#### A Closer Look at Shale Development Economics\*

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Search and Discovery Article #70136 (2013)\*\*
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#### **Outline of Presentation**

#### Range in basin economics

#### Production

- Well spacing
- Phased development stages
- Technology application
- Production constraints

#### Costs

- Learning curve
- Economies of scale

#### Price

- Price scenarios
- Project resilience

#### **Selected Reference**

Bernstein, P.L., 1998, Against the Gods: The Remarkable Story of Risk: John Wiley and Sons, 383 p.

<sup>\*</sup>Adapted from oral presentation at AAPG Geosciences Technology Workshop: Shale Plays: An Integrated Approach, Houston, Texas, November 12-14, 2012

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American Association of Petroleum Geologists

Shale Plays: An Integrated Approach for Enhanced Exploration, Development and Valuation

### A Closer Look at Shale Development Economics



Florent Rousset – Gaffney, Cline & Associates (GCA) Houston – November 13, 2012



## Gaffney, Cline & Associates (GCA)



### **Upstream**

Geophysics
Geology
Petrophysics
Reservoir
Production



### **Midstream**

Pipeline
Process
Operations



#### **Downstream**

Chemical Power Marketing



### **Commercial**

Finance
Law
Strategy
Regulatory

... averaging around 20 years of experience

## Supporting the Oil and Gas Industry since 1962

### **Oil & Gas Companies**



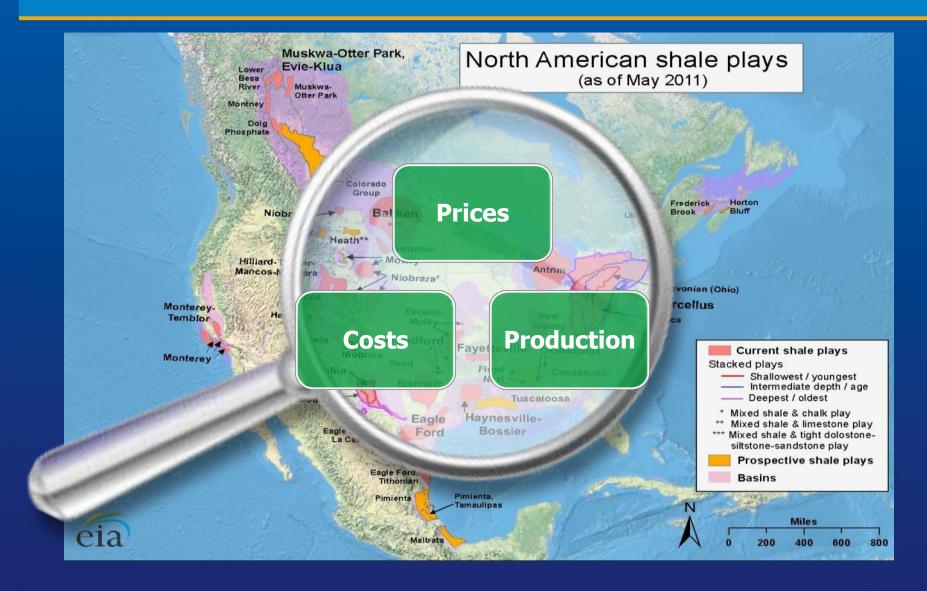
### **Sovereigns**



#### **Financial Institutions**



# Shale Development Economics



### Basin Economics Range





Note: 10% after tax rate of return

Source: Tudor, Pickering, Holt & Co.; Barclays (2012)

