

# Gas Hydrate Research, Stratigraphic Test, and Production Test Plans Alaska North Slope

January 22, 2009

NETL Alaska Projects Meeting  
Morgantown, WV

*U.S. Department of Energy*



**Robert Hunter, PI, ASRC Energy**  
**Scott Wilson, RyderScott**  
**Steve Hancock, RPS Eng.**  
**with Scott Digert - BP**  
**Gordon Pospisil – BP**  
**Ray Boswell – DOE**  
**Rick Baker – DOE**  
**Tim Collett - USGS**



# Presentation Outline

- Project Overview/Schedule
- Resource Characterization
- Stratigraphic Test Results
- Reservoir Simulation
- Production Testing
- Conclusions / Future Plans

# Presentation Outline

## ➤ Project Overview/Schedule

- Resource Characterization
- Stratigraphic Test Results
- Reservoir Simulation
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# Acknowledgements

## The Mount Elbert Science Party

- Myung Lee – USGS
- John Miller - USGS
- Bill Waite – USGS
- Bill Winters – USGS
- Tom Lorenson – USGS
- Tanya Inks – Int. Services, Inc.
- Dennis Urban – BPXA
- Paul Hanson – BPXA
- Warren Agena - USGS
- Kelly Rose – DOE/NETL
- Ellis Rosenbaum – DOE/NETL
- Micaela Weeks – BPXA
- Larry Vendl – BPXA
- Danny Kara - BPXA
- Rick Colwell – OSU
- Marta Torres – OSU
- Steve Hancock (RPS)
- Tim Collett (USGS)
- Ray Boswell (DOE/NETL)
- Robert Hunter (ASRC/BP)
- The Crew of the Doyon 14



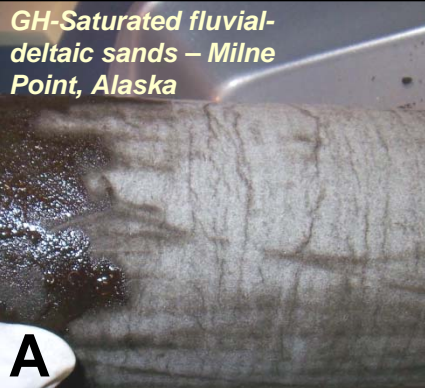
U.S. Department of Energy



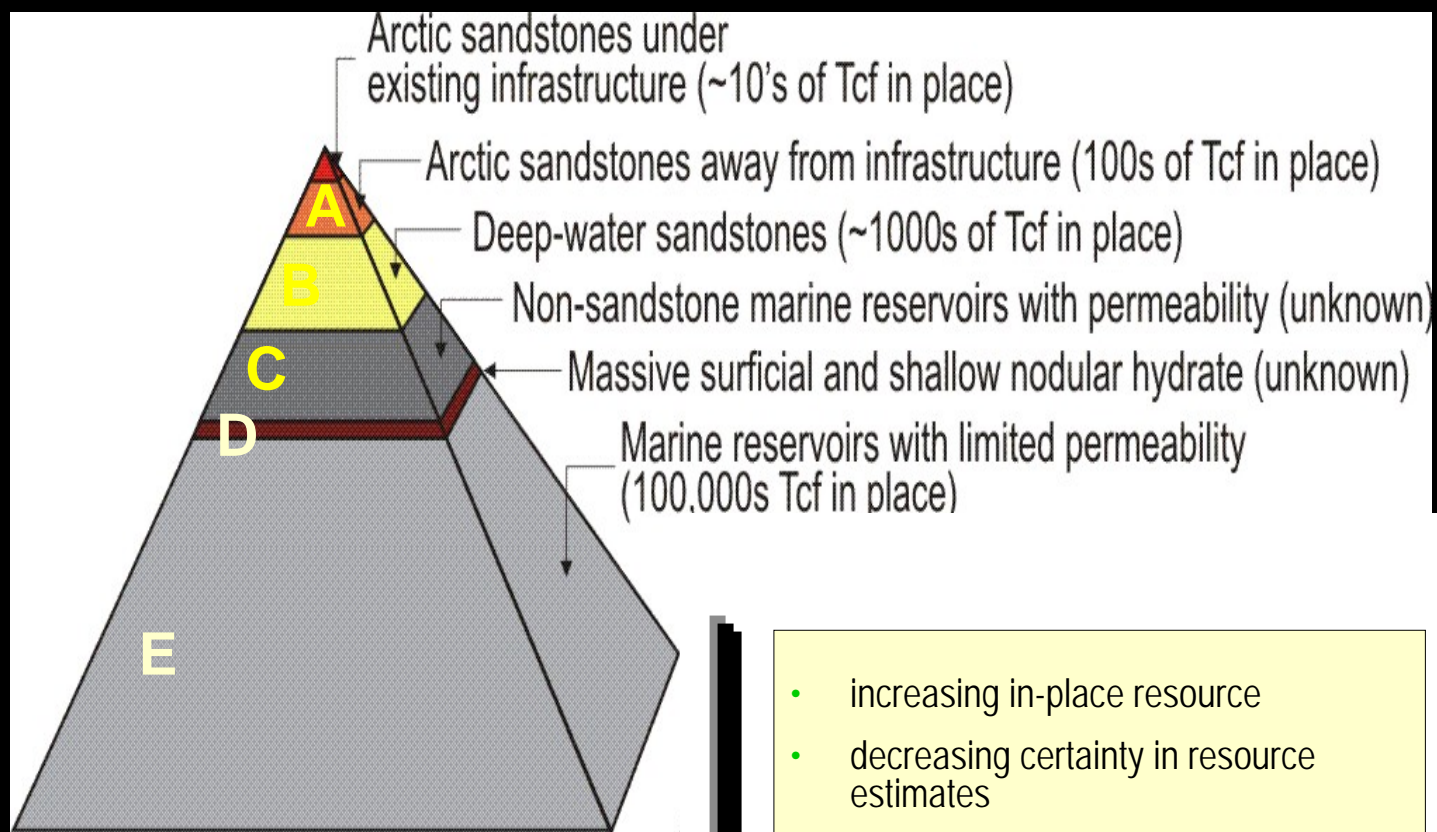
Drill Cool Systems, Inc.



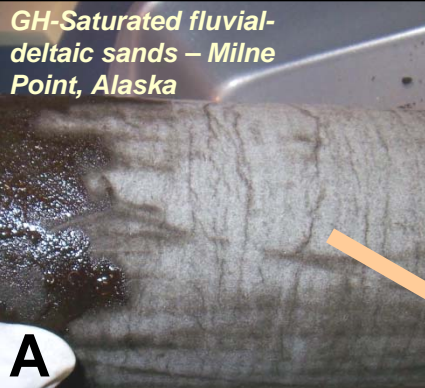




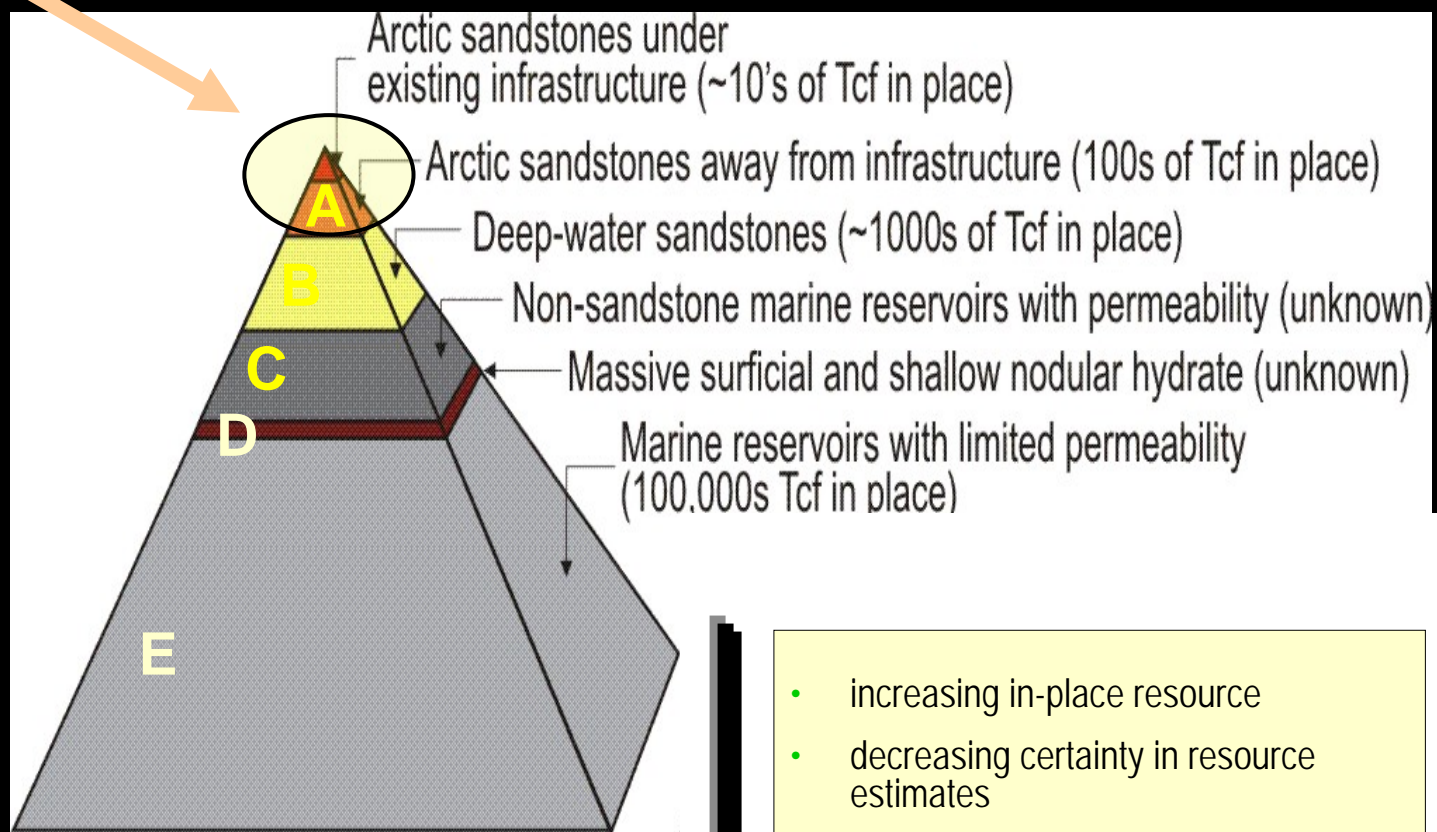
# Gas Hydrate Resource Pyramid In-Place Resource Distribution



