

On the Rocks



A Newsletter of the Michigan Basin Geological Society
E-mail version

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www.mbgs.org

November 2001

EVENTS

November 14-16, 2001: 40th annual Ontario Petroleum Institute Conference and Trade Show, London Hilton Hotel, London, Ontario, Canada. For more information contact: www.ontpet.com or opi@odyssey.on.ca.

December 6, 2001: AIPG Michigan Section Meeting. Bill Siok, AIPG Executive Director, AIPG annual awards banquet and discussion regarding national affairs, Howell, Michigan. See details in the Newsletter.

March 10-13, 2002: AAPG annual meeting, Houston, Texas. Professor Emeritus at U of M and honorary MBGS member James E. Wilson will receive the 2002 Sidney Powers Memorial Award.

October 6-8, 2002: AAPG annual Eastern Section meeting, Champaign, Illinois.

June 3-6, 2002: Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists annual meeting, Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Changing Perceptions in Coalbed Methane Reservoirs

David G. Hill

Gas Technology Institute

Coalbed methane is currently enjoying a second resurgence in the U.S. with respect to drilling and production. It has “officially” survived the expiration of the Section 29 non-conventional fuels tax credit and new basins are emerging with economically viable coalbed methane (CBM) plays that are catching the attention of wide range of companies who have not been involved in coalbed methane before. Several factors have contributed to the rapid growth and renewed interest in CBM and are the topic of this presentation.

Over the past decade, the gas industry’s pessimistic perceptions of the total in-place and recoverable coalbed methane resource base in the U.S. lower-48 states have been shown to be wrong. In addition, the gas industry has found that the finding cost of new coalbed methane reserves can be comparable to or even lower than that of conventional natural gas resources. New reservoir property evaluation methods, improved drilling and completion practices, and new geologic information are enabling the gas industry to expand the size of the economically recoverable coalbed methane resource base. New technologies and environmental issues on the horizon will also grow the economically recoverable resource base within the next decade. Two of the more promising examples, which are complimentary, are enhanced recovery technology and carbon sequestration.

Internationally, commercial coalbed methane production is occurring in Australia. Currently, several regions of the world are seeing renewed interest in coalbed methane exploration and exploitation, including Australia, China, India, Poland, and Canada. This presentation will compare and contrast the geologic and reservoir properties of these areas with those of productive coalbed methane plays in U.S. basins.

Biography

David Hill is Manager, Emerging Resources with the Gas Technology Institute, (Formerly Gas Research Institute). He is also President of TICORA Geosciences, Inc., a subsidiary of GTI, specializing in reservoir characterization of unconventional reservoirs. Mr. Hill has over 16 years of diversified experience in the oil and gas industry. Areas of expertise include unconventional reservoirs (coalbed methane, gas shale and tight gas sands), hydraulic fracturing, and reservoir evaluation. He has been employed with the GTI for 10 years and has been involved in unconventional gas reservoir research and development over that time period in various management roles. He has a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering from Marietta College and a MBA from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University. He is an active member of SPE and has authored and co-authored 30 papers and articles on unconventional reservoirs.

MBGS-SPE Meeting

November 8, 2001

Location: Holiday Inn (South)
6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI.

Schedule: 5:30 to 6:30 PM Social Hour
6:30 PM Dinner
Presentation after dinner

Cost \$25.00/member \$10.00 Student (includes dinner)

Topic: “Changing Perceptions in Coalbed Methane Reservoirs”

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By Mr. David Hill

MBGS Dinner Meeting Reservation

Name _____ Mentor(65 years +) _____

Number attending _____ Society _____

Enclosed Registration Fee _____

Please make your check out to the SPE and return to Steve Nowaczewski by
November 5, 2001

Send to: Steve Nowaczewski
500 Renaissance Center
Detroit, Michigan 48243

Ph: 313-496-2472 Fax: 313-496-3504

e-mail: stephen_nowaczewski@...@elpaso.com

Steve's numbers effective October 31, 2001 - Ph: 248-994-4041 Fax: 248-994-4141.

Trip Director

The MBGS is still looking for a person to take over as Field Trip Director. Tim Cowen held this position for many years and has done a great job. This is an opportunity to set up trips to areas that you may have wanted to visit. The Society is also open to nominations for this position. The MBGS can only continue to exist if its members are willing to contribute some of their time to keep it going so I urge you to seriously consider the job.

MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY

Monthly meetings will be automatically cancelled whenever the National Weather Service issues a "Storm Warning" for the Lansing area. If driving conditions are poor but a "Warning" has not been issued please contact any member of the Executive Committee for the status of the meeting.

MBGS Mug and Jacket Sale

The Michigan Basin Geological Society is offering mugs and jackets with the society logo for sale. The mugs are \$5.00 each. The jackets are \$60.00 each plus postage. Please contact Dan McGuire at: Phone (517) 772-5219, Fax (517) 772-7021, or danmcguire@sensible-net.com. Remember to include the correct size of the jacket and the quantity of each item. Checks should be made out to the MBGS.

AIPG Meeting

The December meeting is the awards banquet and election of our new secretary/treasurer. William Siok the Executive Director of the AIPG will be in attendance and will speak to us regarding state and national issues.

Date: December 6, 2001, Location Lake Pointe Manor 5768 East Grand River, Howell, Michigan. Cost: Students \$20.00, Members \$30.00, Non-members \$35.00. Cash Bar 5:30-11:00 p.m., Dinner 6:15 p.m., Section Meeting, presentation by Bill Siok and Awards 7:00 p.m.

Dinner choices: Chicken Piccata, Prime Rib of Beef, and Shrimp Florentine.

Remember most of our meetings this year have been sold out. So, get your reservations and dinner choices in early. Call Linda Van Buren (810) 225-6271 with reservations. Students: when you call, let Linda know that you wish to receive a free dinner. Reservations must be in no later than November 30, 2001.

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Department of Geosciences, Western Michigan University
Sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences
Fall 2001 Seminar Series

4:00 pm, 1118 Rood Hall - unless otherwise noted

Oct. 22 Eric Shafer *Landfill Technology*
Westside Landfill

Oct. 29 Robert Anemone *Climate Change and Mannalian Evolution in the Early Tertiary:
Recent Field*
Department of Anthropology *Investigations in the Great Divide Basin, SW Wyoming*
Western Michigan University

Nov. 5 Robb Gillespie *Gamma Ray Outcrop Logging: Understanding Subsurface
Correlation*
Department of Geosciences
Western Michigan University

Nov. 12 Carrie Jennings Patterson *Bedrock Control on Subglacial Drainage Style, Superior
Lobe, Minnesota*
Minnesota Geological Survey

Nov. 19 Alice Mwanda *TBA*
Department of Geosciences
Western Michigan University

Nov. 26 Brian Bird *TBA*
Department of Geosciences
Western Michigan University

Dec. 3 Franklyn Legall *TBA*
Department of Geosciences
Western Michigan University

Dec. 10 Adrian Ezeagu *TBA*
Department of Geosciences
Western Michigan University