# **PRODUCTION**



# Well Spacing Drivers



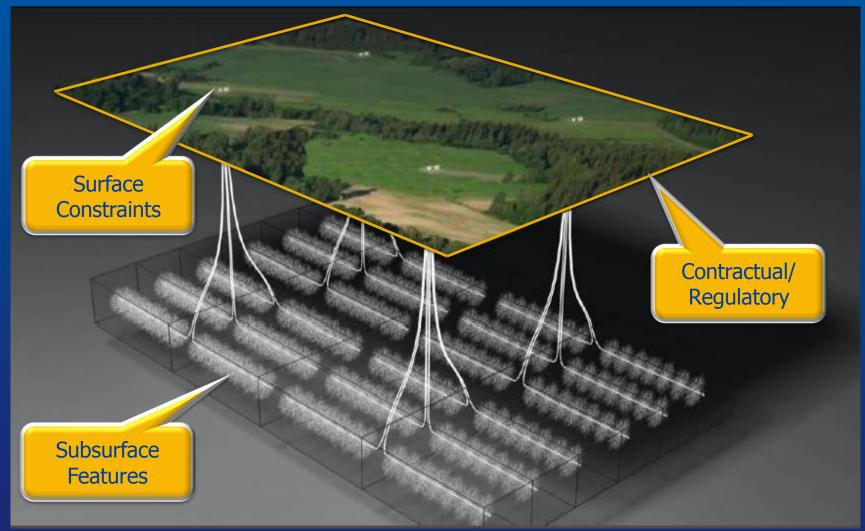
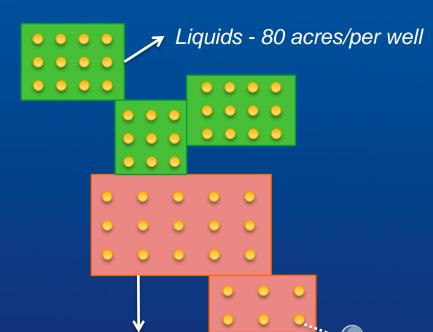


Image source: Statoil



### Subsurface / Drainage

- Reservoir characteristics
- Well design



Dry Gas - 120 acres/per well

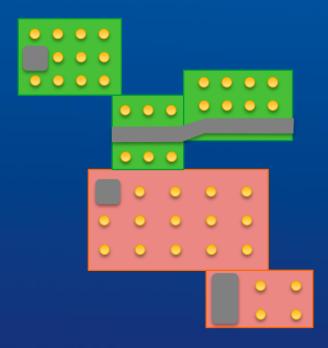
- Leased acreage
  - Drilling location (1 horizontal well)



### Well Spacing

### *ILLUSTRATIVE*





- Leased acreage
- Drilling location
- Surface constraints

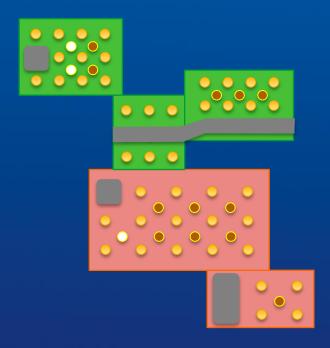
### Subsurface / Drainage

- Reservoir characteristics
- Well design
- Infrastructure & Access
  - Houses & roads
  - Topography
  - Offtake facilities

### Well Spacing

#### **ILLUSTRATIVE**





- Leased acreage
- Drilling location
- Surface constraints
- Infill drilling locations
- Non-permitted infill drilling

### Subsurface / Drainage

- Reservoir characteristics
- Well design
- Infrastructure & Access
  - Houses & roads
  - Topography
  - Offtake facilities
- Contractual / Regulatory
  - Infill drilling permits
  - Contractual constraints