- increasing in-place resource
- decreasing certainty in resource estimates
- decreasing reservoir quality
- increasing technical challenges
- decreasing ultimate % recoverable



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# Cooperative Agreement Objectives



Characterize, quantify, and determine commercial viability of gas hydrates in the ANS field infrastructure areas

*How – Methods:*

- ✓ Prove exploration & reservoir models
- ✓ Describe & Quantify ANS resource
- Conduct long-term production test

*Why – Motivations:*

- Understand ANS hydrate productivity
- Demonstrate ANS hydrate resource
- Leverage to potential marine resource
- Synergies to other ANS gas resources

# Cooperative Agreement Motivations



## *Opportunities*

- ✓ Determine if long-term U.S. resource
- ✓ Collaborate with Federal & State R&D
- ✓ Mid-term possible fuel gas source?
- ✓ Long-term supplemental gas source?

## *Challenges*

- ✓ Uncertain resource potential & risk
- ✓ Align with existing O&G operations
- ✓ Minimize impact to ANS development
- ✓ Manage stakeholder expectations
- ✓ Clarify goals, priorities, & timing





# Cooperative Agreement



- Assess Gas Hydrate Resource
- Jointly Decide Project Progression
- Use Alaska North Slope as Lab
- Require Clear Decision GATES
- Cost-shared/Yearly Appropriations
- Phases 1-2 (2003-2005)
  - Characterization & Modeling
- Phase 3a (2006-1Q2009)
  - Stratigraphic Test Ops/Analyses
- Phase 3b (2Q2009+)
  - Long-term Production Testing



# ANS Cooperative Research Program

Assess Resource Potential in 3 Phases:

Year	Phase	Major Task
2003 – 04	1.	<u>Resource Characterization/Modeling</u>
2005	2.	<u>Schematic Regional Modeling</u>
2006 - 09 Current	3a.	<u>Acquire Stratigraphic Test Well Data</u> <u>Analyze Core, Logs, &amp; MDT test</u>
2009 + Planned	3b.	<u>Acquire Additional Well Data</u> <u>Long-term Production Test</u>

➤ Determine Technical & Commercial Viability

# ANS Cooperative Research Program

Budget

vs. Cost      Phase    Major Task

\$2.5MM/

\$2.8MM

1. Resource Characterization/Modeling

\$0.8MM/

\$0.9MM

2. Schematic Regional Modeling

\$4.8MM/

\$6.3MM

Operations

3a. Acquire Stratigraphic Test Well Data

Analyze Core, Logs, & MDT test

>\$10MM?

3b. Acquire Additional Well Data

TOTAL:

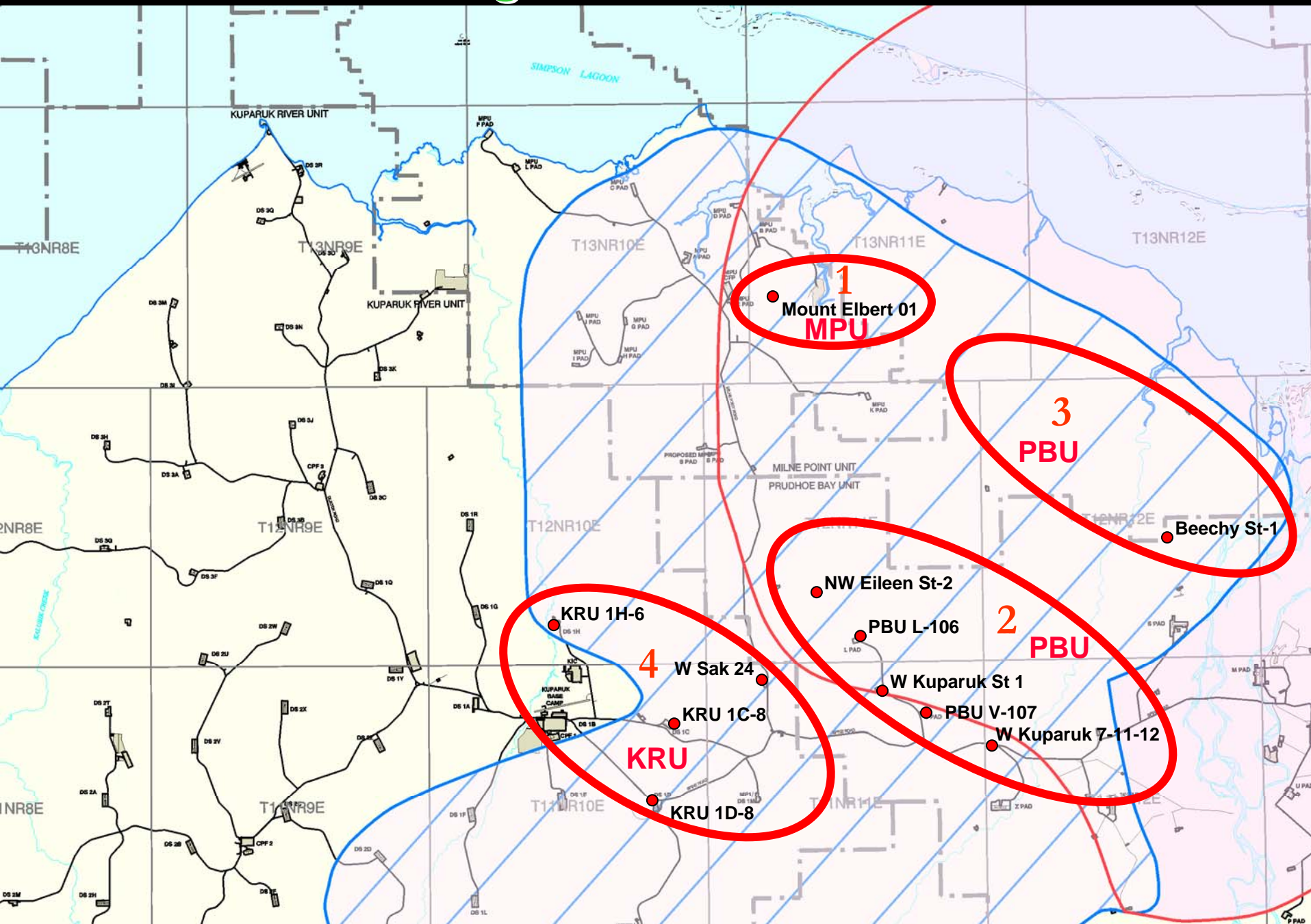
\$20MM+

Long-term Production Test

➤ Determine Technical & Commercial Viability



# PREVIEW: 4 Long-term Production Test Sites



# Project Phase 3b – 2009+

## Parameters for a Successful Production Test

- Site with continuous, long-term access
  - Maximize likelihood for success
  - Conduct long-term test operations
  - Build on past success, learn from others
- Designed to determine the potential productivity of gas hydrate reservoirs
  - Validate simulations, test methods
  - Maximize knowledge, not just rate
  - Demonstrate technical recovery
  - Try multiple completions/stimulations
- Carefully manage risks
  - Maintain operationally simple
  - Meet all HSE requirements
  - Minimize impacts to existing operations
  - Optimize reservoir conditions



# Phase 3b Schedule

Timing	Major Task
1Q2009	1. <u>Stakeholder Alignment/Site Selection</u>
2Q2009	2. <u>Select Production Test Site</u>
3-4Q2009	3. <u>Production Test Detailed Design, Well Package, Risk Assessment, Preparation</u>
2010+ Planned	4. <u>Acquire Additional Well Data</u> <u>Implement Long-term Production Test</u>

