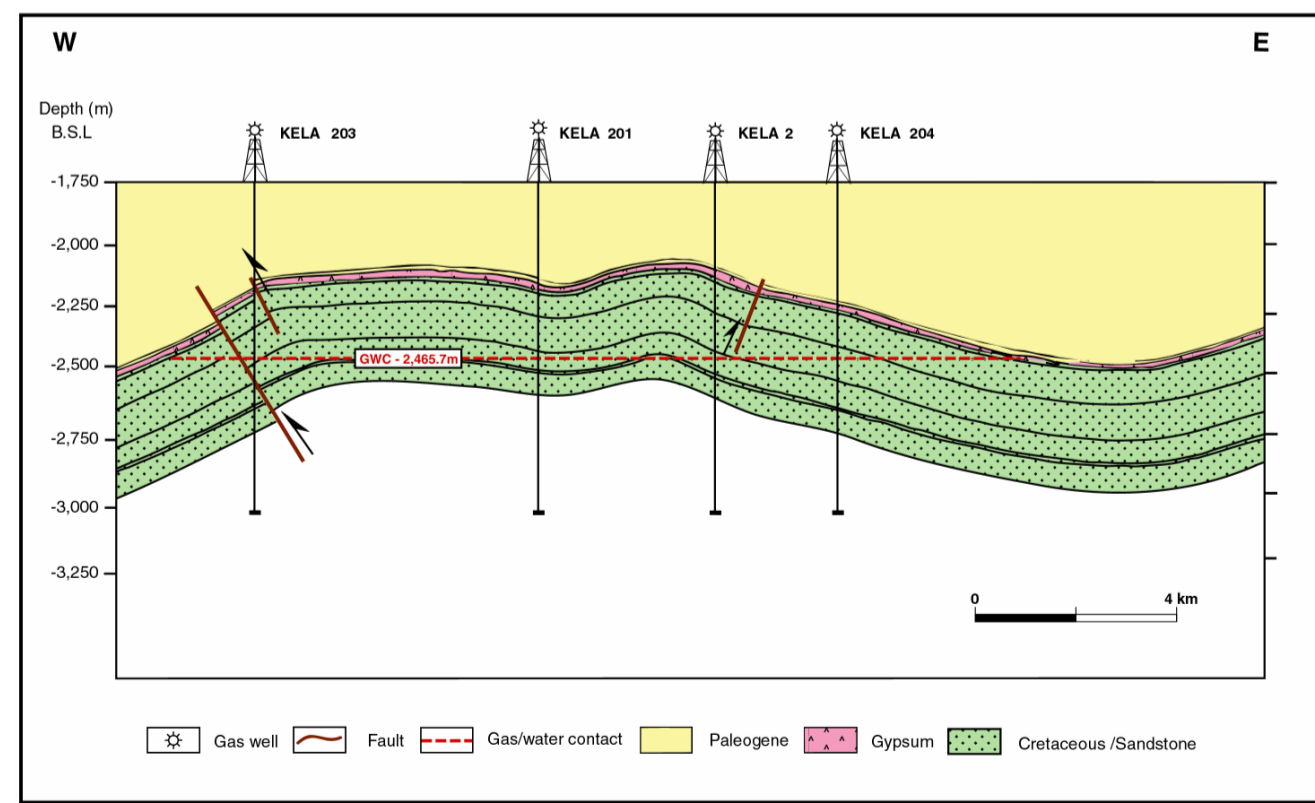
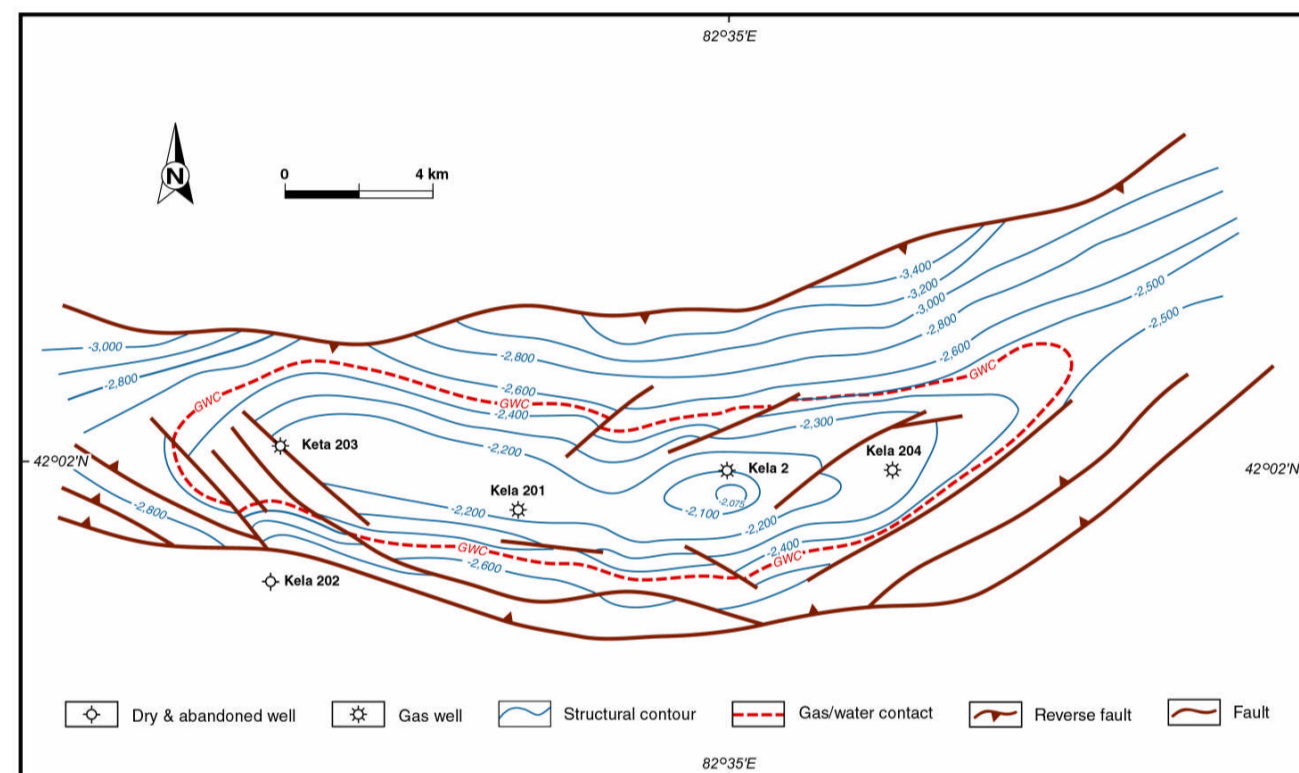