# Phased Development Stages

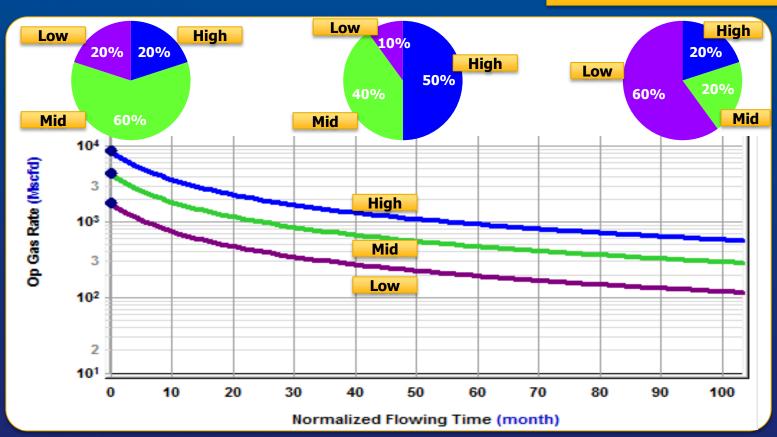


*ILLUSTRATIVE* 

Exploration & Appraisal

"Core Areas"
Development

Later Project Life



## Technology Applications

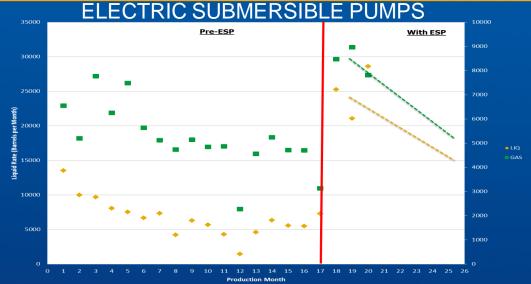


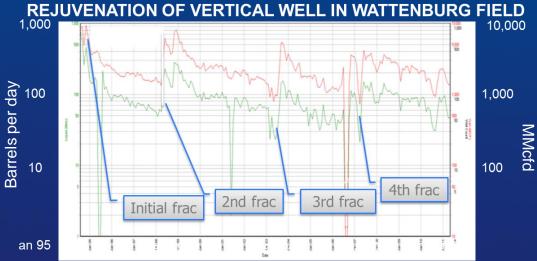
Artificial lift

Repeated hydraulic fracturing

Water flooding or gas cycling?