➤ Determine Technical & Commercial Viability

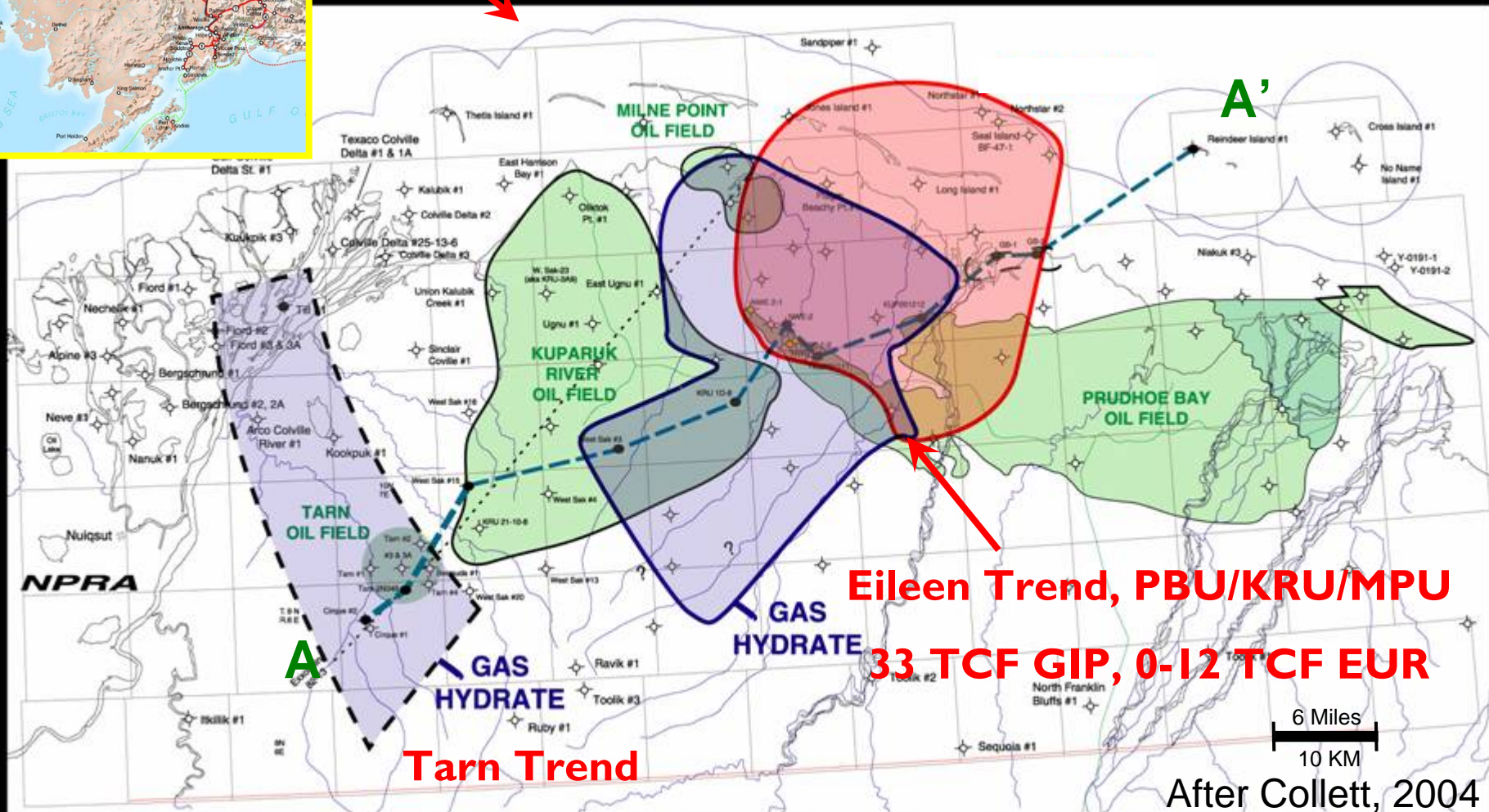


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- **Resource Characterization**
- Stratigraphic Test Results
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# Introduction

## Study Area Location



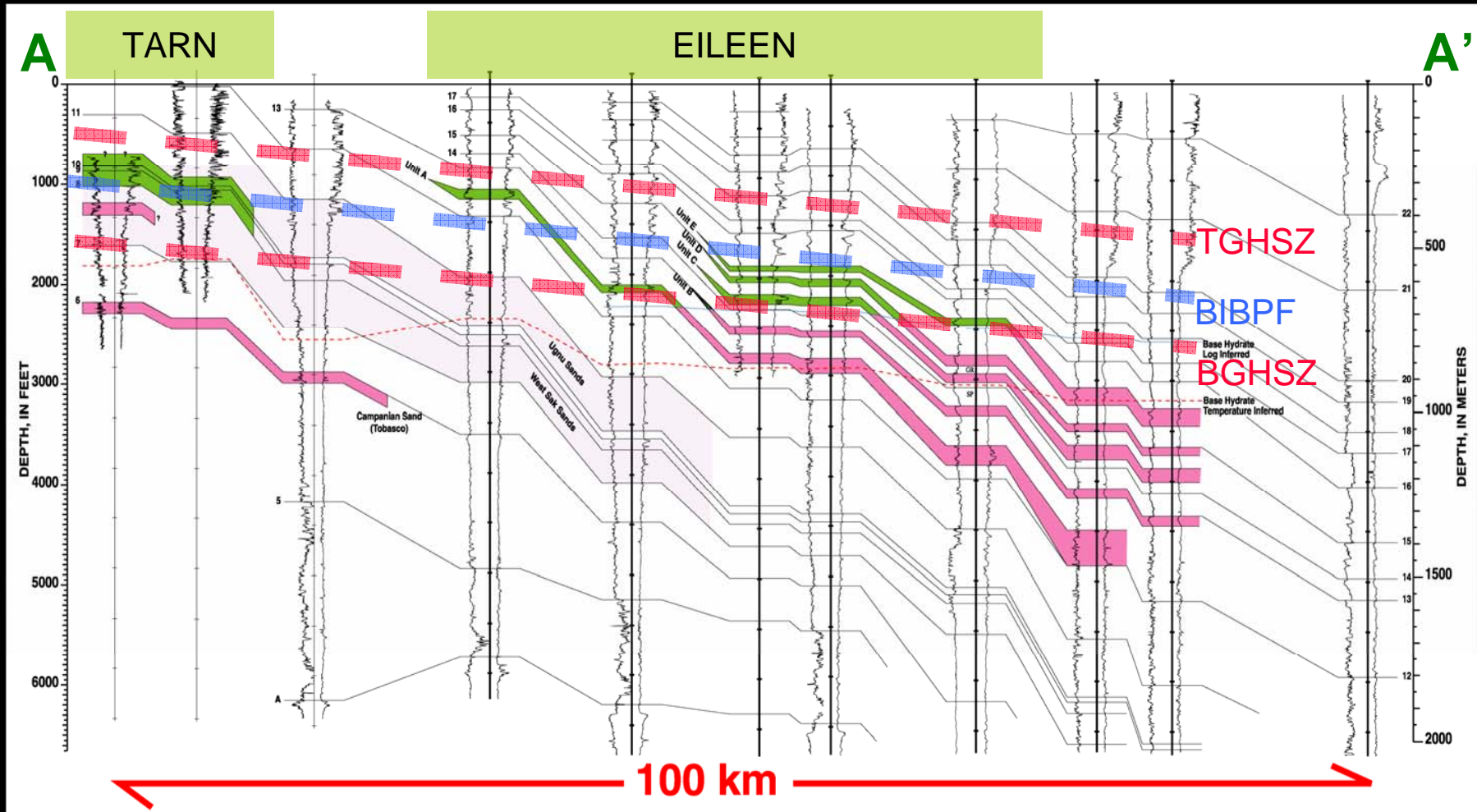
**Eileen Trend, PBU/KRU/MPU**  
**33 TCF GIP, 0-12 TCF EUR**

