New Technology, New Thinking in the BMB

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Abstract

In the history of most basins, exploration tends to go in cycles, each cycle taking the then-current technology, economics and thinking to the limit then petering out, awaiting a change in the exploration fundamentals to kick-start a new wave of exploration thinking that opens up new opportunities and activity. New technology is one of the primary drivers of this cyclicity. The BMB (Beaufort Mackenzie Basin) was very active in its initial cycle of exploration which ran from the late 1960's to 1989. It then lay dormant for a decade, with the second exploration cycle restarting in 2000 onshore, and in 2005 offshore with the drilling of the Devon Paktoa C-60 well.

A review of the BMB will examine some of the early exploration issues that limited activity. This review will demonstrate how new and developing technologies are addressing these issues, are changing our thinking and perspective on the basin and opened the door for the current round of activity. Specifically, we'll look at 3D seismic and its role in clarifying and delineating new exploration play types, HDRG surface geochemistry and its relationship to trap-seal analysis and the developing Shear and Seal BOP system as it may relate to environmental safeguards and the offshore drilling season.