

Geological Principles and Types of Unconventional Hydrocarbon Reservoirs:

Focus on Shale Gas and Oil



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Unconventional Natural Gas and Oil Resources

- Generally 6 to 7 recognized...

Shale gas

Coalbed methane

Shale oil

Oil sands

Oil shale

Methane hydrate

Tight sands (sometimes)

- Focus today on shale gas and shale oil

Proposed Agenda

- Organic Shale Source Rock
- Depositional Basins
- Gas and Oil Generation from Organic Shale
- Technology Developments
- Shale Gas History
- U.S. Examples: Barnett, Eagle Ford, Utica Shales
- Worldwide Importance of Shale Gas
- Shale Gas in Columbia
- Summary

ORGANIC SHALES: OIL AND GAS SOURCE ROCK

What Is Shale?

Where Does It Come From?

- Starts as deposits of fine-grained sediment (mud)
- Deposited in low-energy (quiet) environments (e.g., deep sea)
- Contains clay minerals and other constituents
- Often also contains organic matter deposited with sediment
- Converted to rock (lithification) by heat and pressure



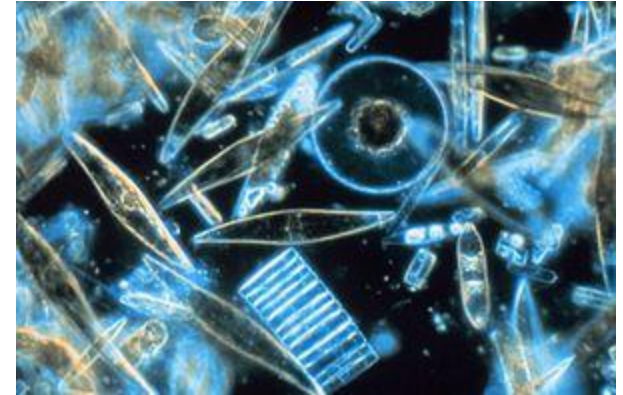
Hand Specimen (Boring!)

Outcrop: Shale under Limestone



Organic Matter in Shale

- Consists mostly of marine plankton
 - Microscopic, unicellular organisms
 - e.g., diatoms, algae, bacteria
- Converted with increasing temperature to **kerogen** (diagenesis)
- At same time as mud and clay lithification to shale



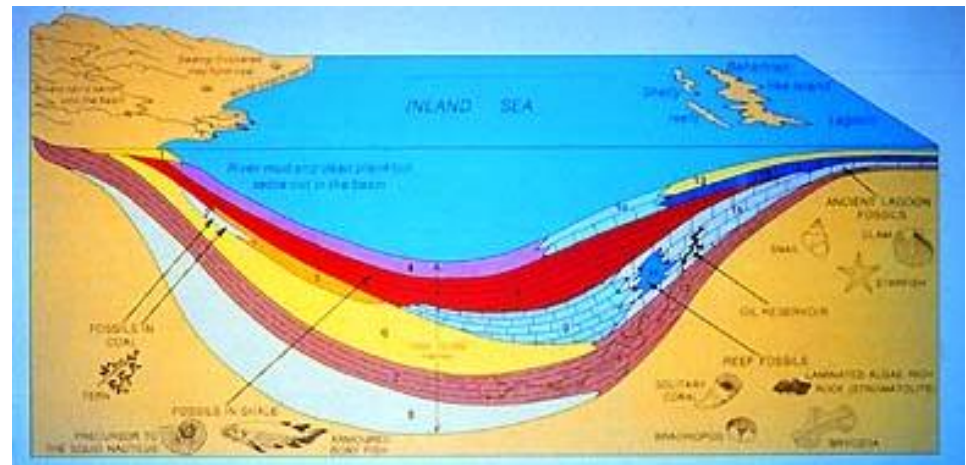
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phytoplankton>

<http://www.hihostels.ca/westerncanada/374/Hi-Yoho-National-Park/About-the-Area/index.hostel>

DEPOSITIONAL BASINS

Depositional Basins

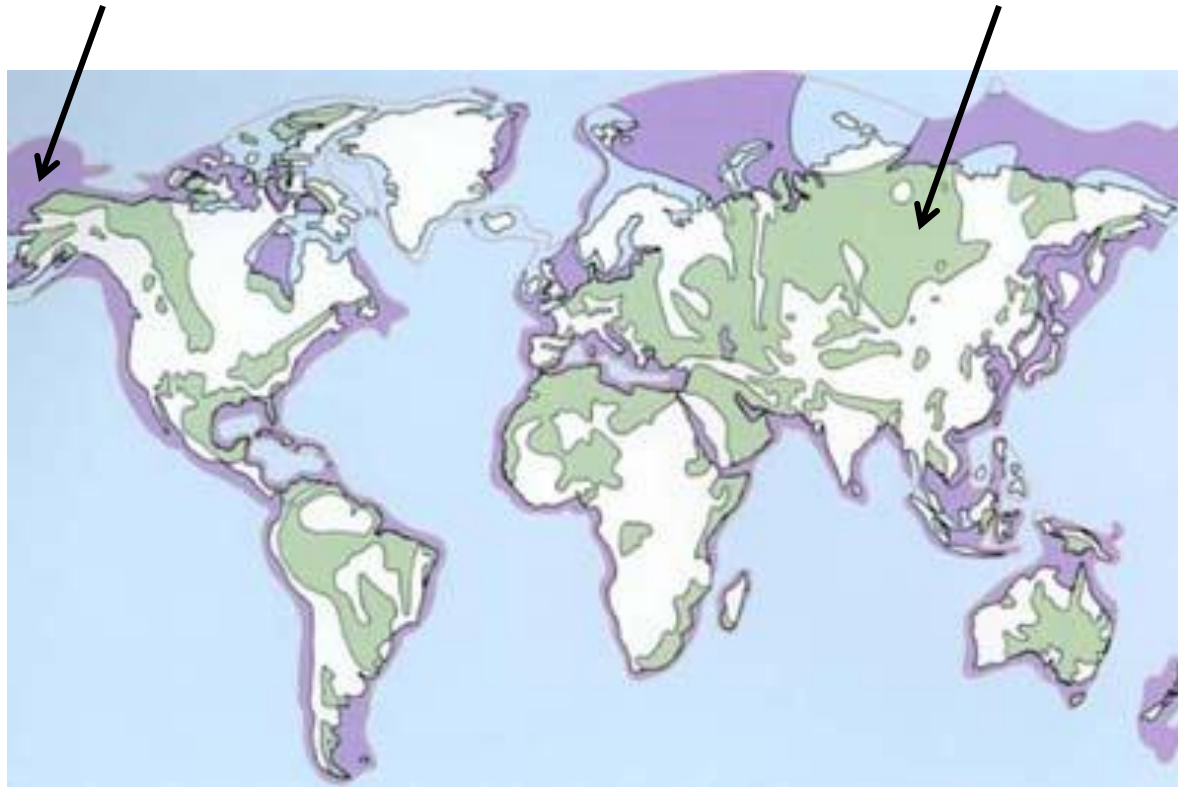
- Areas on the earth of sediment accumulation
- Often subsides into crust as sediment is deposited
- Many layers of sedimentary rock – shale, sandstone, limestone, others



Sedimentary Basins of the World: Offshore and Onshore

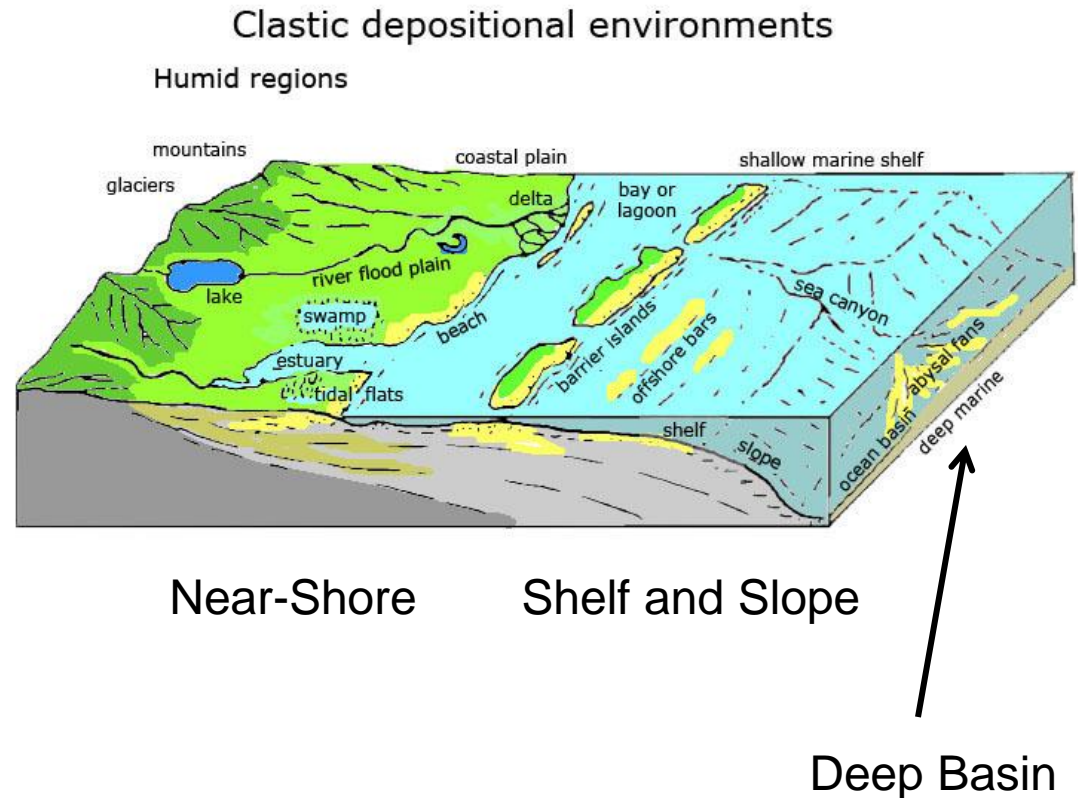
Offshore basins (purple)

Onshore basins (green)



Depositional Environments in Sedimentary Basins

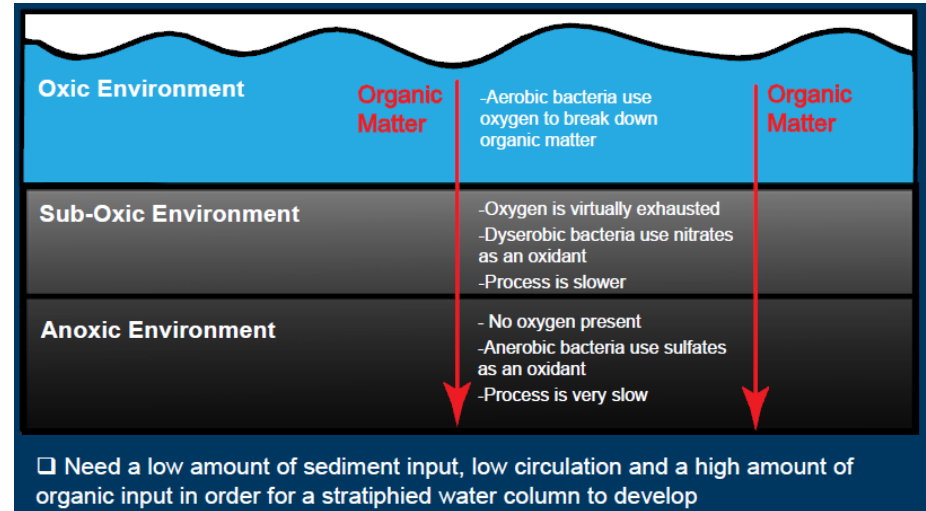
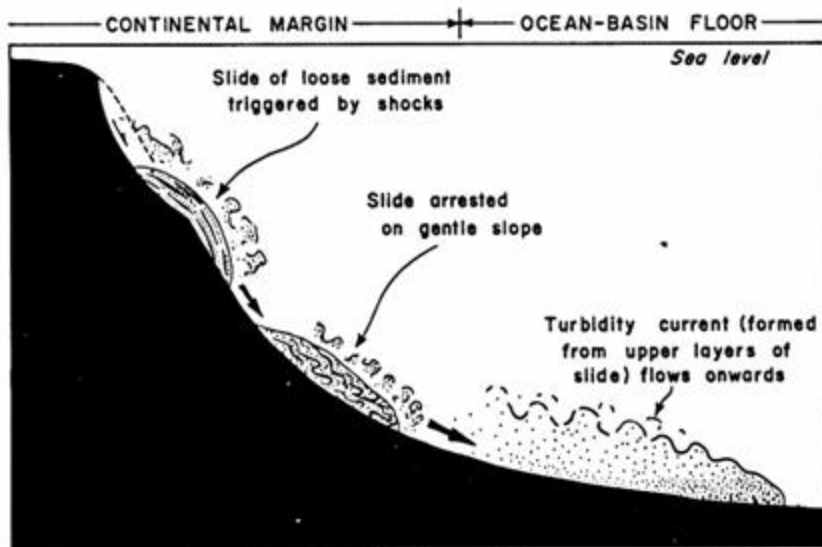
- Near-shore
 - Beach
 - Bay and lagoon
 - Barrier island
 - Tidal flat
 - Delta
- Shelf and slope
- Deep basin
 - Density current
 - Pelagic (open ocean)



Organic Shale Deposition

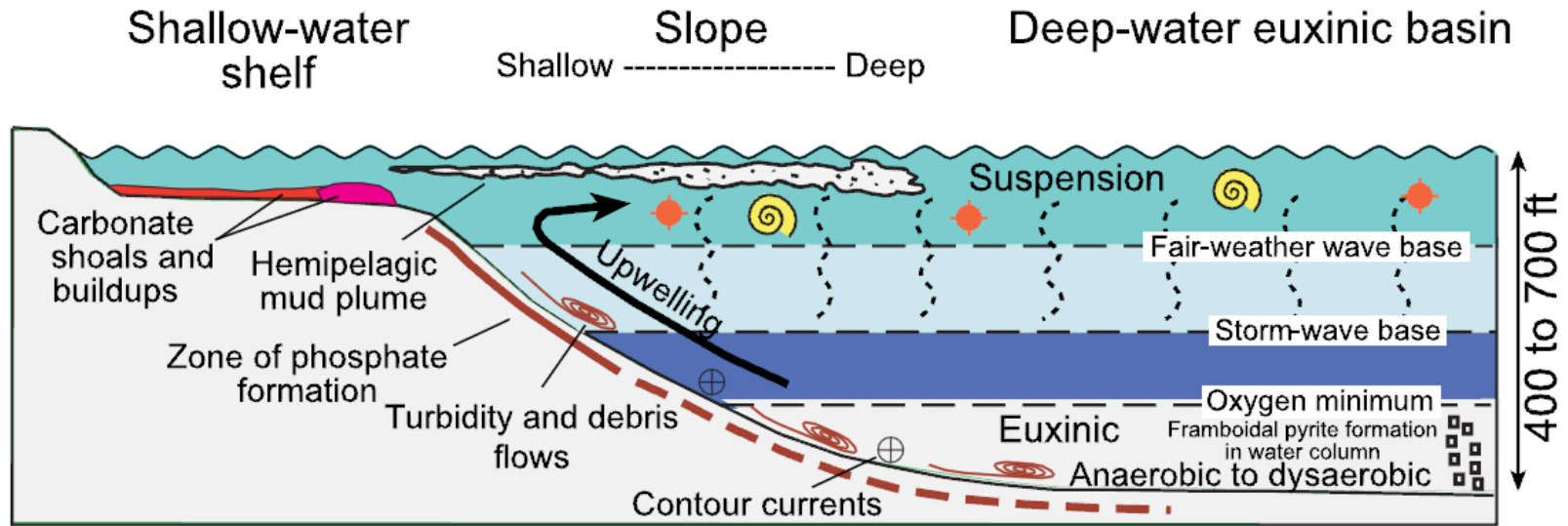
- Deep marine environment; low energy
- No (very low) oxygen: anoxic
- Two sources of organic matter
- Mixed organic matter and fine-grained sediment
- Organic matter preserved – no oxygen for breakdown
- Amount of organic matter highly variable

