



JANUARY 7 - NOGS LUNCHEON

Presentation: Explanation for Differences in Deepwater Salt Tectonics

Between The North-central and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico

Guest Speaker: Michael R. Hudec - Bureau of Economic Geology • University of Texas at Austin

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Published monthly by the New Orleans Geological Society. This issue was sent to press on December 24, 2012.

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on the cover:

Cover Photo Submitted by: Roy Walther

This well is the Shell #1 Realty Operators Unit 4 located on the north flank of the Gibson Field in Terrebonne Parish. It was spudded in October 1941 and blew out at a depth of 6298'. The well cratered and the rig sank out of sight. It was never recovered.

Photograph was taken by an unknown roughneck.

From the Editor

Happy Holidays fellow NOGS members! I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and have big plans to ring in the New Year as we all celebrate with our families this holiday season. Looking into 2013, this upcoming year should be a great one to share with our NOGS family. From our always entertaining and informative NOGS Luncheons, to the annual Golf Tournament and, of course, the GCAGS Convention, 2013 promises to be a year to remember for our geological society.

I want to take this opportunity to thank someone who provides significant value to NOGS at several of our events - Arthur Christensen. You may notice all the great photos we have throughout this edition of the NOGS LOG which Arthur has so eloquently captured. He really does a fantastic job as a photographer capturing all the NOGS events and the many faces of our Society. I know our members who no longer live in the Greater New Orleans area appreciate being able to see these photos in the LOG every month so, again, thank you Arthur.

> Thanks. Jordan Heltz - NOGS LOG Editor

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Happy New Year!

It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Christmas party held at the Chateau Country Club last month. I was very pleased with the turnout and hope you all had as great of a time as I. Recognition is in order for Mary Walther and the NOGA ladies for managing the greeting table and organizing the door prizes. Bay Salmeron did

a fantastic job once again organizing the event. Jovial company, melodious live band, and a smooth dance floor helped to promenade the night away.

As you all are aware, our President-Elect has reluctantly had to resign in light of a career move which will certainly prove to be beneficial. At the December luncheon, an announcement was made and the floor was open to nominations. The good news is that we have a very suitable and enthusiastic successor. Please join me in welcoming Chuck Holman to the NOGS Executive Committee as he will take over the President-Elect position beginning January 1. Chuck has served us well in the past as both Secretary and Treasurer, so I expect a smooth transition into his new role. Thank you Chuck!

Any of you out there use Facebook? NOGS does, in fact, have a Facebook page, and going forward this will be used as another tool for event invitations as well as photo documentation. Search New Orleans Geological Society, and ask to be added as a group member. I believe this will be an effective way to reach out to our younger members so NOGS can continue to be an exceptional society for generations to come.

How often do you visit the NOGS website? Ok, now have you ever visited the External Affairs page? Every month, our External Affairs Committee reports to the Board of Directors on issues which may affect or have an impact on the geological profession. Mike Fogarty heads up this committee and does a superb job keeping up with current events. A big "Thank You" also goes out to Ed Picou for keeping the website straight and knowledge resources readily available.

Welcome everyone to the year 2013! Maybe someday archaeologists will find the other half of that Mayan calendar. Adios doomsday and hello heyday!

Should Auld Acquaintance be forgot,

And days o'lang syne.

Skaal!

T H H E

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UPCOMING Events & Activities



January 7 • NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome

\$2.00 validated parking in hotel garage

Presentation:

Explanation for Differences in Deepwater Salt Tectonics Between the North-central and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico

Guest Speaker:

Michael R. Hudec

Bureau of Economic Geology — The University of Texas at Austin See page 9 for Abstract and Biography

HOLIDAY INN DOWNTOWN SUPERDOME

Check with concierge or front desk for location.

Lunch served at 11:30 am

February 14 Joint SGS-NOGS Luncheon

LePavillon Hotel - New Orleans, LA For more information, www.nogs.org

ADMISSION:

With reservation\$30.00 Without reservation\$35.00 Student Member with reservations...... FREE

March 4 NOGS Luncheon

Holiday Inn - New Orleans, LA For more information, www.nogs.org

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Tom Bergeon tom.bergeon@centuryx.com 504-832-3772

March 23 Super Saurus Saturday Louisiana Children's Museum - New Orleans, LA

For more information, www.nogs.org or see page 26 of this issue.

