

Biostratigraphy of the Montney Formation: From the Alberta and British Columbia Subsurface to the Outcrop

Nick Wilson¹, J.P. Zonneveld², and Mike Orchard³

¹Murphy Oil Company, Ltd., Calgary, Alberta, Canada

²Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

³GSC Vancouver, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Abstract

For the last few years we have been focused on the development of our Montney (Early Triassic) Tupper and Tupper West tight gas fields in NE British Columbia. Initial work focused on a regional evaluation of the Montney Formation. As development progressed from our Tupper Field to our Groundbirch assets, we identified that the 'type wells' for the Montney-Doig Formational boundary were not representative for the western part of the Peace River Embayment (PRE) where we identified additional stratigraphic units, and shallower water facies, that were not present in the 'type logs'. In the east the boundary is a clear, erosional unconformity, however, in the west the boundary is much more transitional-conformable and suggests more continuous deposition between the Montney and Doig Phosphate Formations.

The aim of this study was to determine the relationship between the Montney and Doig Phosphate Formations, and test whether the Montney Formation is restricted to the Early Triassic or whether we see a more complete record of deposition in the western deeper parts of the Peace River Embayment (PRE).