Density Current and Pelagic Sources



Deposition of both sediment and organic matter in deep basin environment

Organic Matter Deposition in Deep Basin



Depositional Model for the Barnett Shale

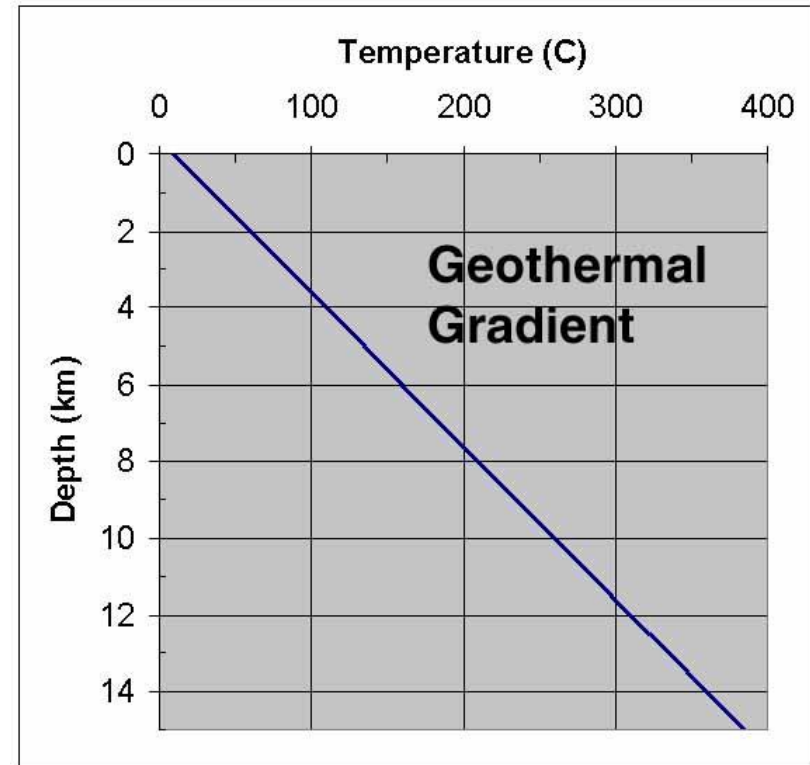
OIL AND GAS FORMATION IN ORGANIC SHALES

Oil and Gas Formation in Source Rocks (Organic Shales)

- Organic matter content (TOC) may be as high as 10% (or higher)
- TOC must be $>1\%$ to generate hydrocarbon
- Stepwise conversion of organic matter to oil and gas
- Simultaneous with lithification of mud to shale
- Increasing temperature due to geothermal gradient
- Stages of conversion: THERMAL MATURITY

Geothermal Gradient

- Increasing temperature with depth below earth's surface
- About 25° C per kilometer
- Shale bed temperature rises with basin subsidence
- Increasing temperature converts organic matter to oil and gas

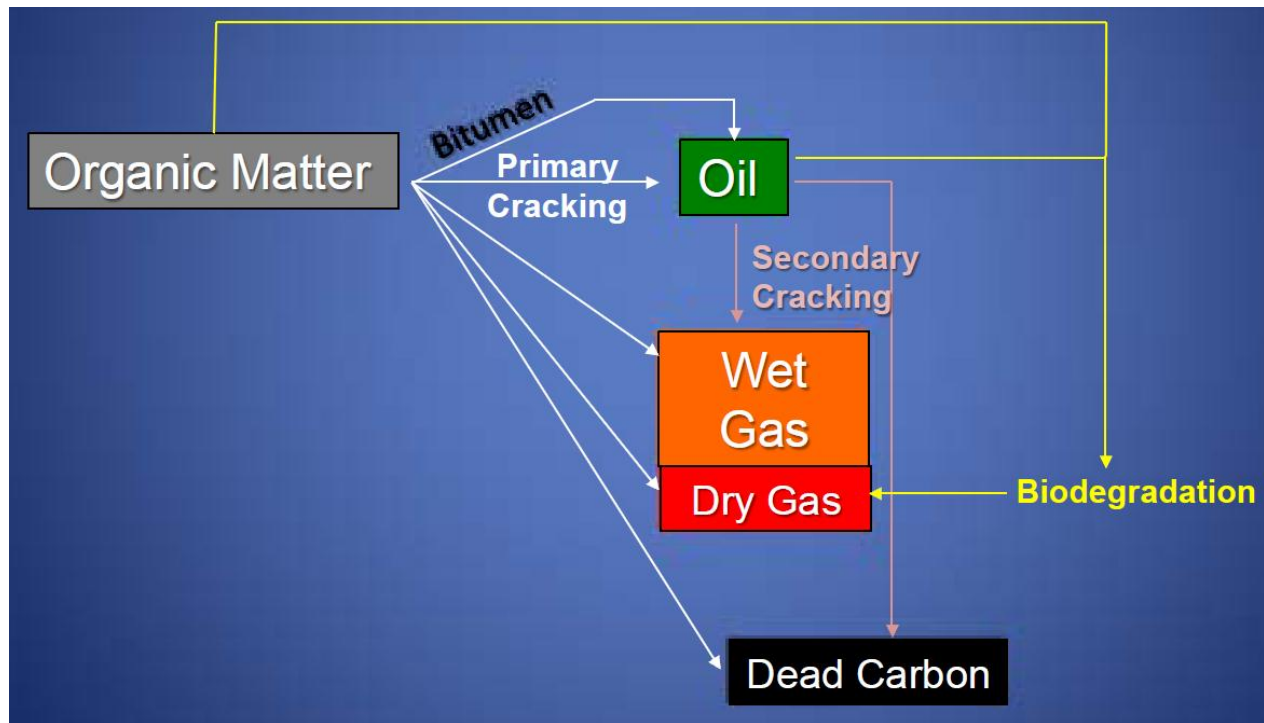


Increasing THERMAL MATURITY shale

Thermal Maturity in Petroleum Generation

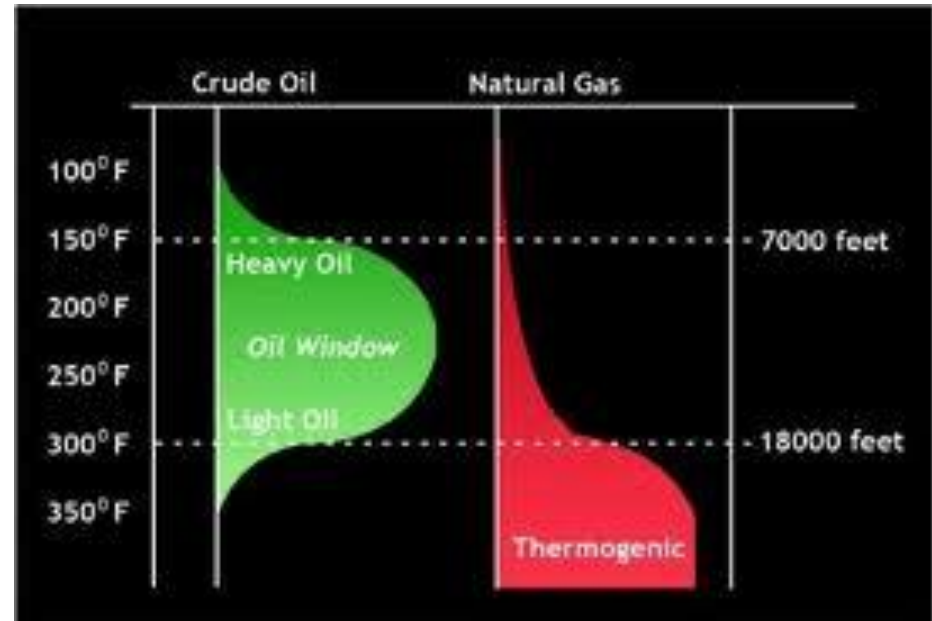
<u>Thermal Maturity (Oil)</u>	<u>Approximate Temperature</u>	<u>Process</u>	<u>Product</u>
Immature	<60° C	Organic matter converted to kerogen	Methane from bacterial activity
Mature	<60° – 160° C	Oil generated and expelled	Oil
Postmature	>160° C	Postmature for oil, Mature for gas	Thermogenic methane

Stages of Organic Matter Conversion



Thermal Maturity with Depth

- Geothermal gradient
 → increasing maturity with depth
- Kerogen converted first to oil, then gas at greater depths
- Kerogen:
 <150°F (65°C)
- Oil window:
 150°-300°F (65°-160°C)
- Gas window:
 >300° F (156°C)
- “Wet gas” between

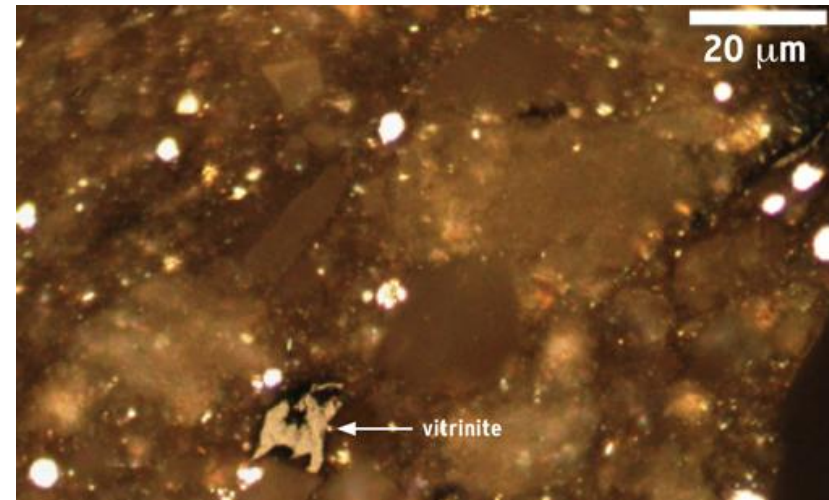


Oil Window 7,000 to 18,000 Feet

Gas Window >18,000 Feet

Vitrinite Index: Measure of Thermal Maturity

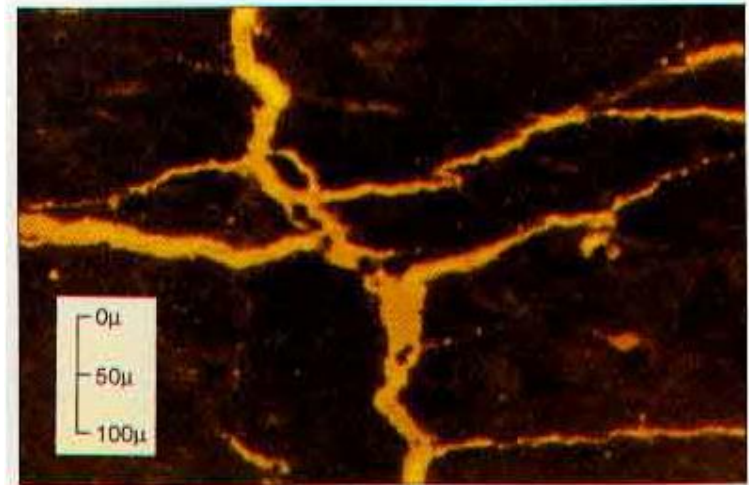
- Vitrinite – one of compounds of organic matter in shale
- Formed from plant cells
- Measure of light reflected by vitrinite in microscope
 - Light reflectance
 - Typical values 0-3%



- Temperature range sensitivity corresponds to hydrocarbon generation (60° to 160°)
 - Onset of oil: VI – 0.5-0.6%
 - Gas generation: VI > 1.5%

Oil Expulsion Mechanism

- Kerogen content is load bearing (geostatic pressure)
- Maturation changes kerogen to fluid, becomes pressurized
- High pressure fractures shale, allowing outward migration
- Some oil leaves shale to surrounding strata
- Remainder stays in shale fractures

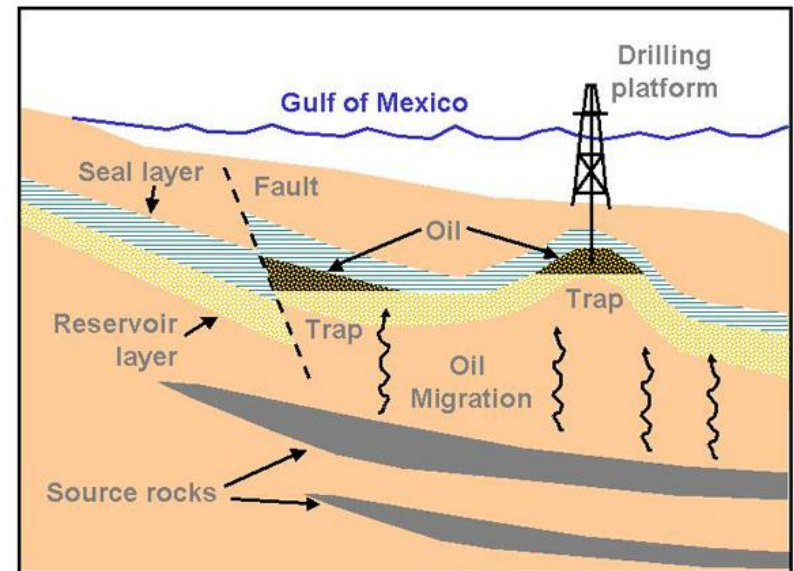


SHALE OIL AND GAS: TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

*Horizontal Drilling and
Hydraulic Fracturing*

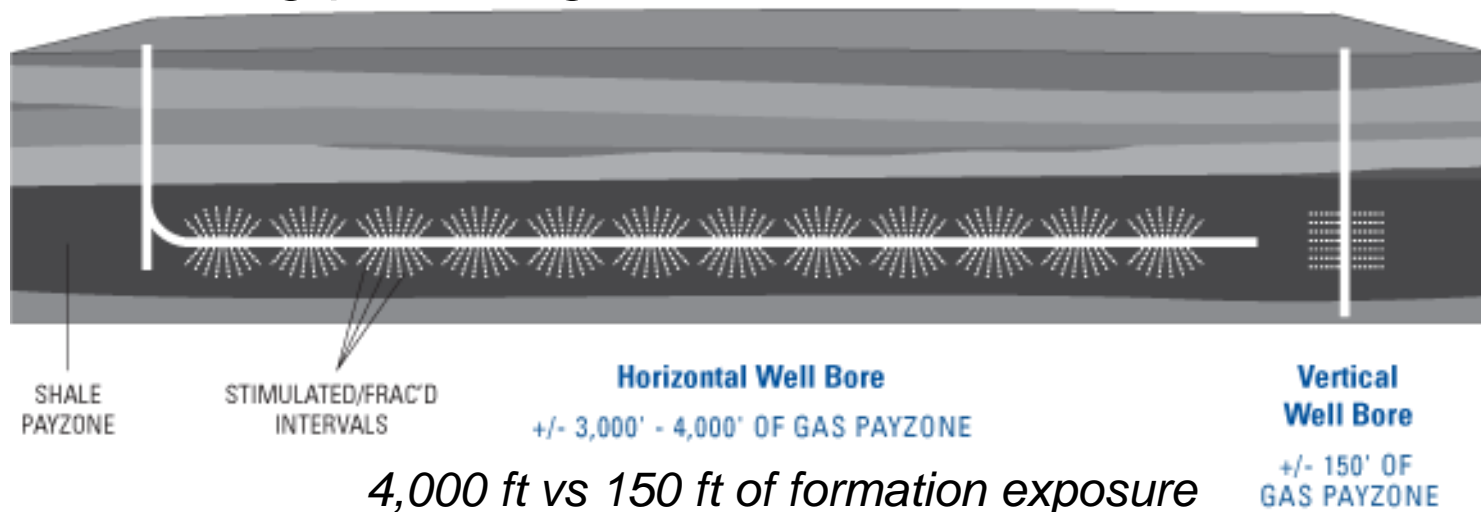
Conventional: Natural Gas and Oil

- Three Conditions
 - Source rock
 - Reservoir rock
 - Trap (seal)
- Oil fields difficult and costly to locate and develop
- Conventional drilling with vertical wells