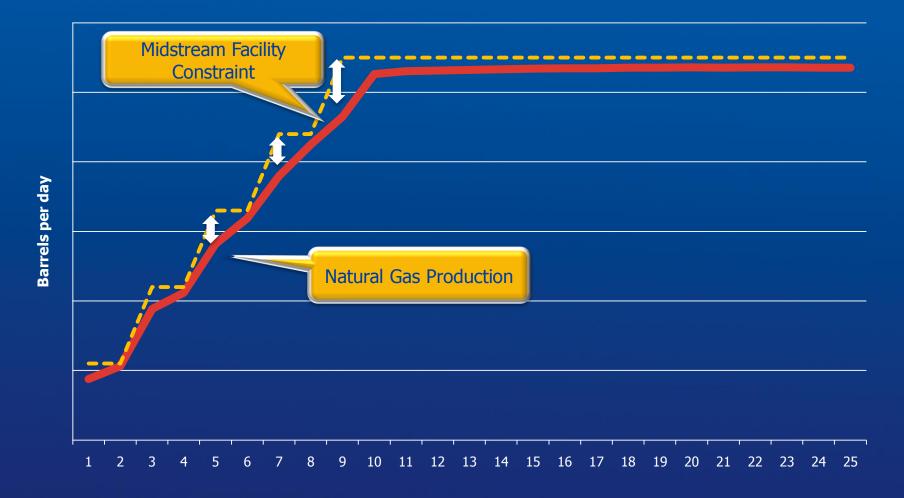
Others





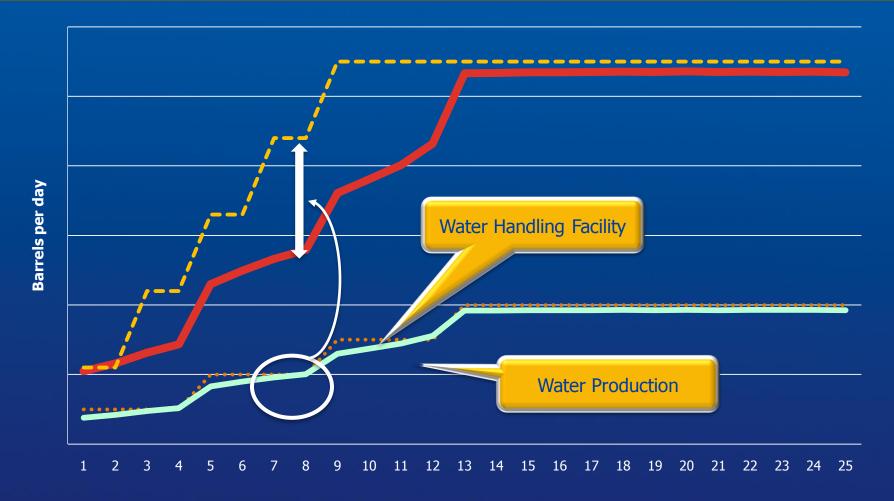
### **Production Constraints**





### **Production Constraints**

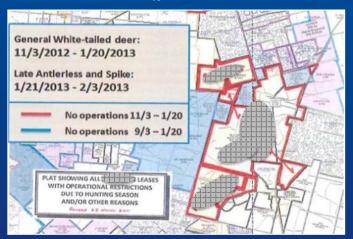




### Other Production Variables



- Timing
  - Logistics and third party delays, including regulatory
  - Downtime (planned and unplanned)





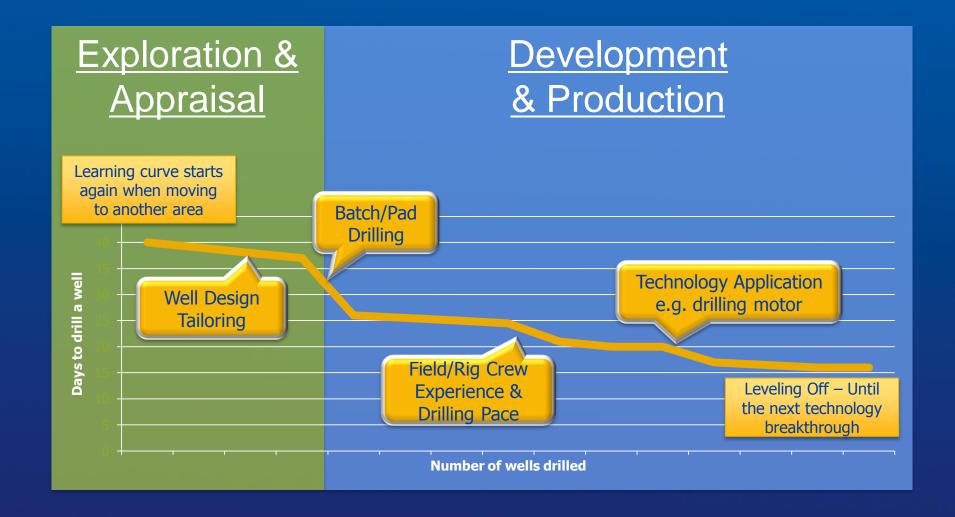
- Volumes
  - Debottlenecking upside
  - Accounting for fuel gas usage, etc.

# COSTS



### **Learning Curve**

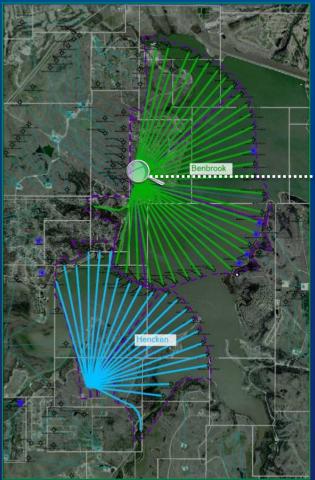




### Pad/Superpad Economies of Scale

**Development Concept** 

**Superpad Layout** 





- Common infrastructure and surface facilities
- Reduced footprint per well
- Minimized road traffic
- Permitting synergies
- HSE oversight

