

# **Fluid Migration and Accumulation within the Mississippian: Why 2% Oil Cut Here, 15% Oil Cut One Mile Away\***

**W. Lynn Watney<sup>1</sup>**

Search and Discovery Article #50953 (2014)\*\*

Posted May 12, 2014

\*Adapted from oral presentation given at Mississippian Lime Play Forum, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, February 20, 2014

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## **Abstract**

Water cut is a big factor in gauging the success of horizontal drilling in the Mississippi Lime Play (MLP). The contributing factors are related in part to the spectrum of producing lithofacies and reservoir quality encountered that varies laterally and vertically, sometimes dramatically. As the extent of the play has increased, so have the types of reservoirs including conventional tripolite, spiculite, and dolomite reservoirs that may or may not be affected by Pennsylvanian karst. Conventional reservoirs are typically in transition when sufficient oil column is not present to lead to irreducible water saturation, inherently leading to variable water cuts based on height above free water and types of pores that are present.

Unconventional reservoir such as tight, dark organic-bearing dolomitic and silty lithofacies of the “Cowley” are often interbedded the spiculitic and dolomitic conventional reservoirs. These rocks with sufficient oil prone organic matter and thermal maturity can locally become self-sourced reservoirs and possibly charge adjoining conventional reservoirs. Coupled with a thick thermally mature Woodford or Chattanooga Shale and fracturing, a hydrocarbon sweet spot is likely.

The structural history during and after the Mississippian with the development of the Arkoma and Anadarko basins and surrounding uplifts led to early thermal maturity of the Woodford Shale that goes back as far to the early Pennsylvanian. Evidence notable wrench faulting peaked in Atokan and Morrowan time in the Anadarko Basin extending well into Kansas. This dynamic setting led to reactivation of basement weaknesses with both compressional strike-slip and transtensional faults that appear to be closely tied to hydrocarbon migration fairways in the northern Midcontinent.

# Fluid Migration and Accumulation within the Mississippian: Why 2% oil cut here, 15% oil cut one mile away

W. Lynn Watney

Kansas Geological Survey

Lawrence, KS 66006

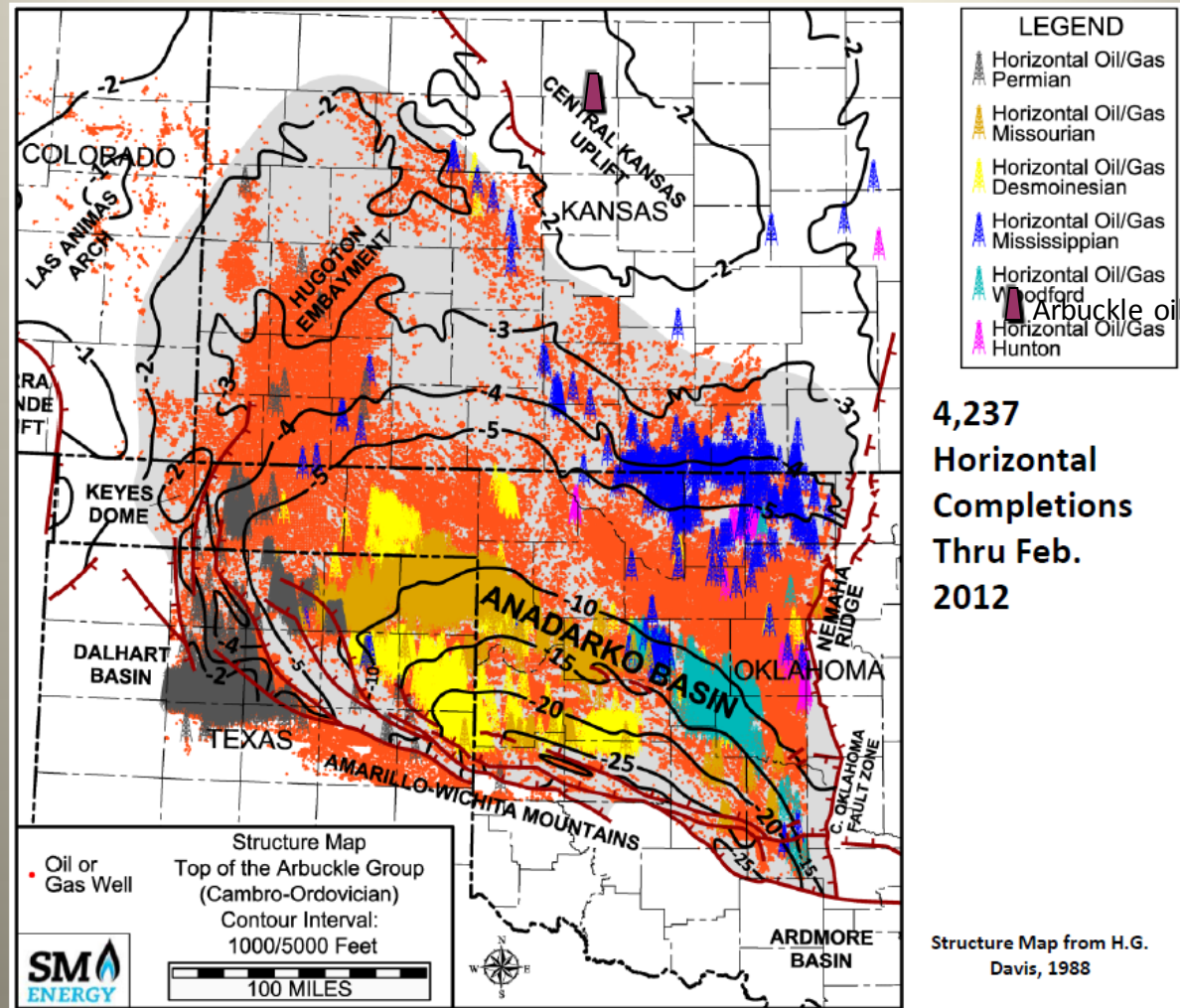


# Outline

- Mississippi Lime Play - definition
- Structural history of Arkoma and Anadarko Basin
- Source rocks
- Hydrocarbon migration
- Spectrum of lithofacies and quality reservoir rock
- Conventional reservoir
- Unconventional reservoir lithofacies
- Why variations in water cut?
- Conclusions

# Mississippi Lime Play - Definition

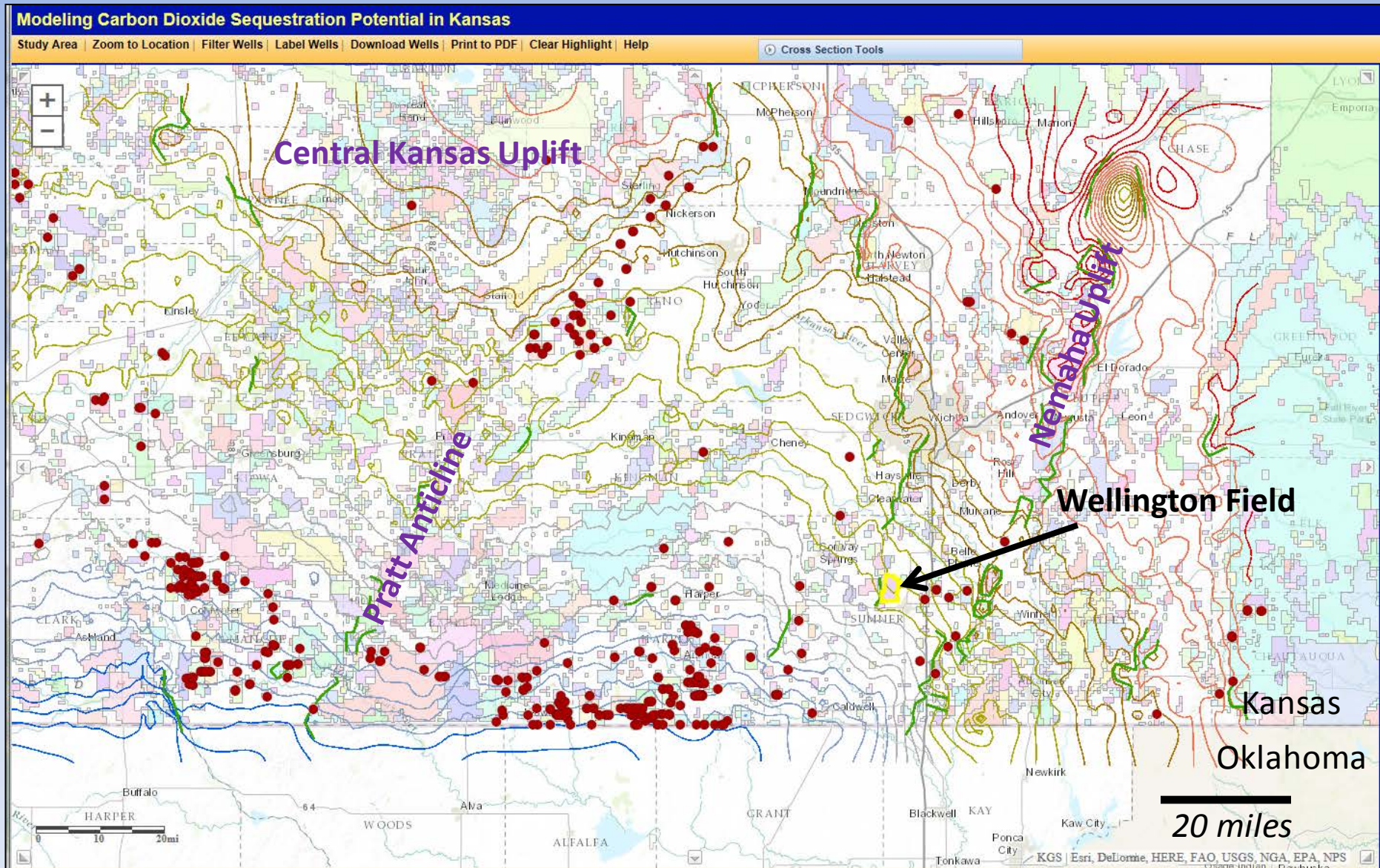
## Regional Structural Features-Horizontal Wells



John Mitchell,  
retired  
SM Energy Co.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
March 2012



# MLP in southern Kansas



- Horizontal wells drilled since January 2011
- Mississippian structure (450 ft C.I.) and notable faults

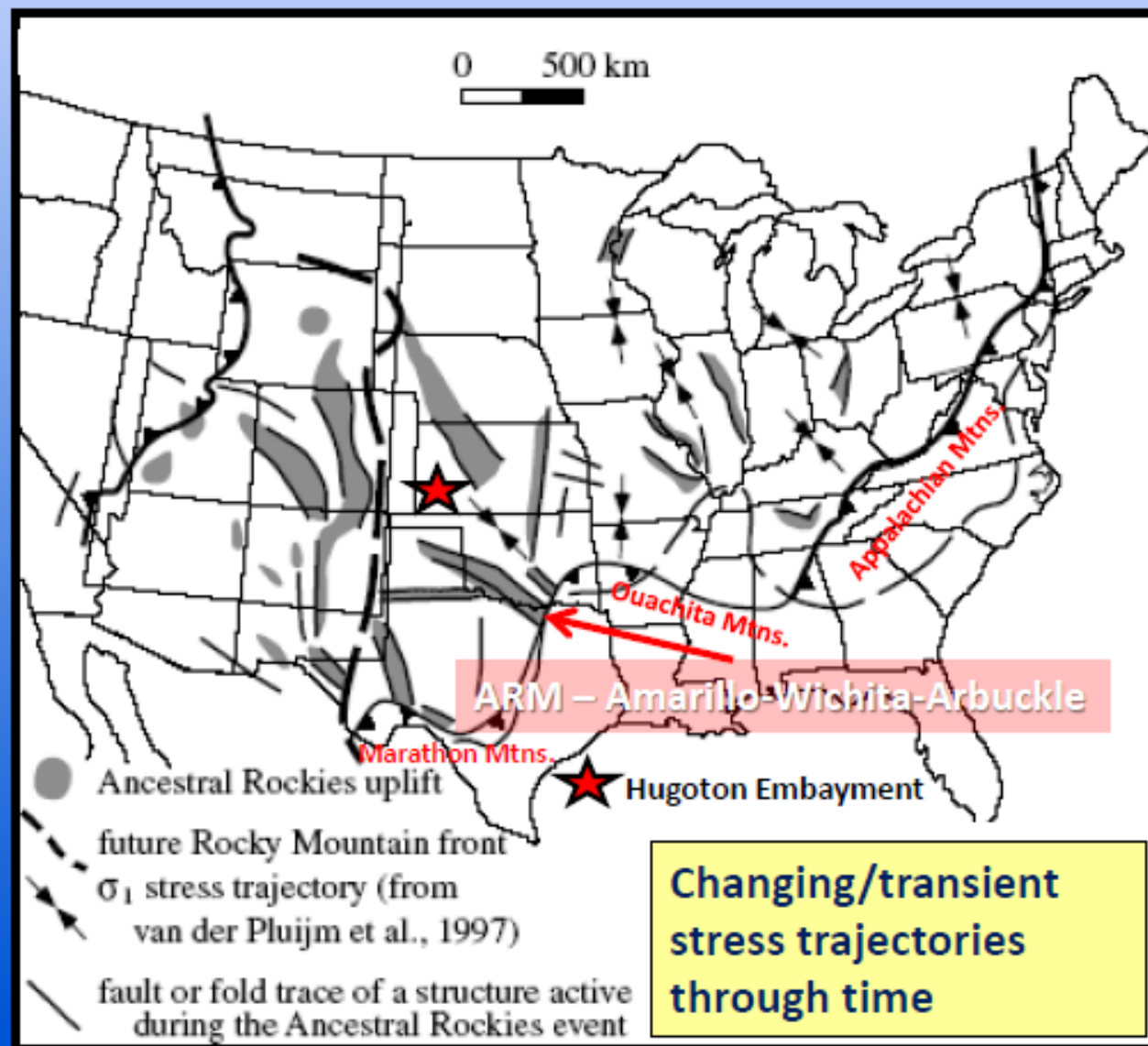
# **Structural history of Arkoma and Anadarko Basin**

- Concurrent and post Mississippian structural setting
- Reactivation of basement weaknesses
- Major wrench fault systems and directed stress into craton
- Affecting maturation of organic matter, migration routes of oil migration, and contributed to trapping of hydrocarbon
- Inherited fractures contribute to well performance



# Structures - Ancestral Rockies

## Early Chesterian - Late Leonardian deformation

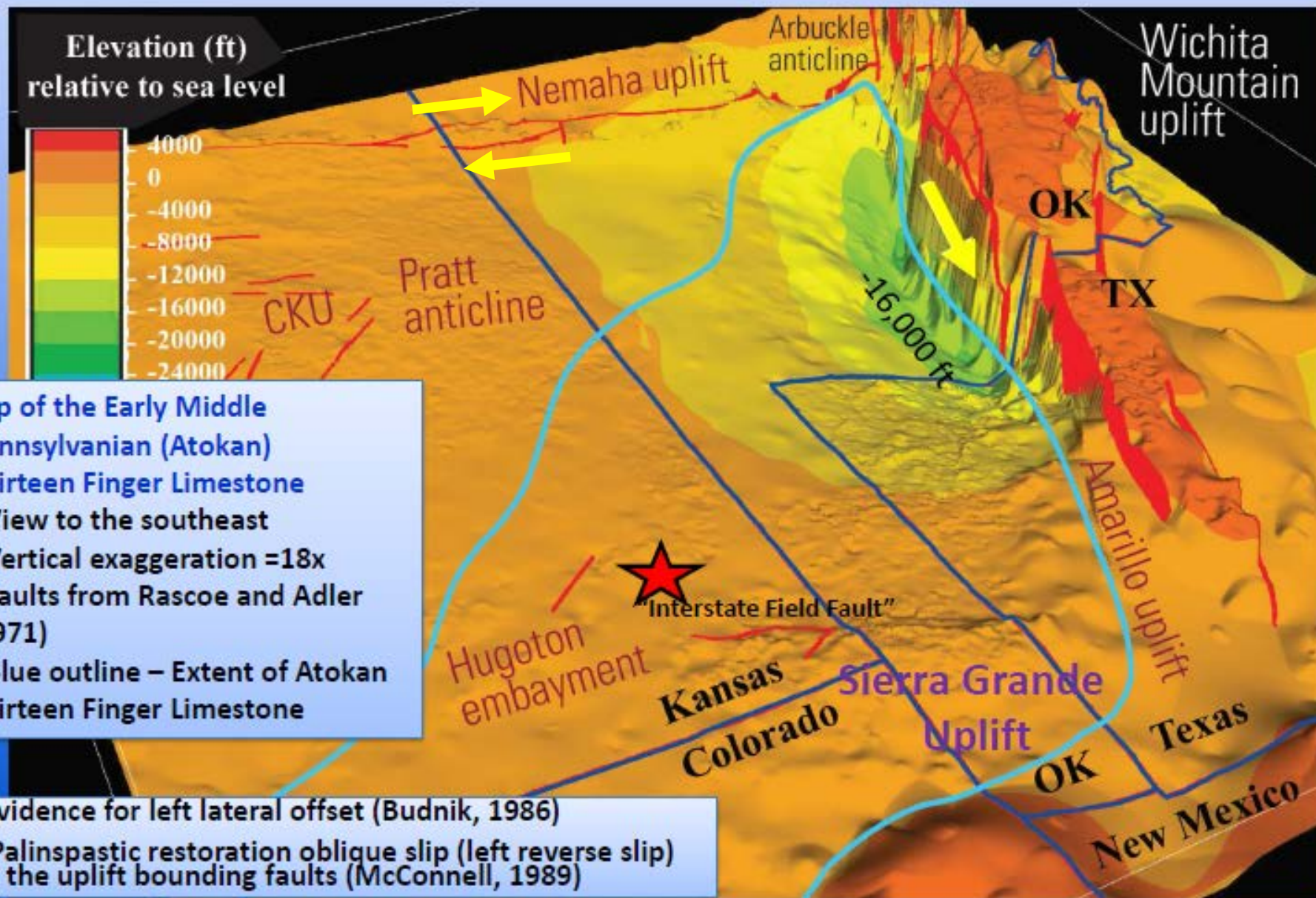


Intraplate fault reactivation is mainly dependent on orientation of (weak) fault zones relative to plate margin... deformation in interior can be represented by simple rheological models (van der Pluijm et al., 1997)

Marshak, Karlstrom, and Timmons (2000)

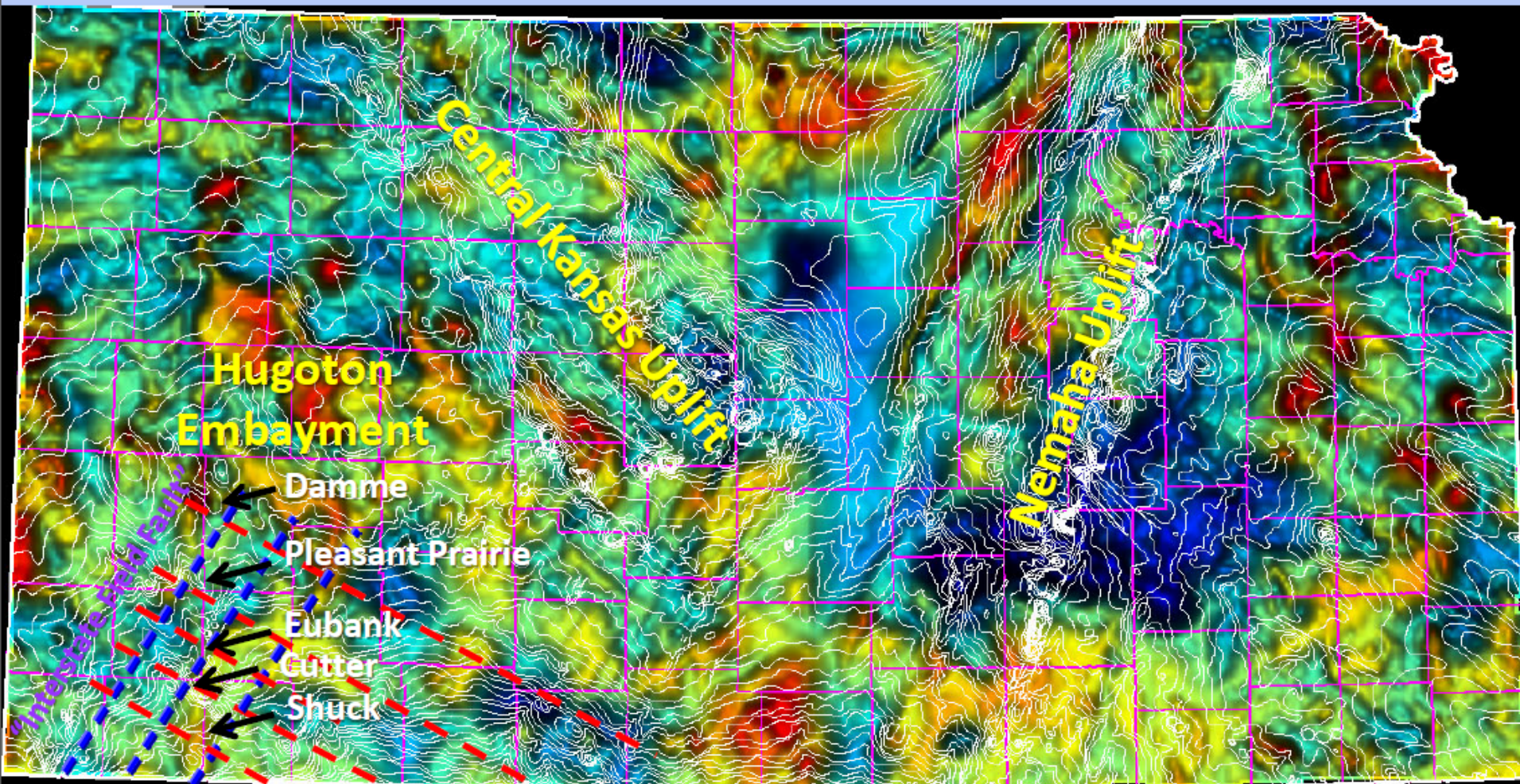
Ages from Dickinson and Lawton (2003)

# Peak Late Paleozoic Tectonism during Morrowan and Atokan





# Proterozoic correlations – Magnetic Field and Phanerozoic Structures



Total Intensity of Magnetic Field Reduced to Pole overlain with configuration of Precambrian surface

- Correspondence of Phanerozoic structures to magnetic anomalies
- Local and subregional changes in strike and dip appear to closely correlate to magnetic map
- Major influence on lithofacies distribution and sequence characteristics

