

Vaca Muerta: an Argentine Resource Play

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ABSTRACT

East-West trending prograding sediments of Upper Jurassic age in the Neuquén Basin, Argentina, provide one of the largest productive self-sourcing reservoirs for oil and gas resources in South America. The Vaca Muerta Formation is the target reservoir in the basin with multiple companies actively drilling wells. Just as the participating companies continue to study the basin, our efforts will focus on utilizing well logs and 3-D seismic to evaluate a portion of the basin to better understand the depositional systems to optimize reservoir development, improve understanding of the petroleum system including migration pathways, seals, and source rocks. Mapping stratigraphic units in the basin is difficult due to the complexity of the steeply dipping progrades. By coupling wireline well logs and seismic data, we are able to more accurately identify and evaluate the depositional package that constitutes the Vaca Muerta Formation.