

New Life for a Prematurely Abandoned Oil Pool Midale Central Frobisher Beds Pool SE Saskatchewan

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The Midale area of SE Saskatchewan is recognized for containing world class oil pools within the Mississippian aged Midale Beds. What is not often recognized is the fact that initial exploration drilling in the mid-late 1950's identified significant production capacity from the underlying Frobisher Beds. However, starting in the early 1960's area operators began to focus on the larger reserves within the Midale while the Frobisher became less of an exploration target.

The Midale Unit was formed to implement secondary waterflood recovery. Shell Oil, as operator, systematically abandoned all Frobisher/Midale dual producers in favor of Midale Beds production. Having control of the vast majority of the Unit lands and being no longer interested in the Frobisher, Shell, essentially sterilized activity in this zone for 35 years.

Petroleum rights at the time were continued from surface to basement by virtue of any production, but in the mid 1990's rights owners were given notice that they had until June 1998 to prove production below the currently deepest producing horizon or revert those rights back to the Crown.

Upton purchased Shell's Frobisher Beds rights within the Unit in early 1998 and quickly drilled a number of vertical holes to hold these rights and reestablish Frobisher production. Since then, production volumes of up to 1200 bopd have been attained from a combination of vertical and horizontal drilling within a number of distinct oil accumulations. Ultimate development could see up to 40 horizontal wells drilled into a pool given new life under deep rights reversion and horizontal drilling.