**Tarn Trend**

6 Miles  
10 KM  
After Collett, 2004



# Eileen/Tarn Gas Hydrate Trends

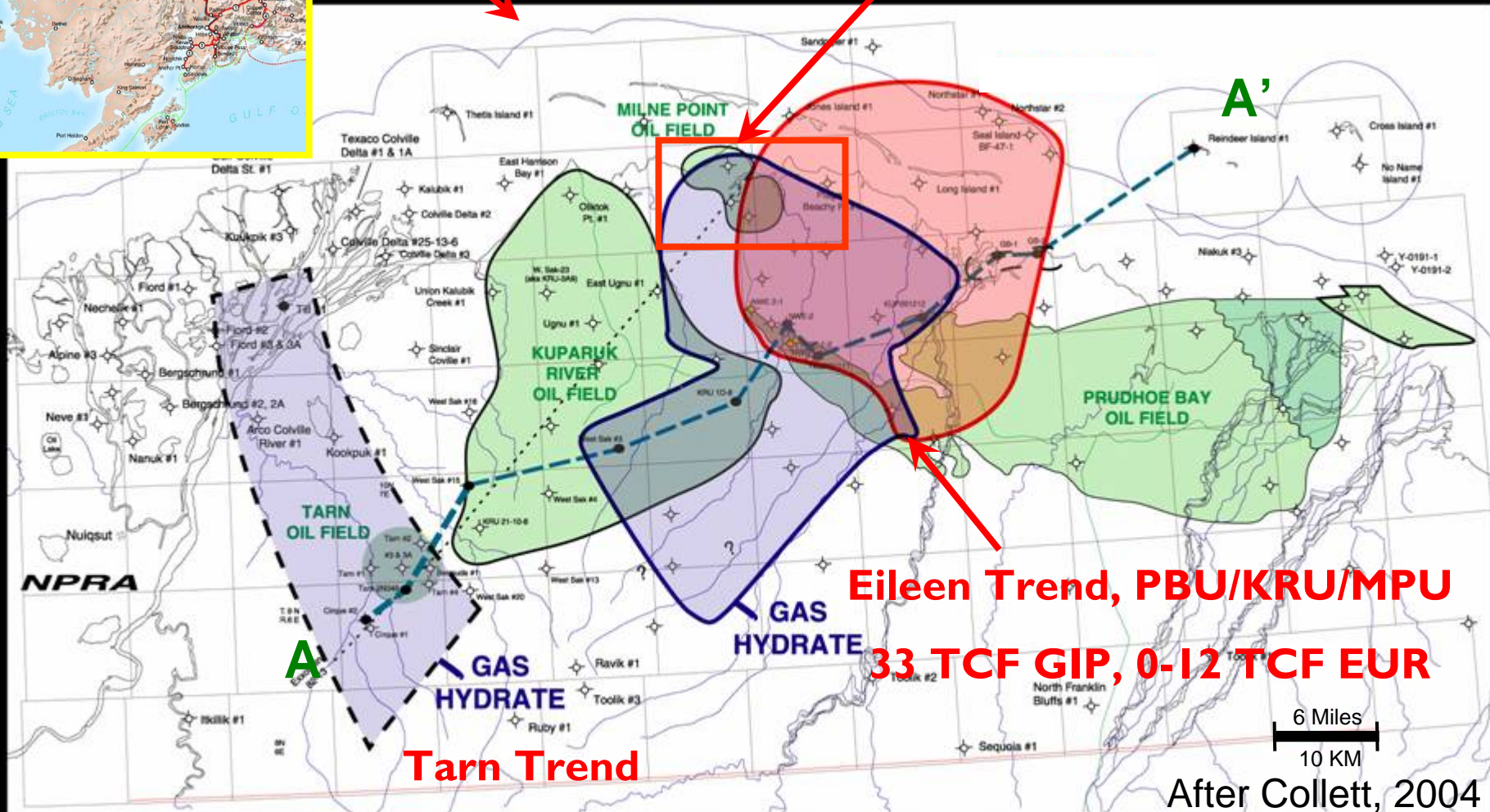




# Introduction

## Study Area Location

**Milne Point 3D Survey**



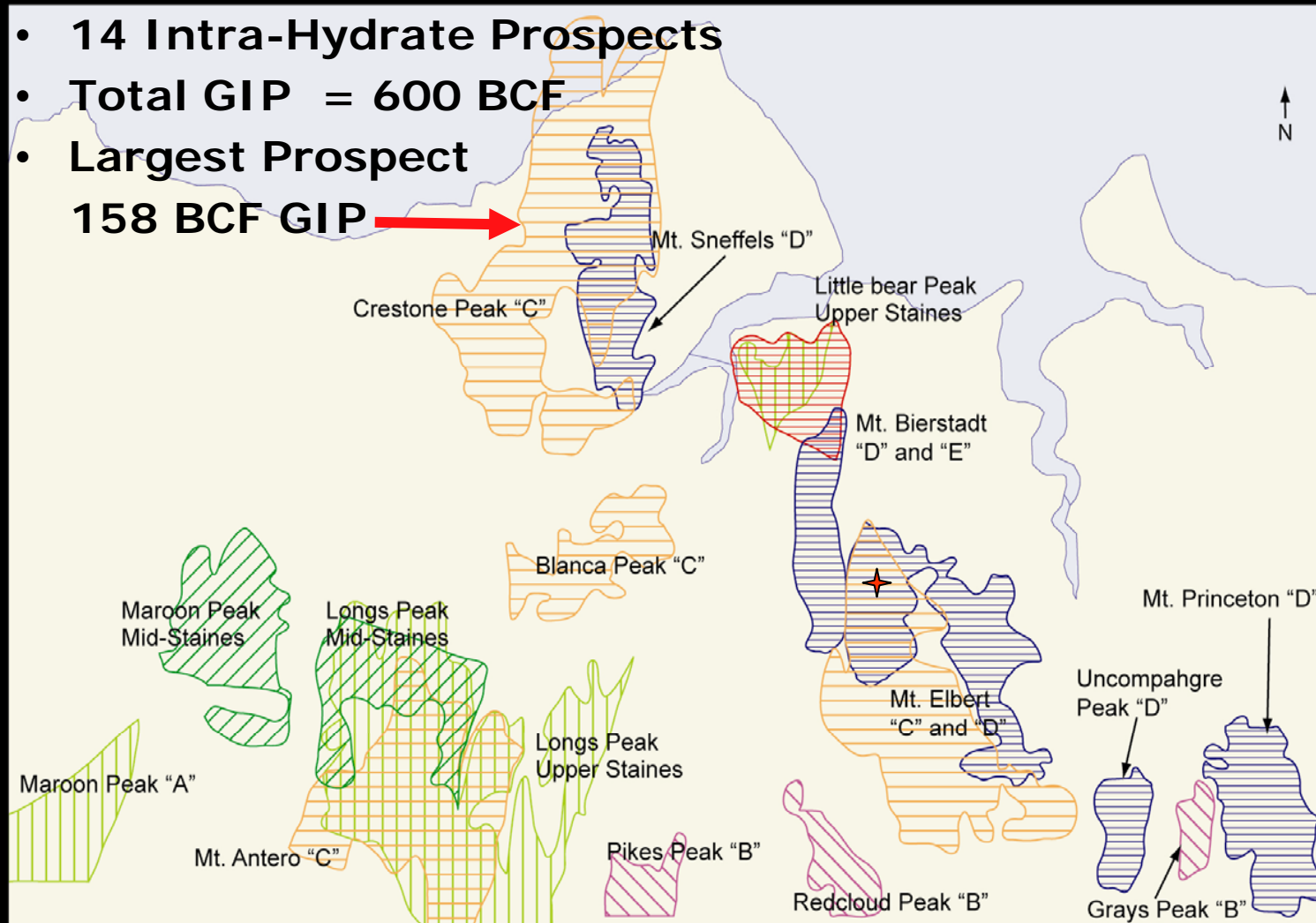
**Eileen Trend, PBU/KRU/MPU**  
**33 TCF GIP, 0-12 TCF EUR**

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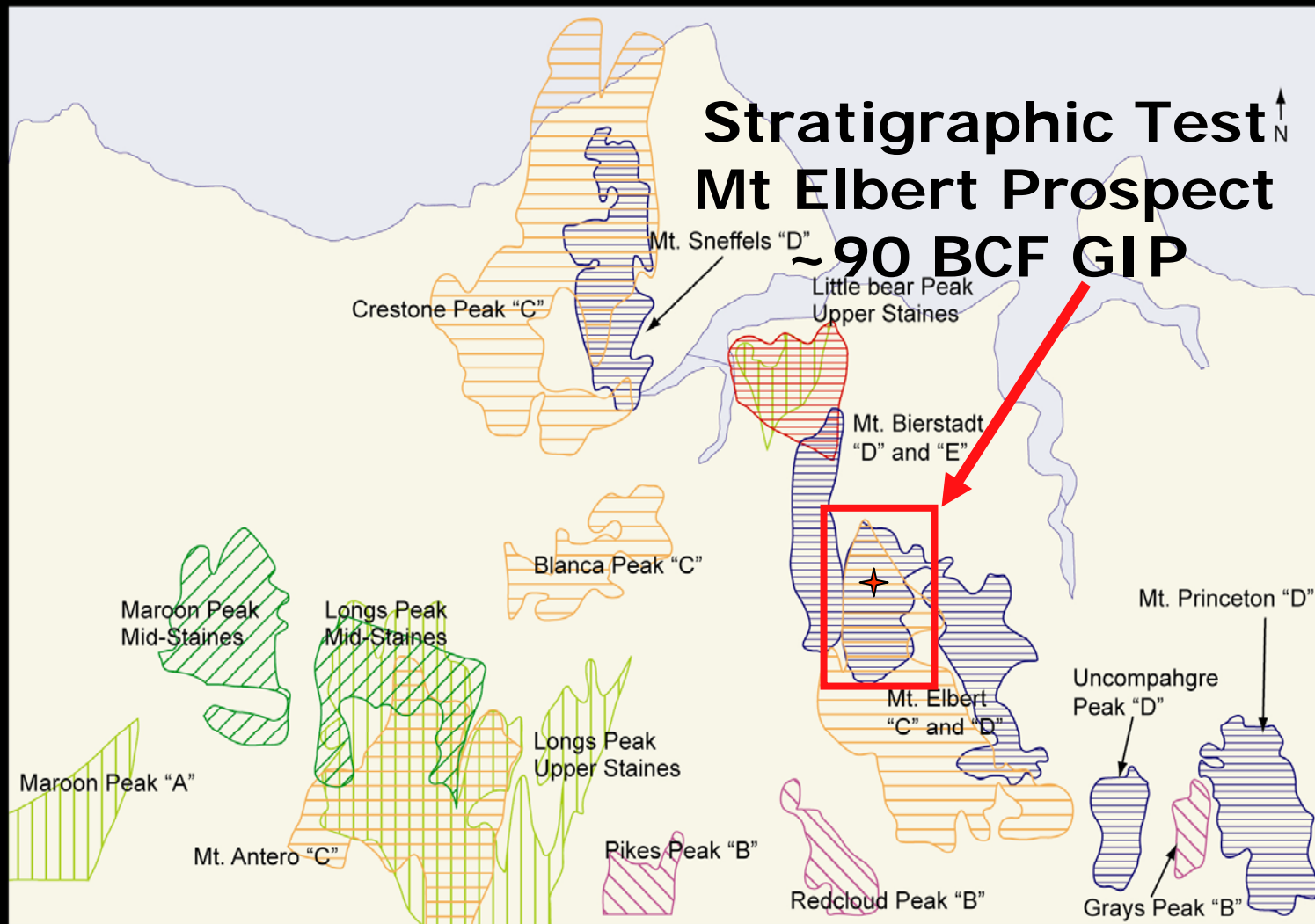
6 Miles  
10 KM  
After Collett, 2004