50 mi

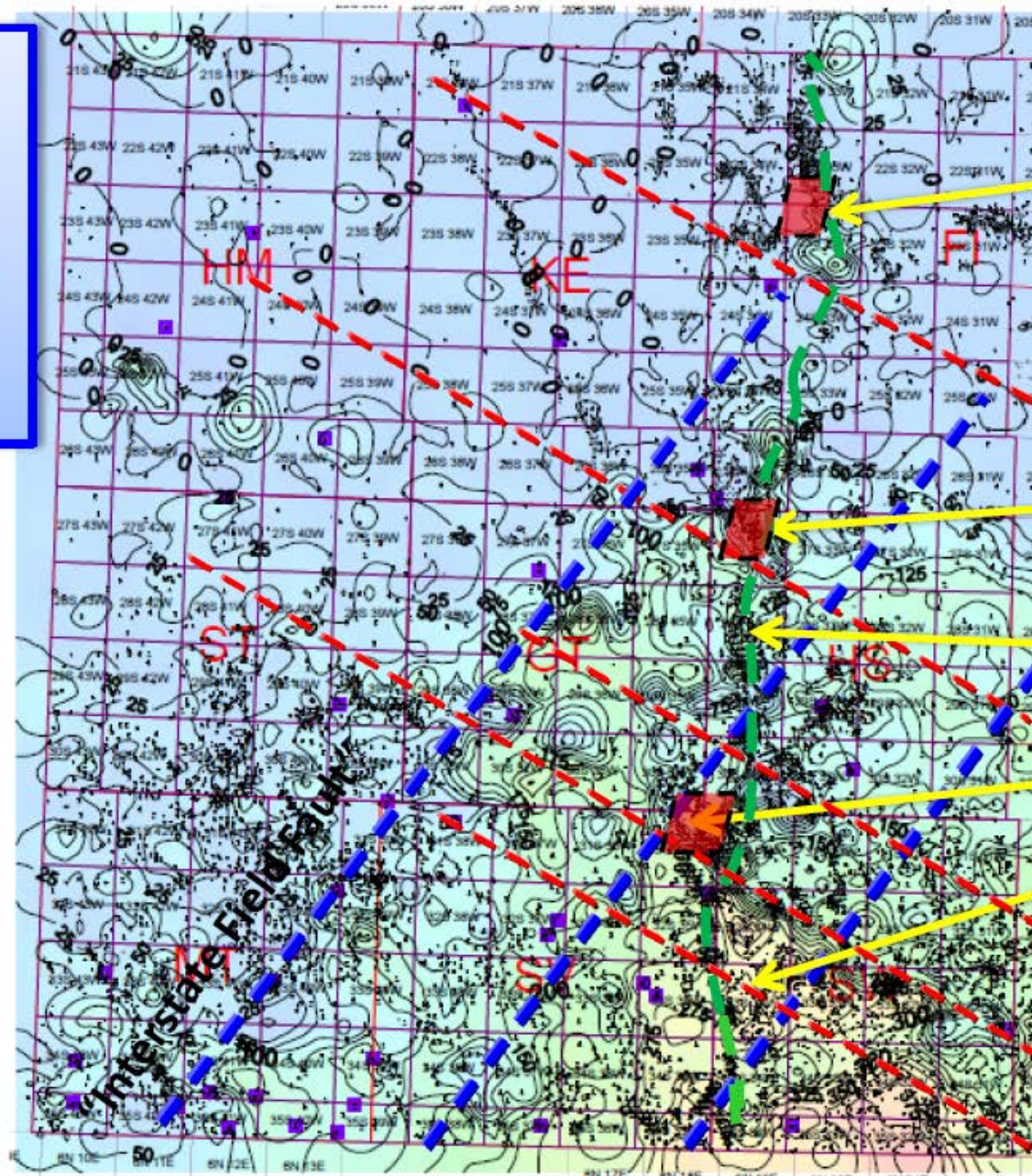
(Cole, 1976; Kruger, 1999)



**Chester Isopach**  
**delimiting**  
*incised valley*  
**system**  
 (~100 miles long)

Rhombic  
 horst  
 blocks  
 (reverse faults  
 on south  
 and west flanks)

Incised  
 valley



Damme

Pleasant  
 Prairie

Eubank Field

Cutter Field

Shuck Field

10 mi (16 km)

KANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CO2 PROJECT / WESTERN ANNEX

MMS & MEMC (N.G.M.) BORACE

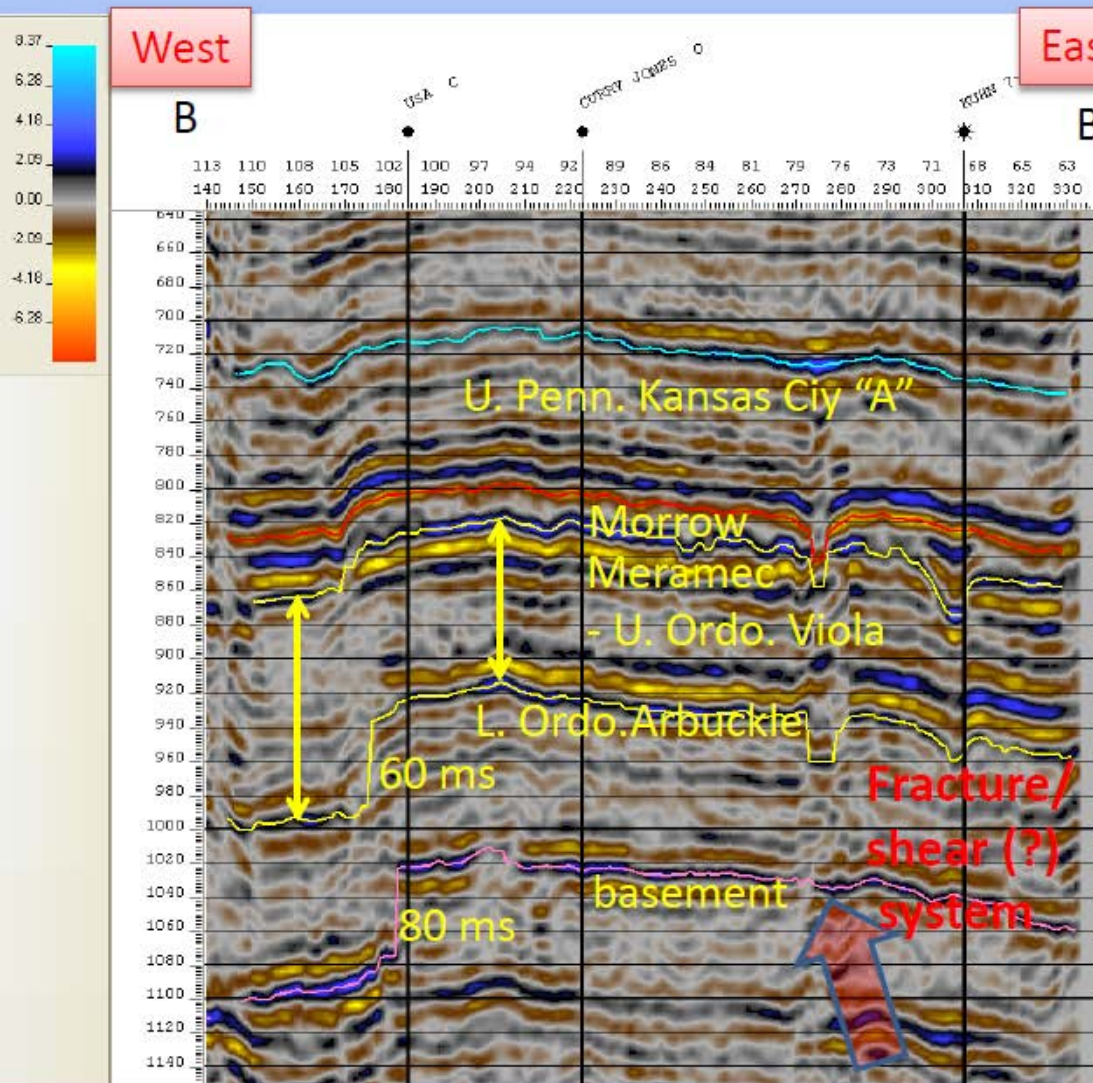
1:250000

(Gerlach, Nicholson, DOE-CO2)



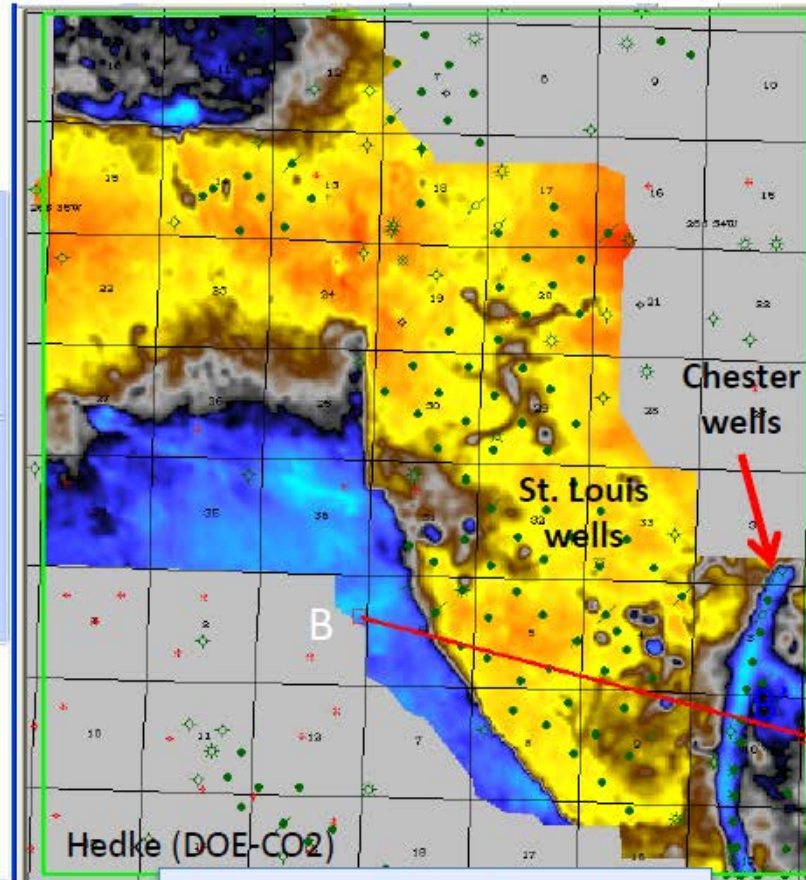
# Mississippian-U. Ordovician Expansion

## Chester incised valley & fracture set



Arbitrary Time Profile B-B', W - E

Disrupted beds within the St. Louis interval that are suggestive of karst collapse.

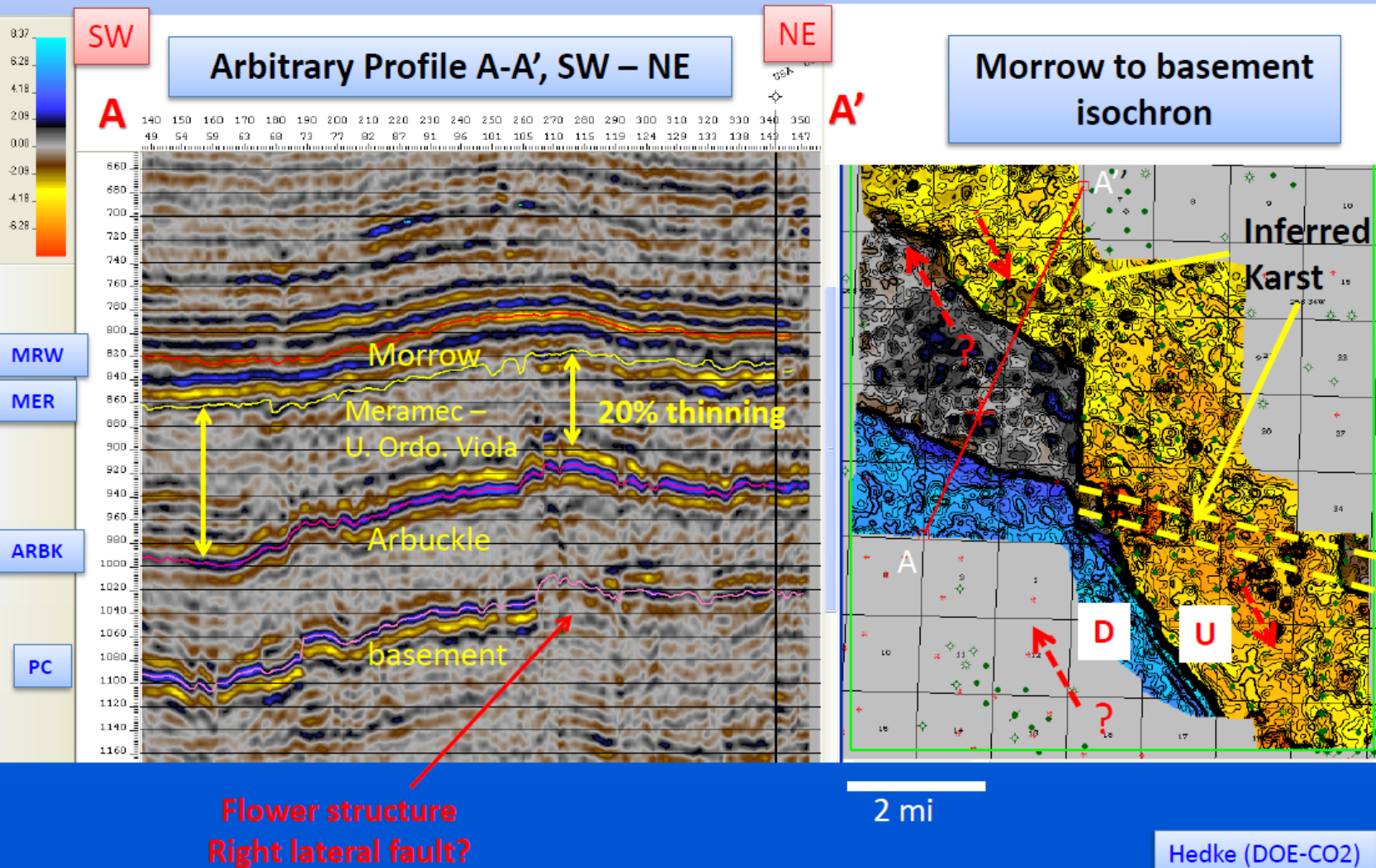


Meramec Time Structure  
Pleasant Prairie Field



# Pleasant Prairie structural block

Fault orientation-right lateral component along restraining bend

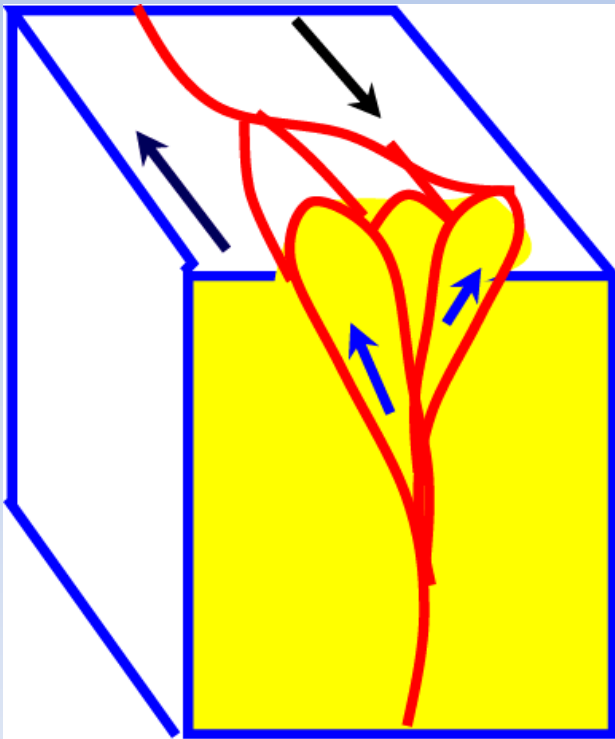


# Strike-Slip Faults – flower structures & restraining bends

## Flower Structures

Positive (Palm Tree) → Transpression

Right lateral

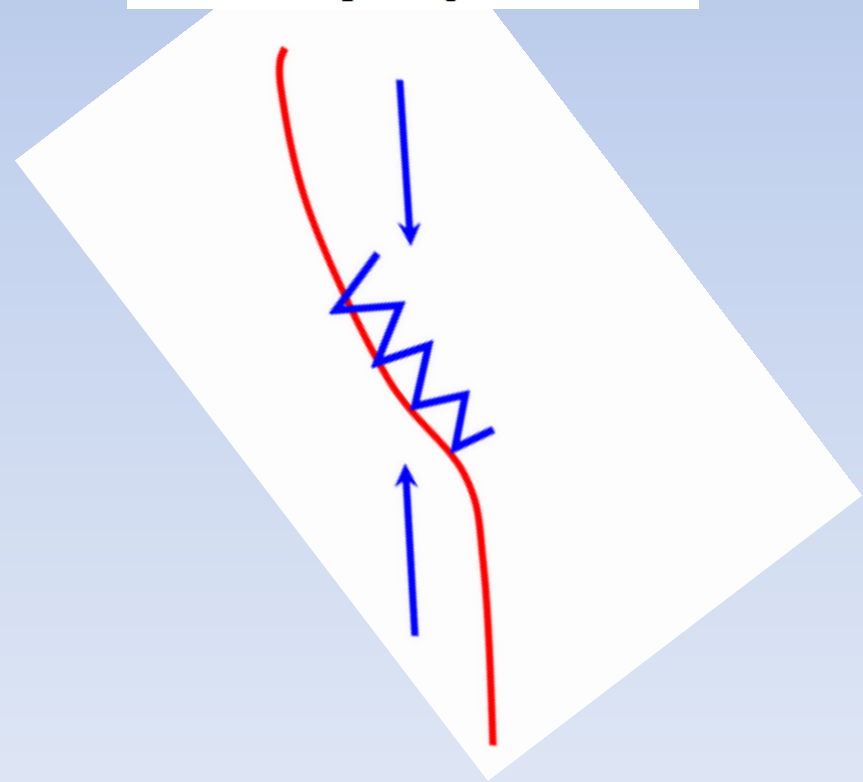


## Restraining Bends-

transpressional zones

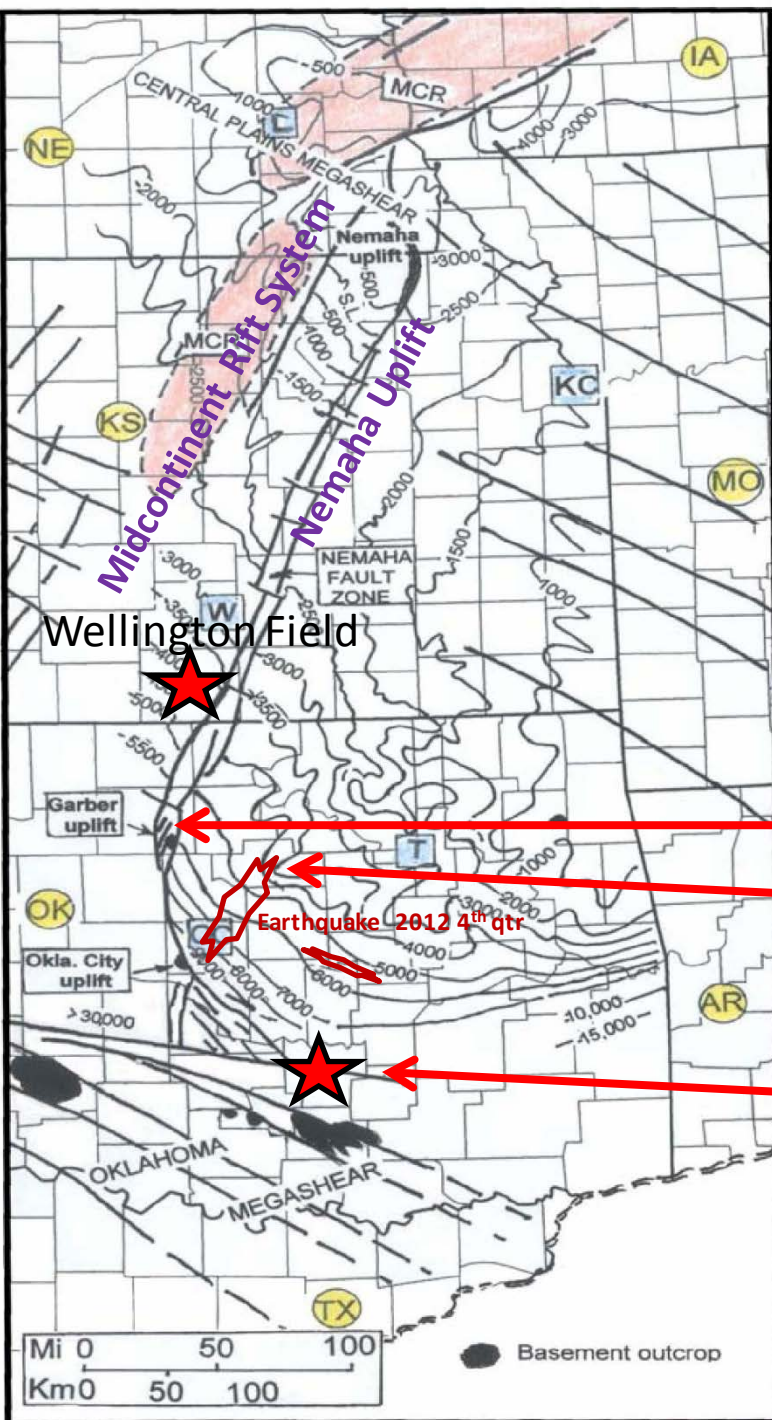
occurring at fault bends

Push Up Ridges



## Structural contour map, on top Precambrian surface

- Contours in Kansas and Nebraska modified from Burchett et al. (1981)
- Nemaha fault trace in Kansas adapted from Berendsen and Blair (1992).



Garber Uplift – restraining bend along Nemaha U.

Cluster of current earthquakes near Edmund OK

KGS-OGS Current #1, Pontotoc County, OK

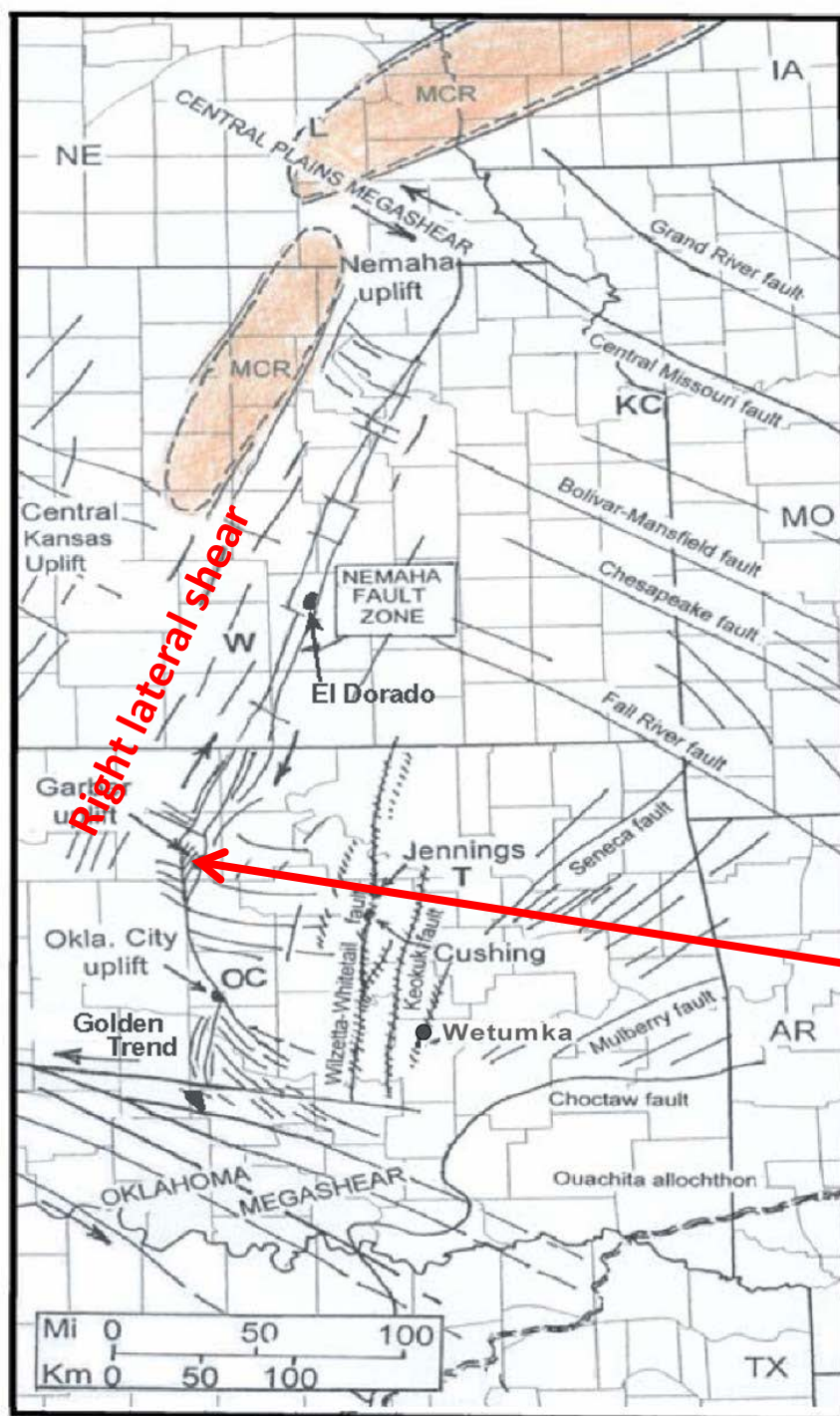
<http://www.searchanddiscovery.com/documents/2003/mcbee/images/mcbee.pdf>



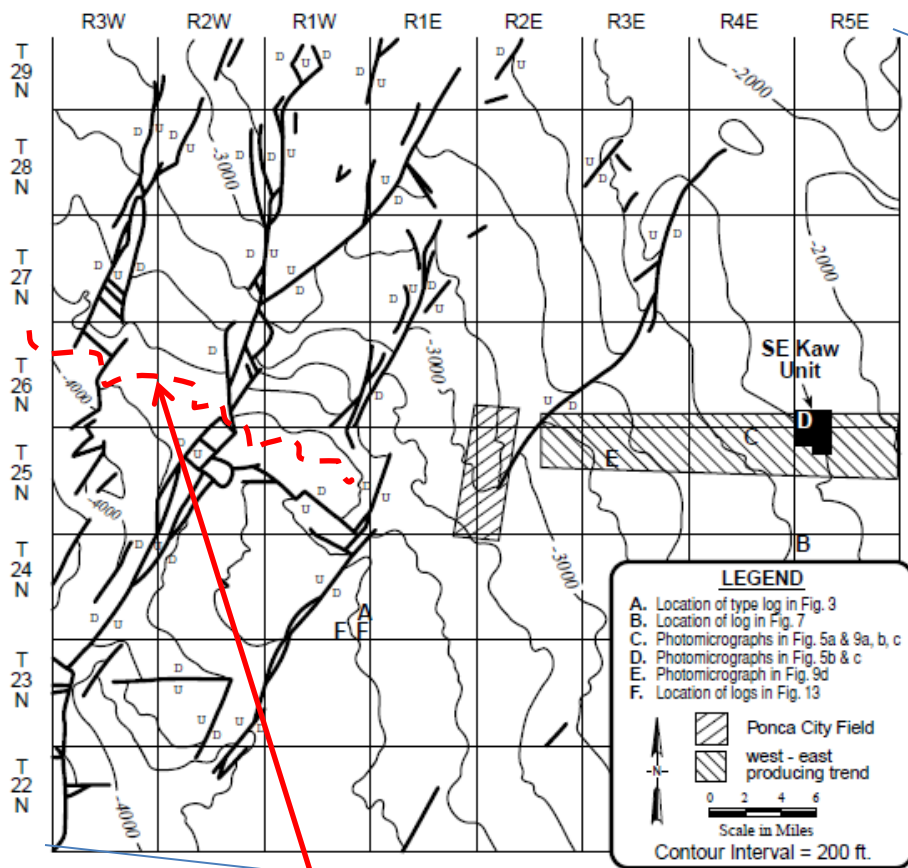
## Generalized fault framework of the area encompassing the Nemaha zone

- En echelon, northwest-southeast surface faults east of the Nemaha zone in Oklahoma form north - to north-northeast-trends (Miser, 1954).
- The Nemaha zone originated by strike-slip movements – **right lateral**
- Trace of the Nemaha fault adapted from Berendsen and Blair (1992).