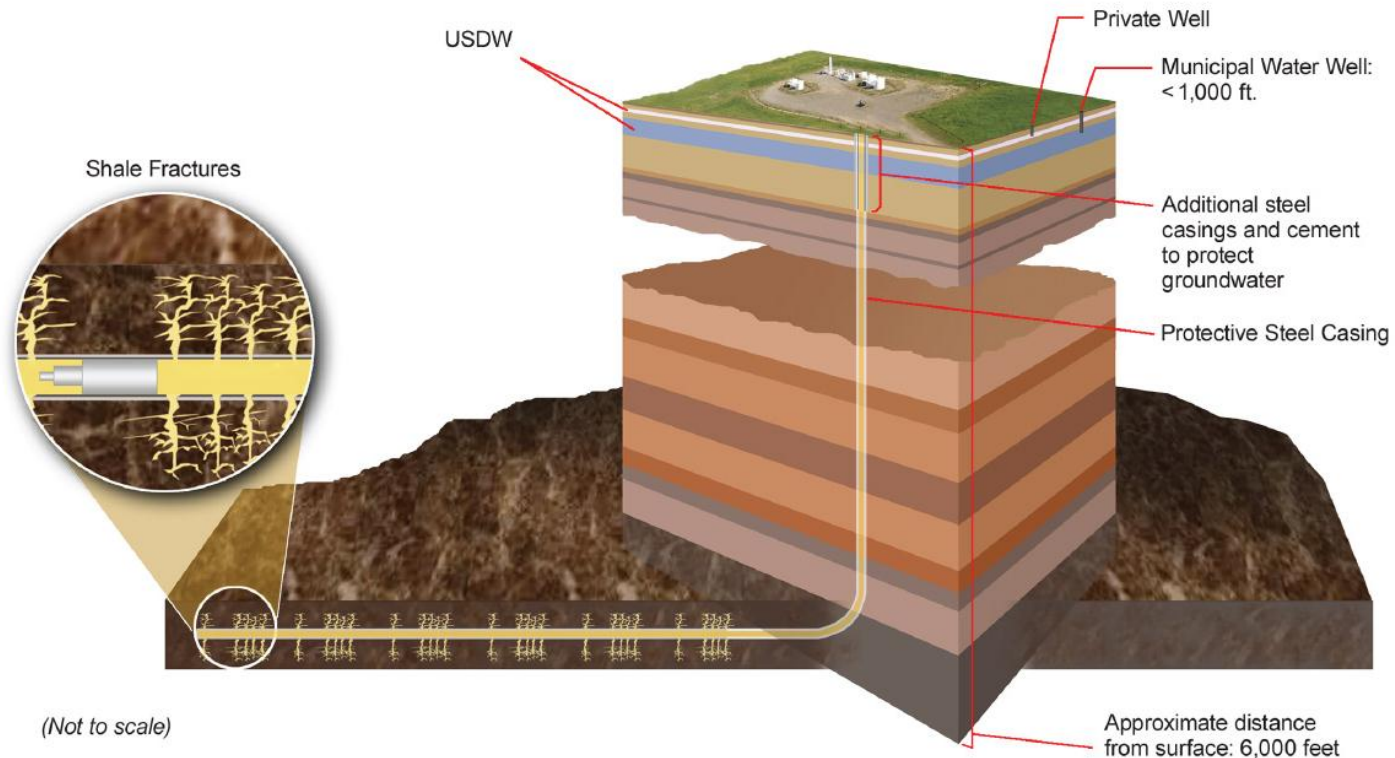


Unconventional: Shale Gas and Shale Oil

- Oil and gas tapped in source rock
- Reservoir is the shale itself
- Hydrocarbons trapped in shale where formed
- Much greater exposure of well bore in shale
- Fracturing permits greater flow to well bore



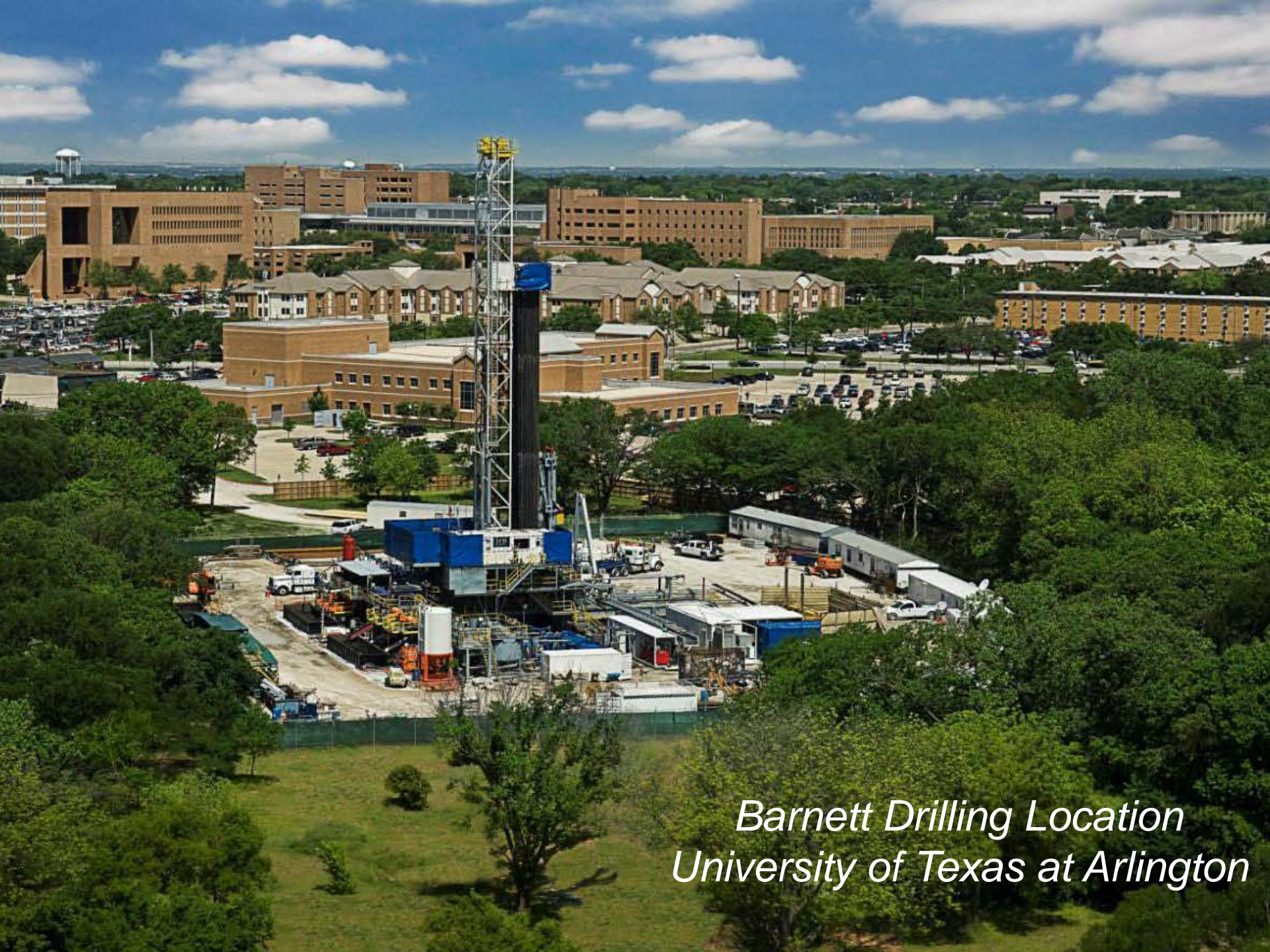
Horizontal Drilling and Hydraulic Fracturing



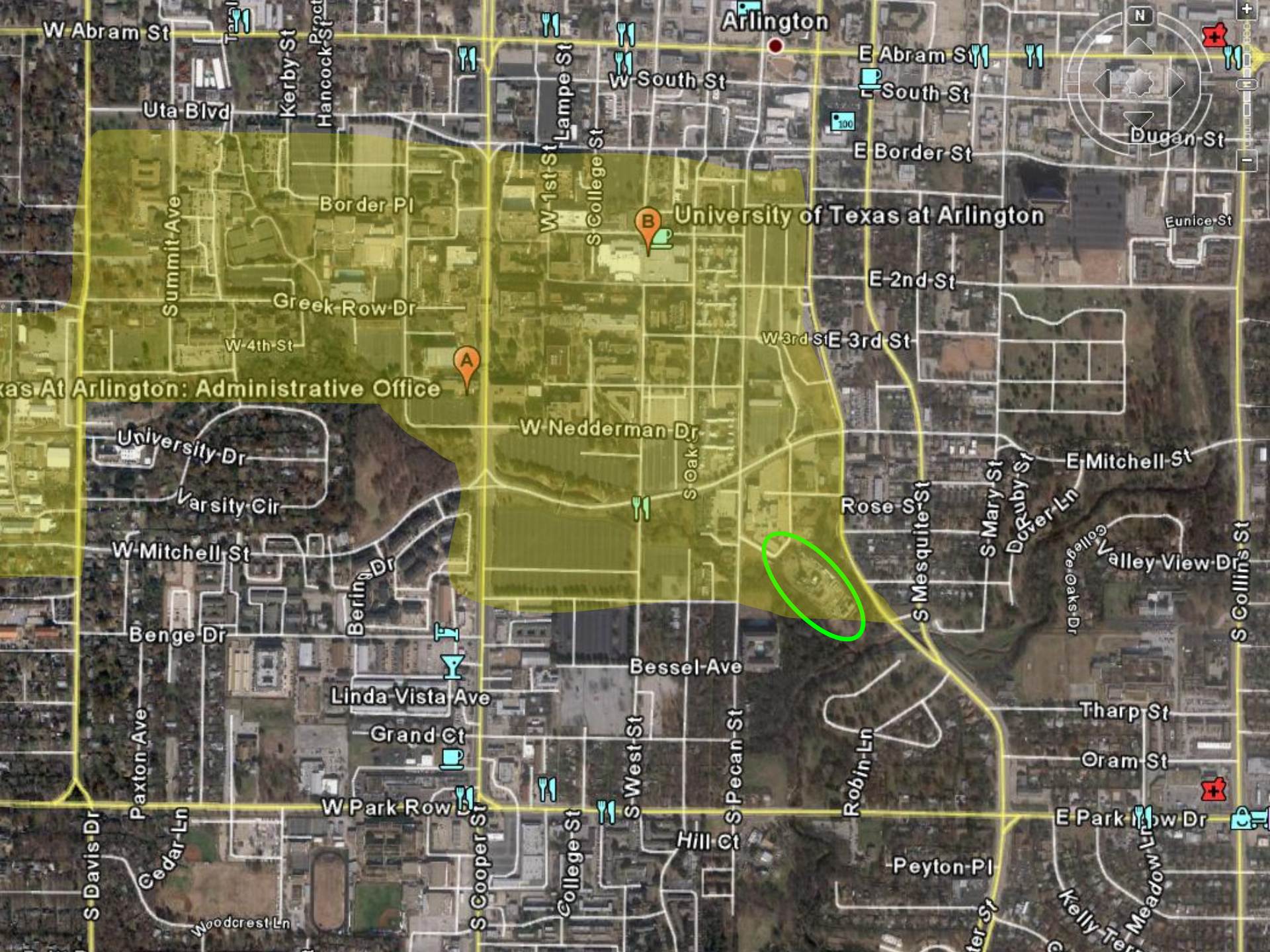
An Example from the Barnett Shale

- Near Fort Worth, Texas
- University of Texas at Arlington campus
- Total of 22 shale gas wells, 5 Bcf per well
- Estimates of 110 Bcf production over 25 years
- Developed by Carrizo Oil & Gas, Inc.





