

Application of Ash Beds in Petroleum Systems Analysis

Daniel Minisini¹

¹ Shell

ABSTRACT

Bentonites (layers of volcanic ash diagenetically transformed in clay) are present in several source rocks. They appear as horizons 1 centimeter thick, on average, and may represent 2-6% of the stratigraphy. Bentonites are useful in exploration to 1) identify early development areas, 2) predict TOC, and 3) quantify lateral facies variability.