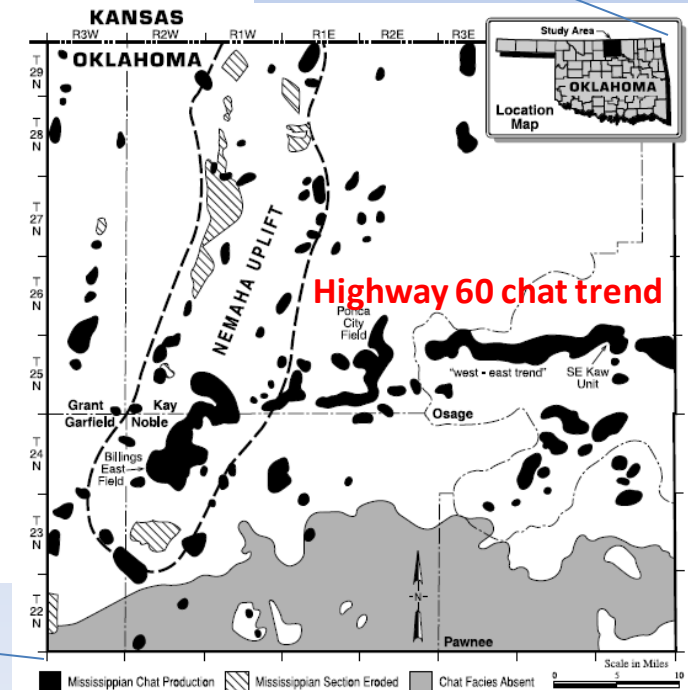
**Garber Uplift – restraining bend along Nemaha U.**



# Major NE-trending faults on the top of Mississippian overlying and on the flanks of the Nemaha Uplift



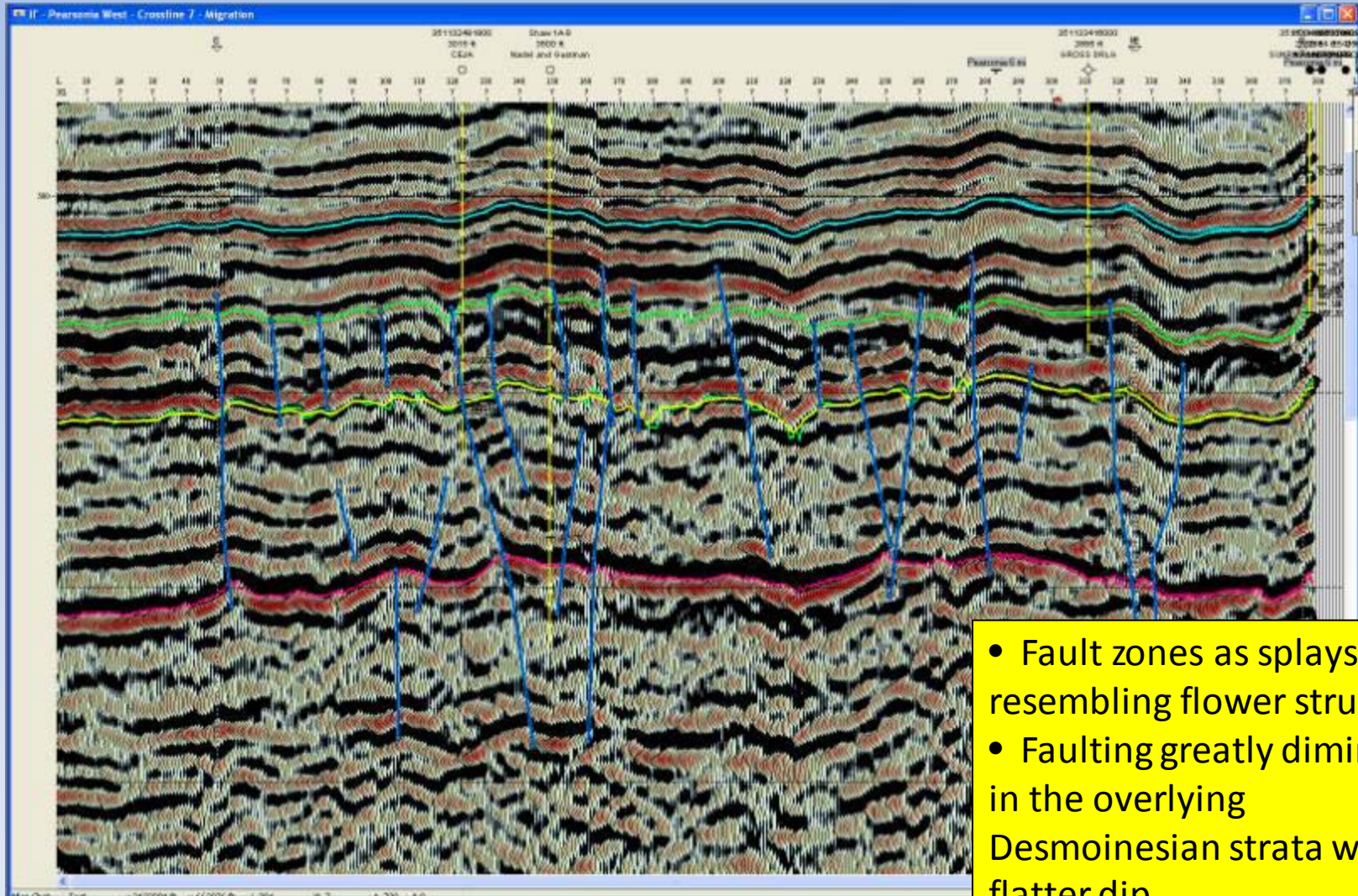
**Approximate Meramec subcrop**





# Seismic Section HW 60 Trend

Ron Snyder and colleagues at Ceja Corporation,  
AAPG Mississippi Lime Forum, Jan. 31, 2013, Oklahoma City



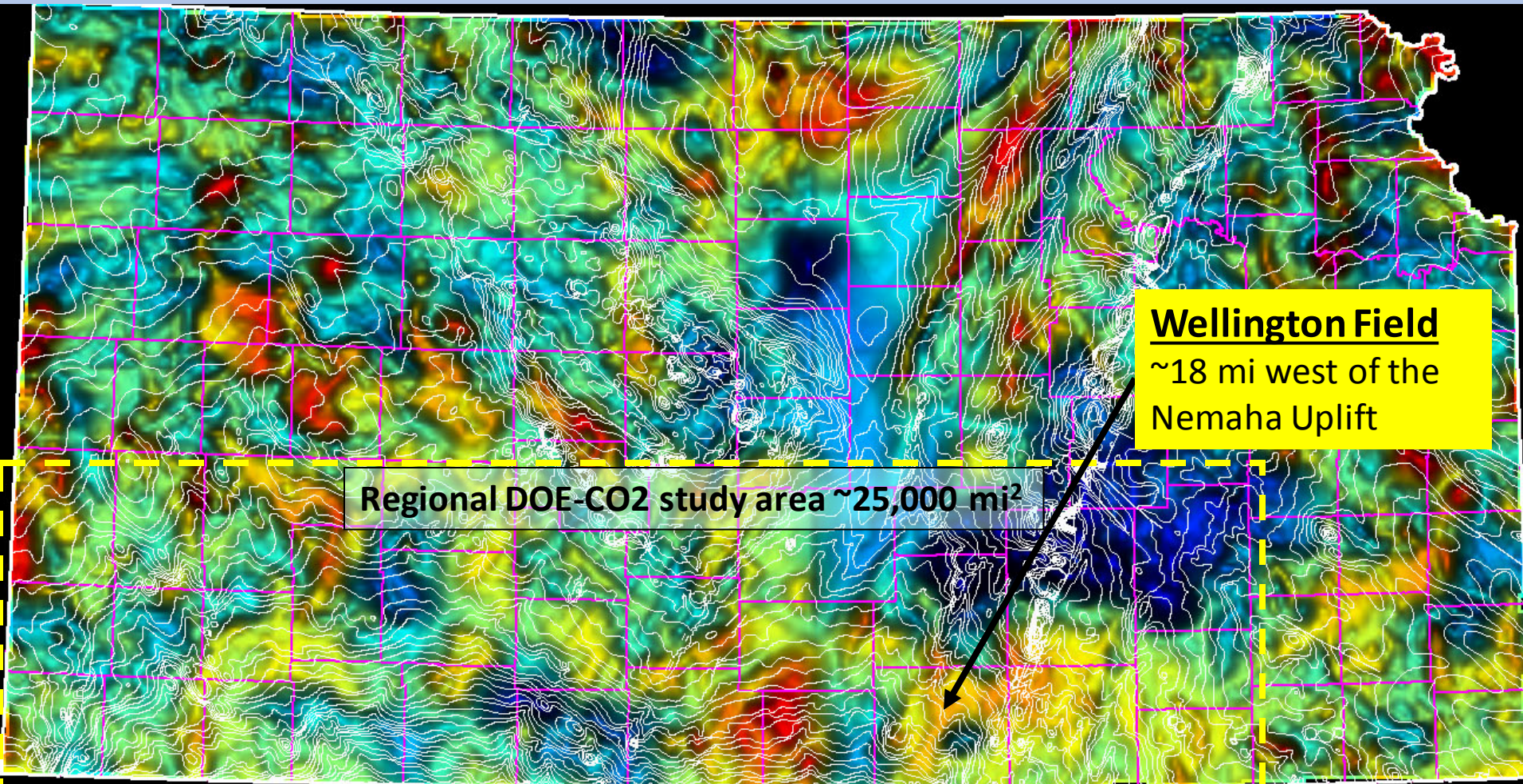
- Fault zones as splays and resembling flower structures
- Faulting greatly diminished in the overlying Desmoinesian strata with flatter dip



# Phanerozoic structures are largely derived by reactivation of basement weaknesses

-- MLP developed on southern rhyolite granite Proterozoic terrane  
cross-cut by the Midcontinent Rift System

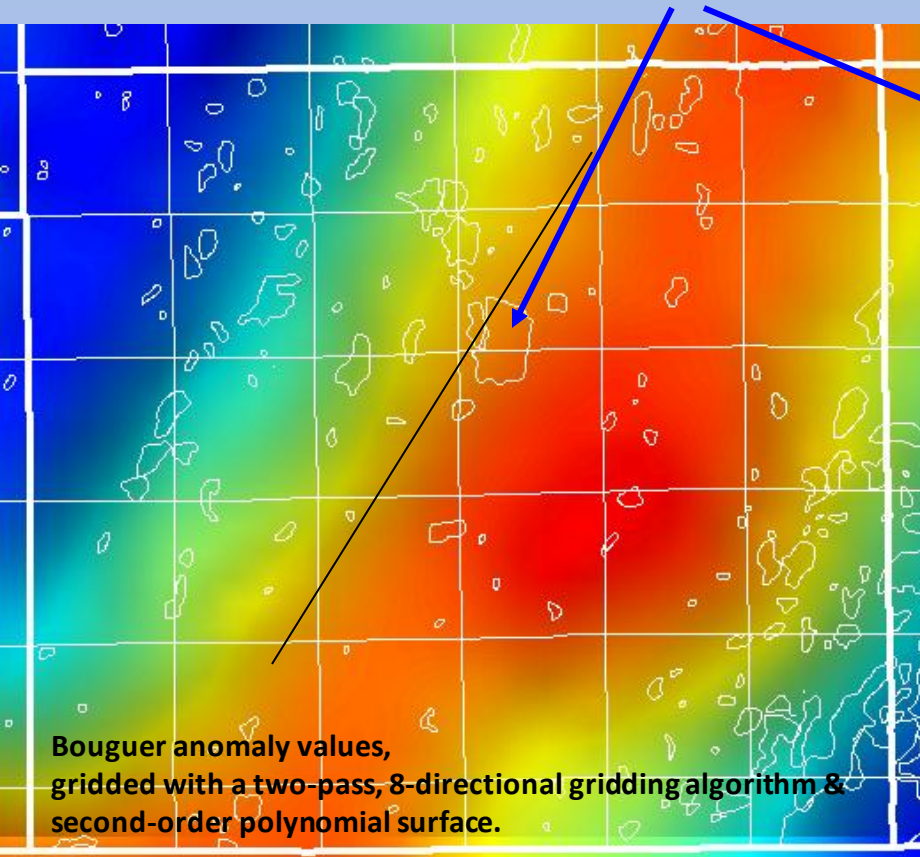
**Magnetic** – reduced to pole, overlain with *configuration of Precambrian surface* (Cole, 1976; Kruger, 1999)





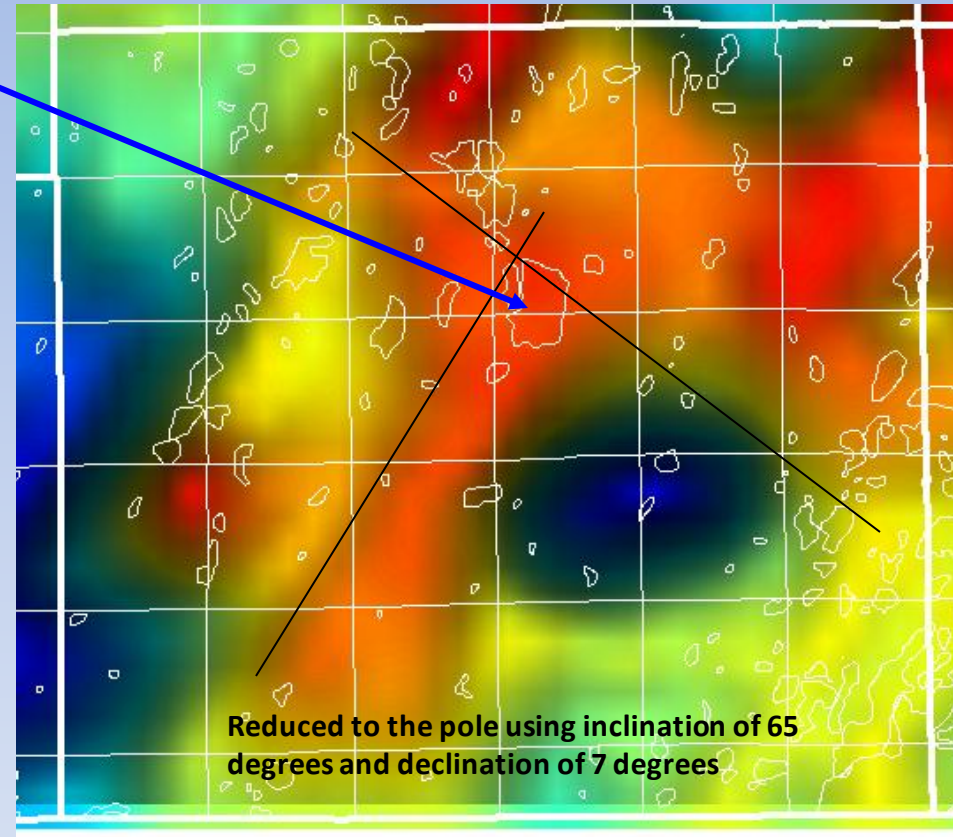
# Potential Fields in Sumner County, KS

Wellington Field



**Sumner County Kansas  
Gravity with oil and gas fields**

6 mi.

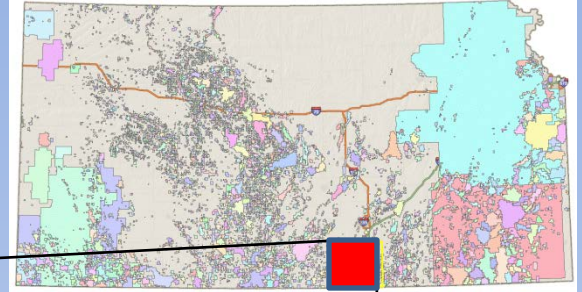


**Sumner County Kansas  
Magnetics with oil and gas fields**

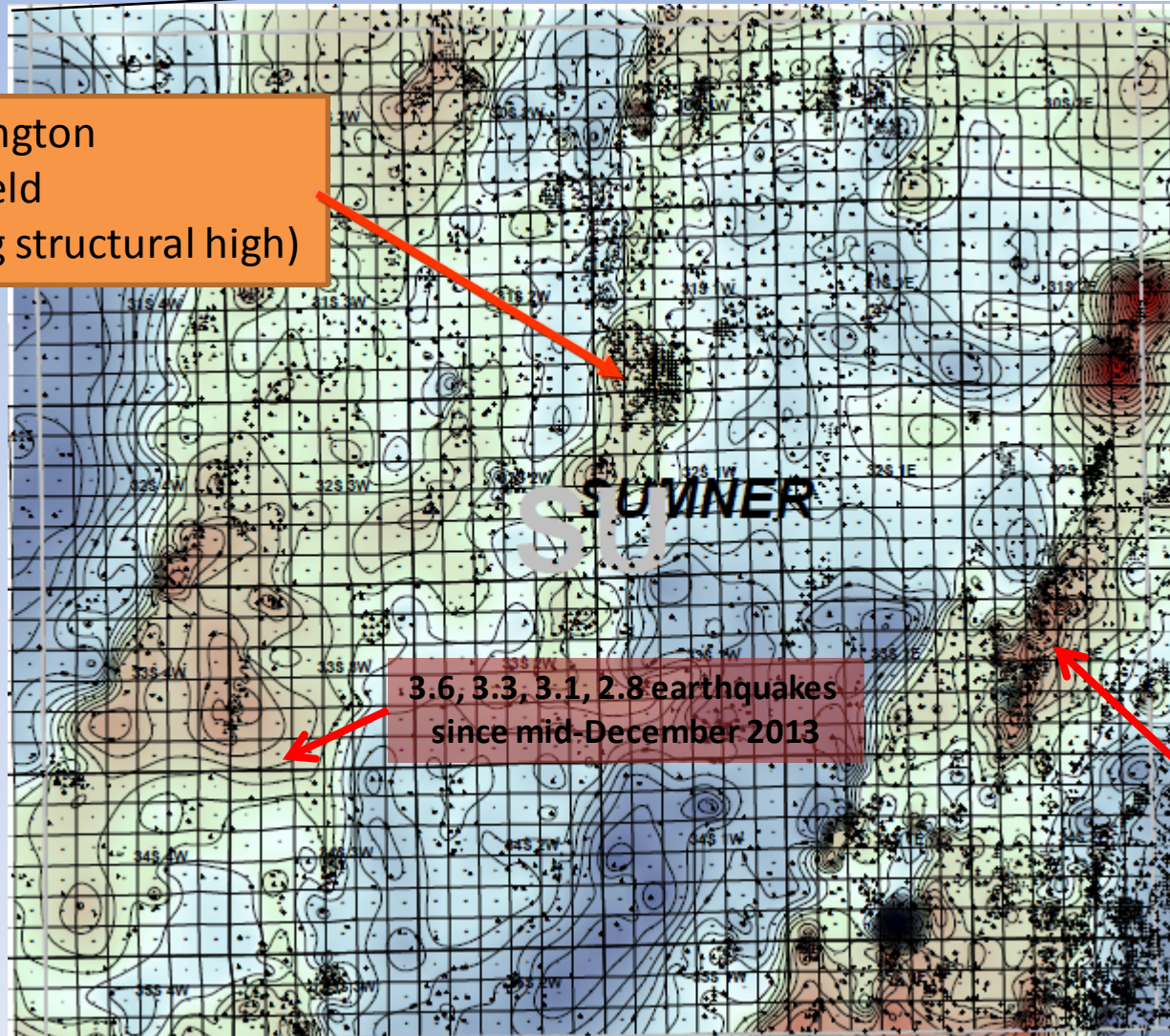
<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/PotenFld/County/rs/sumnerMagOg.html>

<http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/PotenFld/County/rs/sumnerGravOg.html>

# Third-order structural residual Top Mississippian Sumner County, KS



Wellington  
Field  
(NE-SW trending structural high)