# Milne Point Unit Gas Hydrate Prospects

- 14 Intra-Hydrate Prospects
- Total GIP = 600 BCF
- Largest Prospect 158 BCF GIP →



# Milne Point Unit Gas Hydrate Prospects

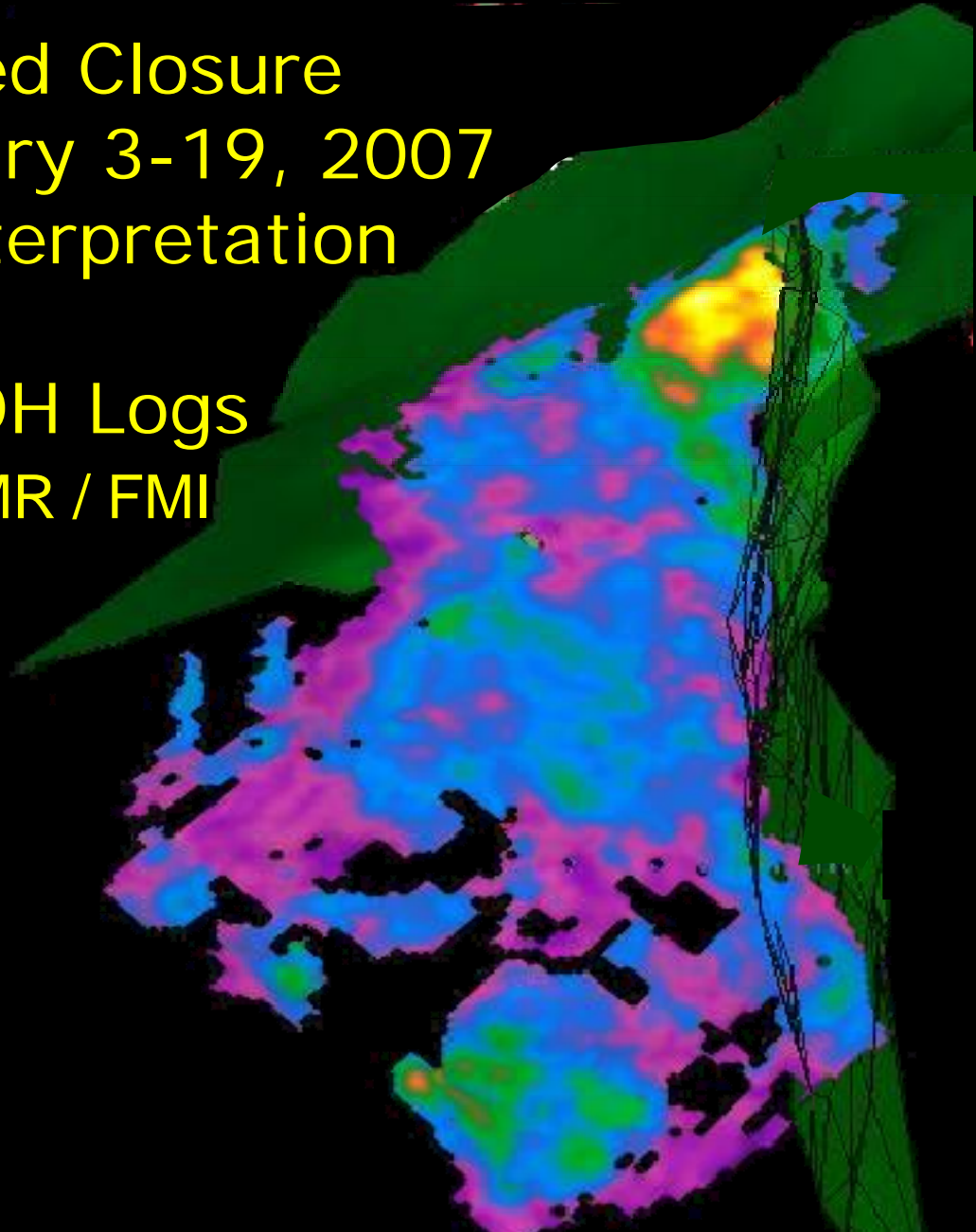


*Courtesy;  
Inks, T., Lee,  
M., Taylor, D.,  
Agena, W.,  
Collett, T. and  
Hunter, R.,  
in press*