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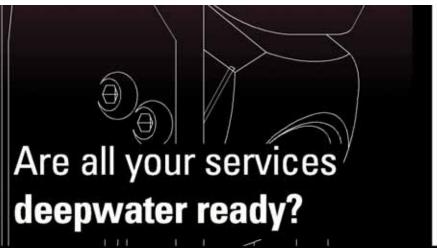
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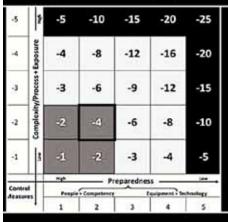
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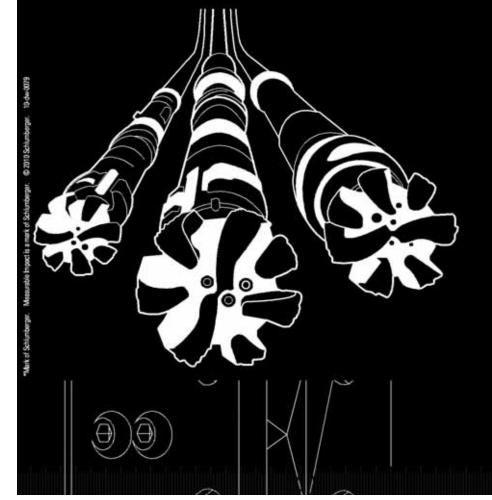


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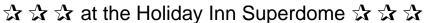
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January 7 NOGS Luncheon Presentation





Explanation for Differences in Deepwater Salt Tectonics Between the North-central and Northwestern Gulf of Mexico



Presented by

Michael R. Hudec Bureau of Economic Geology The University of Texas at Austin

ABSTRACT

Salt geometries in the deepwater northern Gulf of Mexico change dramatically across the Brazos transfer fault, attributed to differences in basement structure. The area to the west of the Brazos transfer has a 3-4-km-high step at the limit of oceanic crust (LOC), a basement high beneath the upper slope (the East Breaks basement high), and a nearby zone of cratonic uplift (the Llano uplift/San Marcos arch). By contrast, areas to the east of the Brazos transfer feature of a 0-2-km-hgh step at the LOC, no basement high beneath the upper slope, and a more distant zone of cratonic uplift.

To the west of the Brazos transfer fault, seaward salt flow was limited by (a) the dam formed by the high-relief step at the LOC, and (b) limits to salt supply imposed by the East Breaks basement high. Cenozoic uplift of the nearby Llano uplift tilted the margin, forming the Perdido foldbelt at the downdip end of the deep salt layer. Rising folds of the Perdido foldbelt blocked seaward advance of the Sigsbee canopy, allowing salt in the canopy to thicken dramatically.

On the east side of the Brazos transfer, salt advanced much further out onto oceanic crust because the LOC step was lower, and because the absence of an intrabasin high meant that much more salt was available to feed the advance. Cenozoic tilting of the margin was less severe and the uplift was further away, producing a broad and diffuse foldbelt. The absence of large-relief folds at the seaward end of the system allowed the Sigsbee canopy to flow seaward unimpeded.

BIOGRAPHY

Mike Hudec received his Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming in 1990. He worked for Exxon Production Research from 1989-1997, and then taught at Baylor University from 1997-2000. He joined the Bureau of Economic Geology in 2000, where he codirects the Applied Geodynamics Laboratory, and industry-funded research consortium studying salt tectonics. His current research interests include salt-sheet emplacement mechanisms and early history of the Gulf of Mexico salt basin. He is a recipient of AAPG's Matson, Braunstein, and Levorsen Awards for presentations at AAPG meetings.

THE LUNCHEON RESERVATION DEADLINE IS JANUARY 4 - CONTACT THE NOGS OFFICE

"And Looking Ahead . . . "

The next luncheon will be held on February 14th. Our guest speaker, Rocco Detomo, Jr., of Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, will present "4D Time Lapse Seismic Reservoir Monitoring of African Reservoirs." Contact the NOGS office at 561-8980 or use the PayPal link on the NOGS website (www.nogs.org) to make your reservation.