3.6, 3.3, 3.1, 2.8 earthquakes  
since mid-December 2013

Nemaha  
Uplift

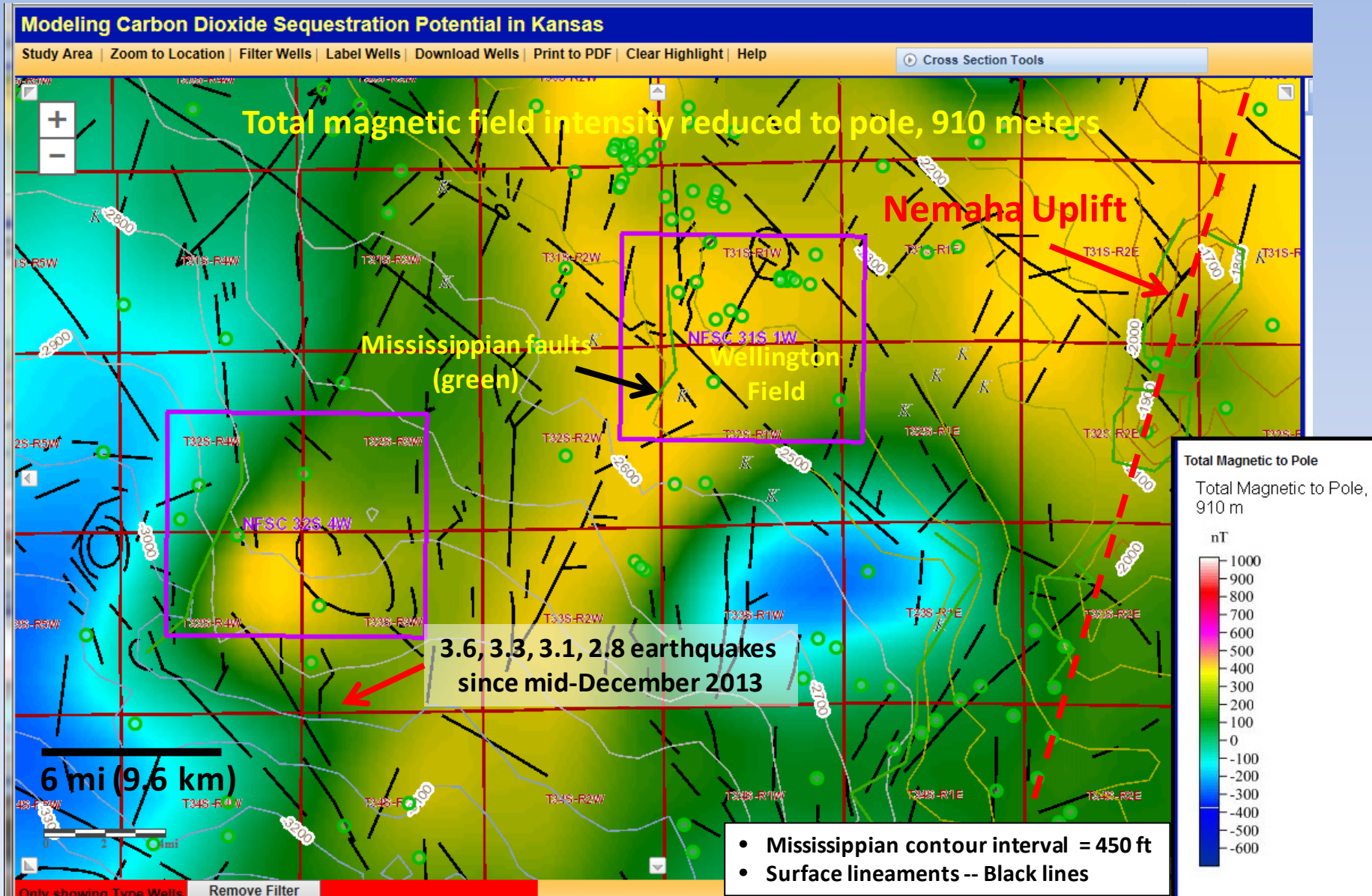
6 mi

6 mi



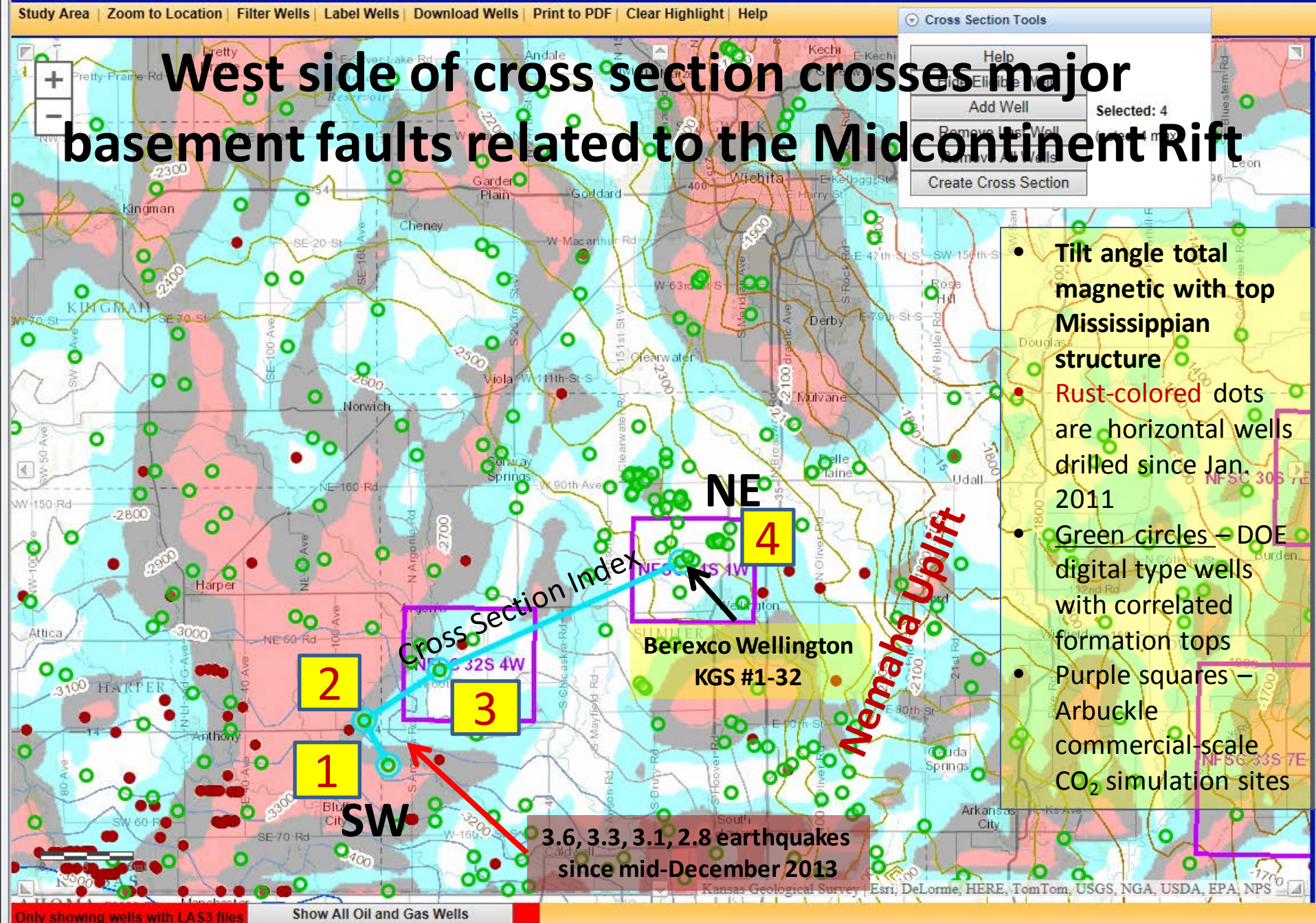
# Sumner County

## Magnetic field anomalies delineate discontinuities/faults in the basement





# West side of cross section crosses major basement faults related to the Midcontinent Rift



- Tilt angle total magnetic with top Mississippian structure
- Rust-colored dots are horizontal wells drilled since Jan. 2011
- Green circles – DOE digital type wells with correlated formation tops
- Purple squares – Arbuckle commercial-scale CO<sub>2</sub> simulation sites

SW

NE

1

2

3

4

Mississippian

Cherokee Gp.

Mississippian

Arbuckle

Arbuckle

Arbuckle

500 ft.

Major basement fault  
represented by flexure  
and faulting in the  
overlying Phanerozoic  
strata

Proterozoic Rift Fill  
(arkosic sandstone)

Proterozoic magnetic-rich  
Granite intrusive  
(as per R. VanSchmus)

Wellington  
Field

*On-the-fly cross section tool from mapper*  
SW-NE Structural Cross Section  
Lower Pennsylvanian to Arbuckle and  
Proterozoic sediment (MRS fill)

J. Victorine KGS

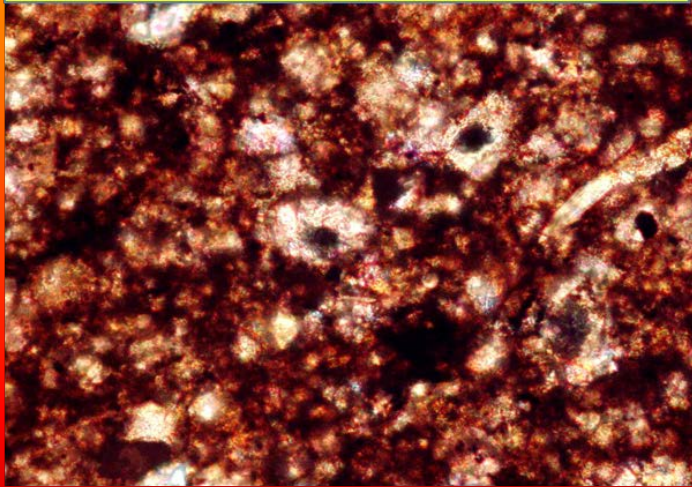


# Source rocks

- Organic richness, maturity, timeframe of generation

**“Cowley facies is likely a source rock”**

4003.7 ft dark cored dolomite (x-nic)



100 μm

**Pierson Ls. Member (Cowley facies) is *organic-bearing and thermally mature* and probably local source rock for MLP**



TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

Received 2-13-13

Client ID	Well Name	State	County	Top depth (ft)	Formation	Sample Type	Prep	TOC, wt. %	Verified	Lab id	Comments
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3605.40		Core	NOPR	0.10		3402822662	Penn sh
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3738.25		Core	NOPR	0.39		3402822664	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3754.00		Core	NOPR	0.19		3402822666	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3784.50		Core	NOPR	1.87	TOC	3402822668	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3937.25		Core	NOPR	0.94		3402822670	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3958.75		Core	NOPR	1.28		3402822672	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3982.00		Core	NOPR	0.60	TOC	3402822674	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4024.00		Core	NOPR	0.21		3402822676	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4048.50		Core	NOPR	1.11		3402822678	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4059.75		Core	NOPR	0.69		3402822680	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4095.50		Core	NOPR	1.59	TOC	3402822682	M-D Chat Sh

OPERATOR AND WELL NAME											
SEC	T	R	SPOT	SAMPLE INTERVAL	SUBSURF.	AGE	FORM	LITH	TOC	S1	S2
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			3784.50 Miss	ls		1.87	0.71	8.08
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			3937.25 Miss	ls		0.94	0.77	3.28
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			3958.75 Miss	ls		1.28	0.49	2.14
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			3982.00 Miss	ls		0.60	0.66	1.92
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			4024.00 Miss	ls		0.21		
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			4048.50 Miss	ls		1.11	0.79	4.02
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			4059.75 Miss	ls		0.69		
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			4095.50 Dev	CHAT	sh	1.59	0.91	7.75
32	315	01W	SW NE NE			4099.60 OrdM	SMP5	sh	0.17		

Compilation of Hydrocarbon Source-Rock Analyses for Wells in East-Central and Northeastern Kansas, and adjacent areas in Missouri and Nebraska  
by K. David Newell (Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 66045-3736), August, 2013

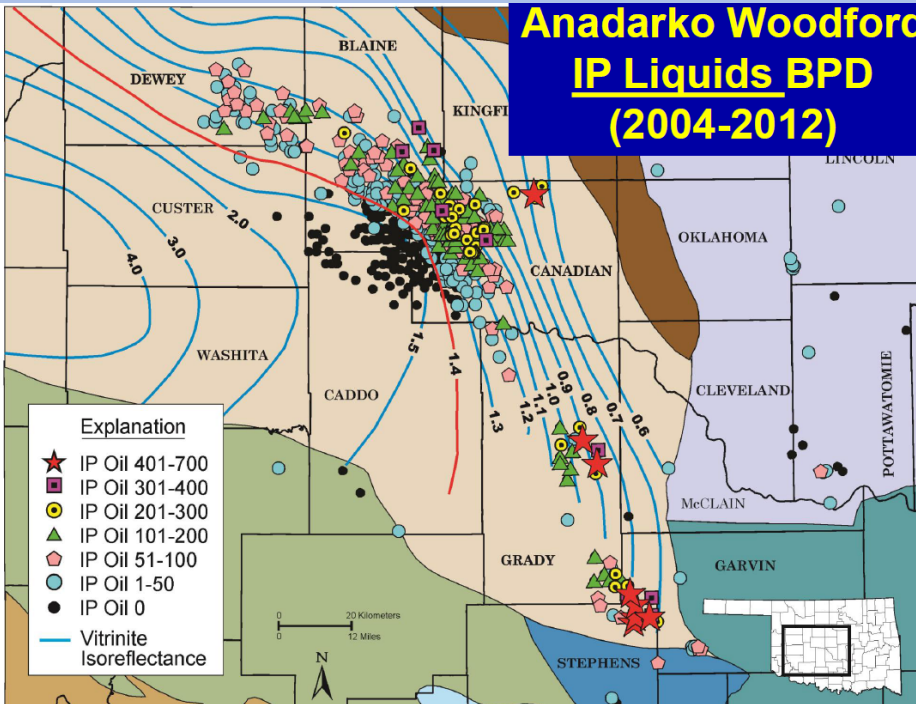
# Hydrocarbon migration

- Proximity of source rocks, timing and mechanism of HC migration



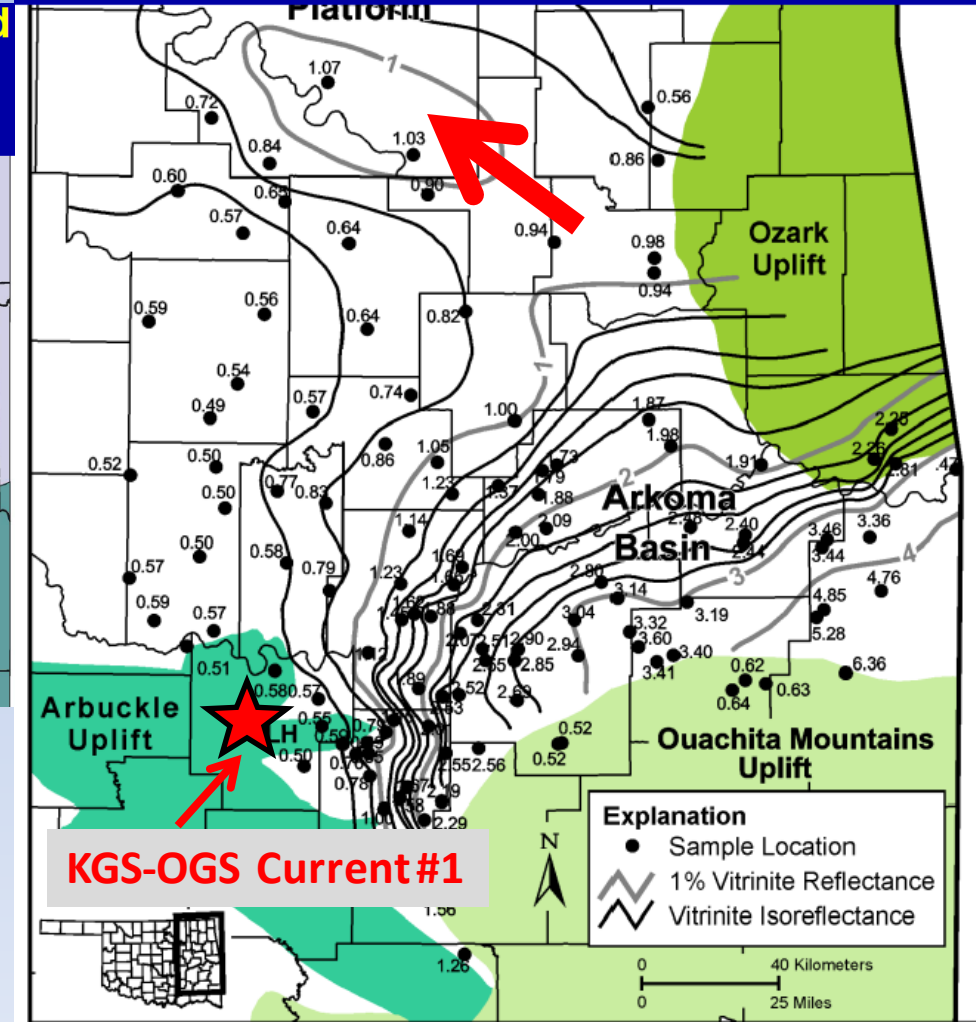
# Elevated thermal maturation in NE Oklahoma and along the NE edge of the Anadarko Basin

## Anadarko Woodford IP Liquids BPD (2004-2012)

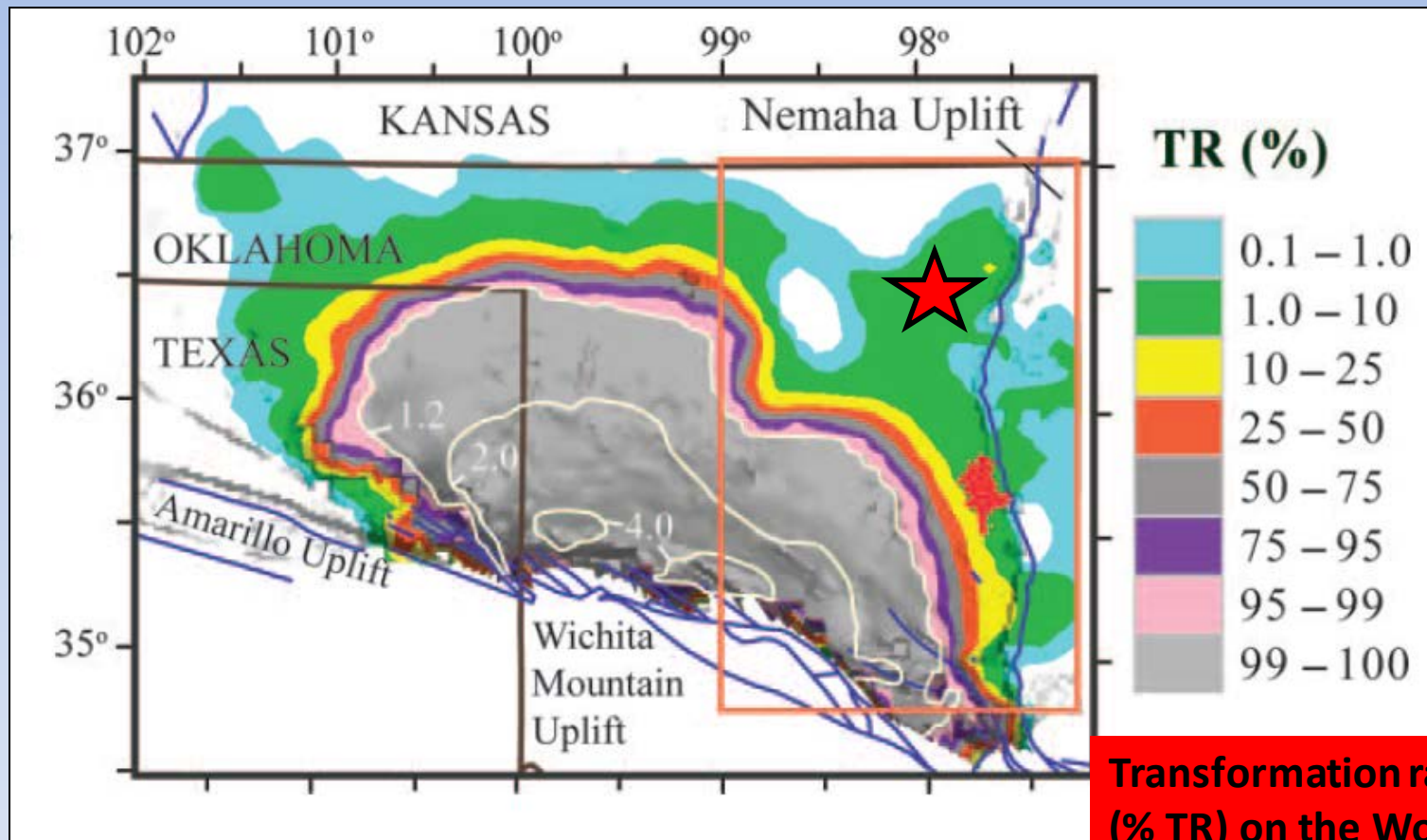


## Vitrinite isorefectance map of Woodford Shale

- Left – Anadarko Basin
- Right --- Arkoma Basin (from B. Cardott, 2012)



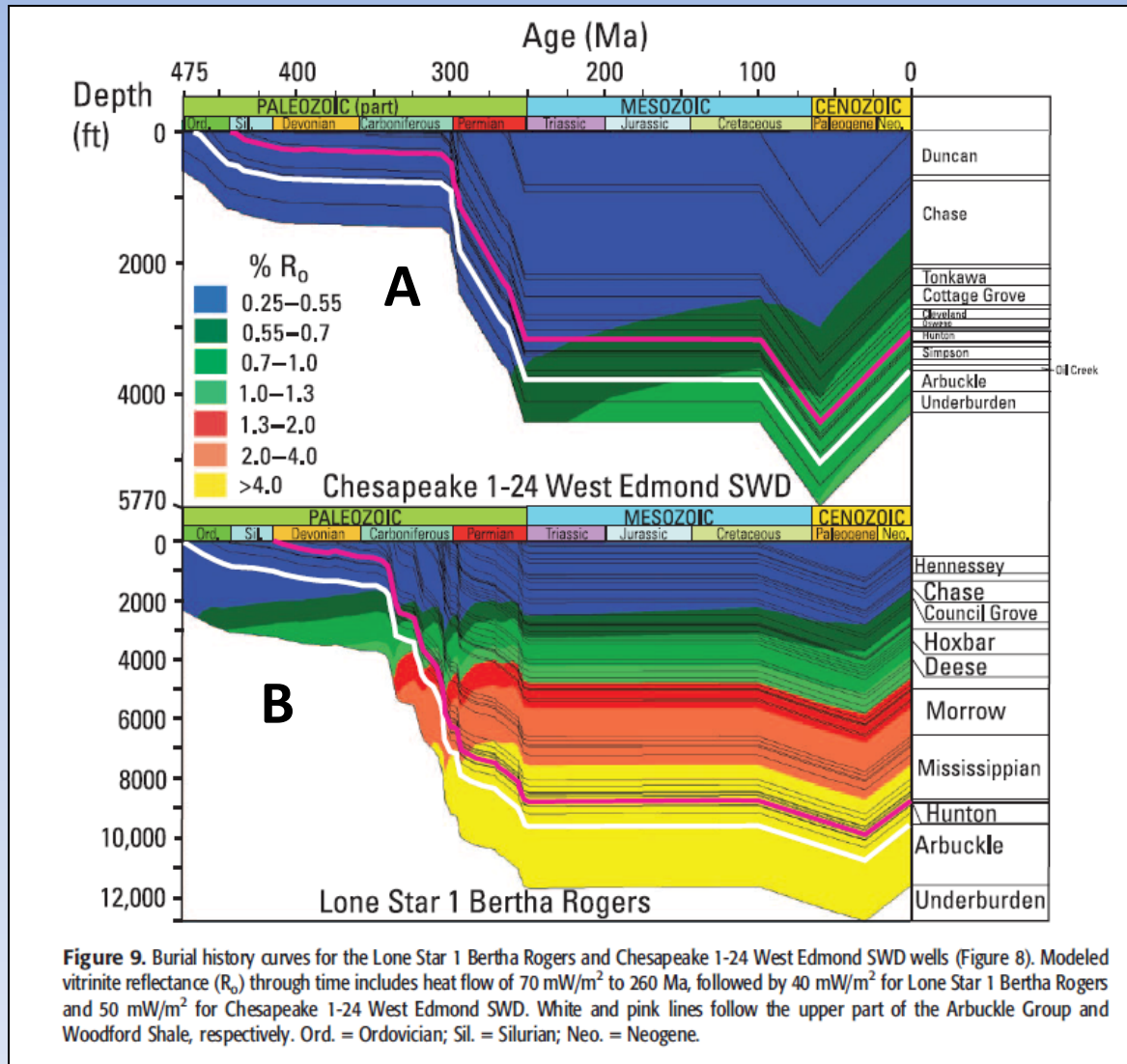
# Elevated thermal maturation along NW flank of Anadarko Basin



**Transformation ratios  
(% TR) on the Woodford  
Shale layer  
from the four-dimensional  
petroleum system model**

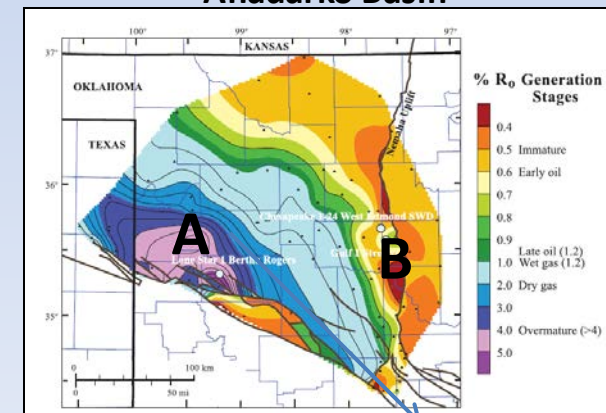
S.B. Gaswirth and D.K. Higley, 2013, AAPG Bulletin, v. 97, no. 7  
(July 2013), pp. 1163–1179

# Burial history curves for the Lone Star 1 Bertha Rogers (A) and Chesapeake 1-24 West Edmond SWD (B) wells in Anadarko Basin



- Generation from the Simpson Group Oil Creek Formation layer source rocks (light green) started about **340 Ma**.
- Woodford Shale oil generation about **335 Ma**
- Thirteen Finger limestone (blue) about **300 Ma**.