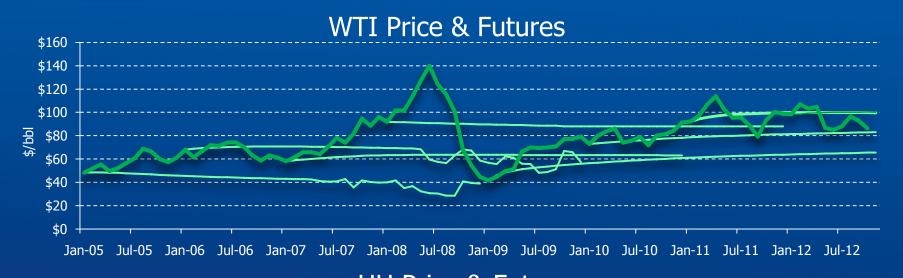
# PRICE





### Oil & Gas Price Forecast Accuracy







Source: Bloomberg

## The Weather Analogy...

During World War II [Nobel Laureate] Ken Arrow was assigned to a team of statisticians to produce long-range weather forecasts.

After a time, Arrow and his team determined that their forecasts were not much better than pulling predictions out of a hat.

They wrote to their supervisors asking to be relieved of the duty and received the following reply:

"The Commanding General is well aware that the forecasts are no good. However, he needs them for planning purposes."







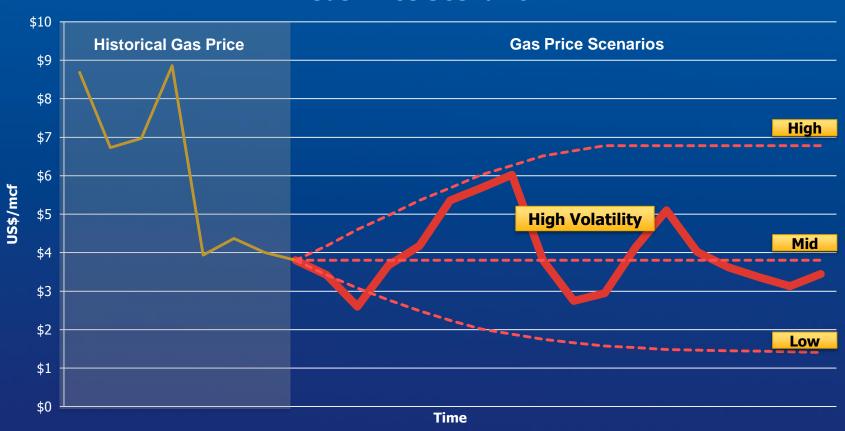






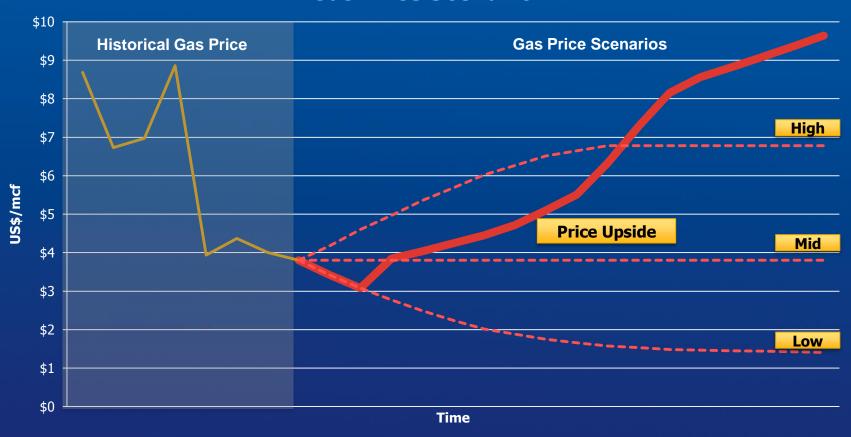
**ILLUSTRATIVE** 





**ILLUSTRATIVE** 





### **Tailored Alternatives**

Prices

Most Attractive

Acreage Attractiveness

east Attractive

**Continue Operations** 

Scale Down Operations
while Meeting Lease
Obligations
Drilling / Partial
Hydraulic Fracturing

Postpone or Discontinue Operations

Relinquish

Temporary Dip

Price Expectation

**Prolonged Crash** 

### **Closing Remarks**



# THANK YOU