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January									
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
		1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5			
6	7 NOGS Luncheon Holiday Inn @ 11:30 A.M.	8	9	10	11	12			
13	14	15	16 NOGS Board Meeting	17	18	19			
20	21 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	22	23	24	25	26			
27	28	29	30	31					

February								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
					1	2		
3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
10	11	12 Mardi Gras!	13	14 SGS-NOGS Luncheon Le Pavillion @ 11:30 A.M.	15	16		
17	18 President's Day	19	20 NOGS Board Meeting	21	22	23		
24	25	26	27	28				

The Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies and the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM

GCAGS Convention Oct 6-8, 2013 New Orleans

- The Gulf of Mexico Basin the Big Picture
- Wilcox the Updip, Downdip and in Between
- Gulf of Mexico Salt Tectonics
- Gulf Coast Resource Plays
- Petroleum Geology of Mexico
- Converting Resources to Reserves to Revenue
- Pleistocene to Recent Gulf of Mexico Coastal Processes and Shelf Evolution
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ABSTRACTS of not more than 250 words should be submitted for review online or by email to the Technical Program Chair, George Rhoads (grhoads@chevron.com)

Submissions due Dec. 15 for the *Journal* and Jan. 15 for the *Transactions* Notification of acceptance by Jan. 31, 2013.

Oral and poster presenters must submit either a paper (10-12 pages) or an extended abstract with key figures for review by at least two reviewers by March 23, 2013. Instructions for authors at www.GCAGS2013.com

New Orleans Geological Auxiliary News

"The objective of the Auxiliary is to promote fellowship among the wives of the members of New Orleans Geological Society and to render assistance to NOGS upon request."

Now that all the NOGA ladies have cleaned out their closets and gotten rid of the unnecessary clutter around their houses and in their lives, inspired by Virginia Barkley's talk at Vincent's Restaurant in November, we are ready to enjoy the Christmas holidays. Thanks to Joan Sylvester and Dorothy Jean Hill for planning this luncheon.



Camille Yeldell and Virginia Barkley



Joan Sylvester and Dorothy Jean Hill





Susie Baker and Mary Walther Co-chairs of NOGS Christmas Holiday Party

What a way to get in the holiday spirit!

About 80 NOGS/SIPES members with spouses and friends enjoyed a gala evening at Chateau Estates Country Club on December 7th. The Country Club was beautifully decorated and the delicious dinner, passed hors d'oeuvres, and beverages made the evening very enjoyable. Music by Andrew Hymel and The Profiles got a good number of guests up on the dance floor. Several winners took home fun door prizes. Mary Walther and Susie Baker were chairmen of the event. Great job ladies!

Have a great holiday and we will all look forward to a luncheon February 20, 2013 at the Metairie Country Club with speaker Ronald Drez, Author.

Peggy Rogers, NOGS LOG







South Louisiana and Offshore Gulf of Mexico Exploration and Production Activities

LAFAYETTE DISTRICT, ONSHORE AREA By Carlo C. Christina

During the month of November, 35 permits to drill were issued by the Office of Conservation, Lafayette District, Onshore Area.

NEW LOCATIONS

In Cameron Parish, Hilcorp Energy will drill to 19,000 feet in **Deep Lake Field**, (A). The #1 SL 20580 is located in Sec. 7-16S-3W and will be drilled 2000 feet deeper than offsetting wells. (245770)

Goldking Onshore has permitted its #1 SL 20389 in **Dorcyville Field**, (B), in Iberville Parish. The well is located in Sec. 55, 9S-1E and will be drilled to 13,740 feet seeking production from the Camerina and Cib haz sections. (245653)

In Lafourche Parish, in **Leeville Field,** (C), Manti Exploration will drill the #1 SL 20783 to a proposed depth of 21,100 feet, at a location in Sec. 32, 21S-22E. (245657)

Also in Lafourche Parish, Castex Energy has permitted a **wildcat**, (D), in 16S-21E, located 1 mile east of Cris I production at 13,000 feet. The #1 SL 20859 will be drilled to a depth of 16,000 feet. (245723)

Square Mile Energy has permitted 2 wells in **West Lake Salvador Field**, (E), in St. Charles Parish, 16S-21E. The #1 SL 20644 will be drilled to 14,247 feet, and the #2 SL 19774 is projected to reach a depth of 16,000 feet. Several wells have recently been drilled and completed as gas wells in the Cris I section. (245658 and 245695)

In **South Burr Ferry Field,** (F), Vernon Parish, Anadarko E&P will drill an Austin Chalk well in Sec. 29, 1S-10W. The #1 GARS 29-1-10 is permitted to 21,070 feet. (245641)

LLOG Exploration will drill the #1 SL 20344 in **Main Pass Block 23 Field**, (G), Plaquemines Parish, to a proposed depth of 8100 feet. (245634)