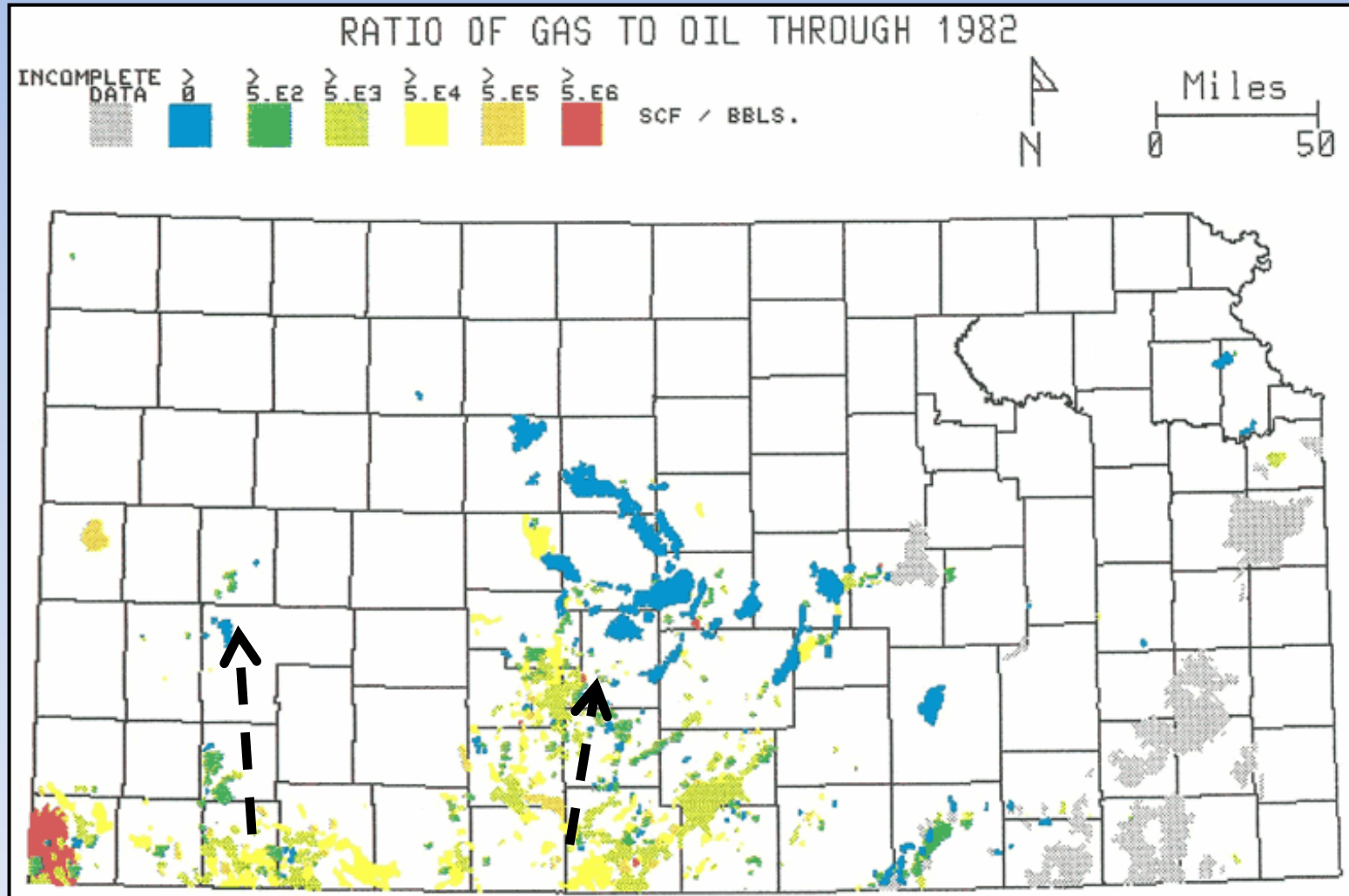
## %Ro Generation Stages Anadarko Basin





# Higher gas-oil ratio in south-central and southwest Kansas

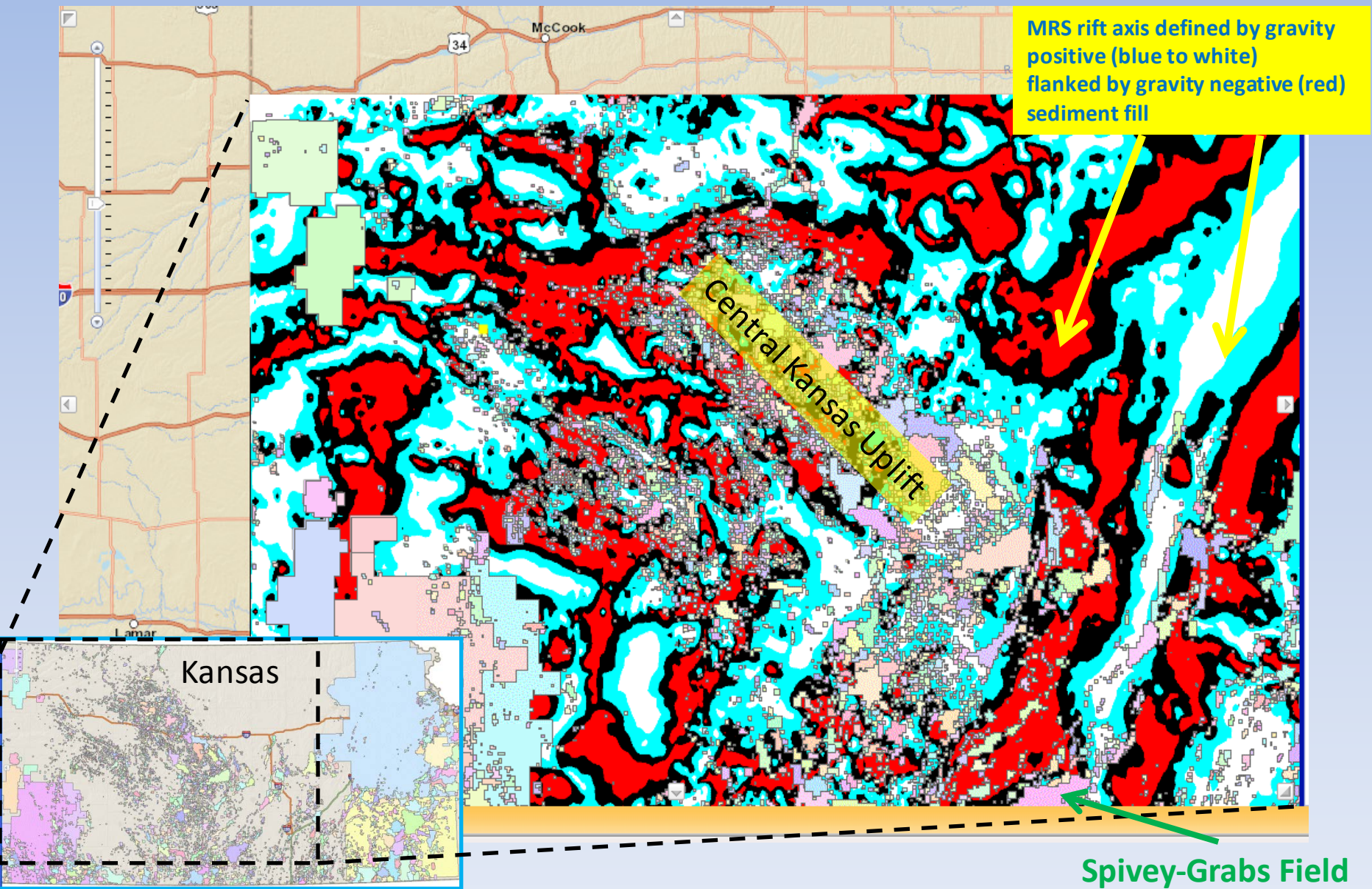
## -- early oil migration followed by methane



Newell et al (1989)

Tilt Angle Bouguer gravity 2-5 mile filter  
with oil fields overlay western 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of Kansas

**Strong delineation of inferred basement structure and distribution of oil fields  
influence of basement derived fractures and faults**



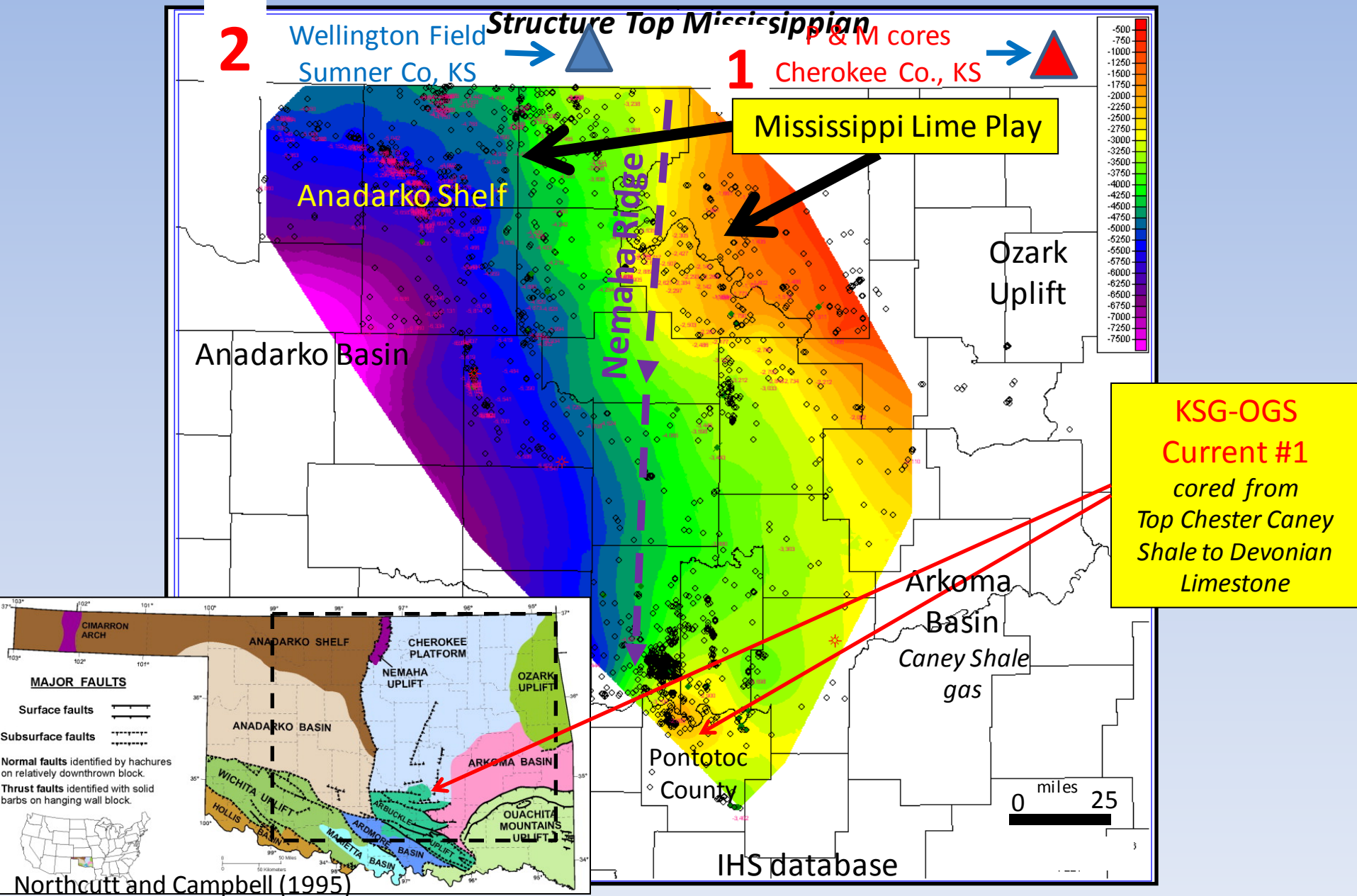
# Spectrum of lithofacies and quality reservoir rock

- **Conventional reservoir** – deposition, diagenesis, and structural setting, hydrocarbon accumulation controlled by capillary pressure (matrix), hydrocarbon column, relative permeability, fractures dictate water cut
  - Weathered chert breccia, tripolitic chert, porous dolosparite, spiculite
- **Unconventional reservoir lithofacies** –
  - Argillaceous dolomitic cherty argillaceous siltstones.
  - Tight rocks tight rocks interbedded with porous nodular chert and spiculite
  - Organic bearing and local source rock

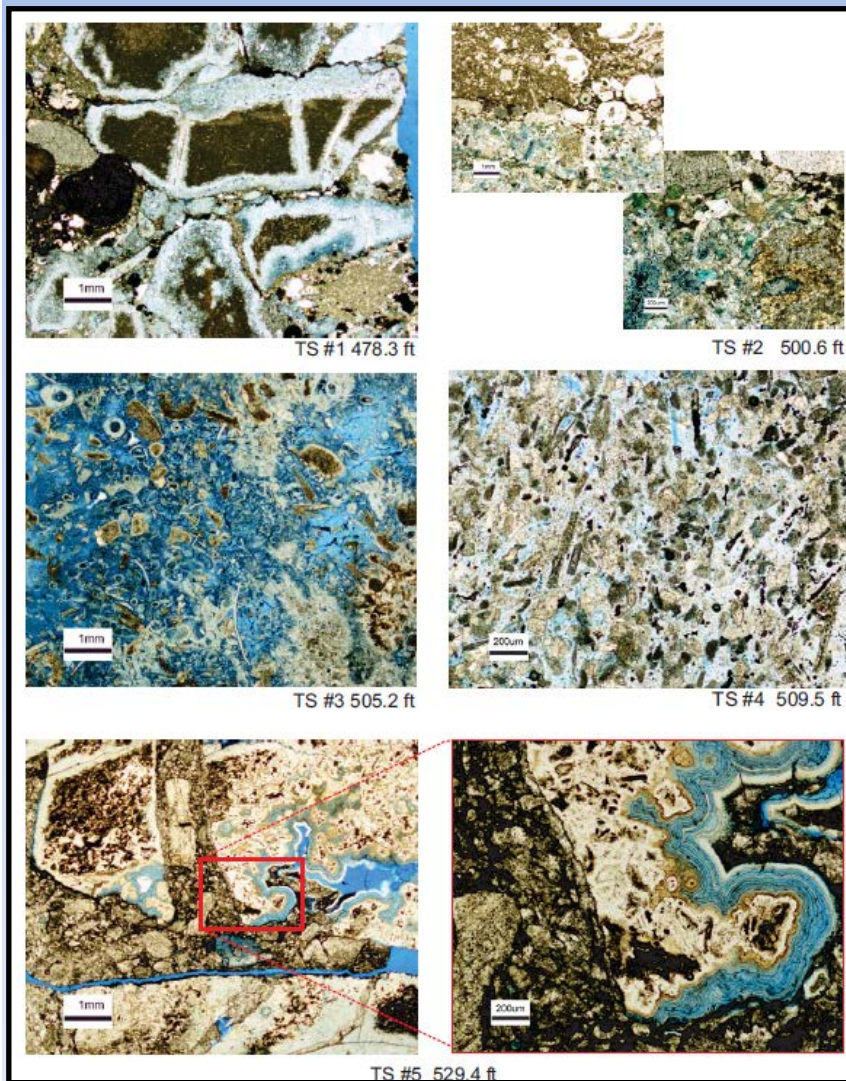


# Eastern Oklahoma

Basinal lithofacies in western Arkoma Basin and ramp  
& carbonate platform on Ozark and NE Anadarko Shelf



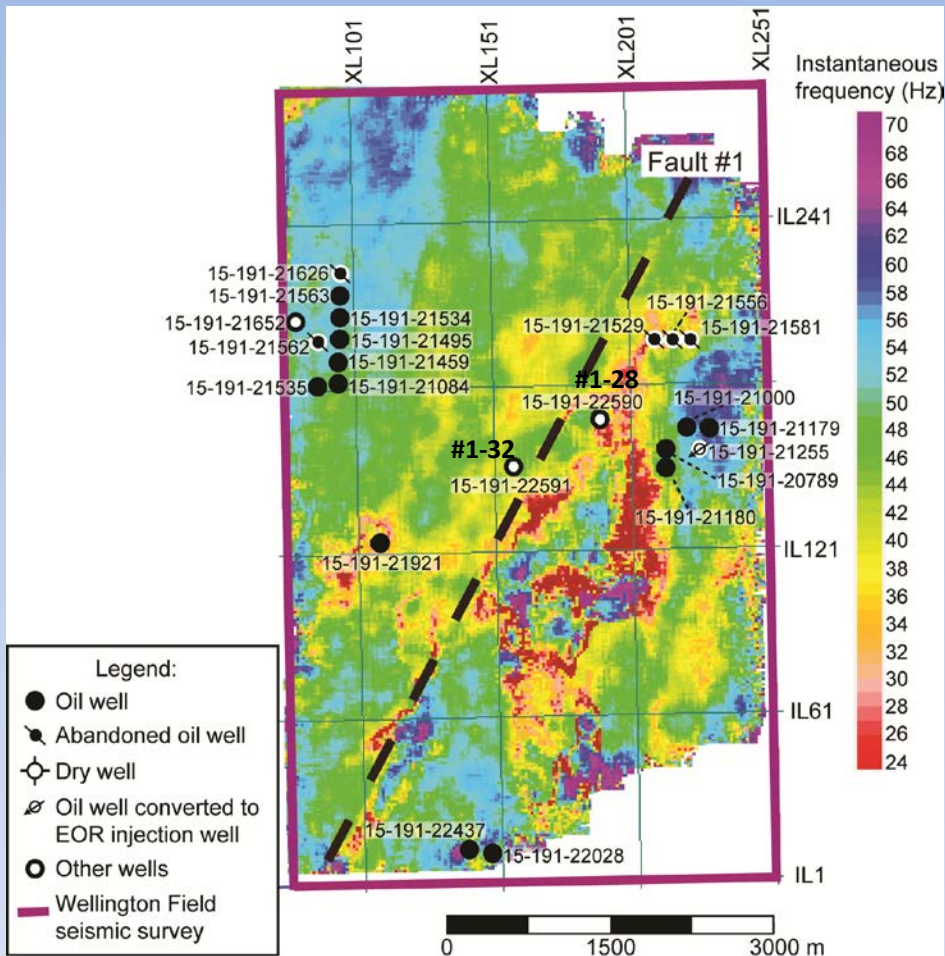
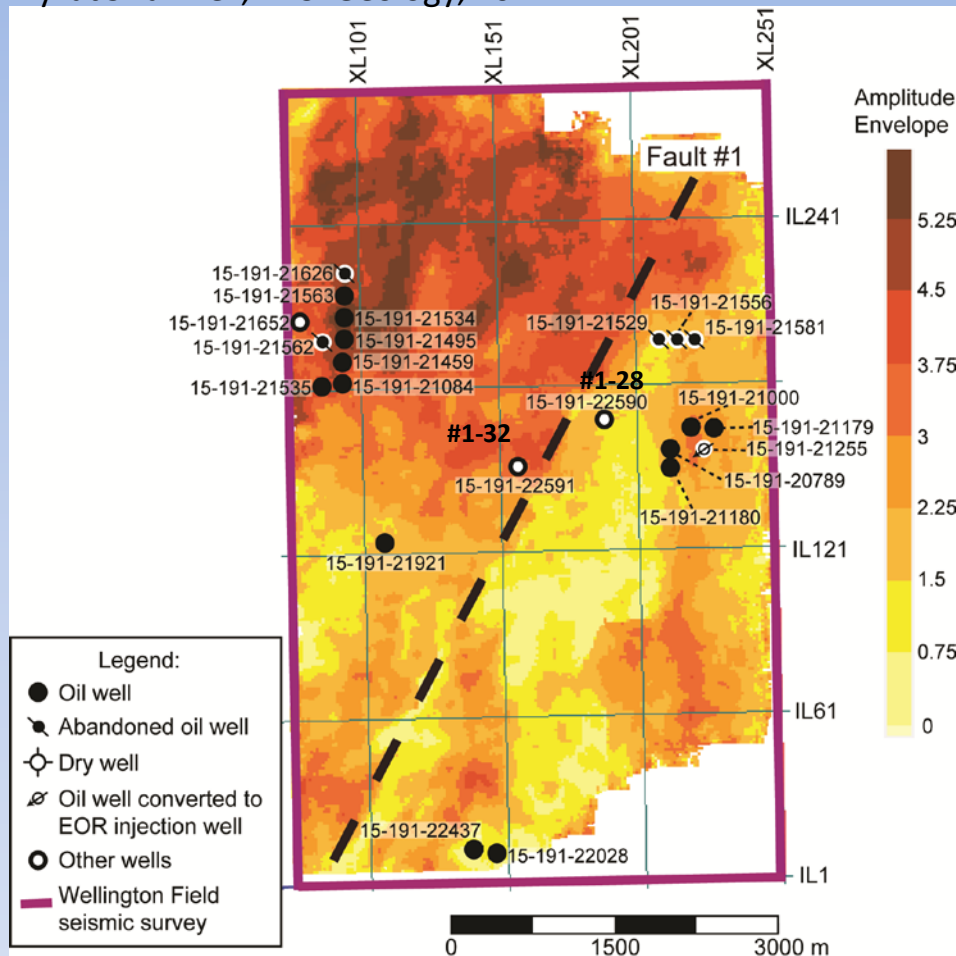




# Upper cherty intercrystalline dolomite reservoir (main pay)

## Wellington Field, Sumner County, KS

Ayrat Sirazhiev, M.S. Geology, 2012



Amplitude envelope map of the Mississippian reflection

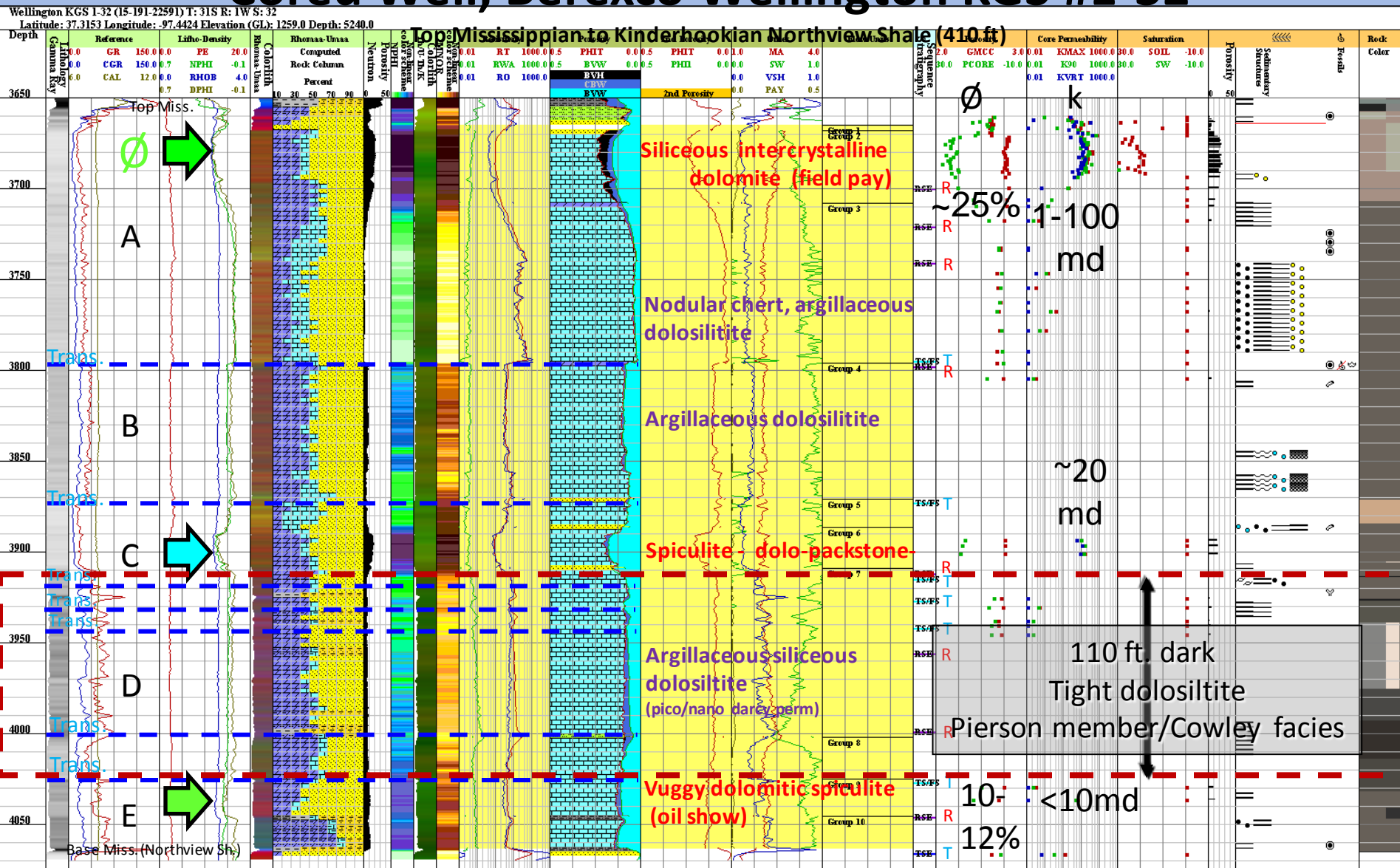
Instantaneous frequency map of the Mississippian reflection

Can we relate real data seismic amplitude and frequency to reservoir thickness as it has been suggested by the modeling?