### Tarim Basin

Tarim Basin is the largest continental basin in China, with an area of 560,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Exploration has been quite active since middle 1980's. Over 20 gas discoveries have been made, especially the discovery of the Kela 2 gas field, being the largest gas field of the country at the time of its discovery and forming the foundation for the construction of the trunk gas pipeline "West-Gas-To-East". The gas fields are mainly distributed in the Kuqa Depression and Tabei Uplift in the northern part of the basin. Multiple source rocks and reservoirs exist. Primary reservoirs exist in the Cretaceous-Paleogene sandstone plays. By end-2000, the recoverable gas reserves of the Tarim Basin reached 12,769 bcf, becoming the third largest gas-supply basin in China after Ordos and Sichuan (Zhao et al., 2002, Xu and Shen, 1996; Qiu and Gong, 1999; Jia, 2000).

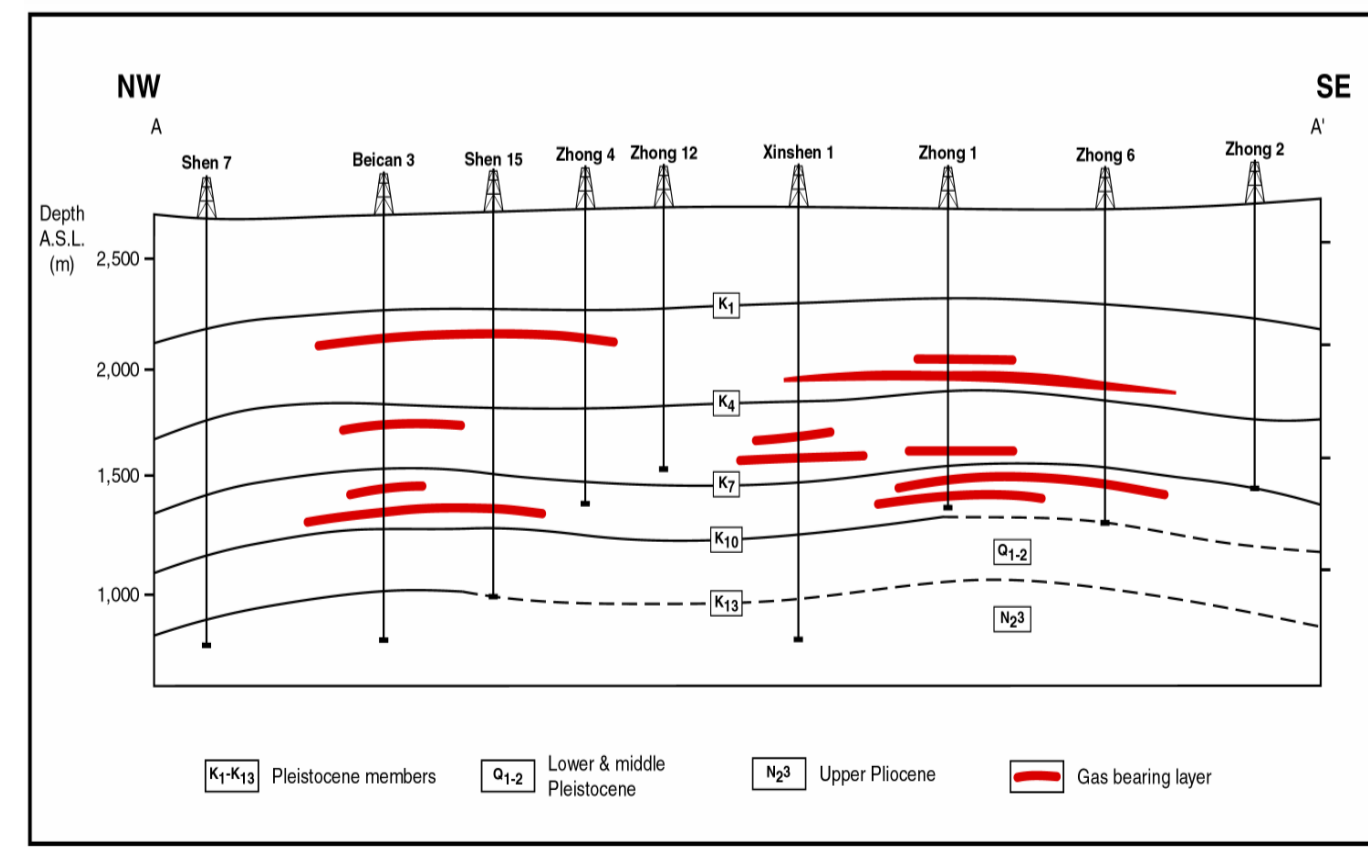
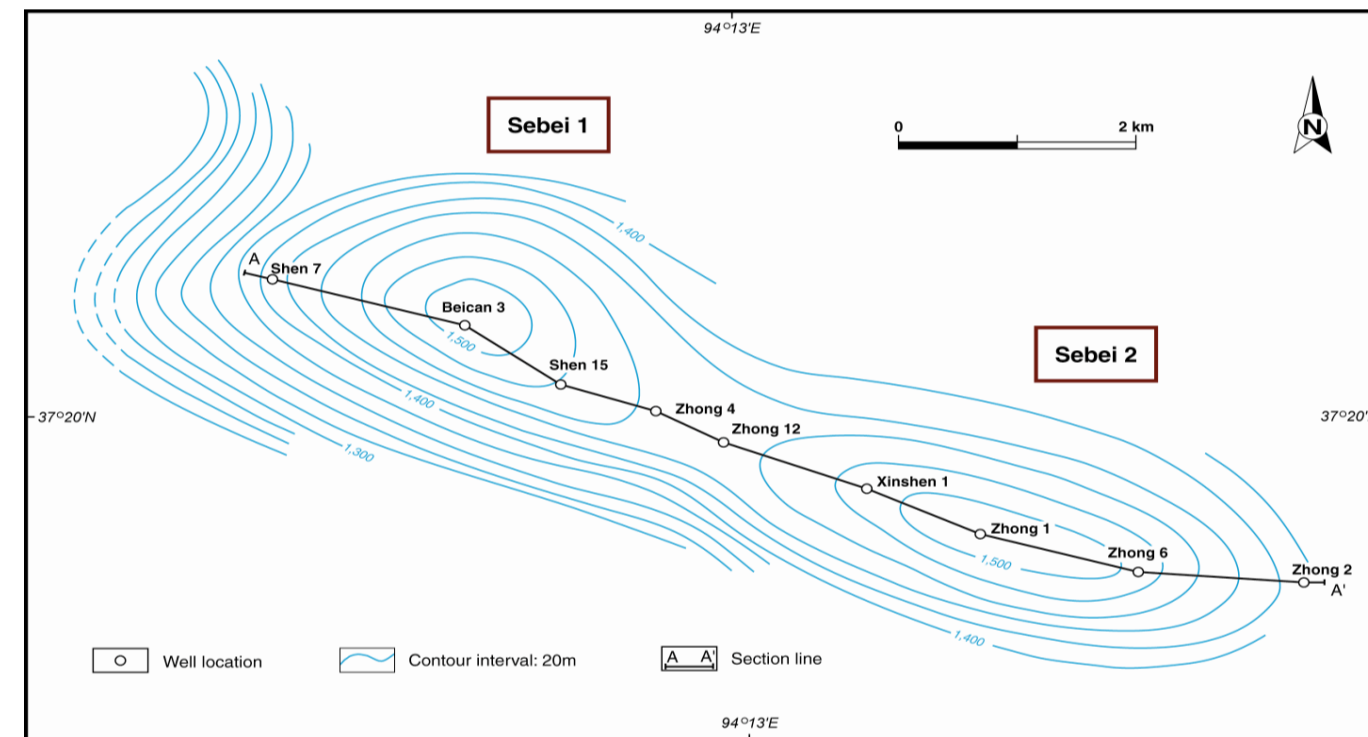
#### Kela 2 Gas Field