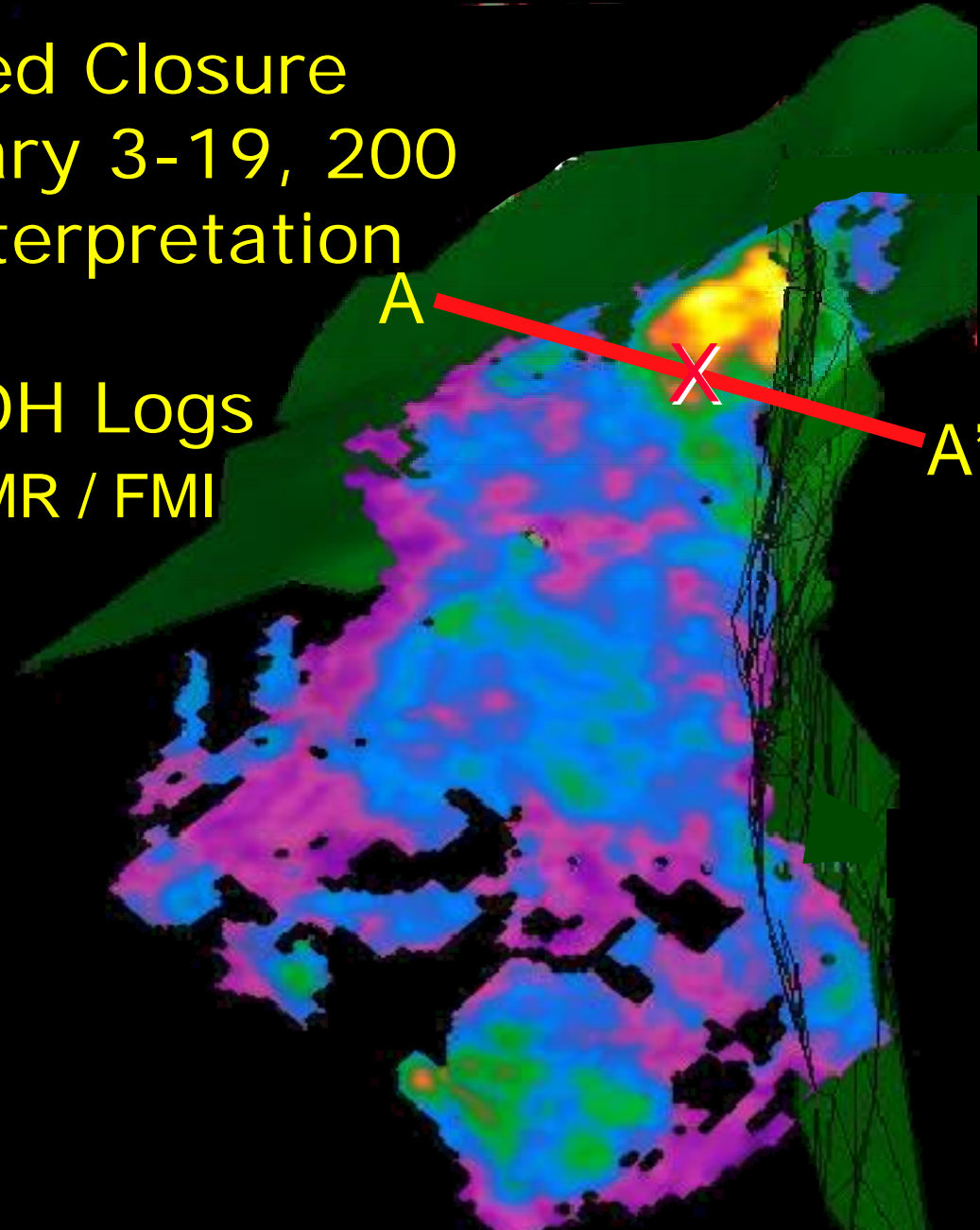
# Mt. Elbert Prospect Seismic Amplitude

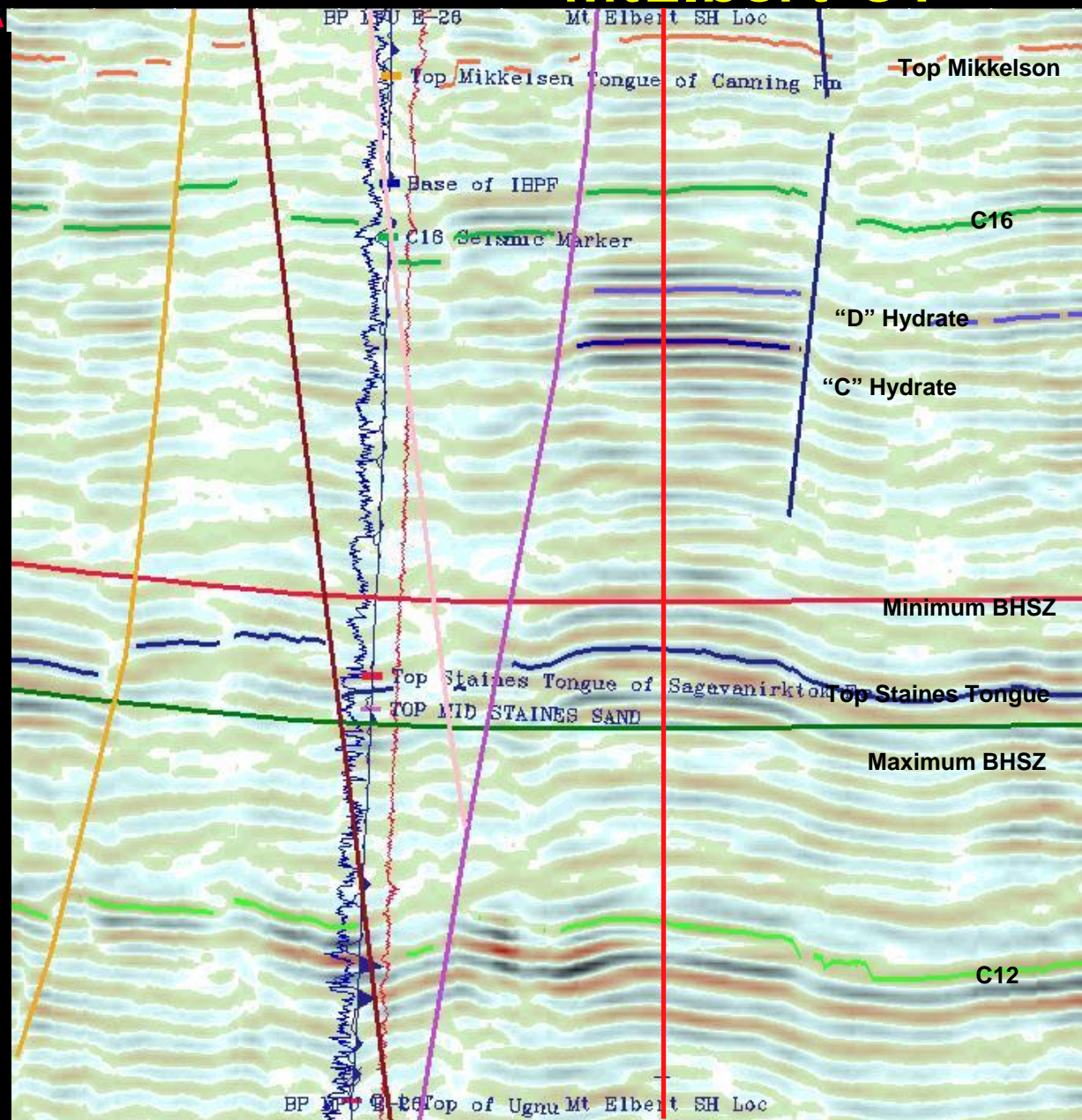
- 3-Way, Fault-Bounded Closure
- Drilling/Data: February 3-19, 2007
- Validated Seismic Interpretation
- Acquired 430' Core
- Acquired Extensive OH Logs
  - GR/Res/N/D/ Dipole/ NMR / FMI



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- 3-Way, Fault-Bounded Closure
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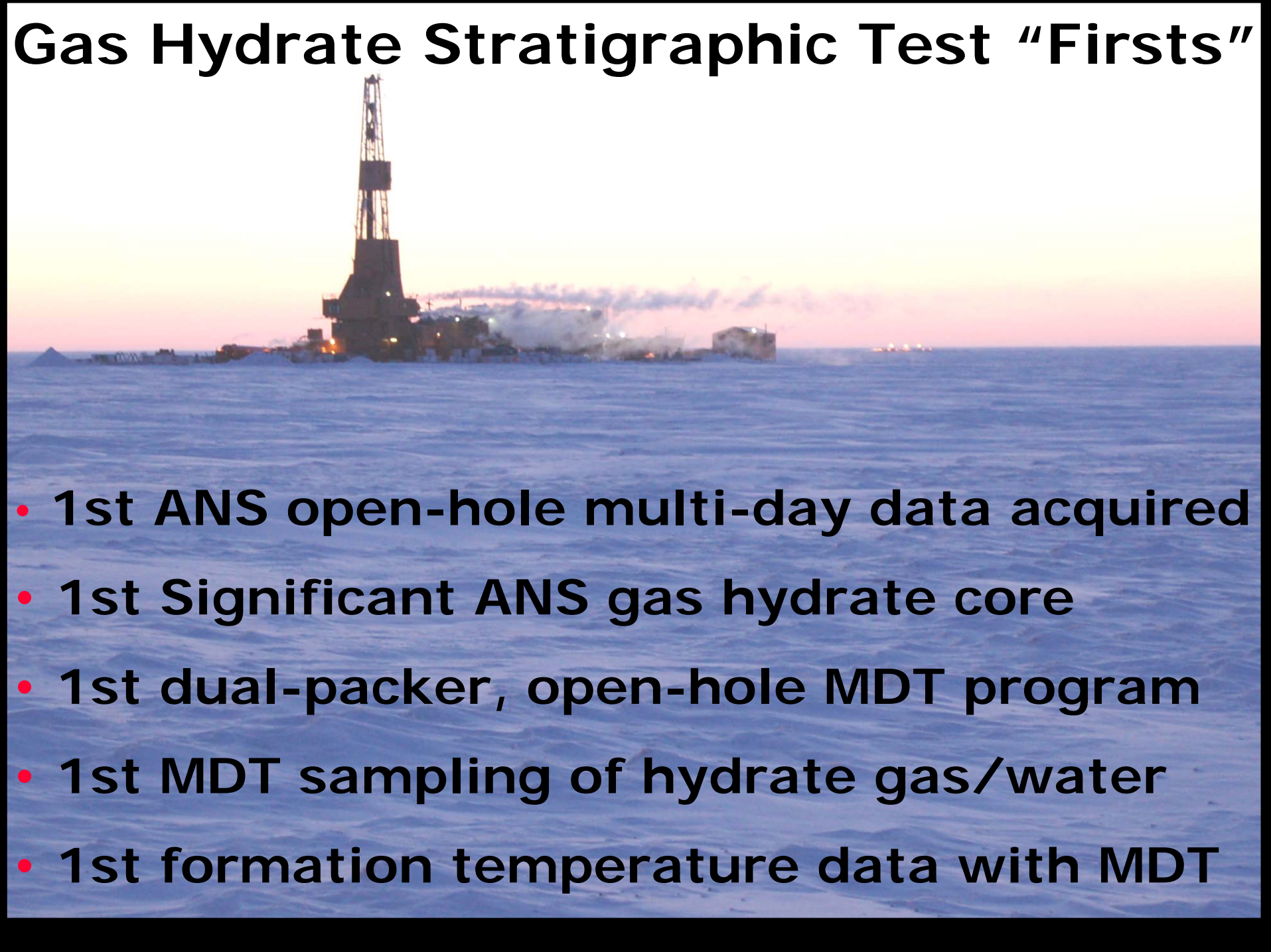




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# Gas Hydrate Stratigraphic Test "Firsts"

- 
- A photograph of an offshore oil rig at sunset. The rig is a large, dark structure with a tall derrick, situated in the middle of a blue ocean. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue, indicating the time is either dawn or dusk. The rig has several lights on, and some smoke or steam is visible coming from the platform. The overall scene is a wide-angle shot of the rig against the horizon.
- 1st ANS open-hole multi-day data acquired
  - 1st Significant ANS gas hydrate core
  - 1st dual-packer, open-hole MDT program
  - 1st MDT sampling of hydrate gas/water
  - 1st formation temperature data with MDT



