day Professional **Development Hours (PDH)** = 3.0

Course Description Over the last several years we have made several observations indicating that it is to observe maturing source rocks on seismic data in margins. In this half day course, we will develop this emerging technology and show how to de-risk the presence of a maturing source with amplitude extractions from seismic data and maturity models from integrated basin simulators. The workflow is interdisciplinary, so it requires both geologists and geophysicists and is developed to better understand the source and timing risk elements of plays and prospects. The workflow is particularly powerful when source and trap are proximal such as in deepwater settings.



Course cost: \$125



25th API-Delta Joint Industry Luncheon

Held on the 1st day of the Deepwater Symposium



Speaker:
Holly A. Hopkins
Vice President, Upstream Policy
American Petroleum Institute
(Headquarters, Washington DC)

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2024

Time: 12:00 noon

Location: Hilton Riverside, New Orleans



Register for the luncheon on the Deepwater Symposium website below:

(you can choose in the list the API Luncheon as an individual or a table)

Individual ticket - \$75 Reserved table of 10 - \$1,000

Register online here:

https://whova.com/portal/registration/deepw 202408/



October 19, 2024

11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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October 19th 11 am -3 pm
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of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance
of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the
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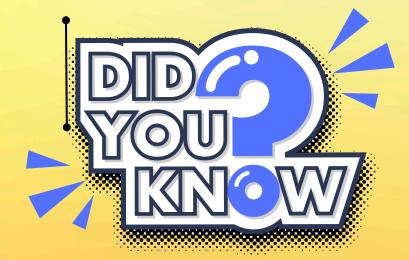
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in memory of Art Johnson

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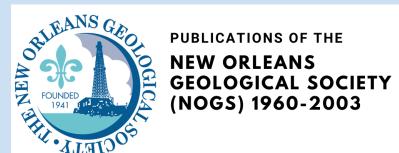
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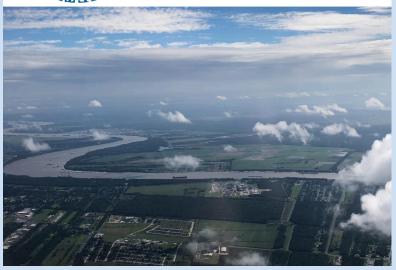
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