

Triassic Shale Gas Production in British Columbia; Local Sweet Spots or Regional Play?

Warren Walsh*

BC Ministry of Energy, Victoria, BC, Canada
warren.walsh@gov.bc.ca

and

Ben Kerr

BC Ministry of Energy, Victoria, BC, Canada

The profile of shale gas opportunities in Northeastern British Columbia has increased over the last several years with record landsale activity and exploratory drilling in 2006. This activity has focused on several shale units of Devonian, Triassic and Cretaceous in age. There has been production from the upper unit of the Triassic Montney Formation for several years from fields south of Fort St John. Here the upper Montney is a quartz rich shale with total organic carbon content estimated at up to 3%, overlain by the organic rich phosphatic zone of the Doig Formation. These shale units span over seven million hectares of Northeastern British Columbia, and combined are several hundred metres thick. Both formations were deposited on the deep water slope in the Peace River Embayment, an area complicated by normal faulting of the Fort St John Graben system.

This talk will review regional geology and development history of the Montney Formation in Northeastern, the current estimates of gas in place, and discuss the Montney Formations potential as a regional shale gas play.