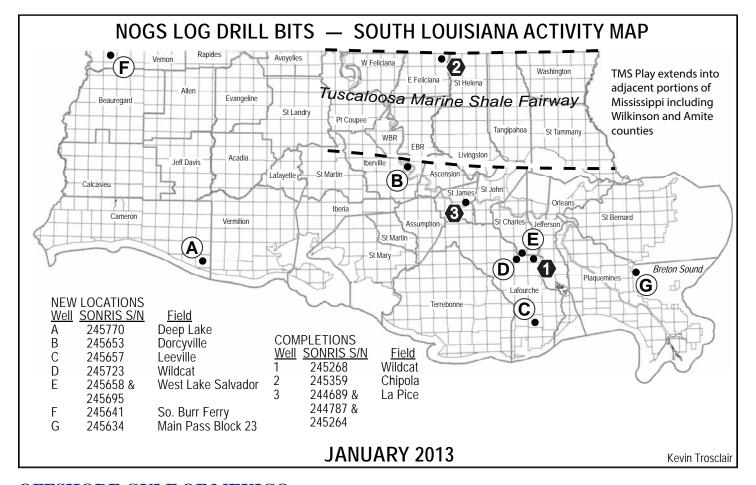
COMPLETIONS

Walter Oil & Gas has plugged and abandoned its **wildcat**, (H), the **#1 SL 20862**, in Lafourche Parish, located in Sec 21, 16S-22E. The well was drilled to a depth of 12,200 feet. (245268)

In **Chipola Field**, (J), East Feliciana Parish, Trek Resources has completed a Lower Tuscaloosa Sand oil well. The #2 Hurst, located in Sec. 56, 1S-3E, was completed flowing 113 BOPD through perforations 12,854 to 12,876 feet. (245359)

Layline Petroleum has completed another excellent oil well in **La Pice Field**, (K), St. James Parish, in Sec. 38, 12S-5E. The #1 Schexnayder was completed flowing 243 BOPD through perforations 10,474 to 10,648, overall. Last month Layline had dually completed the #2 Schexnayder flowing 480 BOPD from the upper zone and 532 BOPD from the lower zone. **Total initial flow from these completions is more than 1250 BOPD.** La Pice Field was discovered in 1938 with more than 150 wells drilled in the field since the discovery. The Layline #1 was drilled in Section 38, **within 500 feet of the discovery well** for the field. Who said you can't find good production in old fields? Congratulations, Roy Walther. (244689, 244787 & 245264)





OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

by Al Baker

During November, the BOEM approved 85 drilling permits. Of these, 36 were for Gulf of Mexico shelf wells, and 49 were for Gulf of Mexico deepwater wells. There were 7 shelf (3 exploratory and 4 development) and 11 deepwater (8 exploratory and 3 development) new well permits granted.

On the shelf, Energy XXI GOM received a new well drilling permit for their #1 exploratory well on **Vermilion Block 178.** Bois d'Arc was also granted a permit for their #1 exploration test on **Ship Shoal 171**, and Hall-Houston Exploration IV was given a permit to drill their #1 exploration well on **Ship Shoal 176**. Chevron was awarded two development well drilling permits for their **Grand Isle 26** #83 and the **Main Pass 41** # **CA-52** wells. Development well permits also were awarded to Arena Offshore for their **Eugene Island 339** # **K-4** well and to Energy Partners for their **West Delta 27** #**B-3** well.

In deepwater, exploratory new well permits were awarded for the following seven wells: BP Exploration & Production - **Keathley Canyon 93 #1**, Cobalt International Energy - **Keathley Canyon 163 #1**, LLOG Exploration Offshore- **Mississippi Canyon 253 #1** and Shell Offshore - **Mississippi Canyon 806 #MB-3**, **#MB-7**, **#MB-18**, **#MB-22 and #MB-24**. Of the three development new well permits, two were granted to BP Exploration & Production for their **Mississippi Canyon 777 #6** and **#7** wells. BHP Billiton received the other development new well permit for their **Green Canyon 654 #WI-4** well.

On November 29th, IHS-Petrodata reported that the Gulf of Mexico mobile offshore rig supply totaled 115, and the contracted rig count stood at 77. Both figures are the same as reported last month. The region's fleet utilization rate remains at 67%. This compares to 68 out of the 116 rigs available during the same period in 2011 for a 58.6% utilization rate.

In addition, there were 28 platform rigs under contract out of the 52 total in the rig fleet for a fleet utilization rate of 53.9%. The current number of platform rigs under contract in the Gulf is the same as reported last month.