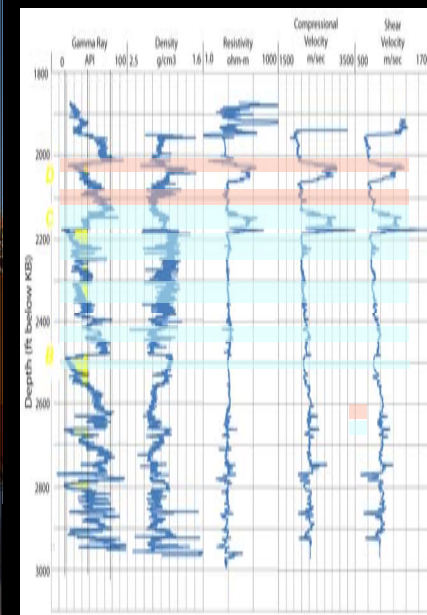
# MPU Mount Elbert Site Preparation





# Downhole Log Acquisition Program

- Excellent Hole Conditions
  - Use of chilled, oil-based drilling fluids
- Full Log Suite Obtained
  - Gamma Ray (lithology)
  - Resistivity (hydrocarbon)
  - Neutron and Density (porosity)
  - Acoustics (Hydrate Indicator- Dipole Sonic)
  - Magnetic Resonance (distribution, nature, and saturation of fluids)



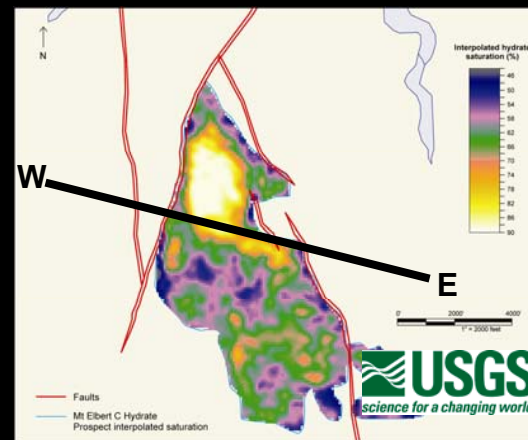
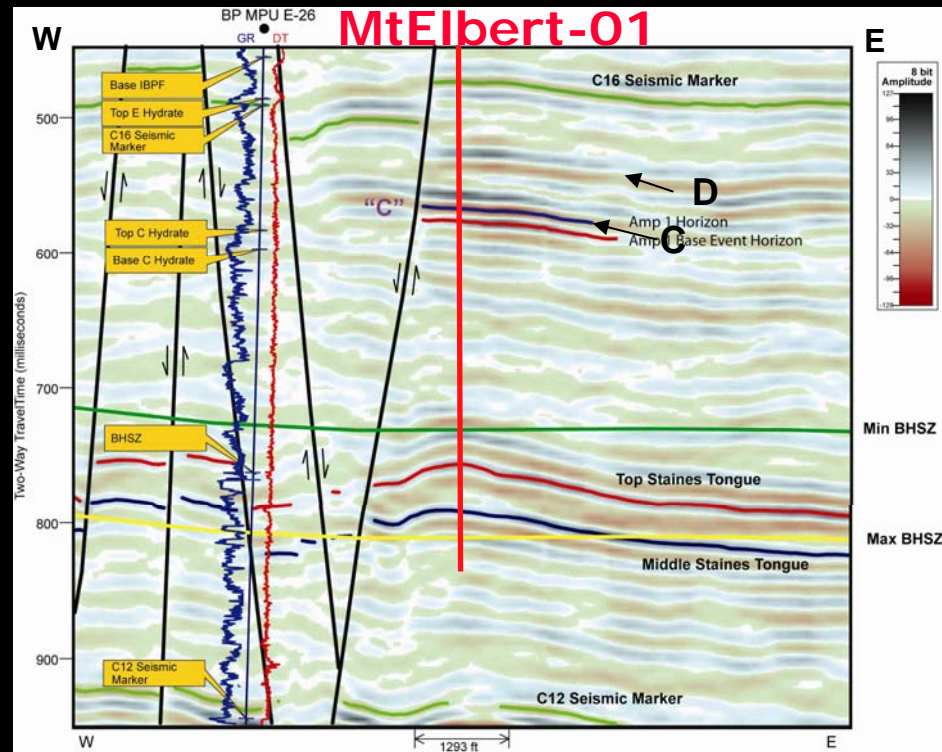
# Mount Elbert: Delineate & Validate

## PREDICTION

- Prospect within undrilled, 3-way fault-bounded trap
- Seismic attributes estimate reservoir thickness and saturation for Zones C & D
  - Upper "D" sand: 46' thick with 68% Gas Hydrate Saturation
  - Lower "C" sand: 70' thick with 85% Gas Hydrate Saturation
- Thickest previous total GH seen in MPU wells ~20 ft.

## RESULTS

- Validated seismic methods
- Extensive Open-hole Logs
- 430' core, 261 subsamples
- 100' gas hydrate-bearing
- Comprehensive OH MDT



**Pre-drill Saturation Estimate – C sand**

*Courtesy; Inks, T., Lee, M., Taylor, D., Agena, W., Collett, T. and Hunter, R., in press*

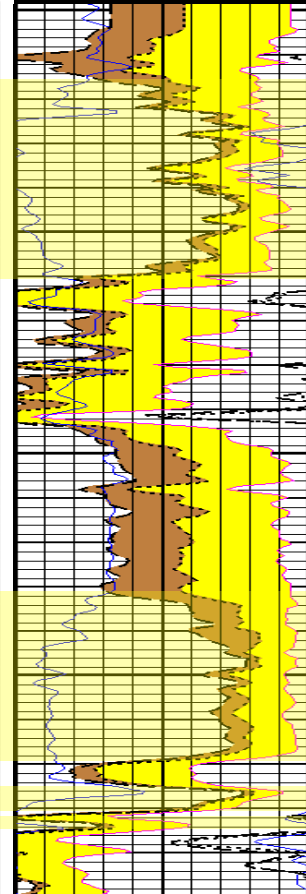
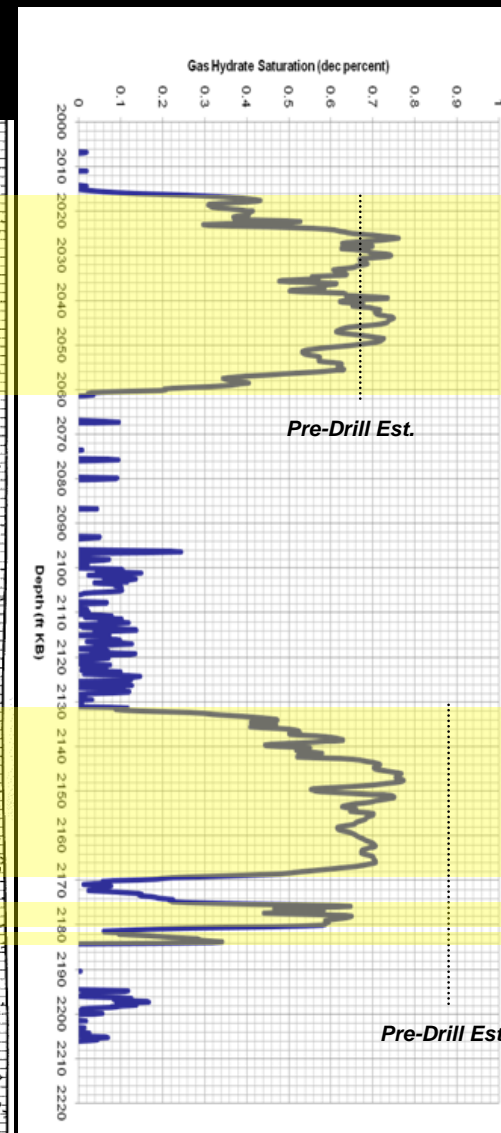
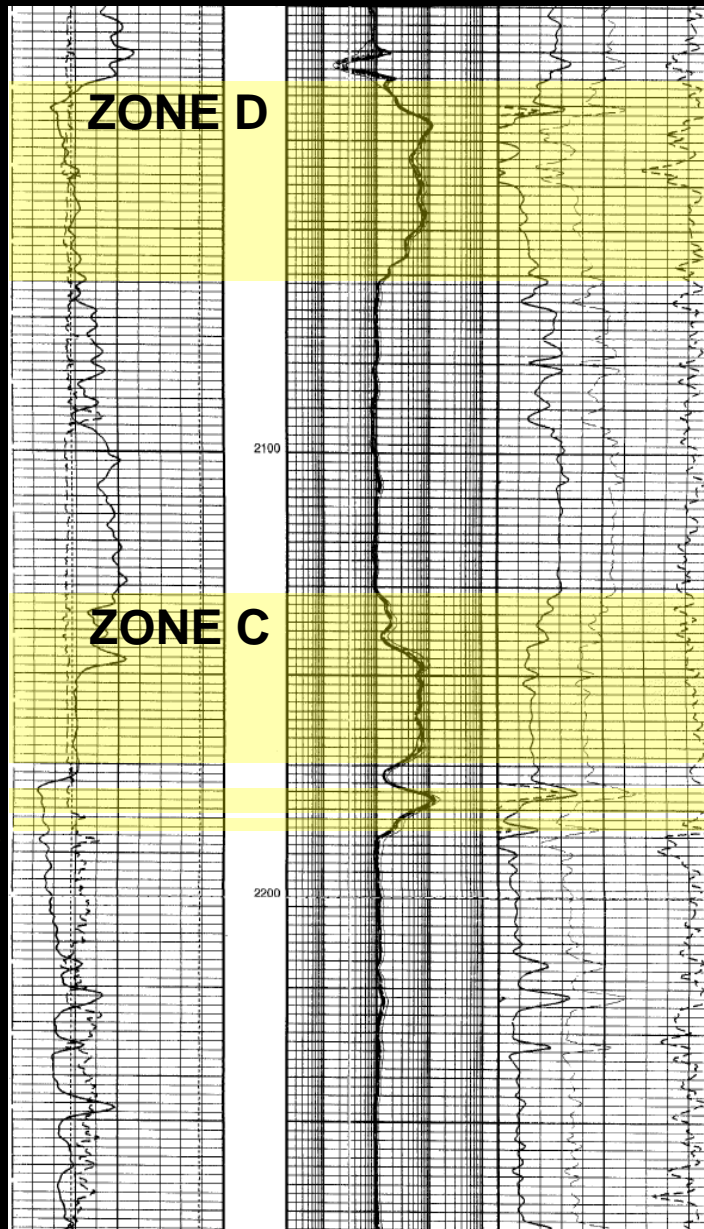
# Gas Hydrate Prediction vs. Actual

