

## **The Control of Dolomitization on Porosity in the Upper Devonian Jean Marie Carbonate of Northeastern British Columbia**

Jack Wendte

Geological Survey of Canada, 3303 - 33rd Street NW, Calgary, AB T2L 2A7

[jwendte@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:jwendte@NRCan.gc.ca)

Alan Byrnes

Kansas Geological Survey, 1930 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047

[alan.byrnes@chk.com](mailto:alan.byrnes@chk.com)

and

David Sargent

Geological Survey of Canada, 3303 - 33rd Street NW, Calgary, AB T2L 2A7

[dsargent@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:dsargent@NRCan.gc.ca)

The Jean Marie in northeastern British Columbia consists of mainly limestones and partially dolomitized limestones, with variable dolomite content and porosity. Dolomitization occurred from the flow of hydrothermal brines up through fault conduits, resulting in the formation of patchy metre-thick dolostones at the top of the Jean Marie, close to the faults, and the partial dolomitization of limestones away from the faults.

Most pores in the Jean Marie are from the secondary dissolution of calcitic components and vary in size from micropores to larger molds, as well as some even larger vugs in the few dolostones. Visually, there is a general relationship that the degree of calcite dissolution, and hence porosity occurrence, is greater within intervals that have a high-matrix dolomite content or that occur adjacent to dolostones.

To test the validity of this relationship, a statistical study of dolomite content and porosity was made using core analysis data from approximately 250 wells, employing grain density as a proxy for dolomite content. In this analysis, porosity was normalized to the limestone (calcite) fraction of the rock. Mean values of limestone-fraction porosity were computed for each 0.05 dolomite fraction (or 5% fraction) of the rock. This resulted in a remarkably linear trend, with porosity increasing from 4.5% for samples with no dolomite content to approximately 12% for samples with 50% dolomite content.

This statistical analysis confirms the relationship between dolomite content and porosity based on visual examination. We conclude that dissolution of calcite is part and parcel of the dolomitization process. It is hypothesized that the dissolution of calcite is driven by the need of carbonate ions for dolomite crystal growth. This need fosters the dissolution of nearby calcitic constituents, providing the source of carbonate ions.