

Long Beach 3D: 90 Years of Missed Pay in the Long Beach Field

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Abstract

After 90 years of production, the Long Beach oil Field has yielded significant new production. Modern 3D seismic survey together with improved drilling techniques identified a large volume of fault-bounded naturally fractured oil-bearing Miocene mudstone that is proving to be commercially productive.

Signal Hill Petroleum drilled and completed SHWU D81 in naturally fractured hard black shale in November 2012 with a flowing IP of 126 BOPD. The new production is the first commercial “Monterey” oil found along the prolific Newport Inglewood Fault trend. The reservoir is split into two intervals, lower Mohnian and Luisian, separated by a unique interval of schist breccia, altered tuffs and argillite.

Four wells have been drilled and completed to date with development wells planned as economic conditions allow. The potential extent of the play is the subject of ongoing research at Signal Hill; however, we believe that facies and structural complexities along this basin margin require 3D seismic coverage to adequately manage risk.