# Mississippian oil reservoir (top)

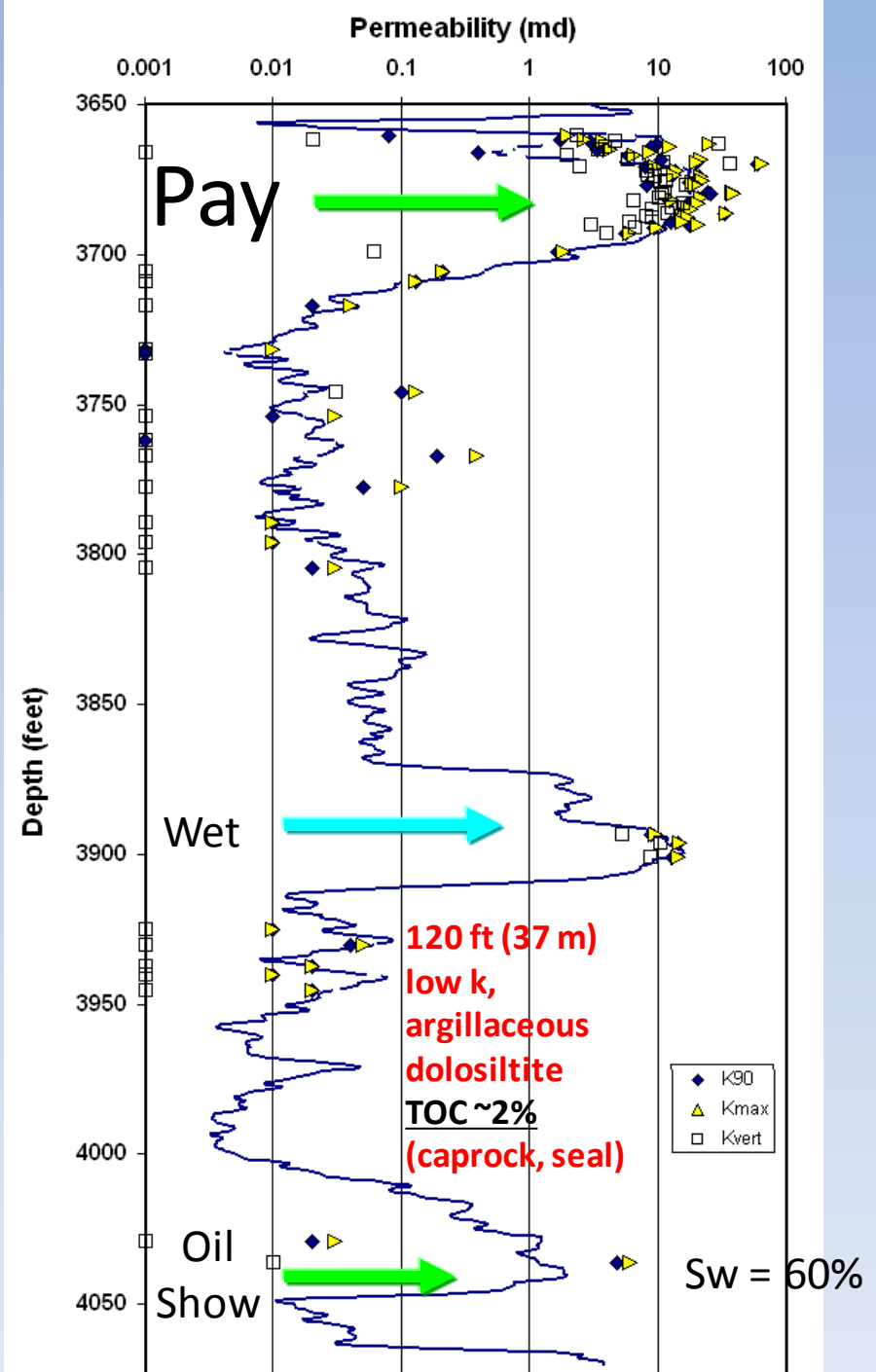
## Cored Well, Berexco Wellington KGS #1-32



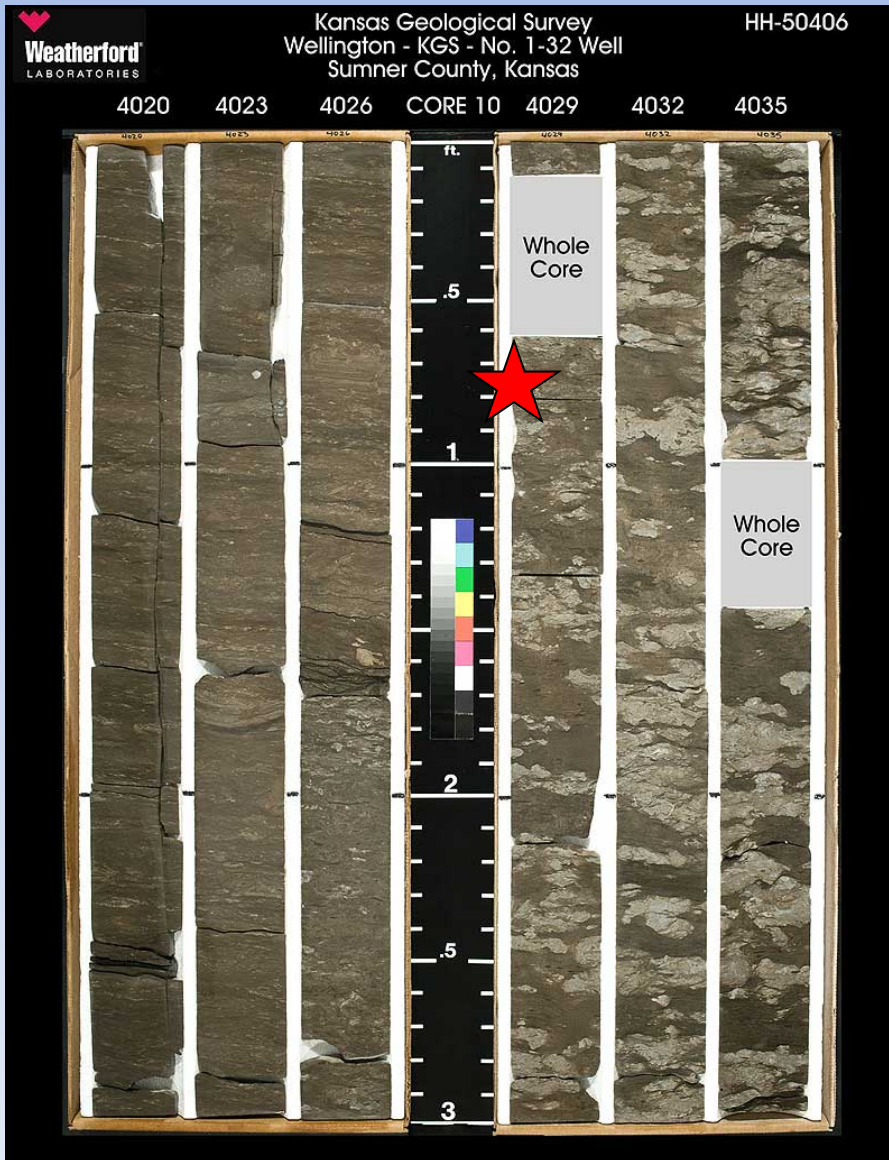


# Permeability profile entire Mississippian

KGS #1-32 Wellington :  
Estimation of permeability  
based on *magnetic resonance  
imaging (MRIL<sup>tm</sup>)* using  
porosity and T2 center-of-  
gravity versus core Kmax, K90,  
and Kvert core permeabilities

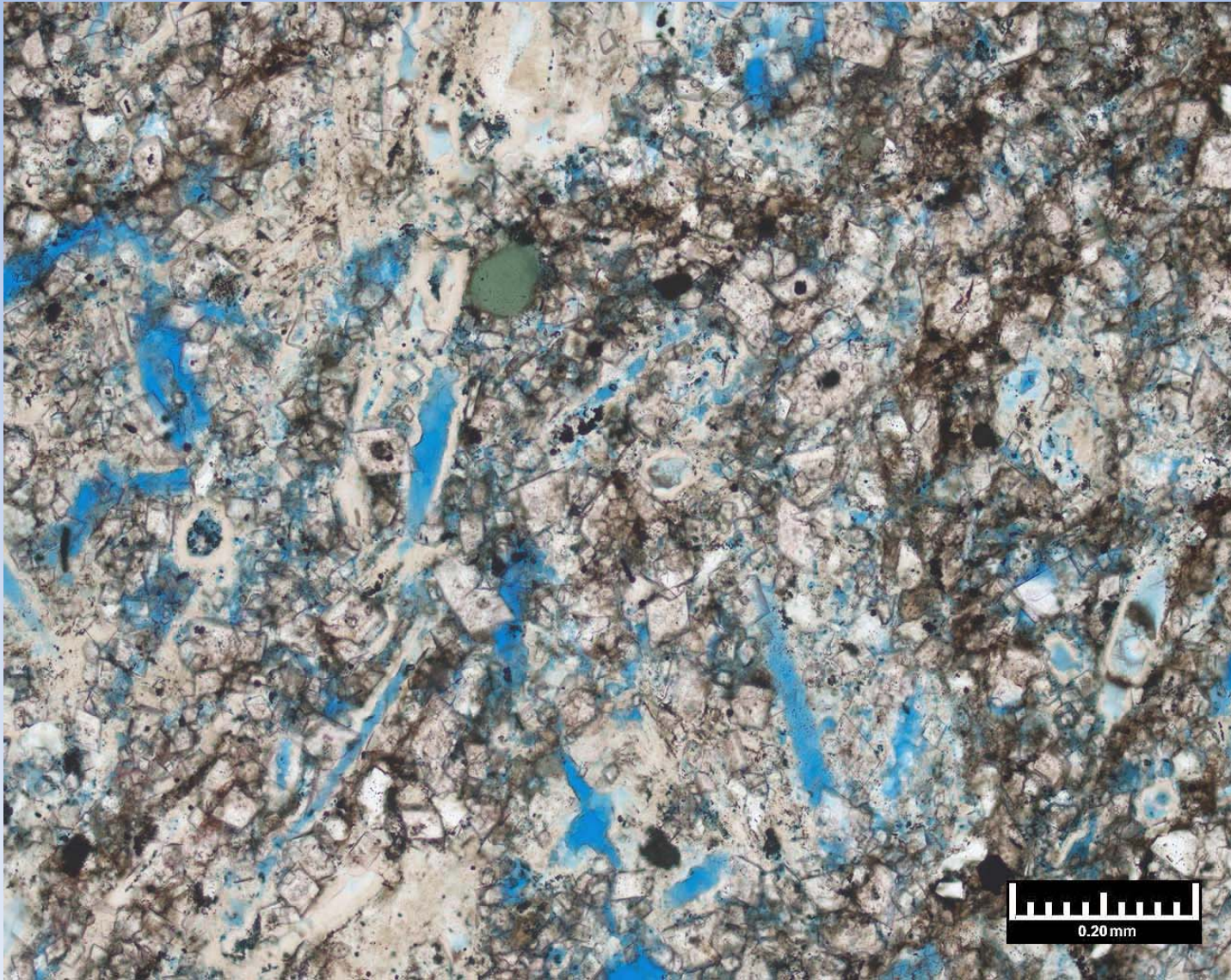


# Bottom porosity in dolomitic spiculite in lower Cowley facies with oil show near base of Mississippian KGS Wellington #1-32

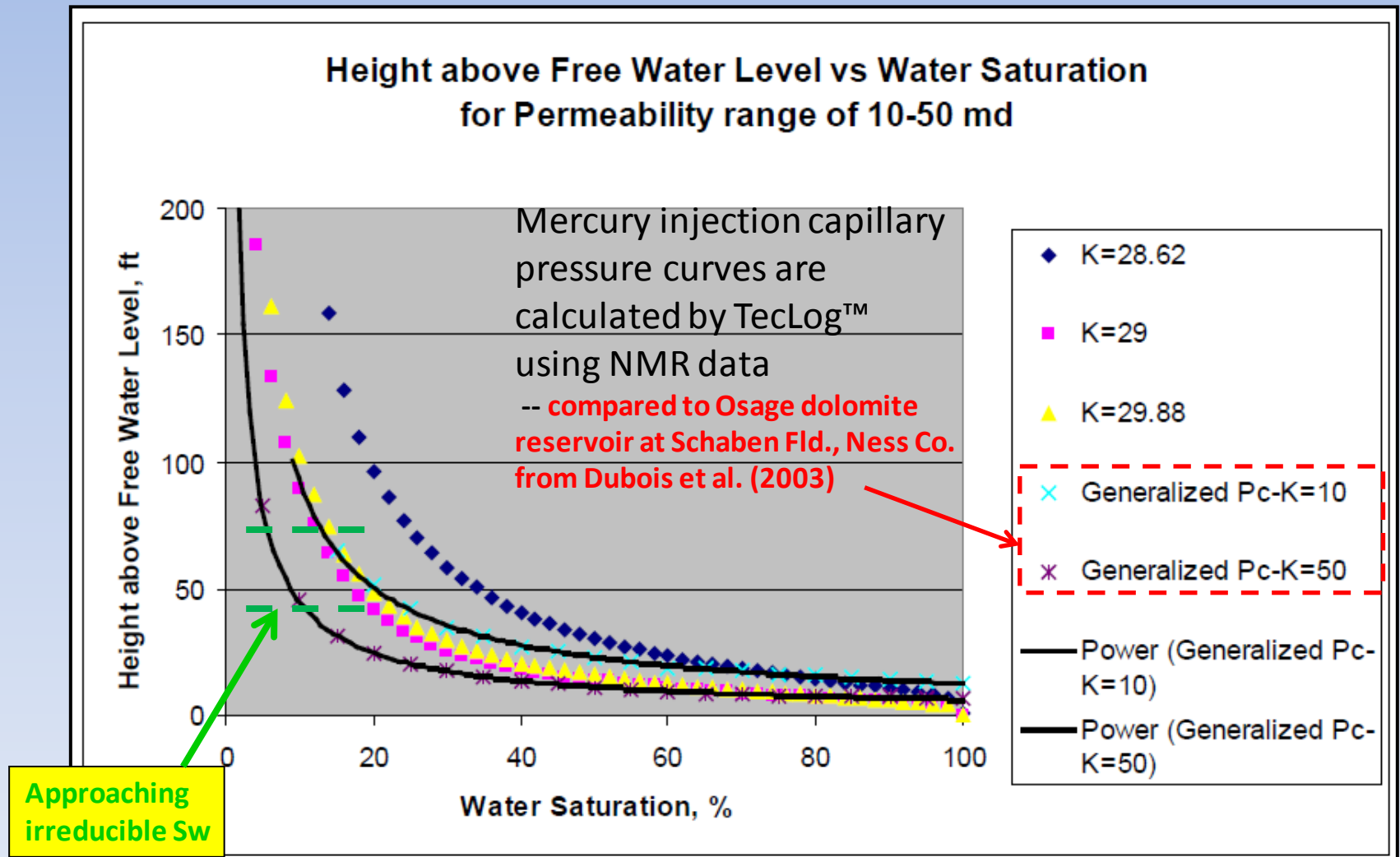




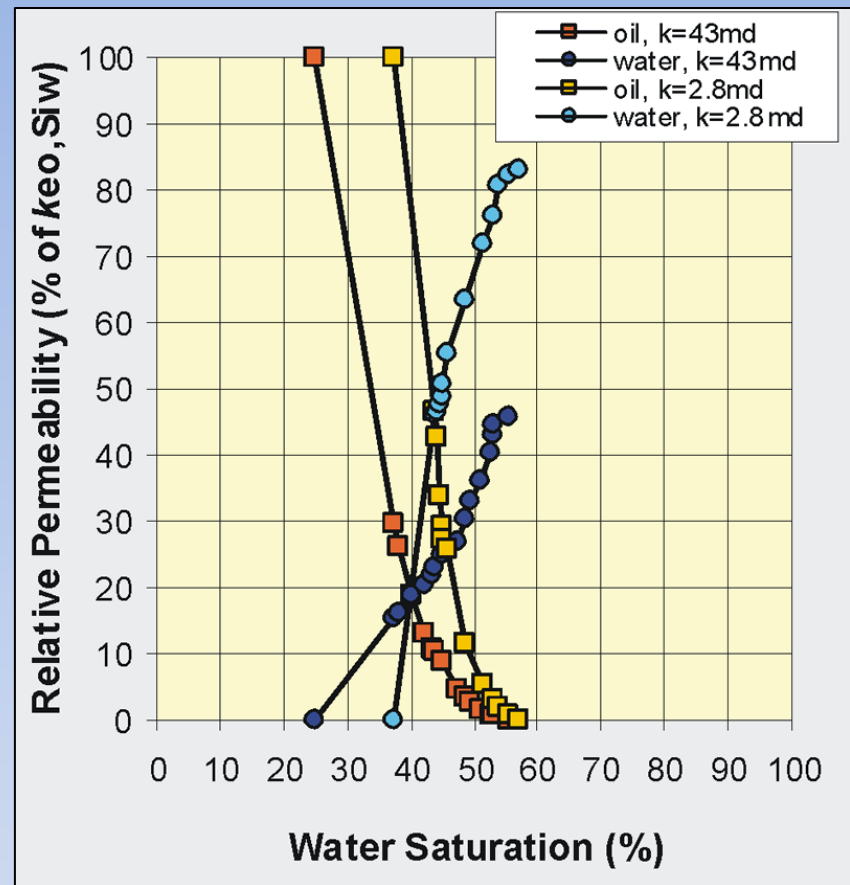
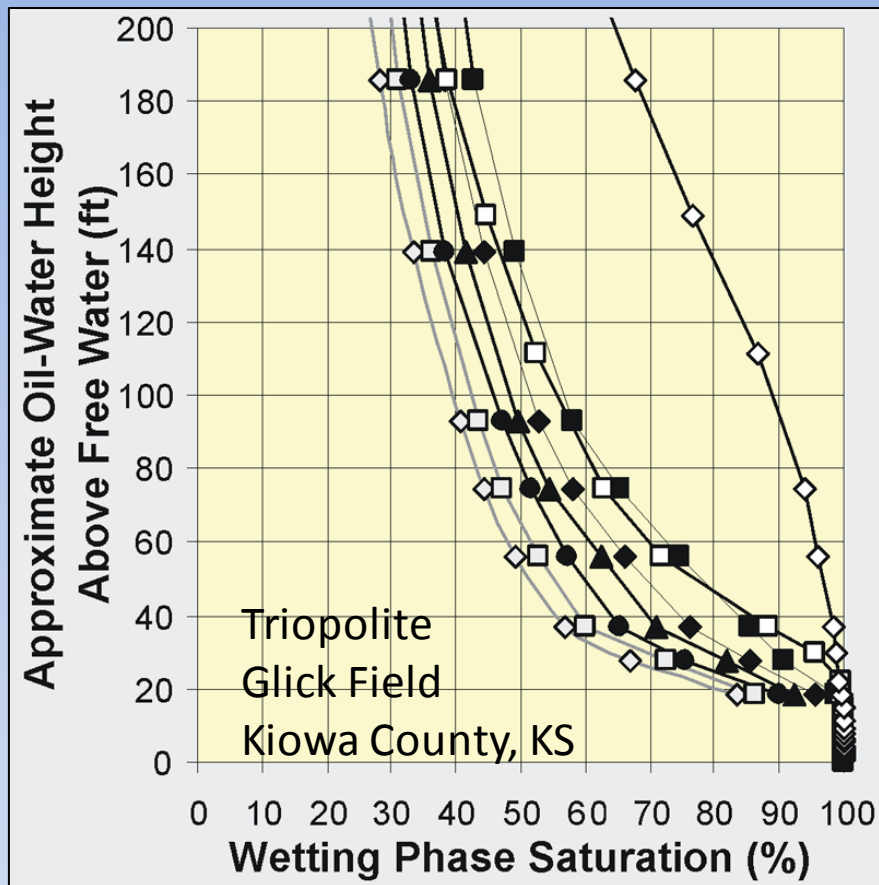
Wellington 4029.73 ft (Cowley facies)  
deep-water, porous and permeable dolospiculite (oil bearing)



**Oil column in typical conventional reservoirs requires ~75 ft to approach irreducible water saturation and zero water cut based on capillary pressure curves for common Mississippian reservoirs in MLP**