*Barnett Drilling Location
University of Texas at Arlington*



University of Texas at Arlington

University of Texas at Arlington: Administrative Office





Arlington

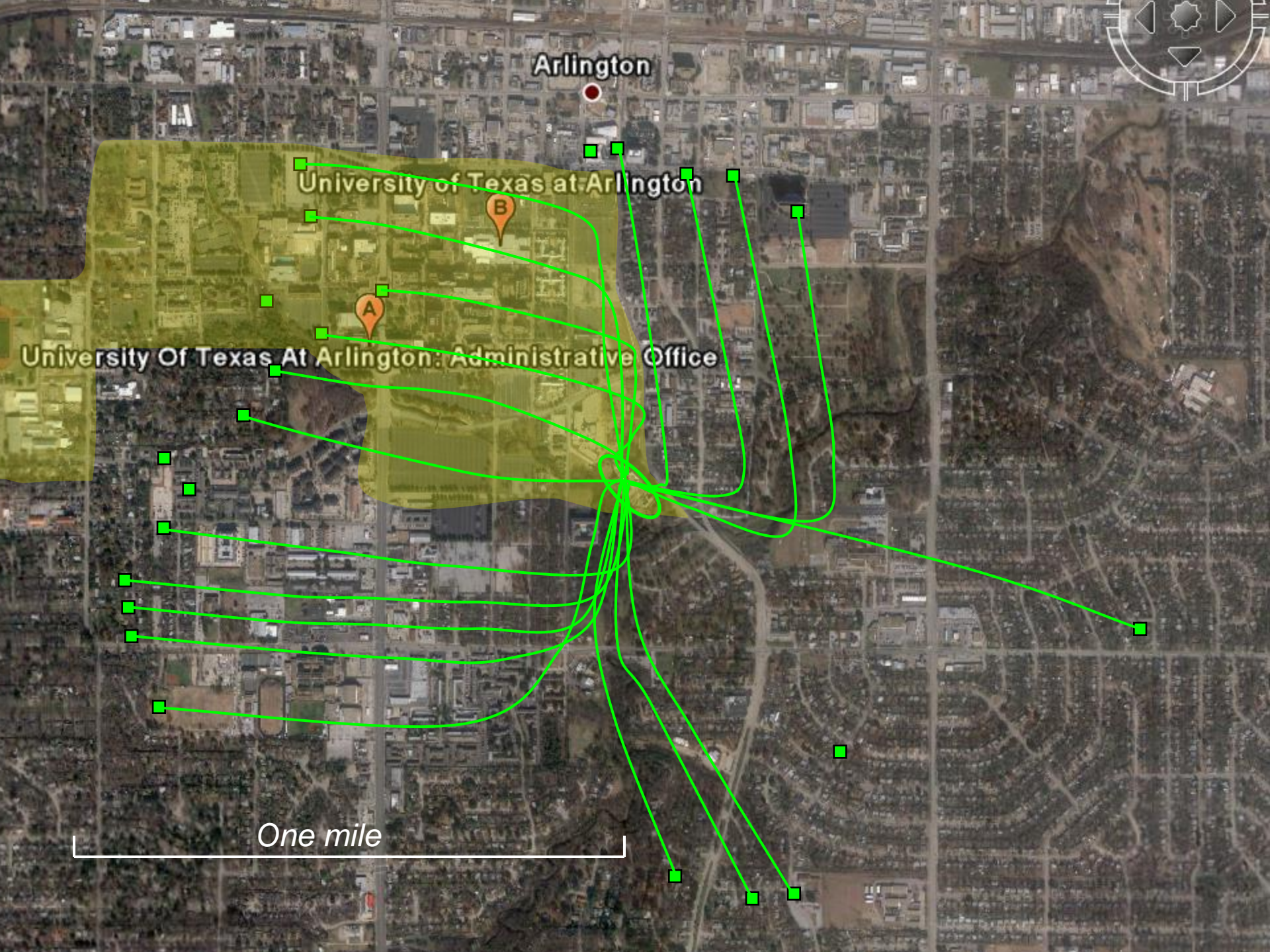
University of Texas at Arlington

University Of Texas At Arlington: Administrative Office

A

B

One mile



HISTORY OF SHALE GAS DEVELOPMENT

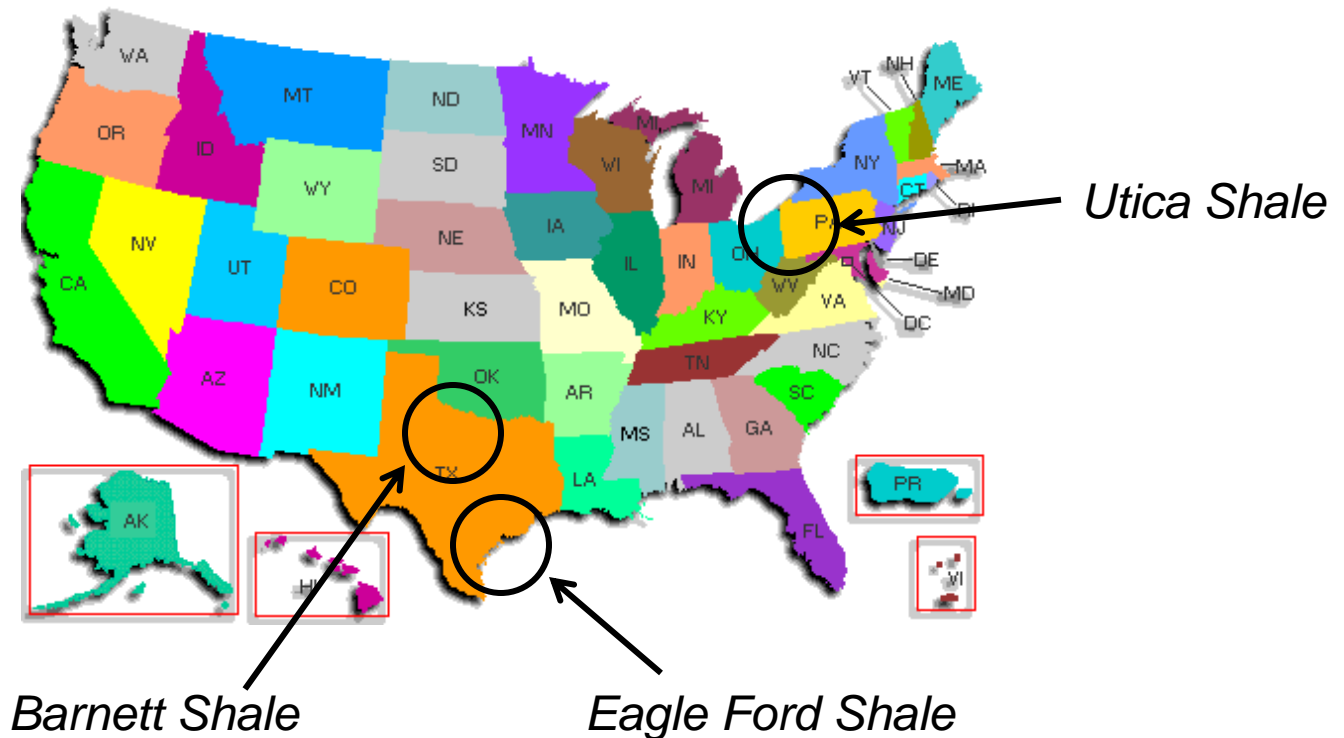
Pioneer in Shale Gas (and Oil) Development

- Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation
- New application of existing oilfield technologies
 - Horizontal drilling
 - Hydraulic fracturing
- Barnett Shale, Fort Worth Basin, Texas
- Started in 1981, achieved success in early 1990s
- Mitchell Energy sold to Devon in 2002

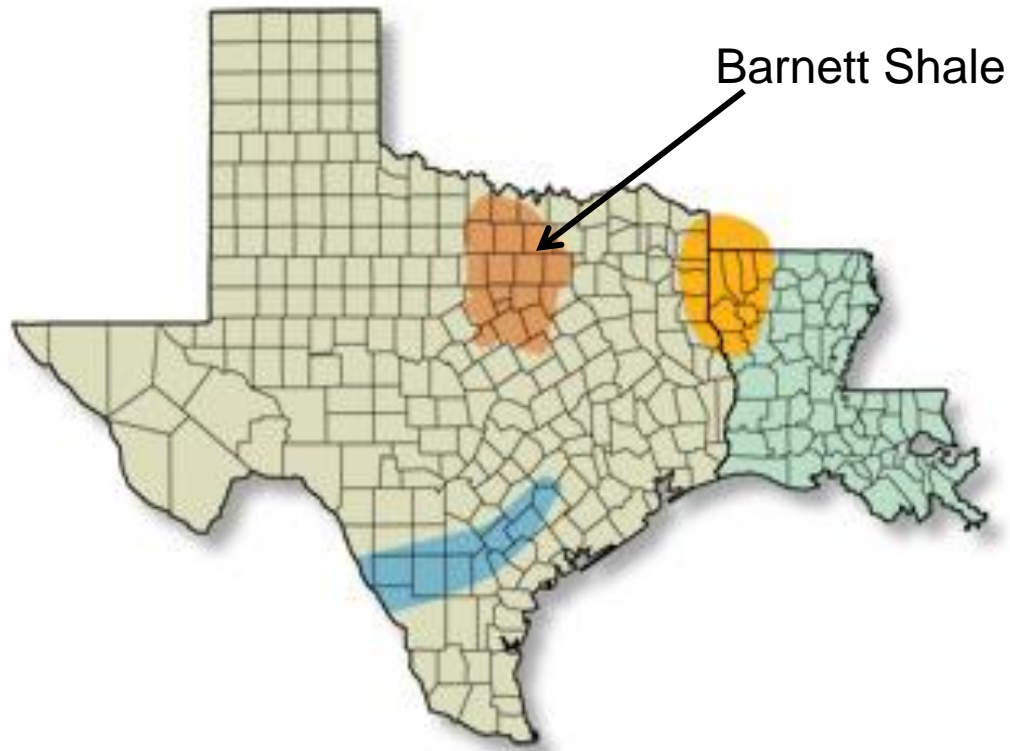


George Mitchell: “Father” of Shale Gas (and Oil) Development

SHALE GAS AND OIL: U.S. EXAMPLES



Barnett Shale Example



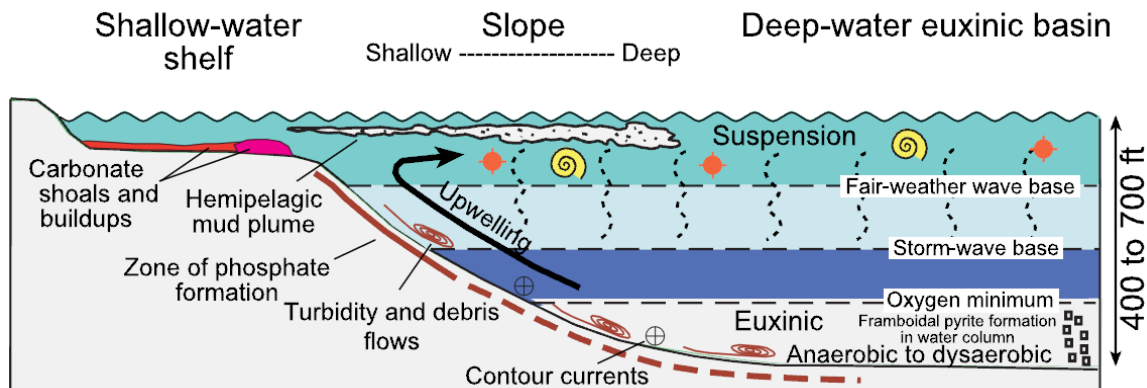
Geological Characteristics



- Core, Tier 1, and Tier 2 areas
- Organic-rich shale
- Deposited in Mississippian geologic period
- 4000-9000 feet deep
- 300-800 feet thick

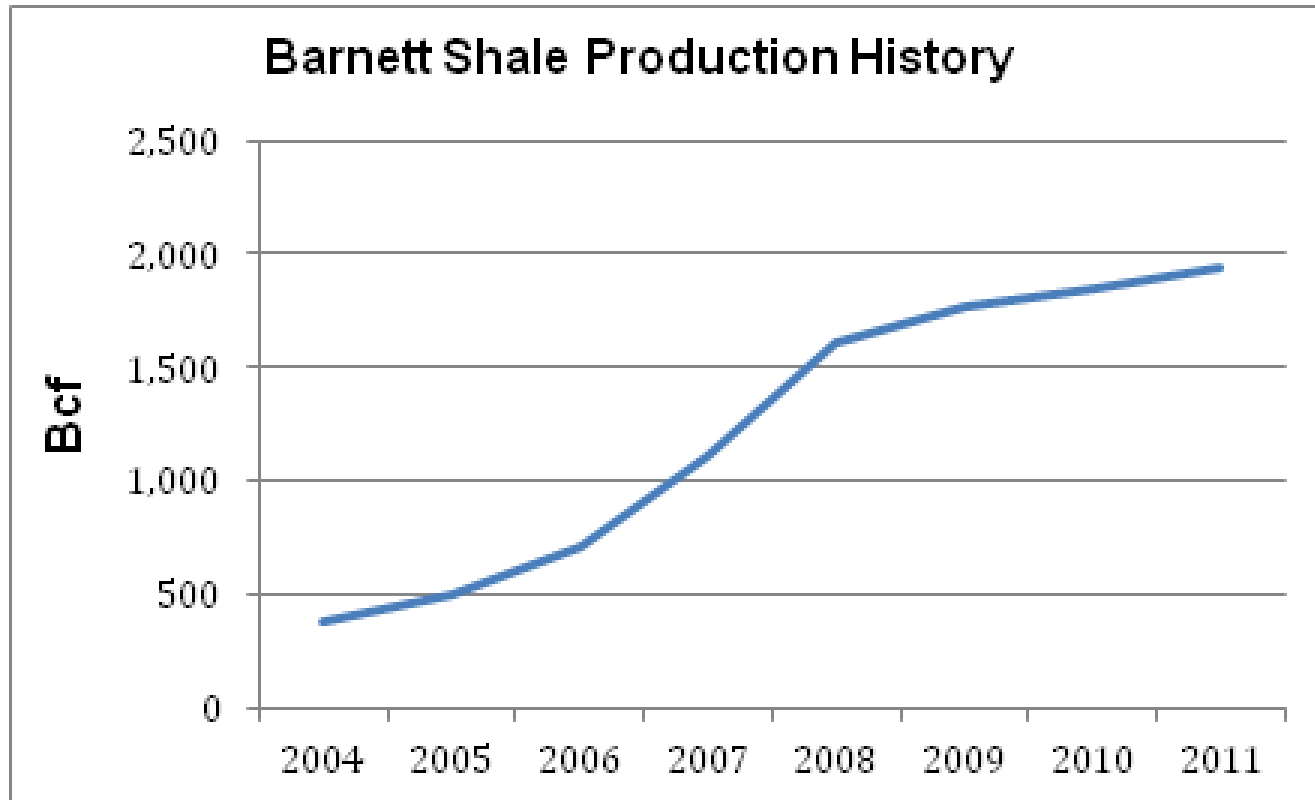
Fort Worth Basin Organic Shale Deposition

Barnett Shale Outcrop



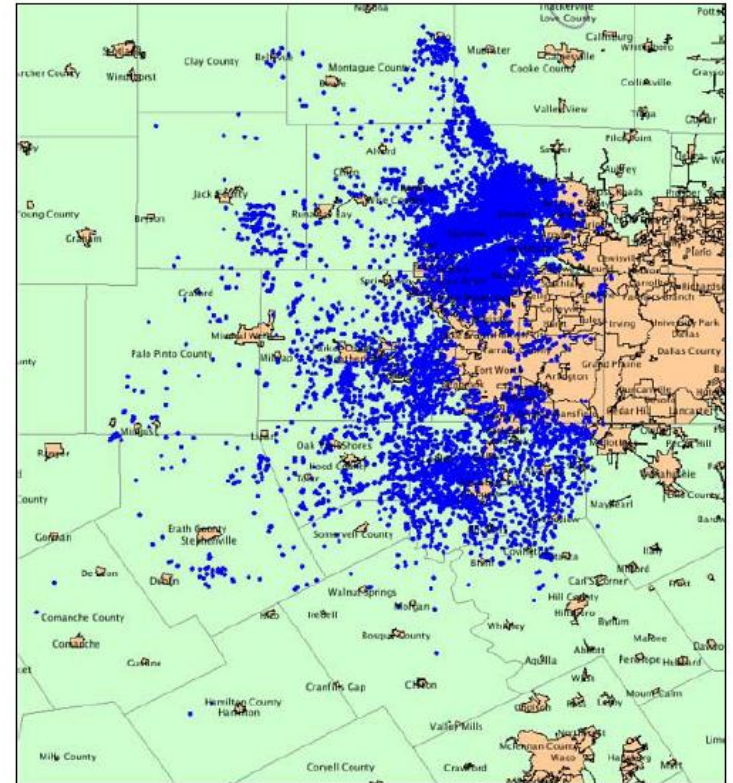
Depositional Model for the Barnett Shale

