

What Makes a Play Unconventional?: Exploring for the Unconventional Play

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Abstract

Rarely, if ever, does an unconventional play experience the romance of a discovery well. Rather, the validation of the play requires a series of deliberate evaluations and an extensive series of appraisal wells before sanctioning the initial development program. Furthermore, although these plays are extensive in area (“continuous”), the commercially viable prospective areas may be localized and segmented. The advancement towards a profitable venture in unconventional resources requires a progressively focused effort that ultimately identifies the prospective area, characterizes the spatial variability for appraisal and development programs, and accounts for the differing value tiers of the play. Our workflows must reflect this progression and be accompanied by the appropriate probabilistic tools that capture the ranges of potential outcomes, outcomes that hopefully narrows to a profitable venture as we increase knowledge of the play.