

A New Concept for Development of Alaska North Slope Viscous Oil Resources

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BP has launched an evaluation called “Viscous at Scale” program that aims at achieving a 35% RF. The initiative is centered on establishing technical viability for viscous and heavy oil extraction on the Alaska North Slope via rigorous subsurface characterization plus piloting and by optimizing our depletion strategy via a right combination of technologies to extract maximum synergy.

This paper lists our methodology to characterize viscous resources into developable blocks and articulates our strategy in coming up with an optimum depletion plan and consequent development strategy for each developable block. In Alaska, a tranche of viscous oil (<150 cP) is already under development. To achieve a 35% recovery factor, our strategy hinges on a step change in viscous oil recovery factor that can be realized by building on our existing knowledge base but doing something different including application of either a blended technology approach or via sequencing of technologies.