Barnett Shale Production History



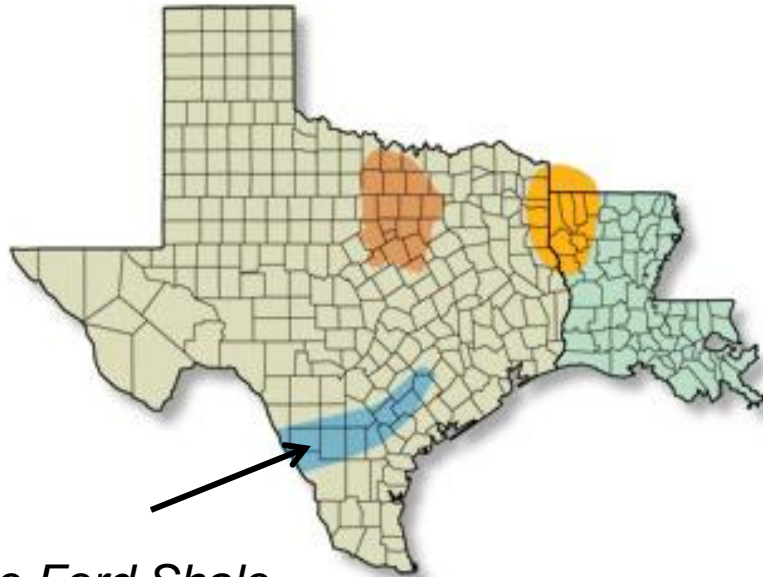
Barnett Shale “Urban Drilling”

- Shale gas deposits under urbanized area
- Competition for water resources
- Impacts on public infrastructure
- Convergence of shale gas controversies

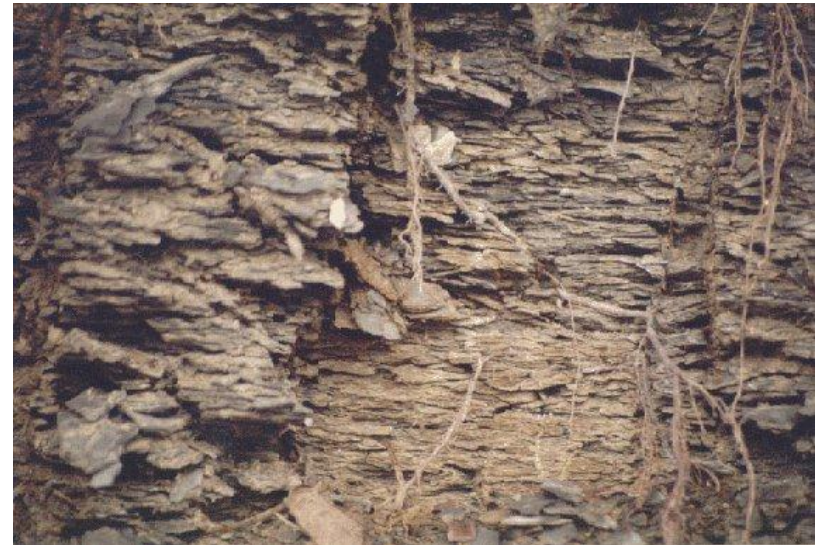


*Tan: DFW Urban Area
Blue Dots: Shale Gas Wells*

EAGLE FORD SHALE EXAMPLE



Eagle Ford Shale

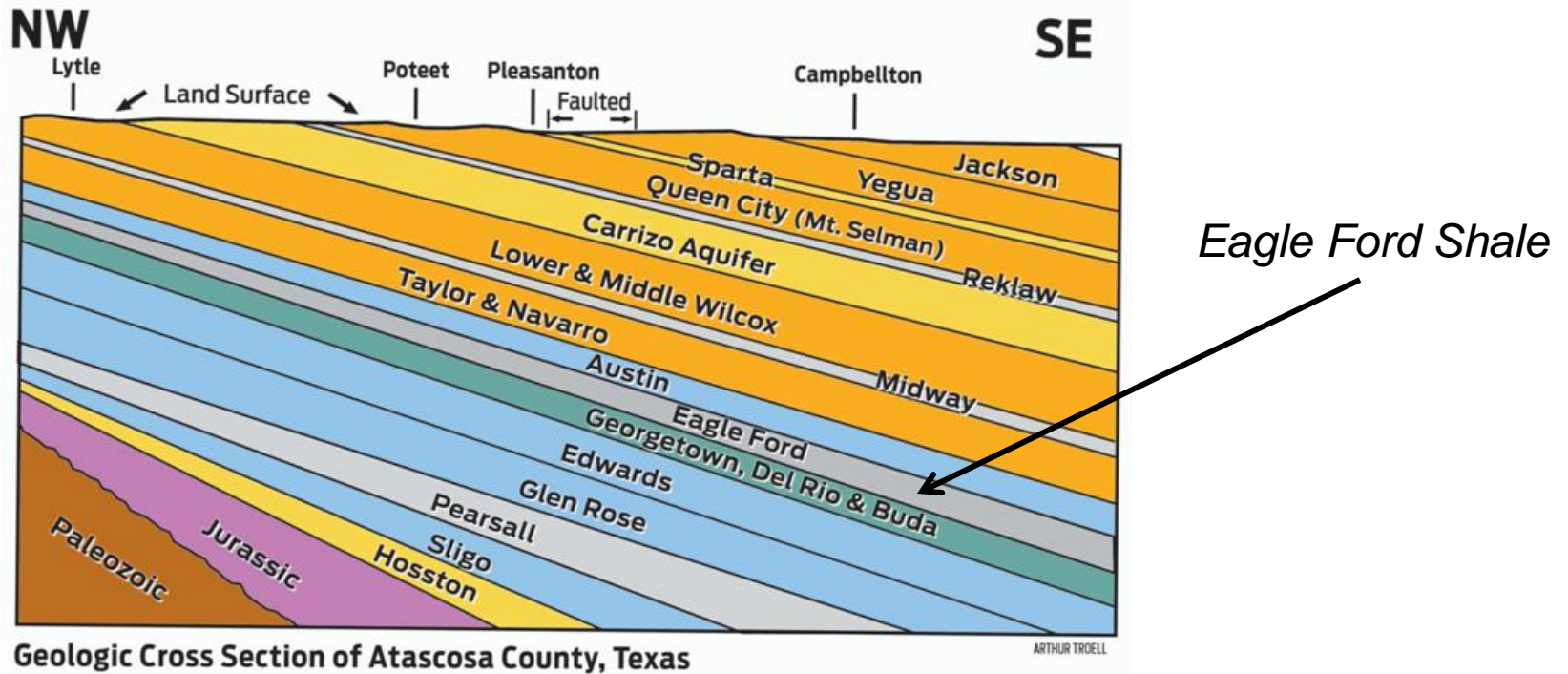


Eagle Ford Shale Outcrop

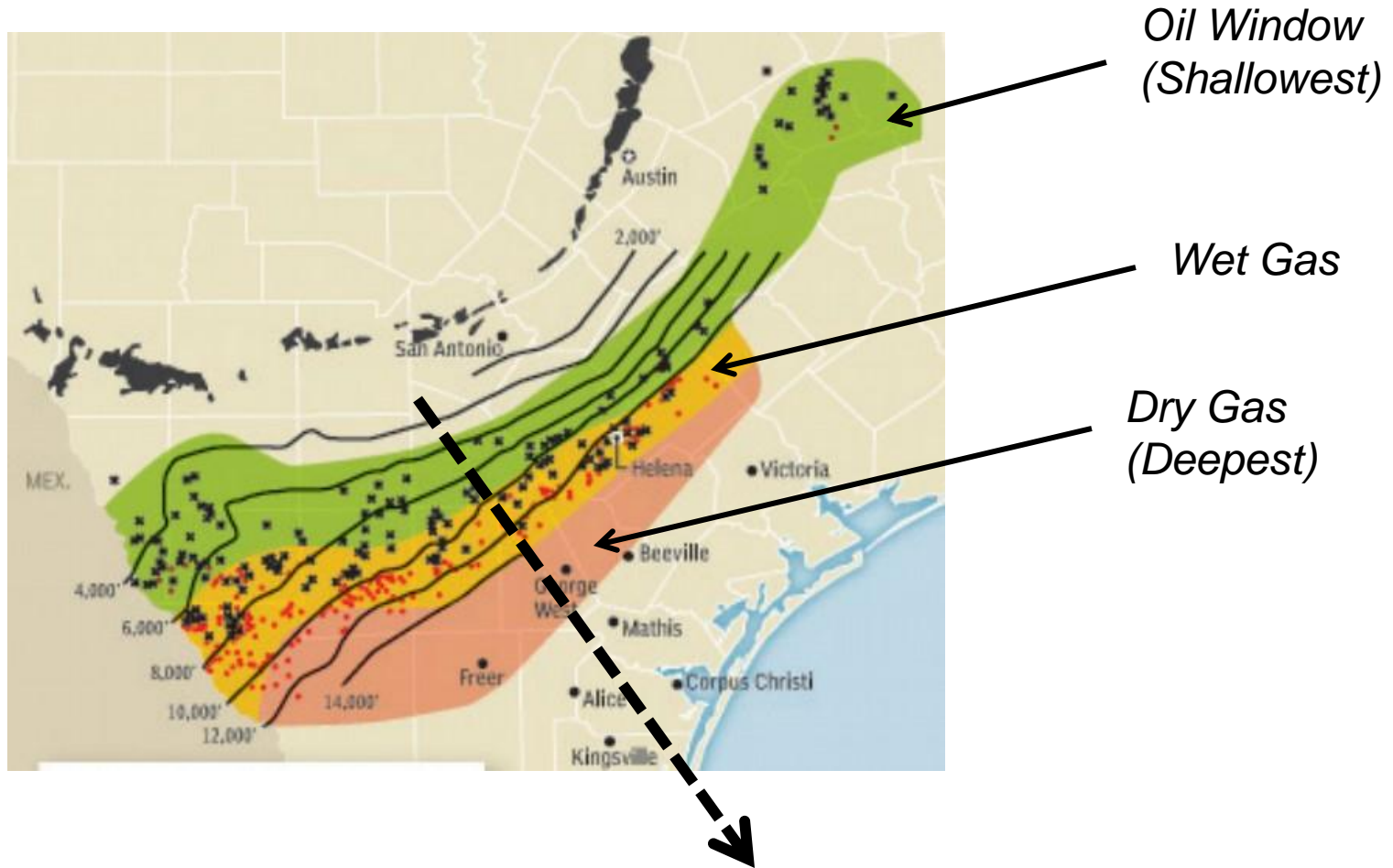
<http://hosted-p0.vresp.com/303462/84ad169188/ARCHIVE>