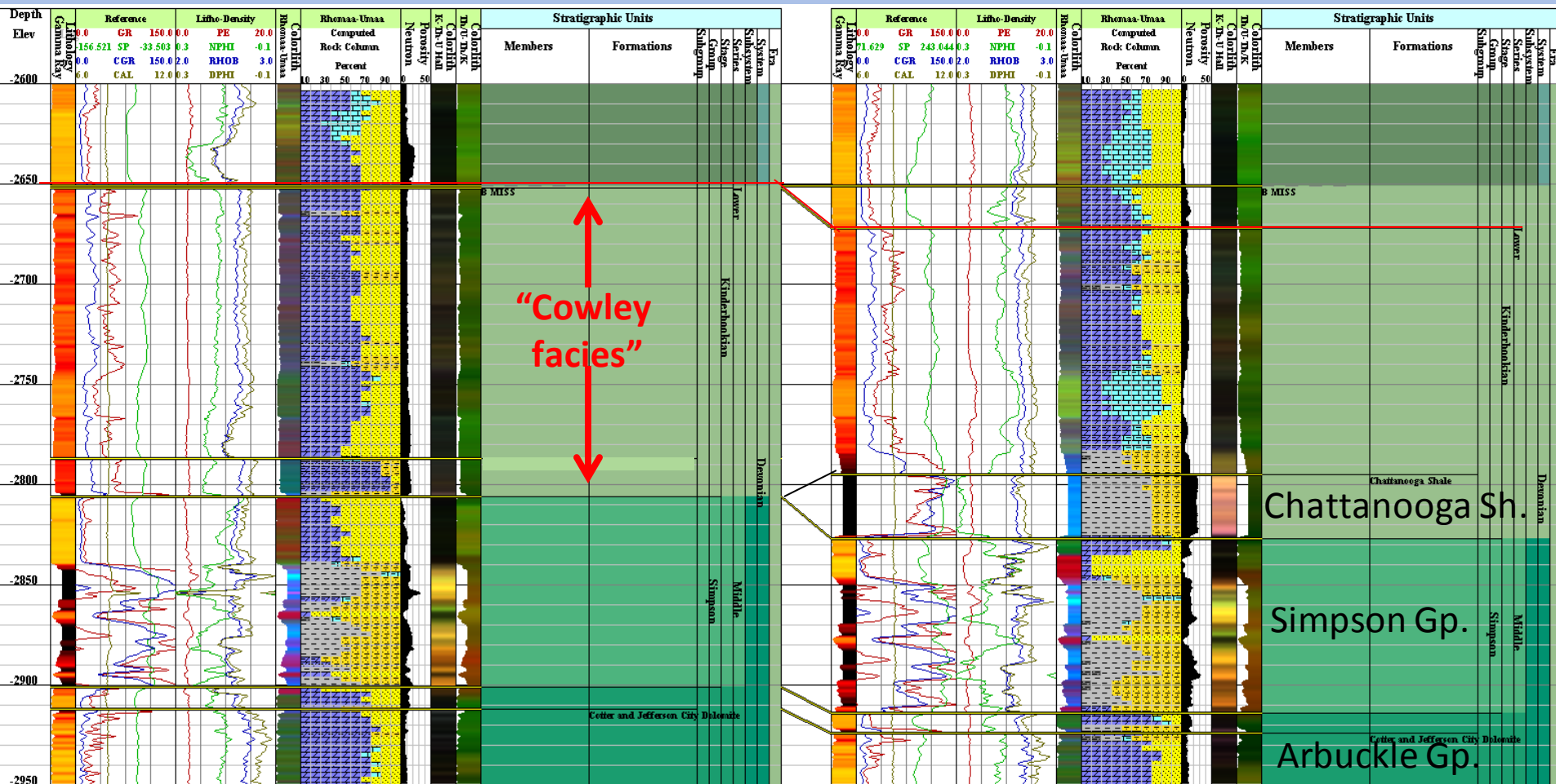




**“High bound water saturations in the tripolitic chert have led to difficulty in estimating reserves and determining producible zones. This problem in water saturations is further complicated by difficulty in establishing free water level. While some fields exhibit apparent structural closure greater than 200 feet, the presence of nearly isolated blocks of production within these fields surrounded by nonproductive areas may indicate that there is not a continuous hydrocarbon column and that free water level is independently established for each block”. -- Watney, Guy, Byrnes (2001)**

# “Cowley facies”

*Berexco Wellington KGS #1-32 (left) & #1-28 (right)  
(3000 ft northeast of #1-32)*



50 ft



*Cross Section Java Appet – J. Victorine, KGS, DOE-CO2  
Correlations – regional team (Bittersweet ), DOE-CO2*



# Pierson Ls. Member (Cowley facies) is *organic-bearing and thermally mature* and probably local source rock for MLP



## TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

Received 2-13-13

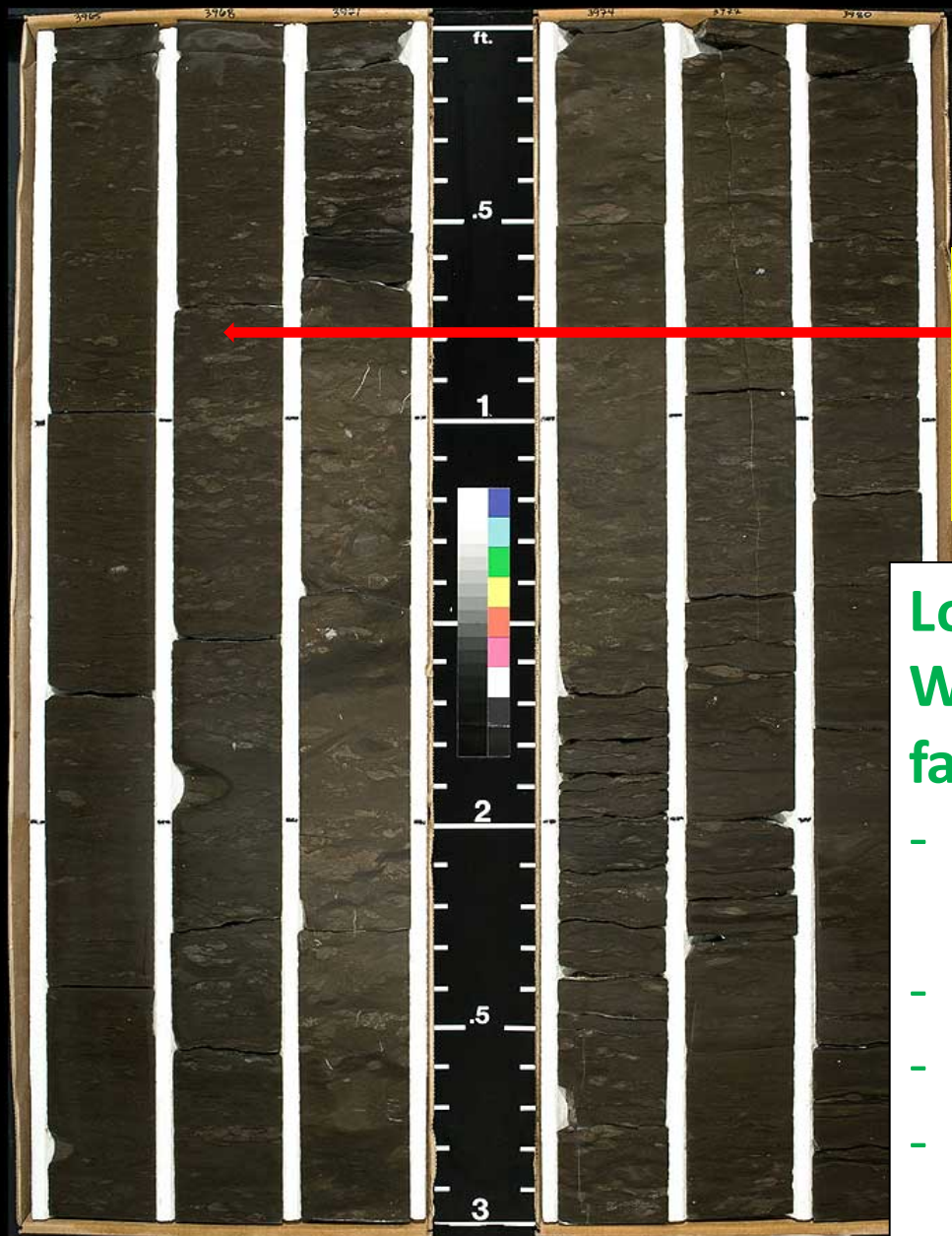
Client ID	Well Name	State	County	Top depth (ft)	Formation	Sample Type	Prep	TOC, wt. %	Verified	Lab Id	Comments
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3605.40		Core	NOPR	0.10		3402822662	Penn sh
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3738.25		Core	NOPR	0.39		3402822664	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3754.00		Core	NOPR	0.19		3402822666	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3784.50	→	Core	NOPR	1.87	TOC	3402822668	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3937.25		Core	NOPR	0.94		3402822670	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3968.75		Core	NOPR	1.28		3402822672	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			3982.00	→	Core	NOPR	0.60	TOC	3402822674	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4024.00		Core	NOPR	0.21		3402822676	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4048.50		Core	NOPR	1.11		3402822678	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4059.75		Core	NOPR	0.69		3402822680	MSSP
	Berexco LLC Wellington KGS No. 1-32			4065.50	→	Core	NOPR	1.59	TOC	3402822682	M-D Chat Sh

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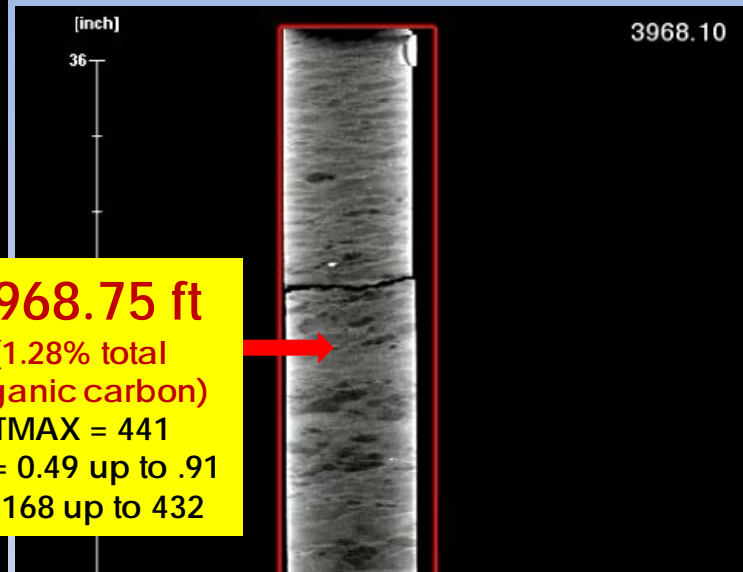
Compilation of Hydrocarbon Source-Rock Analyses for Wells in East-Central and Northeastern Kansas, and adjacent areas in Missouri and Nebraska

by K. David Newell (Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, 66046-3736), August, 2013

3965 3968 3971 CORE 8 3974 3977 3980



## Helical CT scan of 3968.1 to 3971.1 ft



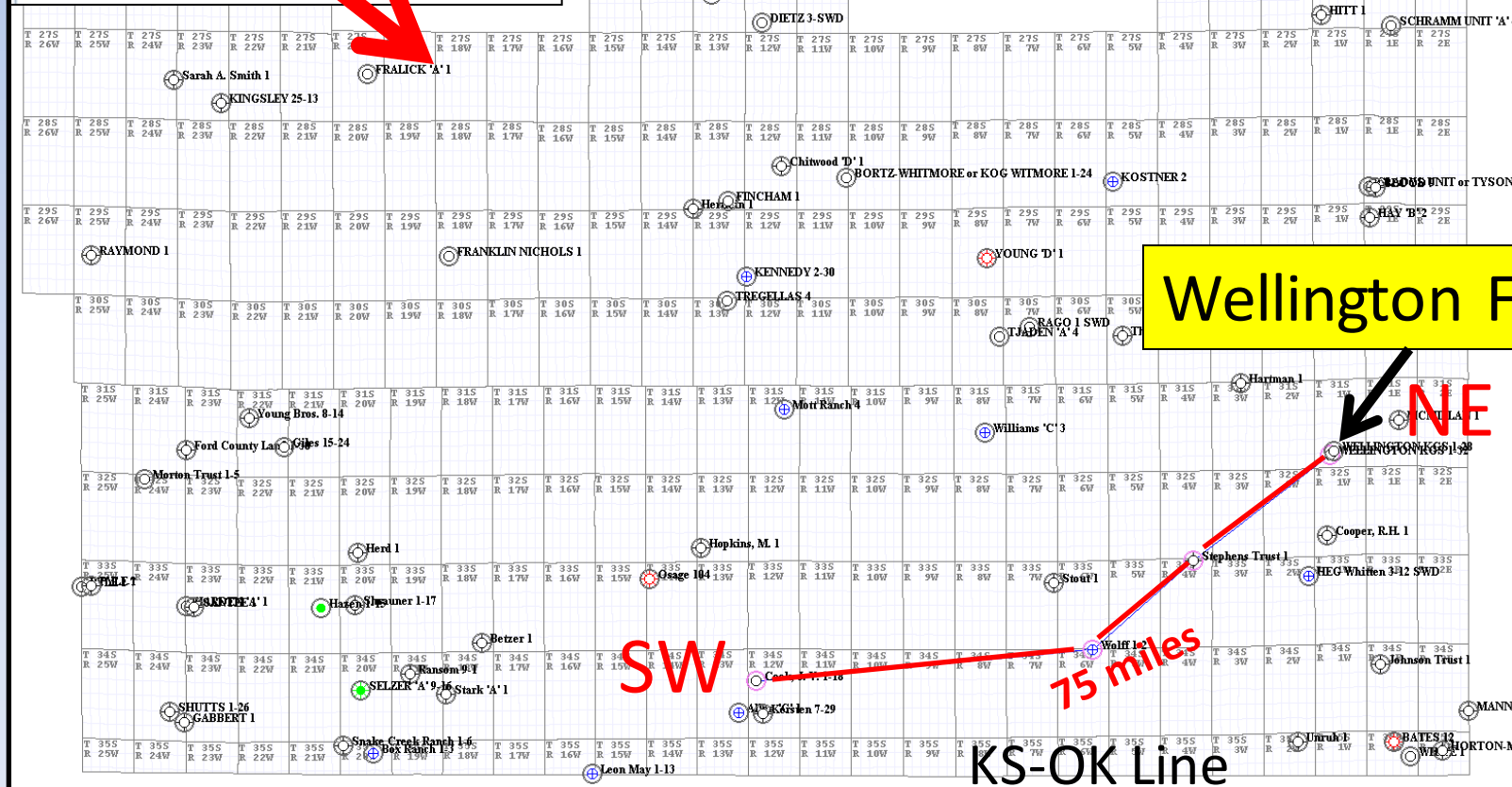
### Local HC maturation in Woodford Shale and "Cowley facies"

- Potential for charging along fractures
- Displace water
- Increasing oil cut
- Locally, continuous HC column???



# Prototype index map of type logs & Index for SW to NE Cross Section in south-central Kansas

*Type wells = deep wells with digitized modern logging suites*





NE



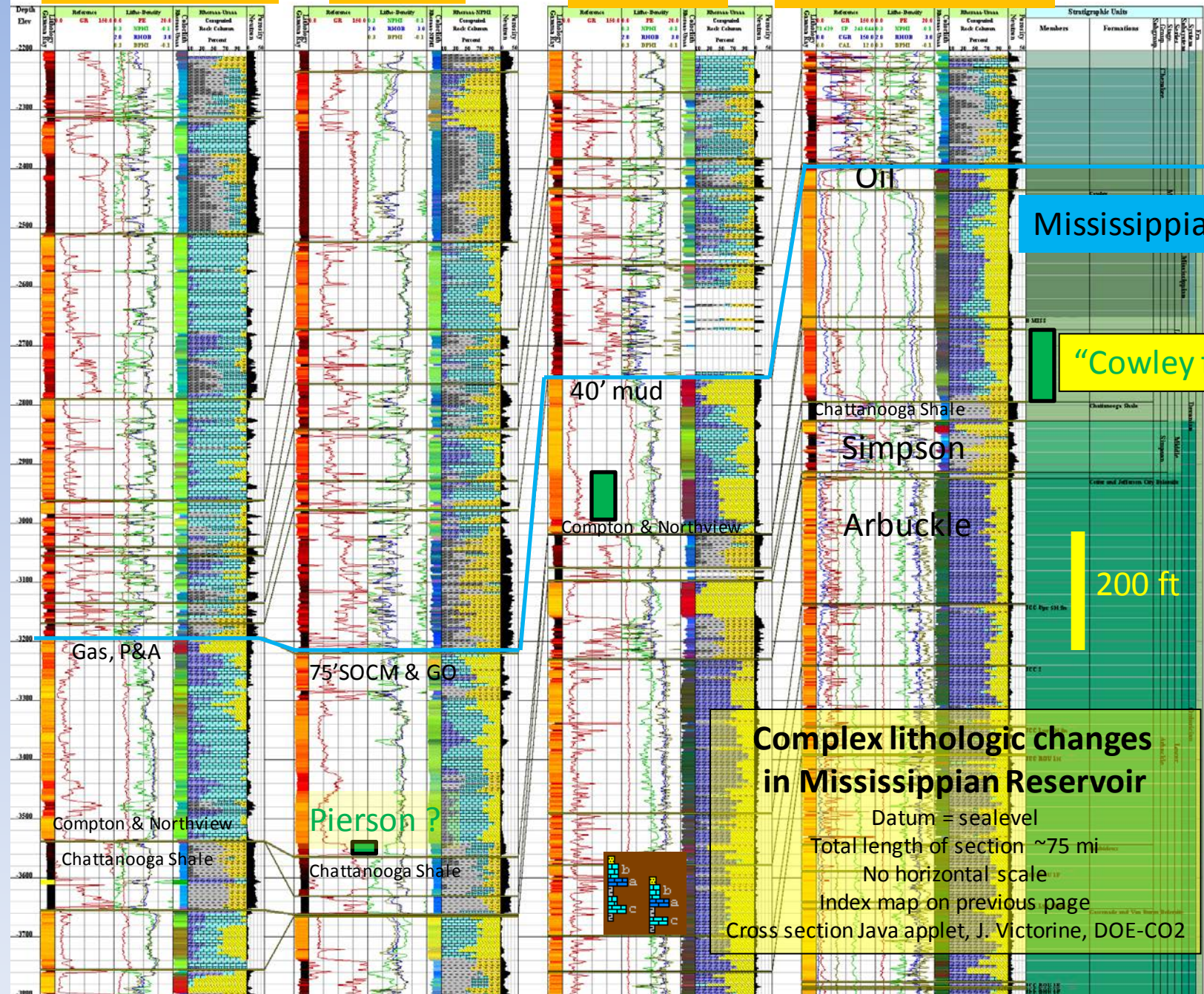
Wellington KGS #1-28  
Sumner Co.

D&A  
Sumner Co.

SWD well  
Harper Co.

Boggs SW Field  
Barber Co. (gas, P&A)

SW



Mississippian

“Cowley facies”

40' mud  
Compton & Northview

200 ft

**Complex lithologic changes  
in Mississippian Reservoir**  
Datum = sealevel  
Total length of section ~75 mi  
No horizontal scale  
Index map on previous page  
Cross section Java applet, J. Victorine, DOE-CO2

Gas, P&A

75' SOCM & GO

Pierson ?

Compton & Northview  
Chattanooga Shale

Chattanooga Shale



# UNGER FIELD HORIZONTAL FRACTURE SETS WITH WATER

# Horizontal Well

## American Energies Corporation

### Slocombe-Rood #1-19

### Unger Field

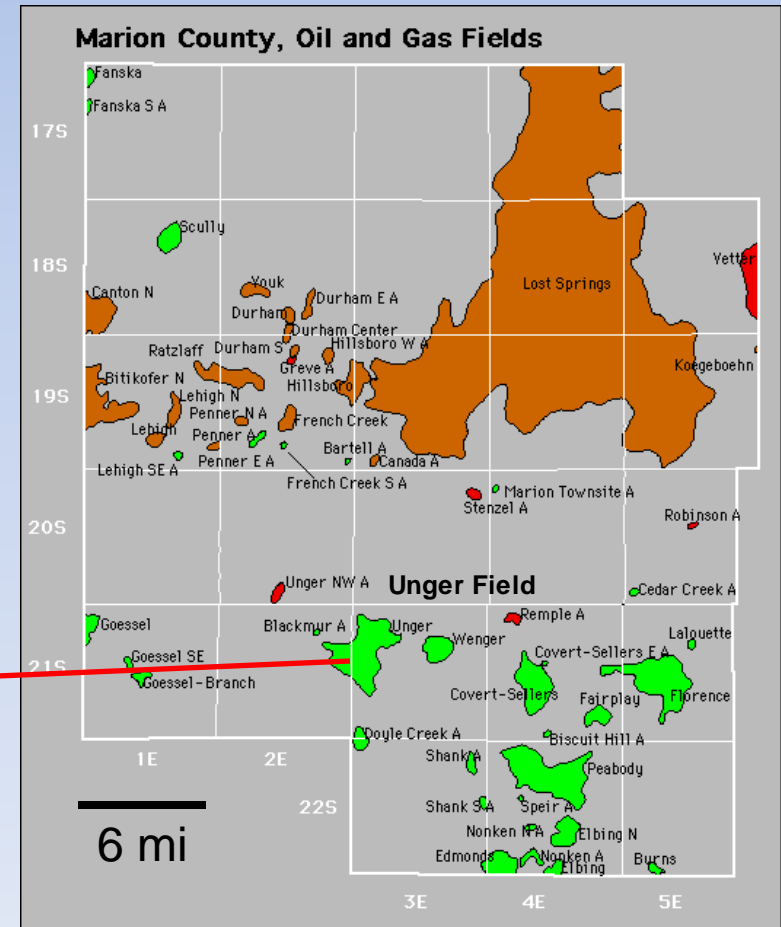
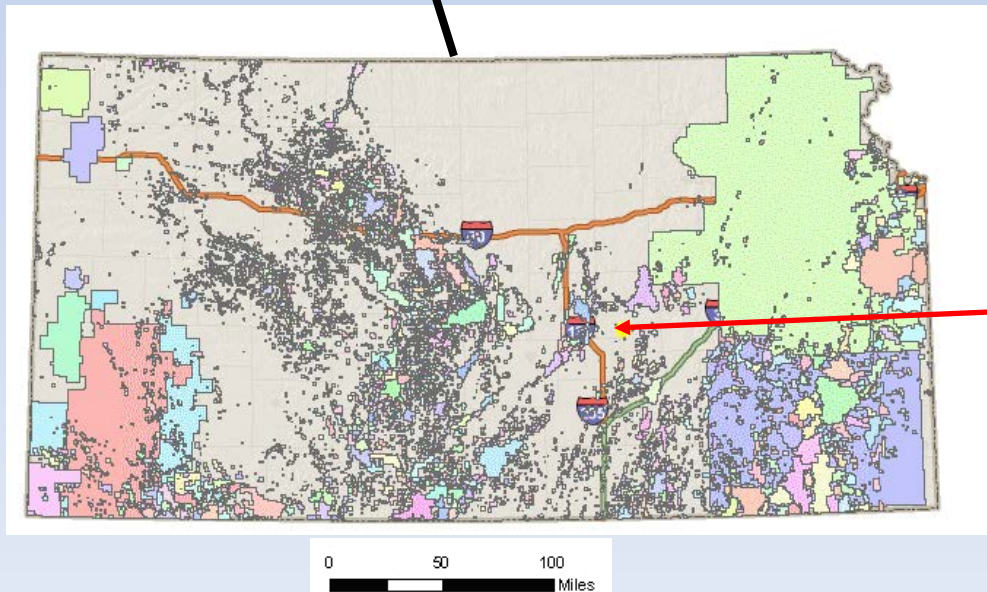
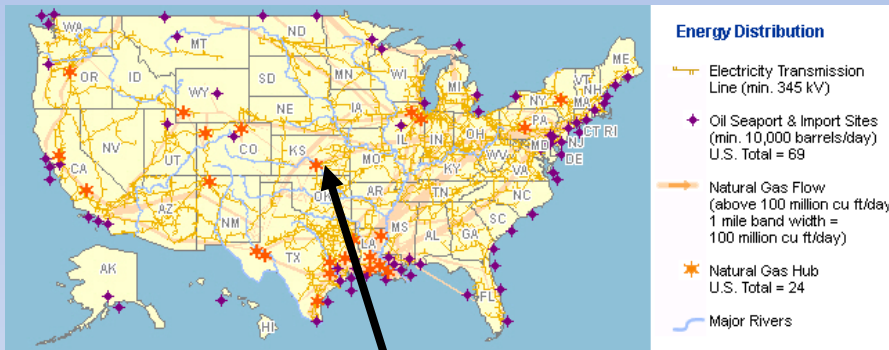
### Marion County, Kansas