### Qaidam Basin

Qaidam is the largest biogenic gas accumulation area of China, represented by Sebei 1 and Sebei 2 fields. By end-2000, the recoverable gas reserves of the basin were 2826 bcf. The biogenic gas fields are mainly situated in the Sanhu Depression, accounting for 91.2% of the gas reserves of the basin. The biogenic gas reservoirs are composed of the Quaternary shaly sandstones deposited in shallow lacustrine environment. Favorable traps are syndepositional anticlines. Main source rocks are Upper Pliocene-Quaternary (Pleistocene) lacustrine dark mudstones and carbonaceous mudstones. The Qaidam Basin supplies gas for Xining and Lanzhou cities via the gas pipeline "Se (Sebei)-Ning (Xining)-Lan (Lanzhou)" (Zhao et al. 2002; Xu and Shen, 1996; Qui and Gong, 1999; Shurr and Ridgley, 2002).

#### Sebei Gas Fields



### Gas Pipeline Networks

Before the 1990's, natural gas was mainly used as fuel in the nearby areas around gas fields. The discovery of the Jingbian gas field in the Ordos Basin resulted in the construction of the gas trunkline "Shaan (Shaanxi)-Jing (Beijing)". As more and more gas fields were discovered, gas pipeline networks were built. In the most recent decade, over 10,000 km of gas pipelines have been constructed, including the eastern section of the famous gas trunk "West-Gas-To-East." Currently there are 3420 km of gas pipelines under construction, including the western section of "West-Gas-To-East." Plans are to construct over 4000 km of gas pipelines to form a network in eastern China.

### Observations

Is a natural gas era coming to China? The answer is "Yes." Why?

1. China faces a larger and larger gap in the production and consumption of energy.
  2. Rapidly growing gas reserves form the foundation for increasing gas usage.
  3. Gas pipeline networks have been constructed to make it possible for increasing gas usage.
  4. Increasing gas usage is favorable for environment protection.
- It is believed that the above factors will spur the country's gas exploration and production and vice versa.

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