http://geography.unt.edu/~williams/GEOL_1610/fieldtripsites/eagle_ford_shale.htm

Gulf Coast Basin

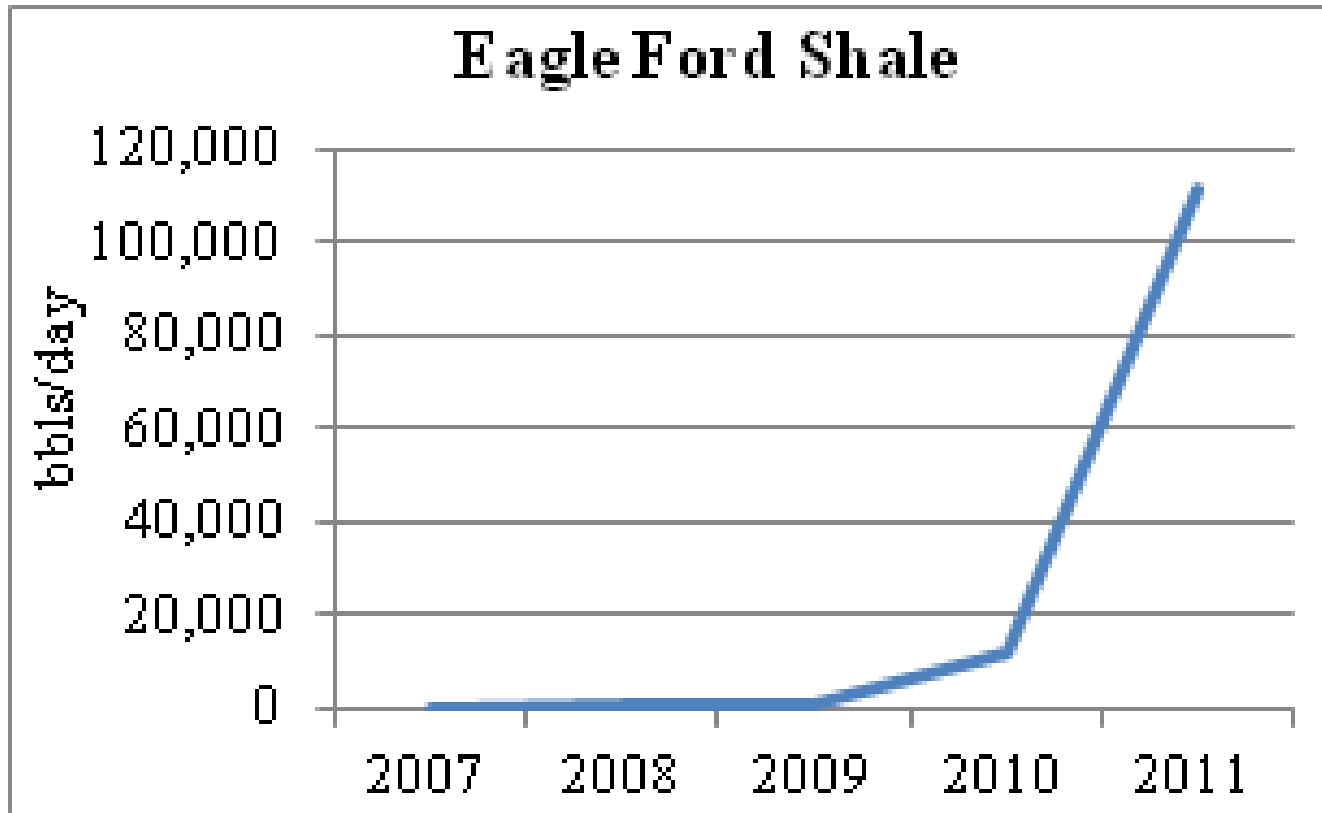


Oil, Wet Gas, and Dry Gas Windows



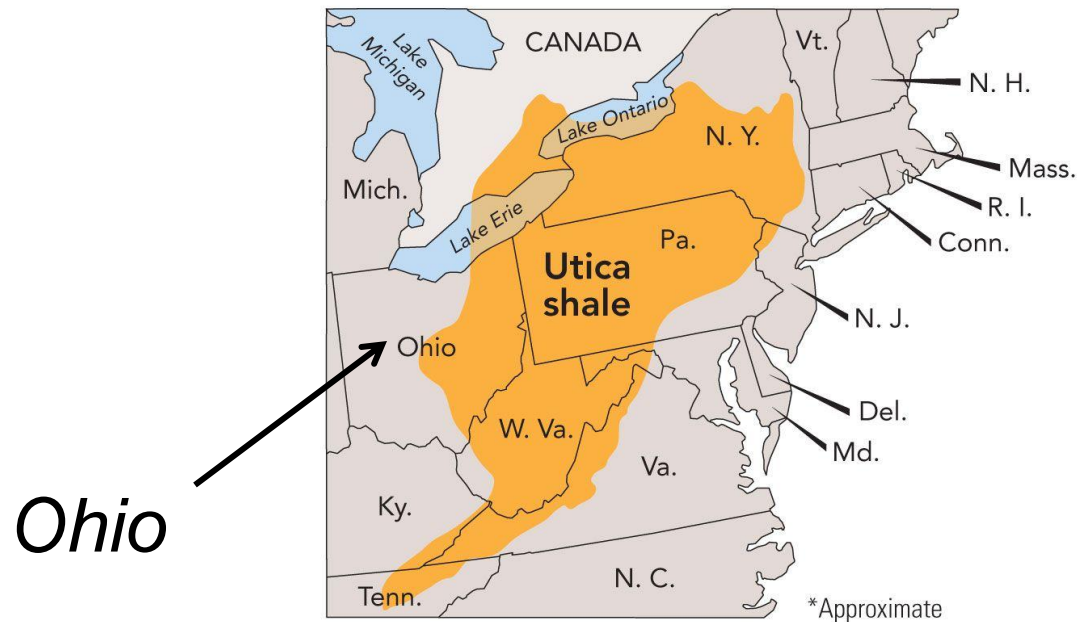
Deeper in Basin

Eagle Ford Production History



UTICA SHALE EXAMPLE

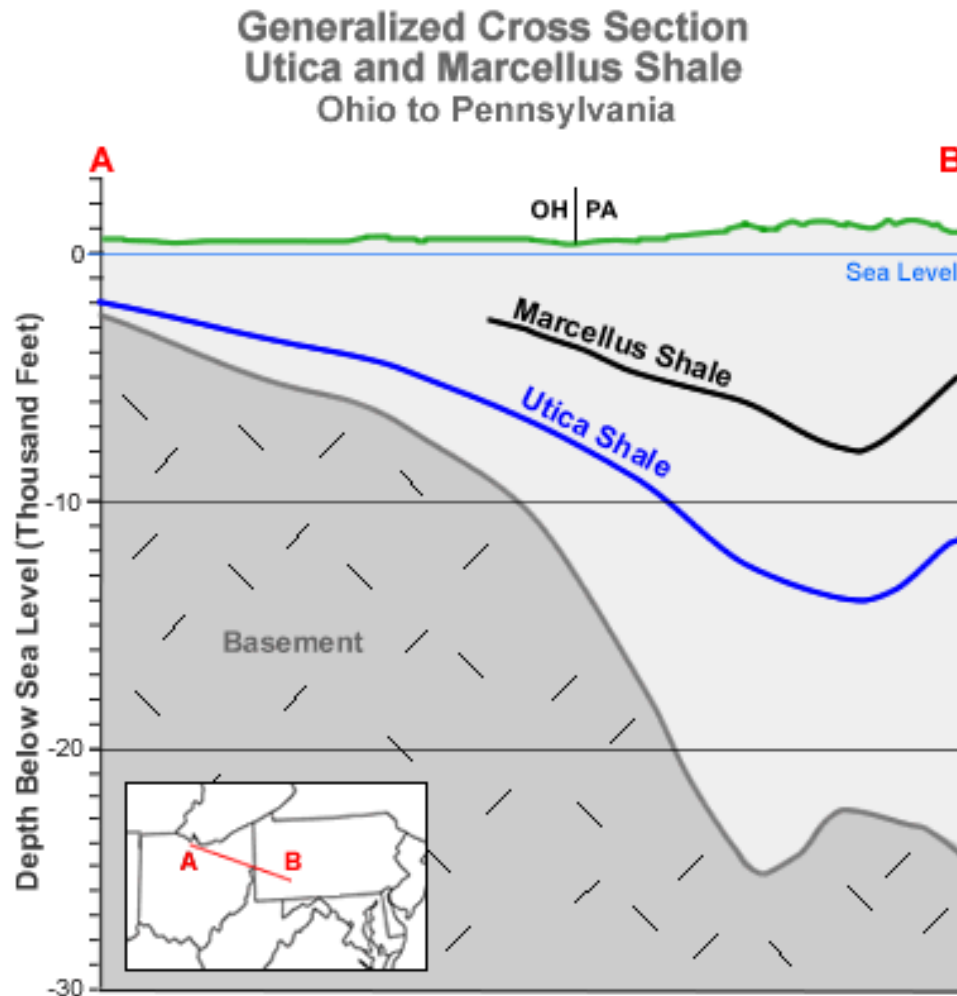
Utica Shale



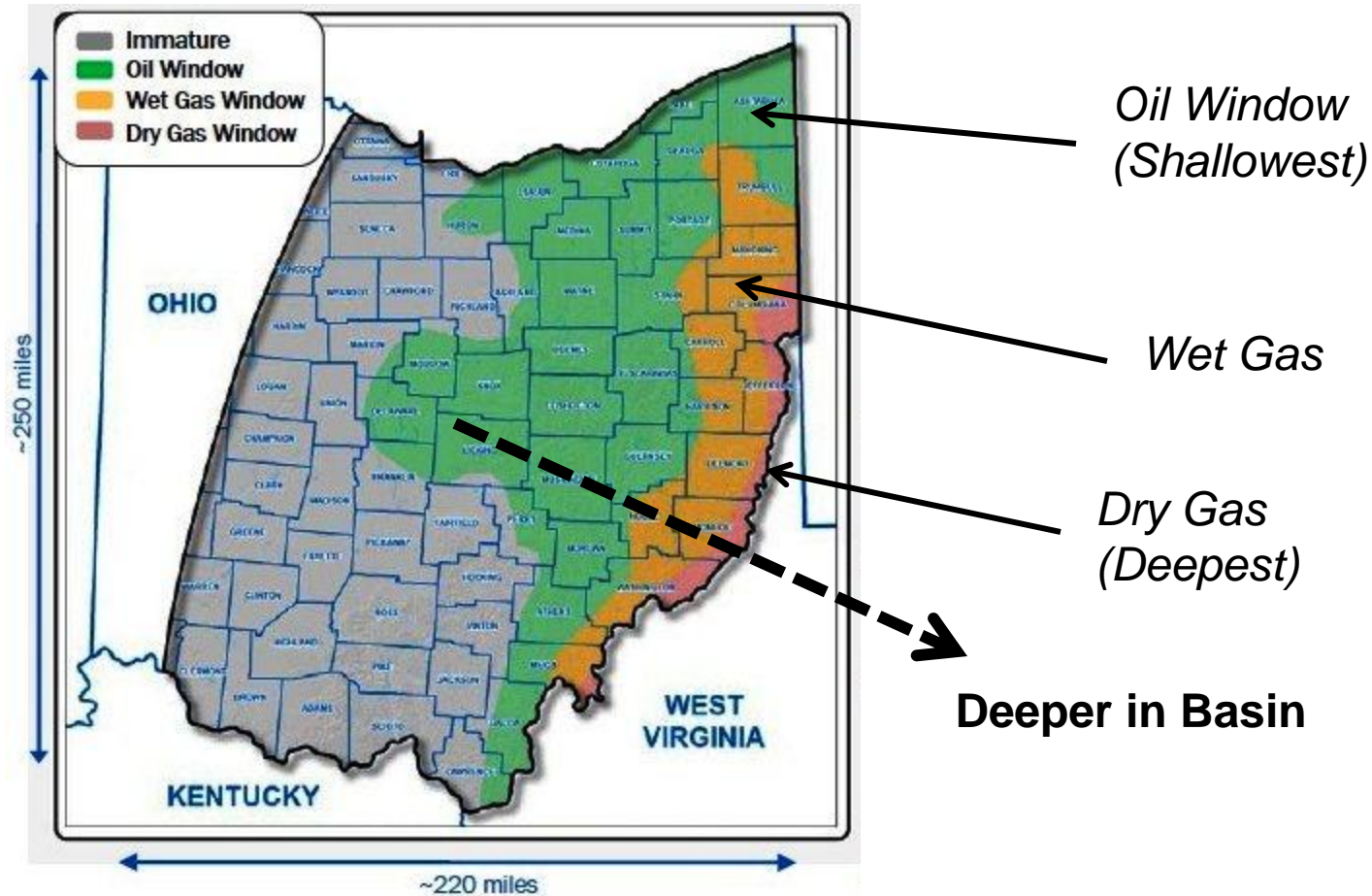
Utica Shale Outcrop



Diagrammatic Cross Section



Oil, Wet Gas, and Dry Gas Windows in Ohio



Map source: Modified from Rowan, 2006, Geological Survey

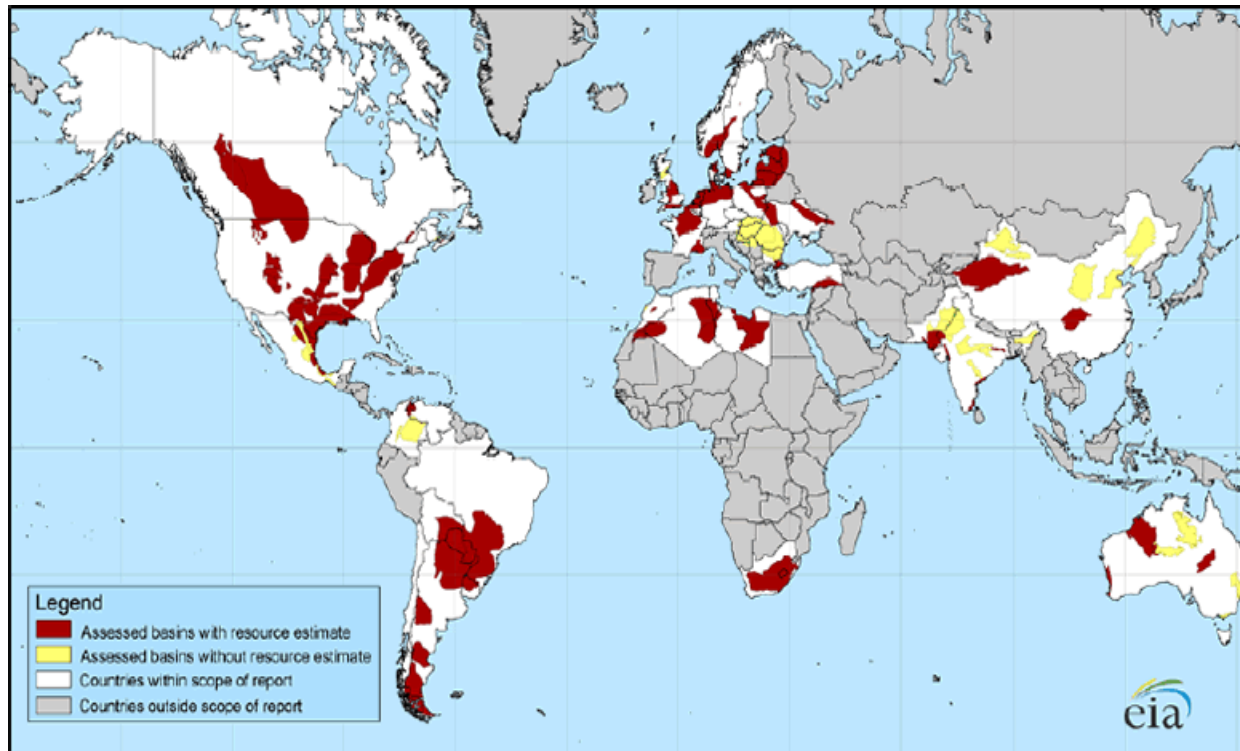
WORLDWIDE IMPORTANCE OF SHALE GAS

Worldwide Shale Gas Resource Estimates

Area	Tcf
South America	1,825
North America	1,551
Asia	1,404
Africa	1,042
Europe	624
Australia	<u>396</u>
Total	6,242

Note! →

Shale Gas Occurrence Worldwide



32 Countries, 48 Shale Gas Basins

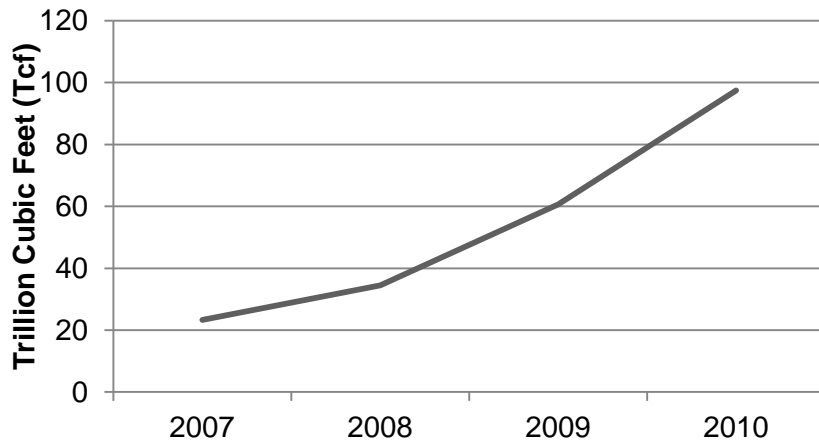
The U.S. Case

- Current U.S. resource estimate: 482 Tcf
- Just 8% of worldwide total
- Current reserve estimate: 100 Tcf

- Annual production 4.8 TCF in 2010
- Currently 25% of natural gas production
- Expected to increase to 49% by 2035