**RPSEA**

Research  
Partnership to  
Secure Energy  
for America

Small Producer  
Project #07123-04

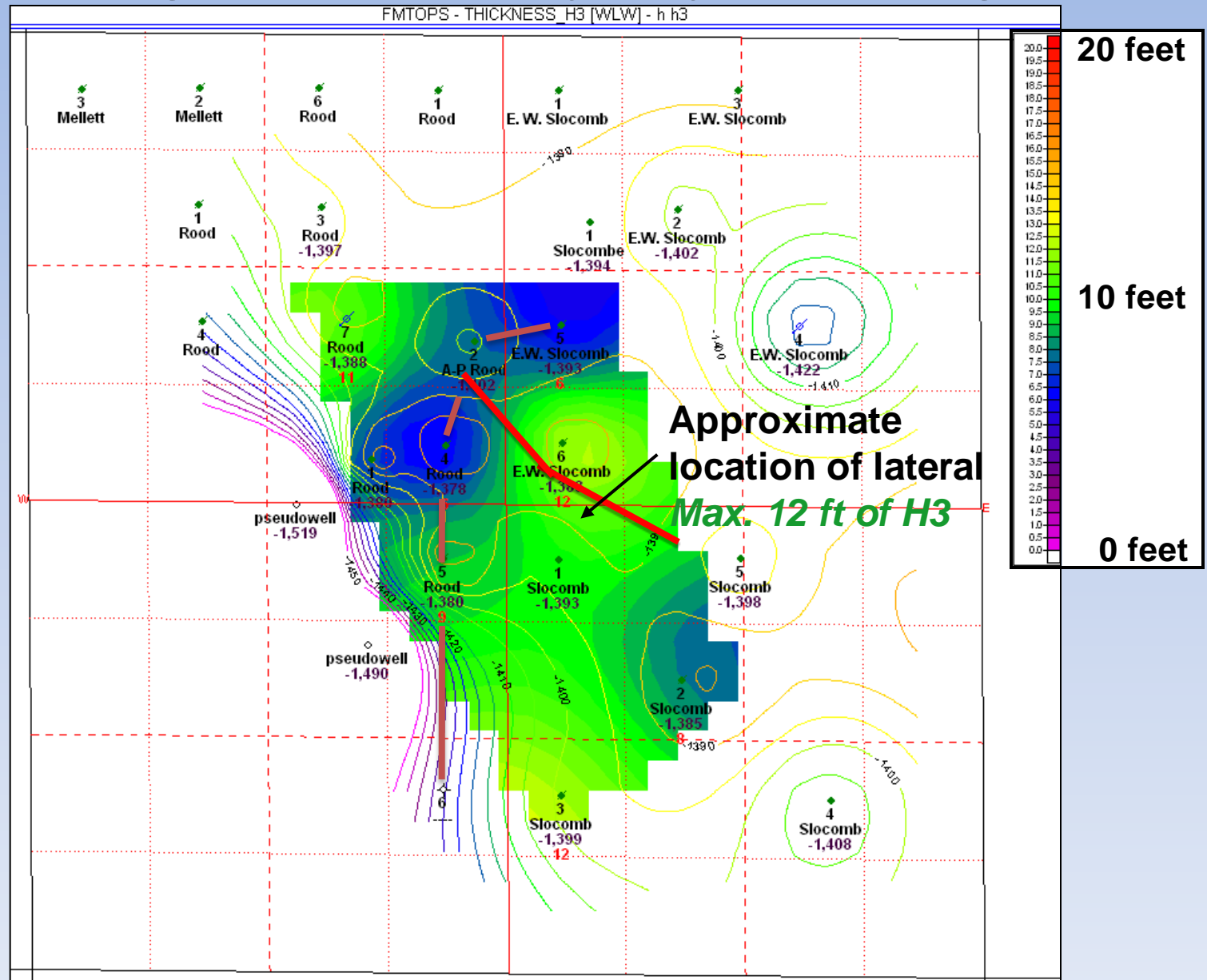
**NETL**





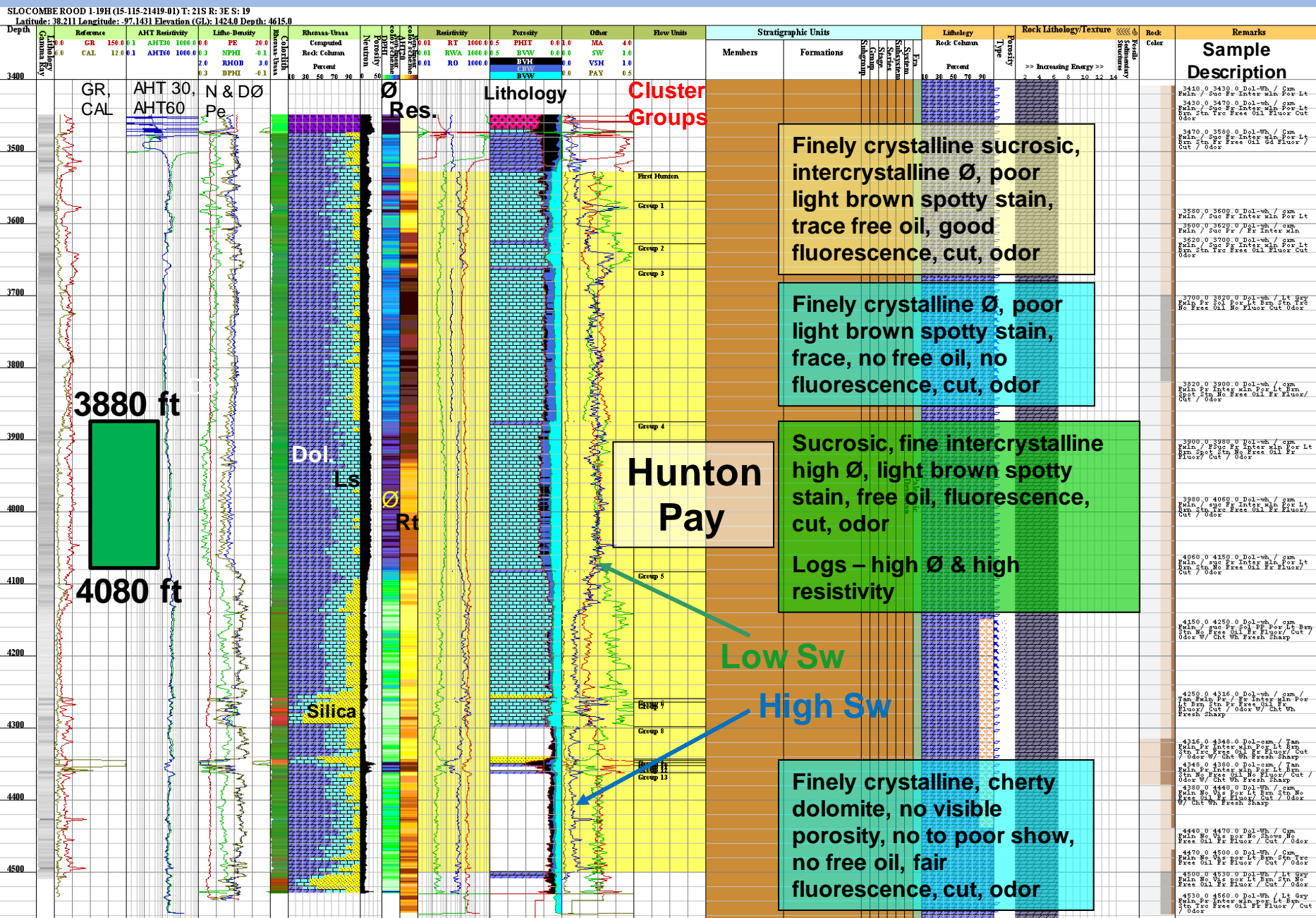
Thickness of uppermost H3 layer (color fill)  
with structure top of pay zone (contours)

*NW-SE trending horizontal well - east flank of NW-SE trending structure*



# Horizontal well, nearly depleted water-drive Hunton Gp. oil field with untapped oil

## -- Drill-pipe conveyed triple-combo log and cuttings

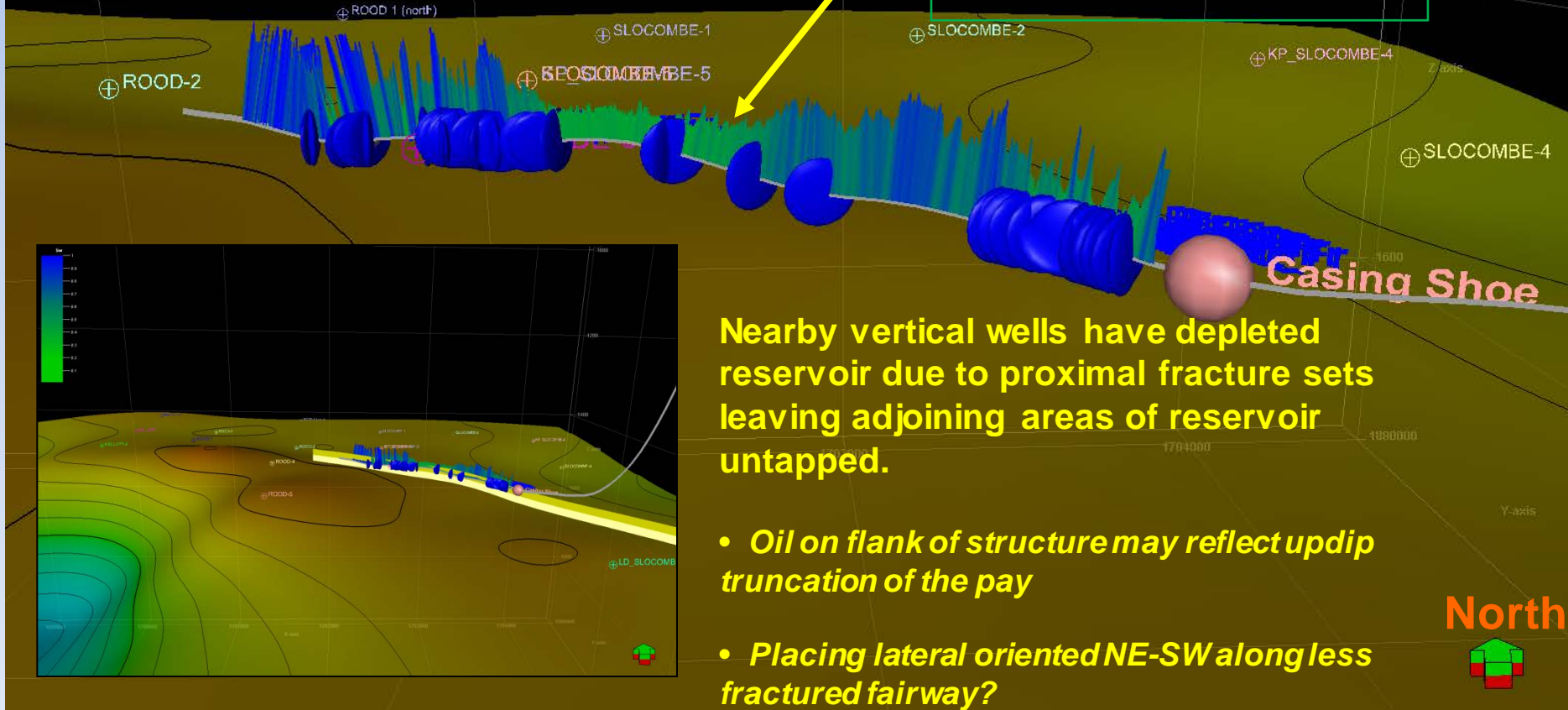




# Water Saturation and Conductive (Open) Fractures from triple combo and microresistivity imaging log

- Fractures trending E-NE intersecting the lateral
- Slotted liner isolate fracs
- Natural completion, ave. 11 BOPD since 2011

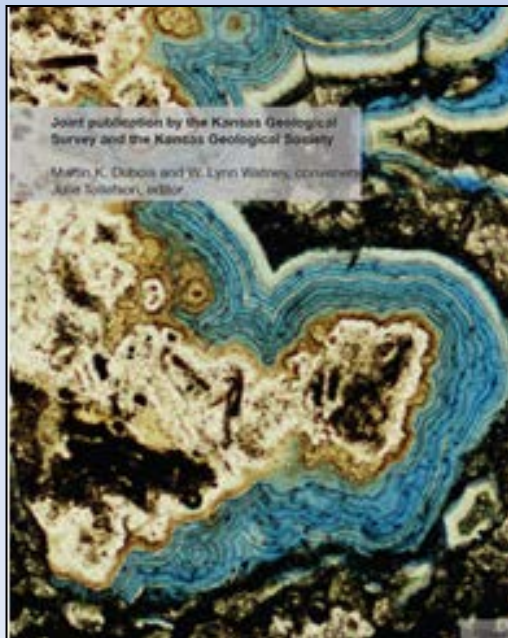
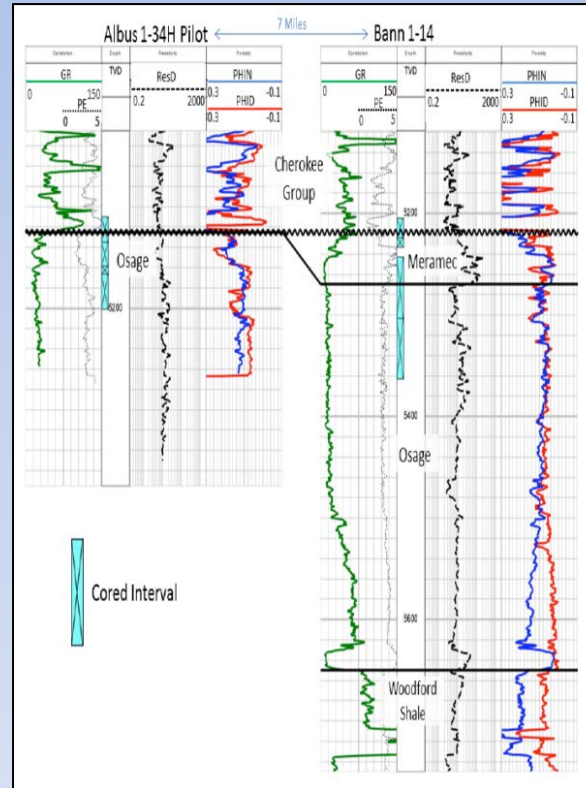
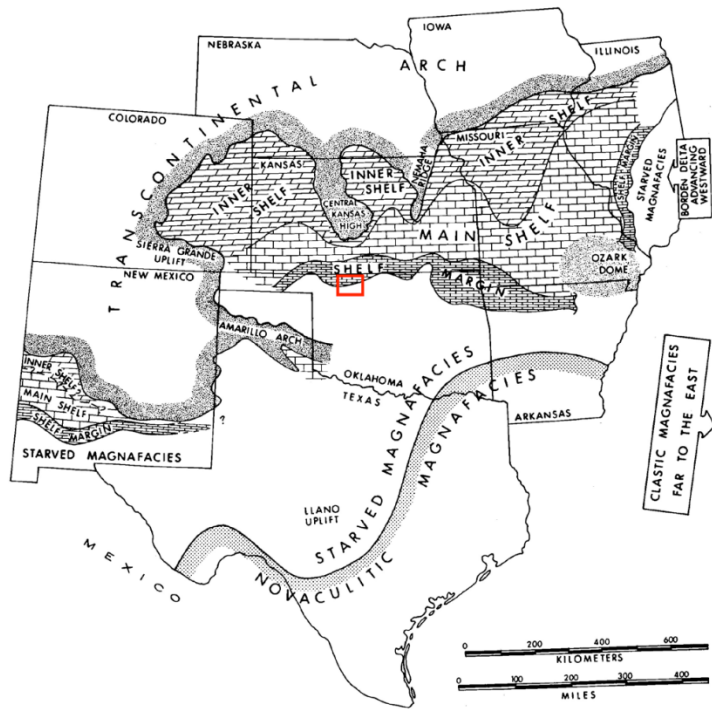
**Hunton Pay –  
in interval with fewer  
fractures  
and low water  
saturation**



# Core to Characterization and Modeling of the Mississippian, North Alva Area, Woods and Alfalfa Counties, Oklahoma

Dan Costello<sup>1</sup>, Martin Dubois<sup>2</sup>, and Ryan Dayton<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Chesapeake Energy Corporation  
<sup>2</sup> Improved Hydrocarbon Recovery, LLC



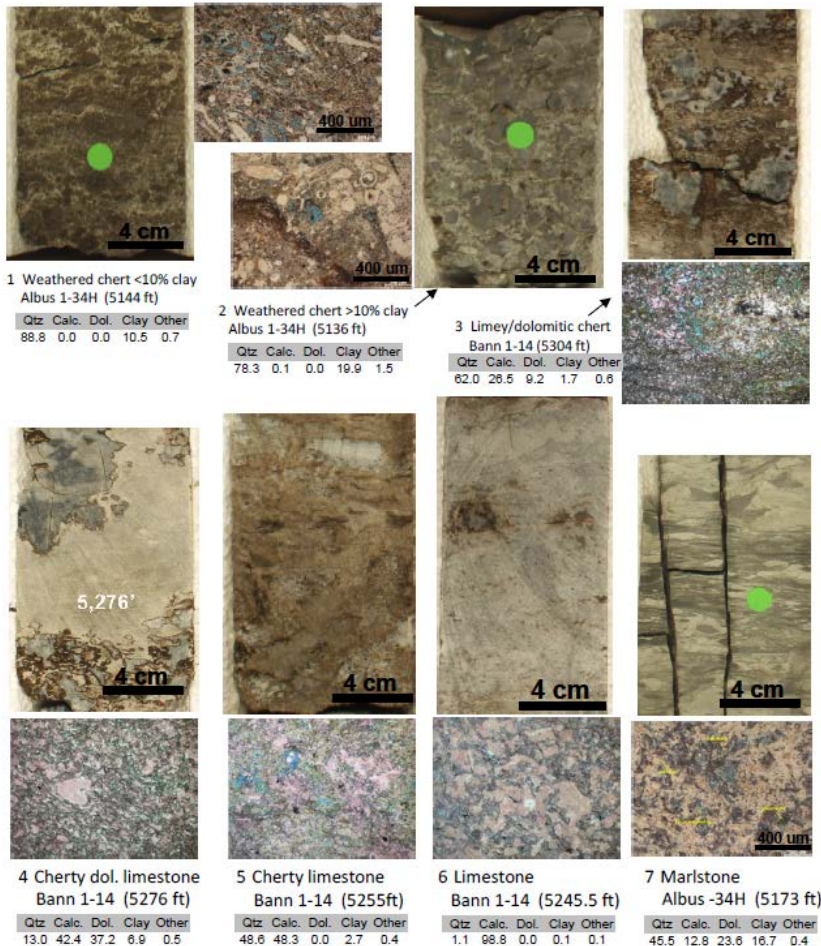
Joint publication by the Kansas Geological Survey and the Kansas Geological Society

Martin K. Dubois and W. Lynn Watney, conveners  
 Julie Tollefson, editor

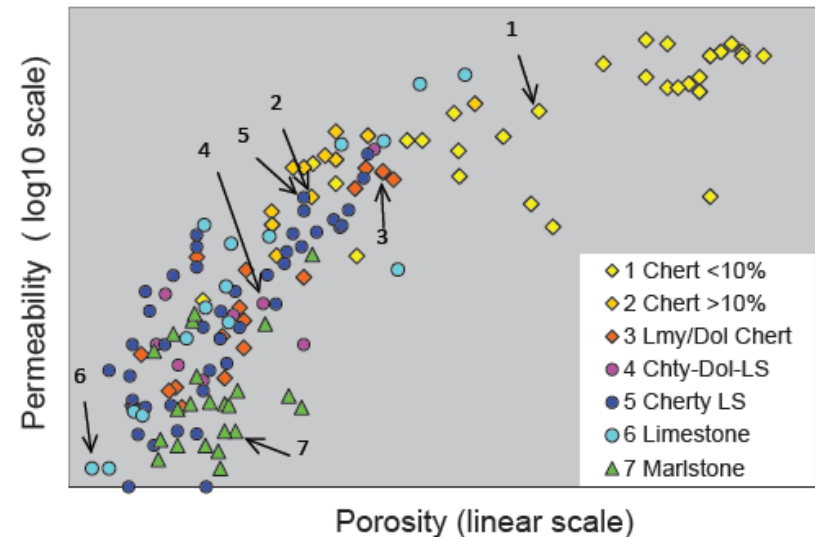


# Reservoir lithofacies and phi-k relationships

Characterization and Modeling of the Mississippian, Woods and Alfalfa Counties, Oklahoma | Costello, Dubois, and Dayton



North Alva Core Analysis Data



Core to Characterization and Modeling of the Mississippian, North Alva Area, Woods and Alfalfa Counties, Oklahoma  
Dan Costello<sup>1</sup>, Martin Dubois<sup>2</sup>, and Ryan Dayton<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup> Chesapeake Energy Corporation  
<sup>2</sup> Improved Hydrocarbon Recovery, LLC

# Factors in water cut?

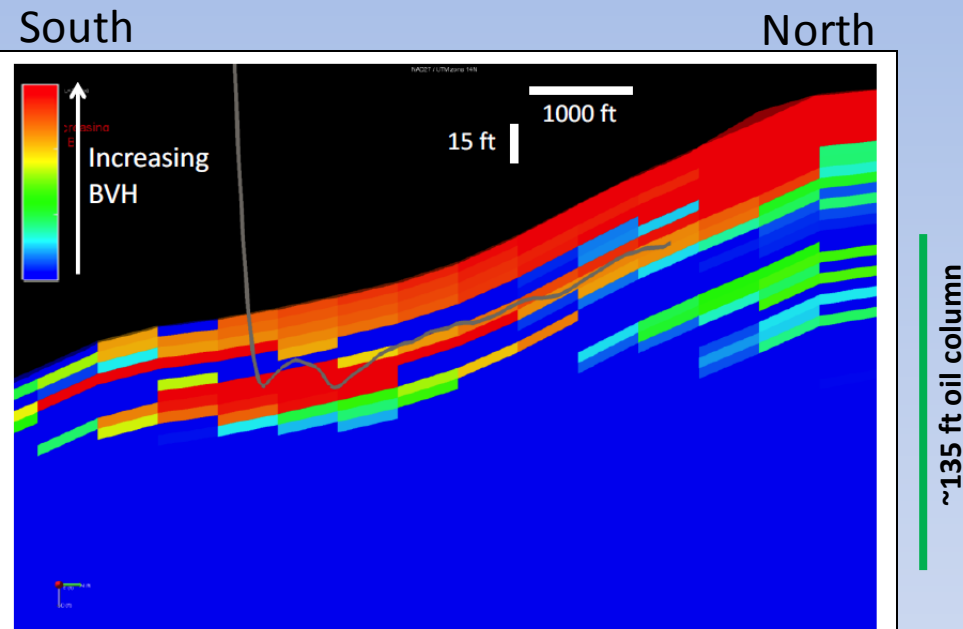


Figure 11—Example view of horizontal wellbore planned using geocellular model. Grid is displaying modeled distribution of bulk volume hydrocarbon (BVH). Vertical exaggeration 30x.

- Prograding and downlapping Osage and Meramec strata along ramp
- Variable pore types along the lateral
- Not simple oil:water contact
- ~135 ft of oil column
- Reservoir pressure, drive?
- Locally charged with thermally mature, underlying Woodford Shale or “Cowley facies”?
- Fractures? Water or oil?
- How was well completed?

Core to Characterization and Modeling  
of the Mississippian, North Alva Area,  
Woods and Alfalfa Counties, Oklahoma

Dan Costello, Martin Dubois, and Ryan Dayton  
Chesapeake Energy Corporation  
Improved Hydrocarbon Recovery, LLC



# Conclusions

- Mississippi Lime Play - definition
- Structural history of Arkoma and Anadarko Basin
- Source rocks
- Hydrocarbon migration
- Spectrum of lithofacies and quality reservoir rock
- Conventional reservoir
- Unconventional reservoir lithofacies
- Why variations in water cut?
- Conclusions