On November 30th, the BakerHughes Rig Counts indicated that there were 50 active mobile offshore rigs in the Gulf, which represents 64.9% of the total mobile rigs under contract. This is a decrease of 2 rigs from last month. All drilling continues to remain in the Offshore Louisiana and deepwater Northern Gulf regions. The current active rig count compares to 42 active rigs during the same period last year. This 8-rig improvement number represents a 19% increase in the active mobile offshore rig fleet on a year-to-year basis. Additionally, of the 28 platform rigs that are under contract, 18 (or 64.3%) are currently working. This is a net increase of 1 to the total number of platform rigs working last month.

On November 14th, LLOG Exploration announced that it had formed a strategic partnership with private equity firm, Blackstone Group, in order to expand LLOG's operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Both firms have committed to invest in excess of \$1.2 billion towards the long-term business arrangement. LLOG brings to the table more than 110 offshore leases; whereas Blackstone's financial strength and management expertise will enable LLOG to more fully capitalize on growth opportunities including four recent deepwater discoveries made by LLOG. The partnership intends to grow LLOG's asset base through participation in federal lease sales, mergers, acquisitions and farm-ins.

On November 26th, McMoRan Exploration Co. provided an update on the production test at its **Davy Jones Prospect.** McMoRan said the well was opened for test on November 11th and flowed natural gas into an unmetered atmospheric tank before being flared. The company further stated that it had recovered completions fluids with weights between 9 and 19 pounds-per-gallon. Subsequently, McMoRan began operations to inject a barite solvent into the formation in order to clean out the perforations to enable a measurable flow test of the well. However, on December 3rd, the company indicated that the solvent had achieved only limited success. McMoRan is currently initiating operation to use a propellant stimulation gun to create fractures that will extend beyond the suspected zone of formation skin damage. In their attempt to unblock the perforations, McMoRan may inject additional solvent to dissolve the barite, if necessary.

On December 5th, in a \$20 billion deal, Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc. (FCX), Plains Exploration & Production Company and McMoRan Exploration Co. announced that they had signed definitive merger agreements under which FCX will acquire Plains for approximately \$6.9 billion in cash and stock, and FCX will acquire McMoRan for approximately \$3.4 billion in cash. The deal would create a massive natural resource company with significant mineral assets, oil and gas interests and growing production capability. The combined company would be based in Phoenix, where FCX currently has its corporate headquarters. It would also maintain offices in Houston and New Orleans. Additional details concerning the merger transaction can be found at website address: http://www.mcmoran.com/pdf/2012/120512.pdf.

On December 5th, Total announced a significant oil discovery at its **North Platte Prospect** on Garden Banks Block 959 in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. The discovery well in 4,400 feet of water was drilled to a total depth of 34,500 feet and found several hundred feet of net oil pay in several high quality, Lower Tertiary sands. Total estimates that this discovery has several hundred million barrels of oil potential. Additional appraisal wells will be required to confirm its size and commerciality. The North Platte discovery in the first Lower Tertiary Wilcox formation well drilled in an alliance between Total (40%) and Cobalt International Energy (60%, operator).



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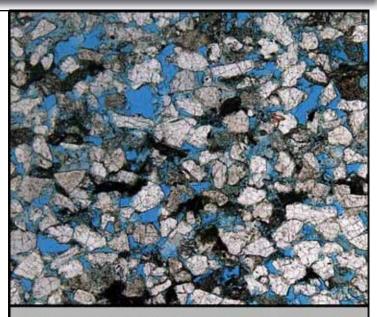
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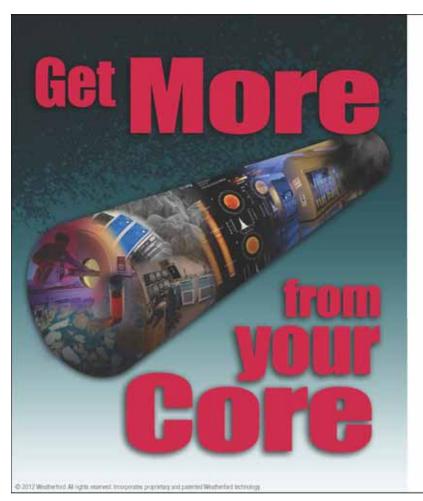
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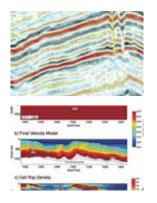
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Info Tidbits: Submitted by Jordan Heltz

Reuters - Charlie Zhu and Michael Erman

"Analysis: Nexen's U.S. Gulf oilfields key to China's deepwater ambitions" December 12th, 2012

http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-cnooc-nexen-deepwaterbre8bc086-20121213,0,2691465.story

CNOOC Ltd's purchase of Canadian energy producer Nexen Inc. may prove to be bittersweet if U.S. regulators block the Chinese state-run oil company from taking over Nexen's oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico.