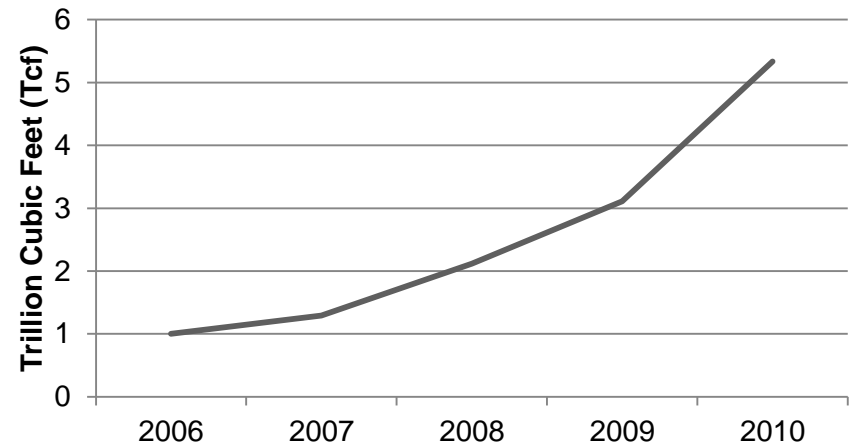
U.S. Reserves and Production Trends

U.S. Shale Gas Proved Reserves



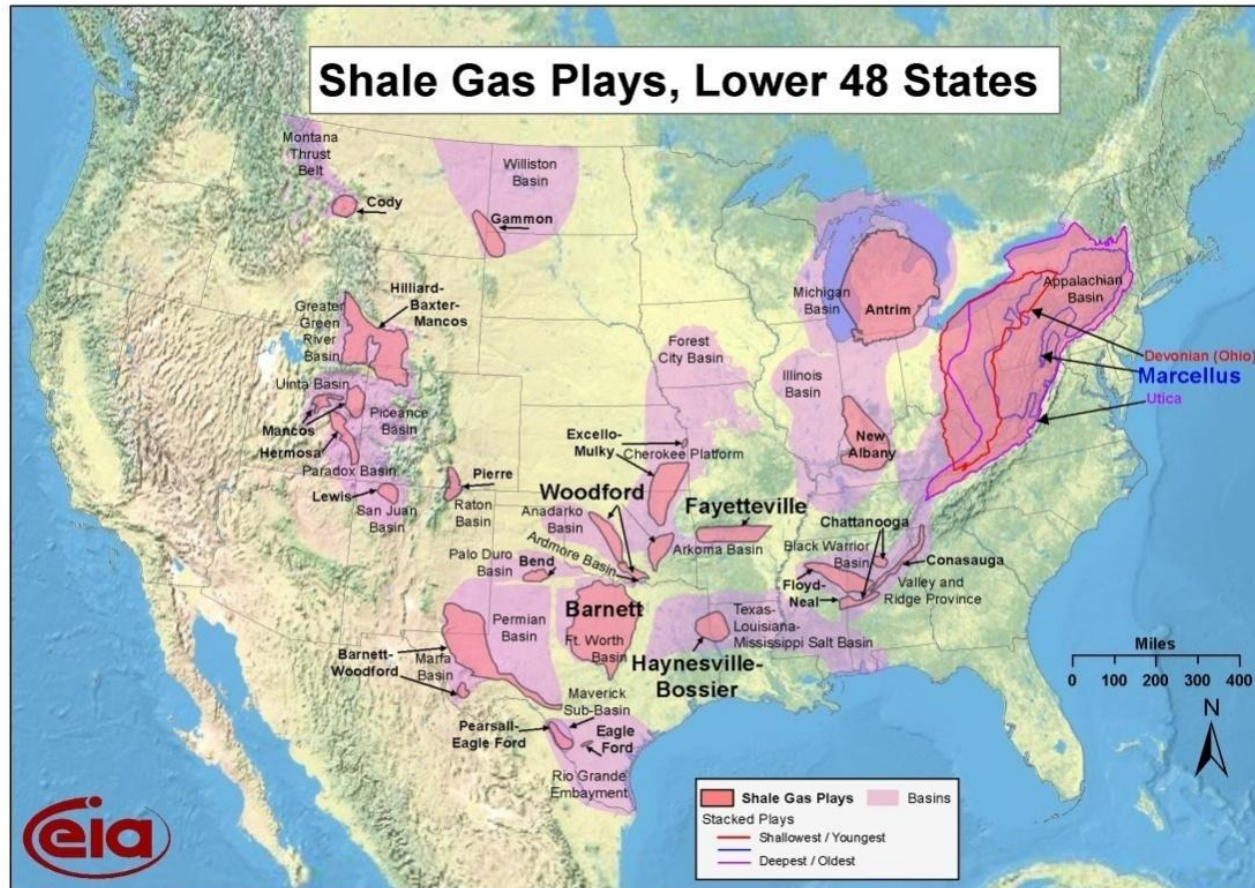
Five-Fold Increase, 2007-2010

U.S. Shale Gas Production



Five-Fold Increase, 2006-2010

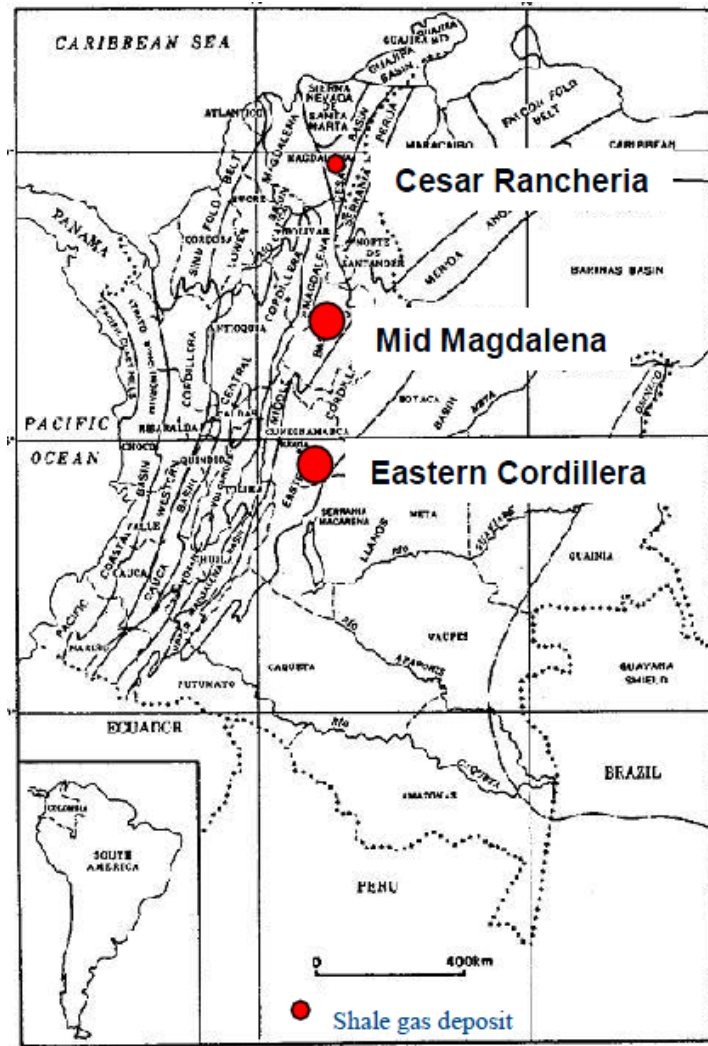
Shale Gas Occurrences in the U.S.



Source: Energy Information Administration based on data from various published studies.
Updated: March 10, 2010

SHALE GAS IN COLUMBIA

Shale Gas in Columbia



Arthur D. Little, 2011

Shale Gas in Columbia

Basin	Area (sq km)¹	Net pay (meters)²	Gas in place (Tcf)³	Recoverable reserves (Tcf)⁴
Mid Magdalena	7,500	100	289.5	29.0
Eastern Cordillera	500	100	19.3	1.9
Cesar Rancheria	200	100	7.72	0.8
Total Shale Gas	8,200		316.5	31.7

Mid-Magdalena: 91% of total

SUMMARY

Summary

- Unconventional natural gas and oil resources include 6 or 7 types
- Shale gas and oil are important unconventional hydrocarbon resources
- Organic shale is the source rock for conventional oil and gas reservoirs
- Shale strata are deposited in basins and become deeply buried by subsidence
- Oil and gas is generated from organic shale by rising temperature of geothermal gradient

Summary (continued)

- Shale gas and oil are exploited from organic shale source rock by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing
- Exploitation of shale gas began in Texas' Barnett Shale by Mitchell Energy in the 1980s & 1990s
- Shale gas and oil are revolutionary developments for energy supply worldwide
- Most of Columbia's shale gas is in the Mid-Magdalena basin

OTHER UNCONVENTIONAL NATURAL GAS AND OIL RESOURCES

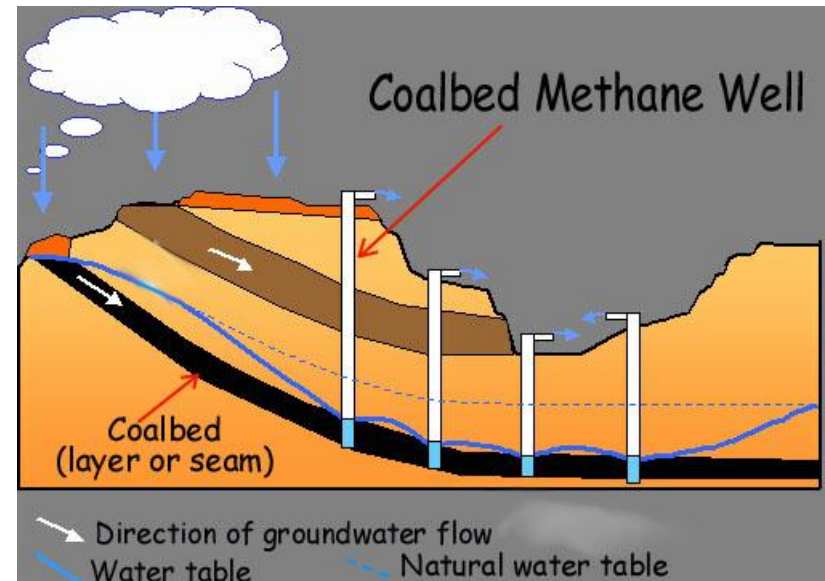
Columbia Unconventional Resources

Colombia Resource Base

- Types of unconventional resources:
 - Coal bed methane (CBM)
 - Shale Gas
 - Tar sands
 - Oil shale
 - Tight gas
 - Gas hydrates

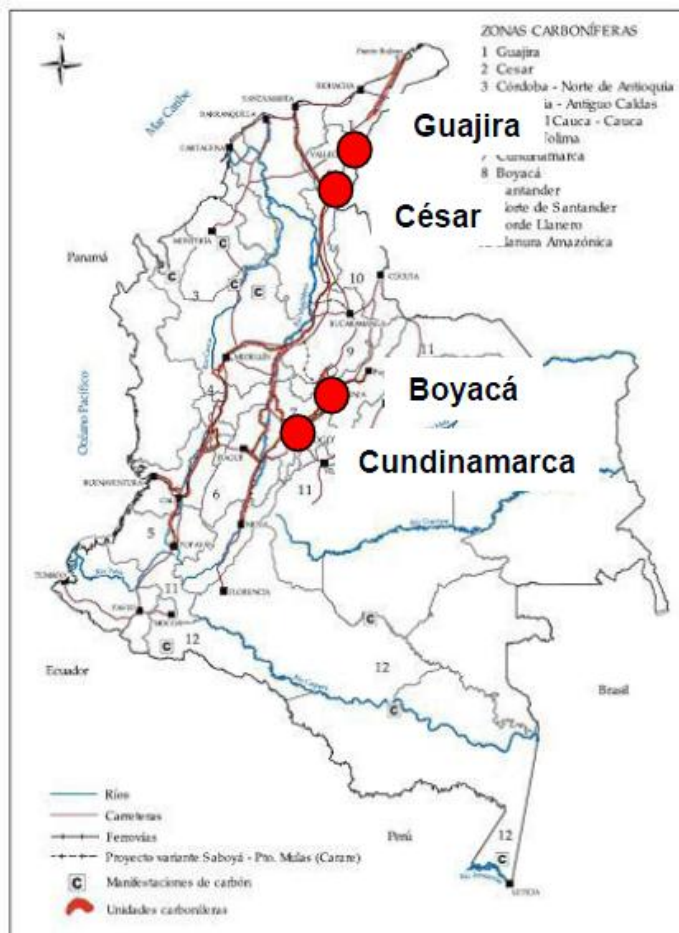
Coalbed Methane

- Methane generated in coal beds
- Formed by coal breakdown (bacteria, heat & pressure)
- Usually extracted from shallow coal seams (10s to 100s m)
- Generally lower cost than shale gas
- Gas occurs in coal fractures (cleats)



- Removal of water makes cleats permeable
- Large volumes of produced water must be managed

Coal Bed Methane in Columbia



Oil Sands

- Often called “tar sands”
- Bitumen formed from bacterial breakdown of petroleum
- “Parent” oil forms at depth, migrates toward surface
- Too viscous for recovery by pumping
- Two methods of extraction
 - Surface mining (<100m)
 - Subsurface (in situ) recovery (>100m)



Oil Sands (continued)

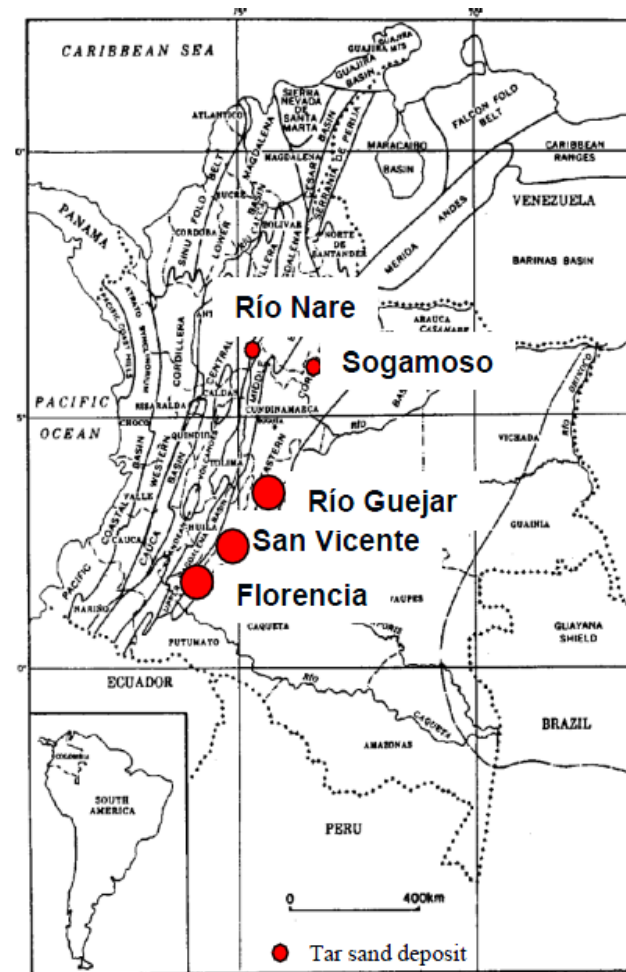
- Principal deposits in Alberta, Canada (Athabasca Oil Sands)
- Large quantities also in Venezuela (Orinoco)



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_petroleum_industry_in_Canada_\(oil_sands_and_heavy_oil\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_petroleum_industry_in_Canada_(oil_sands_and_heavy_oil))

http://www.rigzone.com/training/heavyoil/insight.asp?i_id=185

Oil Sands in Columbia

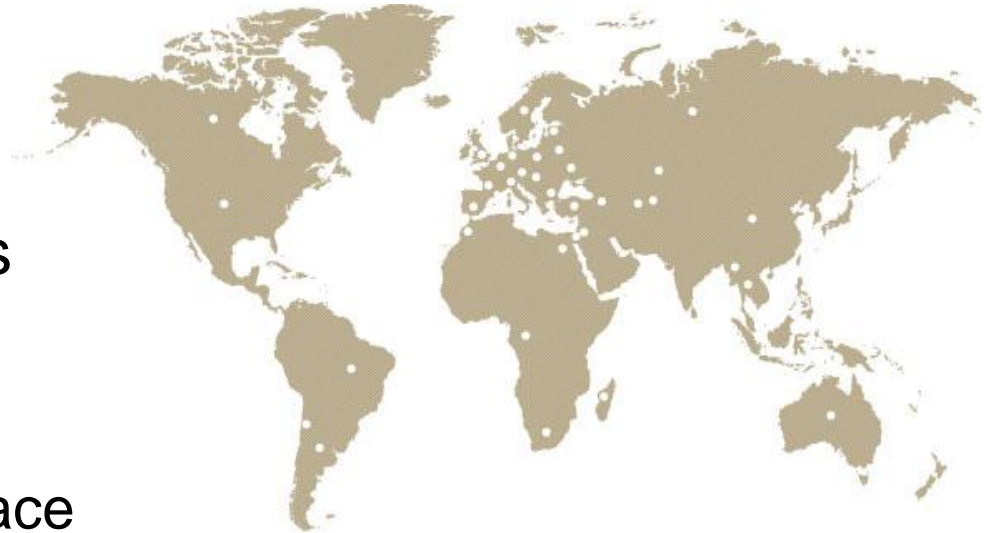


Oil Sands in Columbia

Region	Area (sq km) ¹	Net pay (meters) ²	Initial Volume in Place		Oil in place (Mbbbl) ⁵	Reduction factor ⁶	Recoverable reserves ⁷	
			(acre-feet) ³	(Mbbbl) ⁴			SAGD (Mbbbl)	Mining (Mbbbl)
Florencia	460	50	18,646,403	144,659	20,252	30%	7,088	11,625
San Vicente	656	50	26,591,393	206,296	28,881	30%	10,109	16,578
Rio Guejar	350	50	14,187,481	110,066	15,409	30%	5,393	8,845
Sogamoso	40	20	648,571	5,032	704	30%	247	404
Rio Nare	50	60	2,432,140	18,869	2,642	30%	925	1,516
Total Tar Sands	1,556		62,505,987	484,921	67,889		23,761	38,968

Oil Shale

- Shale with kerogen not converted to oil and gas
- Two technologies for extraction
 - Mine and retort at surface
 - Underground (in situ) heating and pumping
- Many occurrences worldwide
- Major deposits in the U.S. (Piceance Creek)

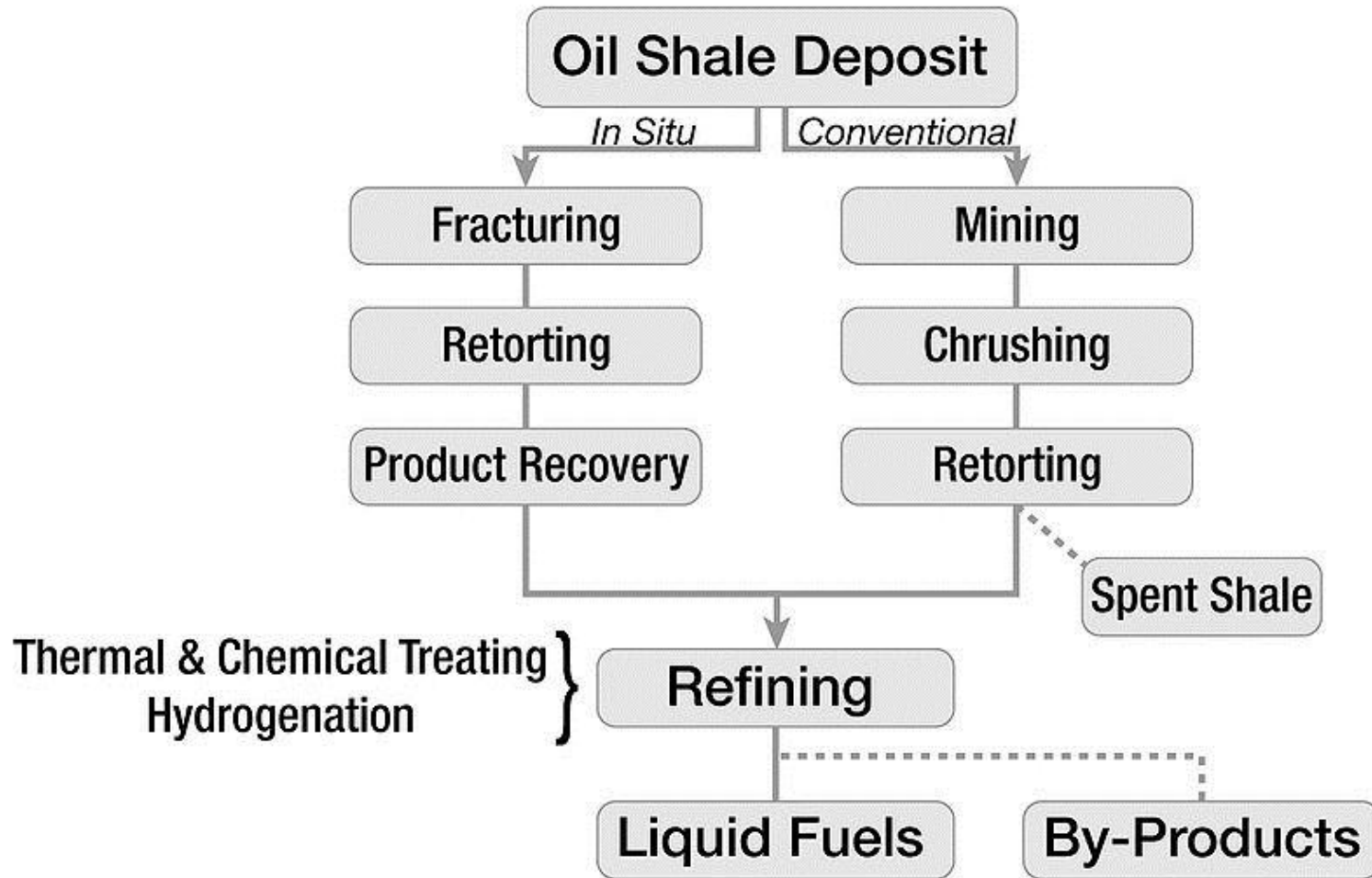


<http://www.diyaudio.com/forums/lounge/190836-shale-oil-6.html>

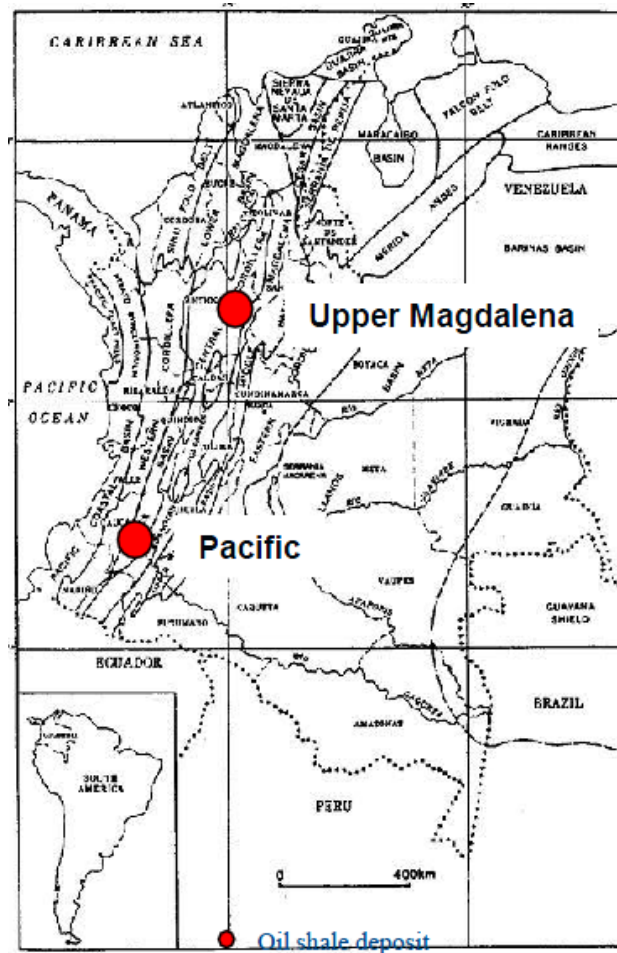


Source: <http://www.utsa.edu/hydrogis/PiceanceBasin.html>

Oil Shale Production Technologies



Oil Shale in Columbia

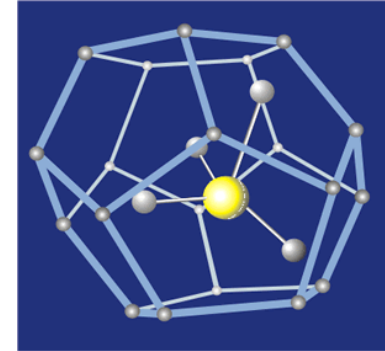


Oil Shale in Columbia

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Methane Hydrate – Methane in an Ice Lattice

- Methane molecule trapped in water molecule lattice (ice)
- “Ice that burns”
- Formed by bacterial action
- Two types of occurrence
 - Continental
 - Arctic permafrost
- Not yet technologically (or economically) feasible

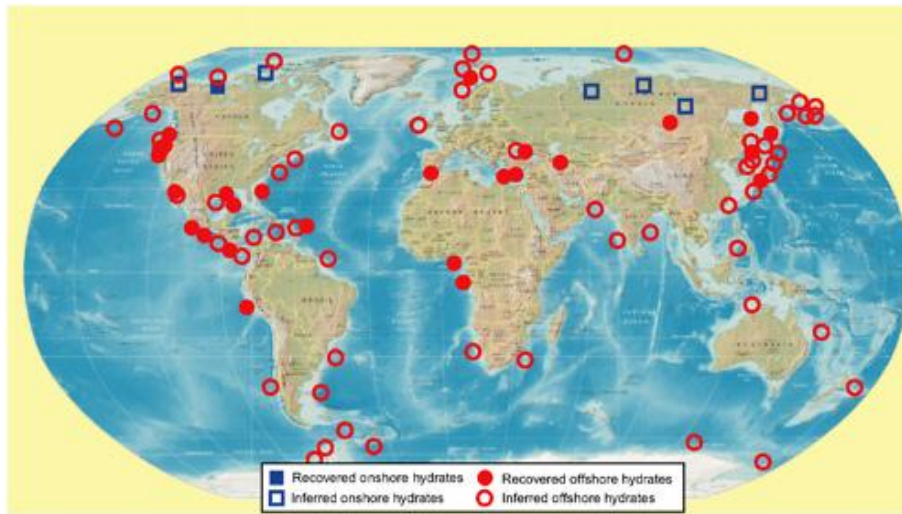


http://www.cedre.fr/en/spill/deepwater_horizon/methane-hydrates.php

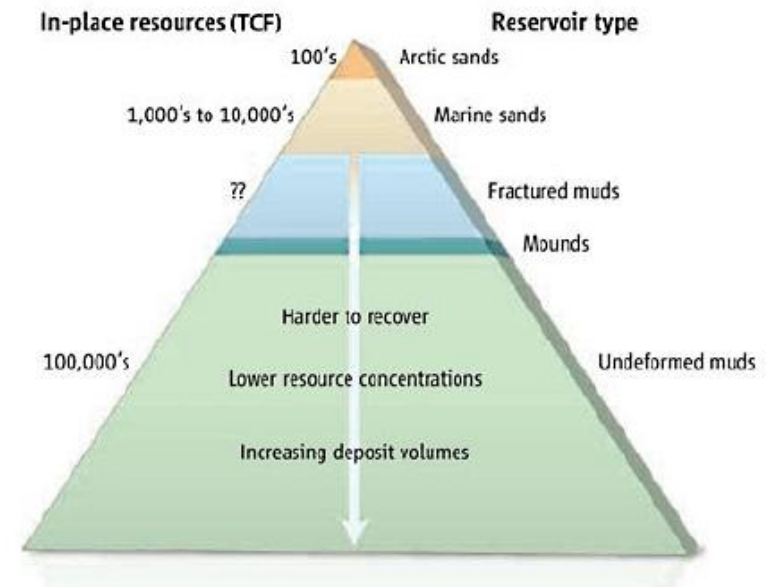
<http://www.realclimate.org/index.php/archives/2005/12/methane-hydrates-and-global-warming/>

Methane Hydrate – Methane in an Ice Lattice

- Occurs at many locations worldwide



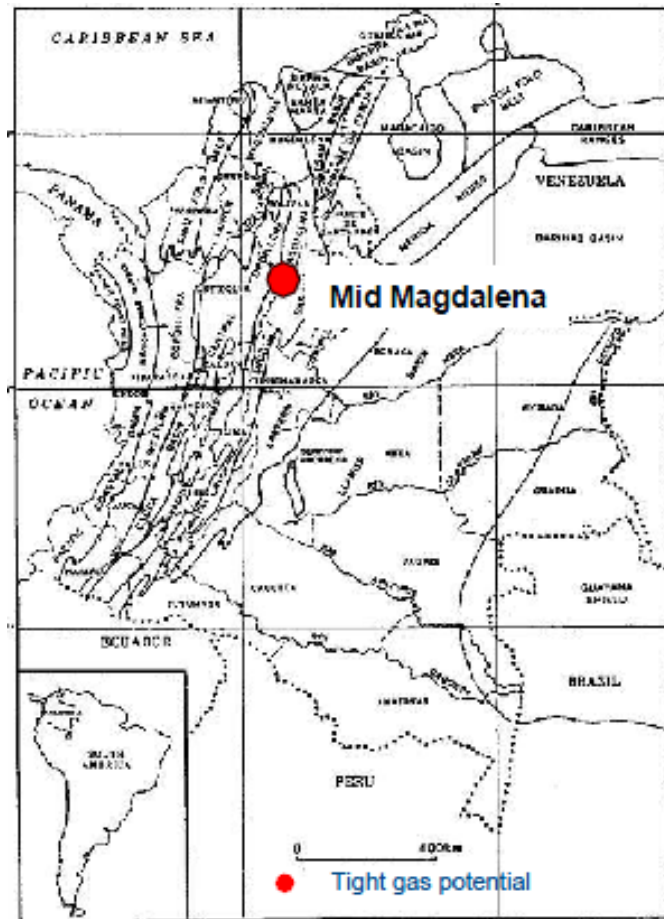
- Resource pyramid



Methane Hydrate in Columbia

Basin	Area (sq km)¹	Net pay (meters)²	Gas content (m³ natural gas/ m³ hydrate)³	Gas in place (tcf)⁴
Caribbean	37,500	1	164	217.1
Pacific	37,500	1	164	217.1
Total Gas Hydrate Potential	75,000			434.2

Tight Gas in Columbia



Tight Gas in Columbia

Region	Area (sq km) ¹	Gross pay (meters) ²	Pay Volume		Gas in place (Tcf) ⁵
			(acre- feet) ³	(Tcf) ⁴	
Eastern Cordillera/Mid Magdalena	4,000	200	648,570, 555	28.3	1.2
Total Tight Gas Potential	4,000		648,570, 555	28.3	1.2

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- Oil and gas is generated from organic shale by rising temperature of geothermal gradient

Summary (continued)

- Shale gas and oil are exploited from organic shale source rock by horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing
- Exploitation of shale gas began in Texas' Barnett Shale by Mitchell Energy in the 1980s & 1990s
- Shale gas and oil are revolutionary developments for energy supply worldwide
- Most of Columbia's shale gas is in the Mid-Magdalena basin