CNOOC won a major coup last week by securing Ottawa's consent for the \$15.1 billion deal, China's largest ever overseas acquisition, but the company is still waiting for approval from the U.S. government.

While the Gulf assets are just a fraction of Nexen's reserve base and production, they would give CNOOC a foothold in the world's premier deepwater oil province from which to acquire the technical know-how to drill in the contested South China Sea.

"The Nexen prize is the hi-tech ultra-deepwater drilling tech," said a person familiar with CNOOC's business strategy, adding that the Gulf of Mexico assets were "one of the key reasons that they are buying Nexen".

Approval from Washington is also important to CNOOC as it wants to be endorsed as an acceptable operator in the United States after American politicians blocked its high-profile bid for Unocal in 2005, according to another source.

Offshore Magazine - "Noble Energy cheers Big Bend results" November 27th, 2012

http://www.offshore-mag.com/articles/2012/11/noble-energy-cheers-big-bend-results.html

HOUSTON – Noble Energy reported a discovery at the deepwater Gulf of Mexico Big Bend prospect in Mississippi Canyon block 698.

The exploration well, drilled in 7,200 ft (2,195 m) water depths to a total depth of 15,989 ft (4,873 m), encountered around 150 ft (46 m) of net oil pay in two high-quality Miocene reservoirs.

The Big Bend well results "appear at least as good as our pre-drill mean resource expectations" and provide momentum for development of the company's nearby Troubadour prospect, said Noble Energy chairman and CEO Charles Davidson.

Noble has said the combined fields could hold an estimated 90 MMboe. The company has a 54% operated interest in Big Bend, with partners W&T Energy (20%), Red Willow Offshore (15.4%) and Houston Energy Deepwater Ventures (10.6%). Noble operates Troubadour with 87.5% interest.



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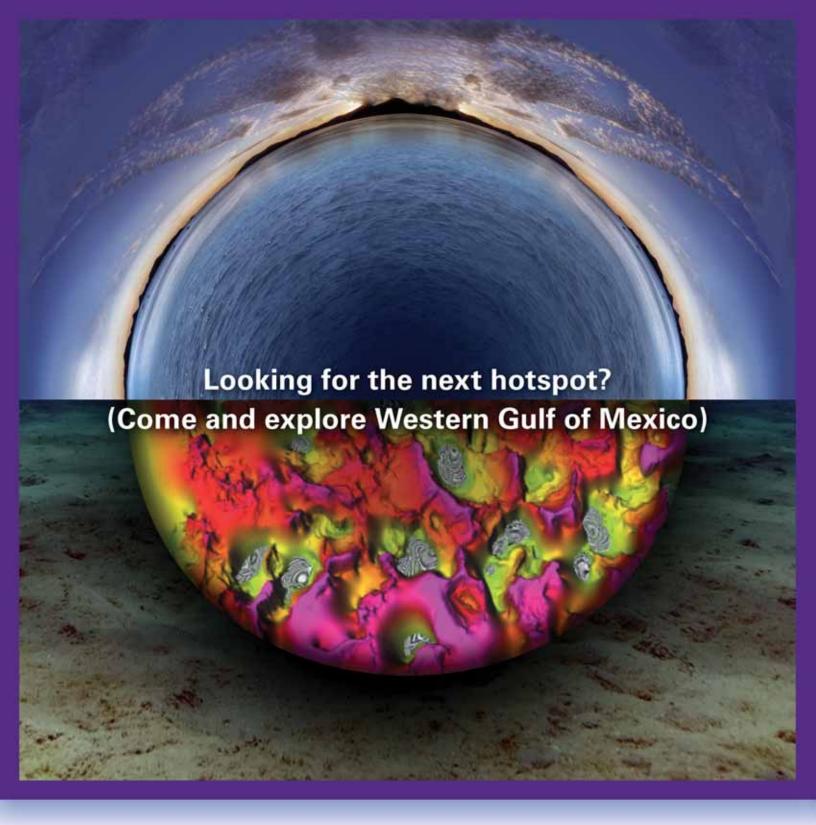
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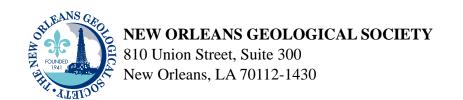
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