**GH Thickness**  
**Pre-drill: 46 ft**  
**Actual: ~44 ft**

**GH Saturation**  
**Pre-drill: 68%**  
**Actual: ~75%**

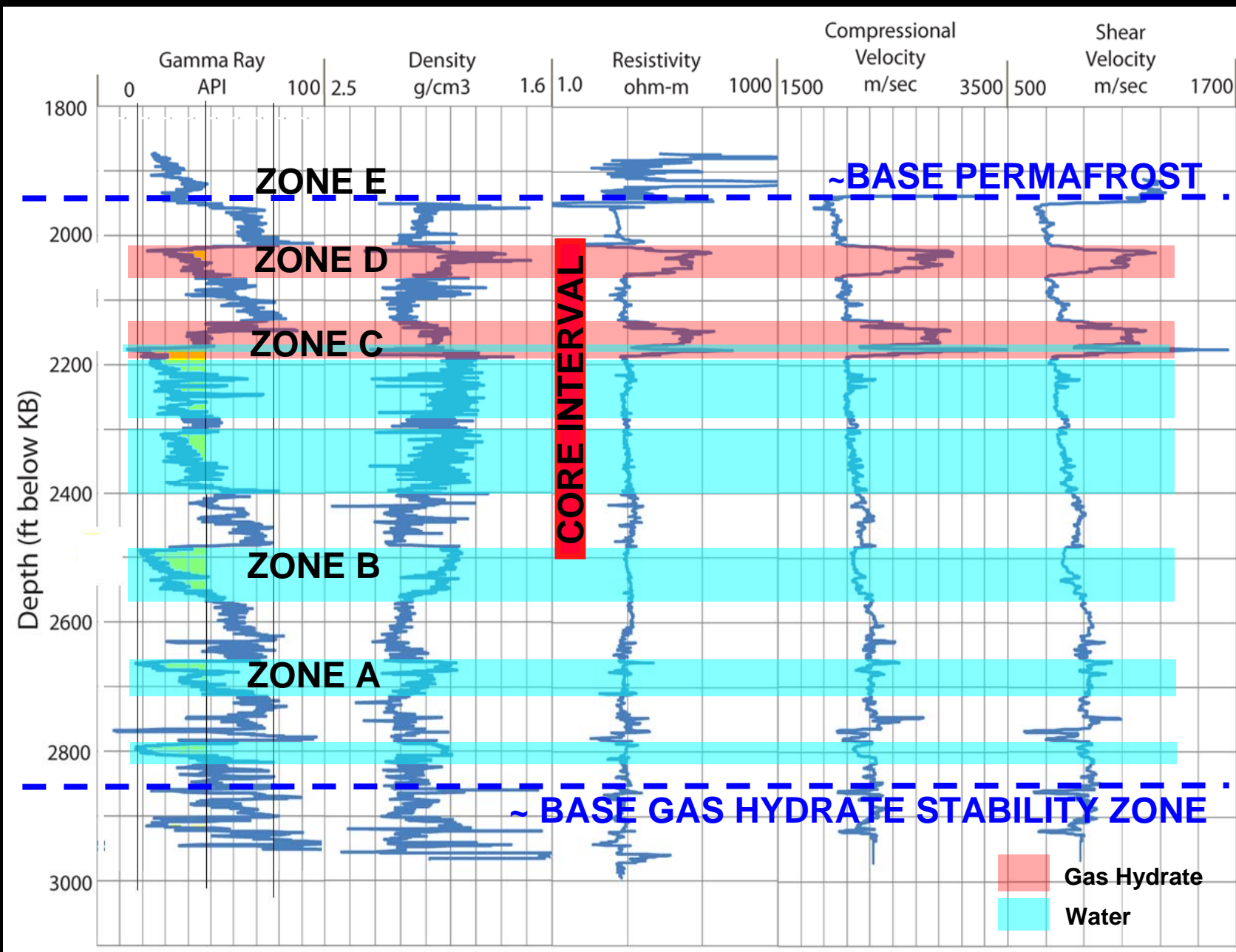
**GH Thickness**  
**Pre-drill: 70 ft**  
**Actual: ~43 ft**  
**(perched water)**

**GH Saturation**  
**Pre-drill: 89%**  
**Actual: ~75%**





# Mount Elbert-01 Log Data Summary



# Core Sub-Sampling in the Cold Trailer

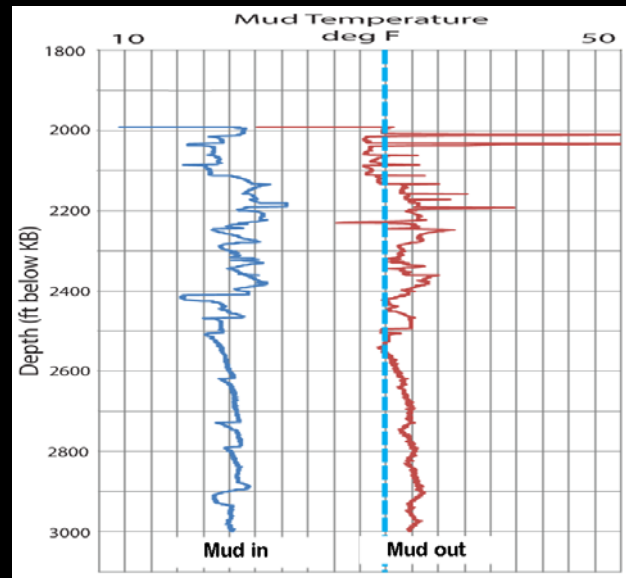


*Core liner cut, core examined, described, sampled, & archived*



# Core Program Summary

- Outstanding performance
  - Oil-based mud chilled to  $\sim 30^{\circ}\text{F}$
  - 23 cores, 504' core, 85% recovery
- 261 subsamples collected onsite
  - 7 preserved in liquid nitrogen
  - 4 preserved in pressure vessels
  - 52 physical properties
  - 46 porewater geochemistry
  - 5 thermal properties
  - 86 microbiology
  - 46 organic geochemistry
  - 15 petrophysics
- Recipients: NETL, LBNL, PNNL, ORNL, CSM, NRCan, USGS, ConocoPhillips, OSU, OMNI Lab, UAF

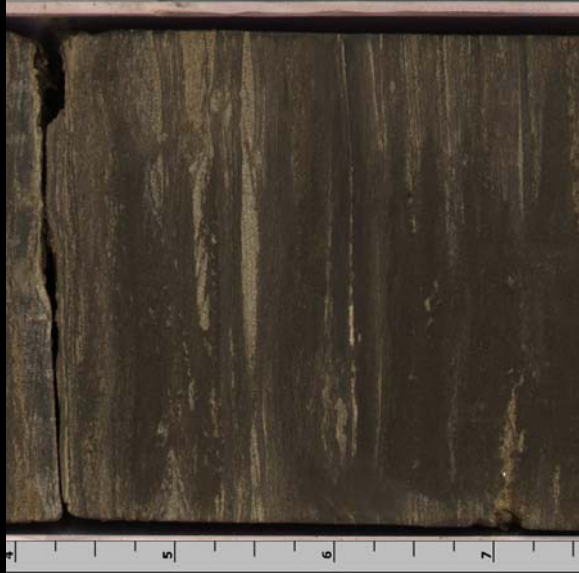




# Core Sedimentology

## Shale Top-Seal

ME01 Core1 Sec3 4-8"



## ZONE D Gas Hydrate-bearing sand

ME01 Core3 Sec2 19-24"



## Zone D Pebble Conglomerate

ME01 Core2 Sec5 0-12"



## ZONE C Gas Hydrate-bearing sand

ME01 Core7 Sec2 28-33"



# Petrophysical Data from Core

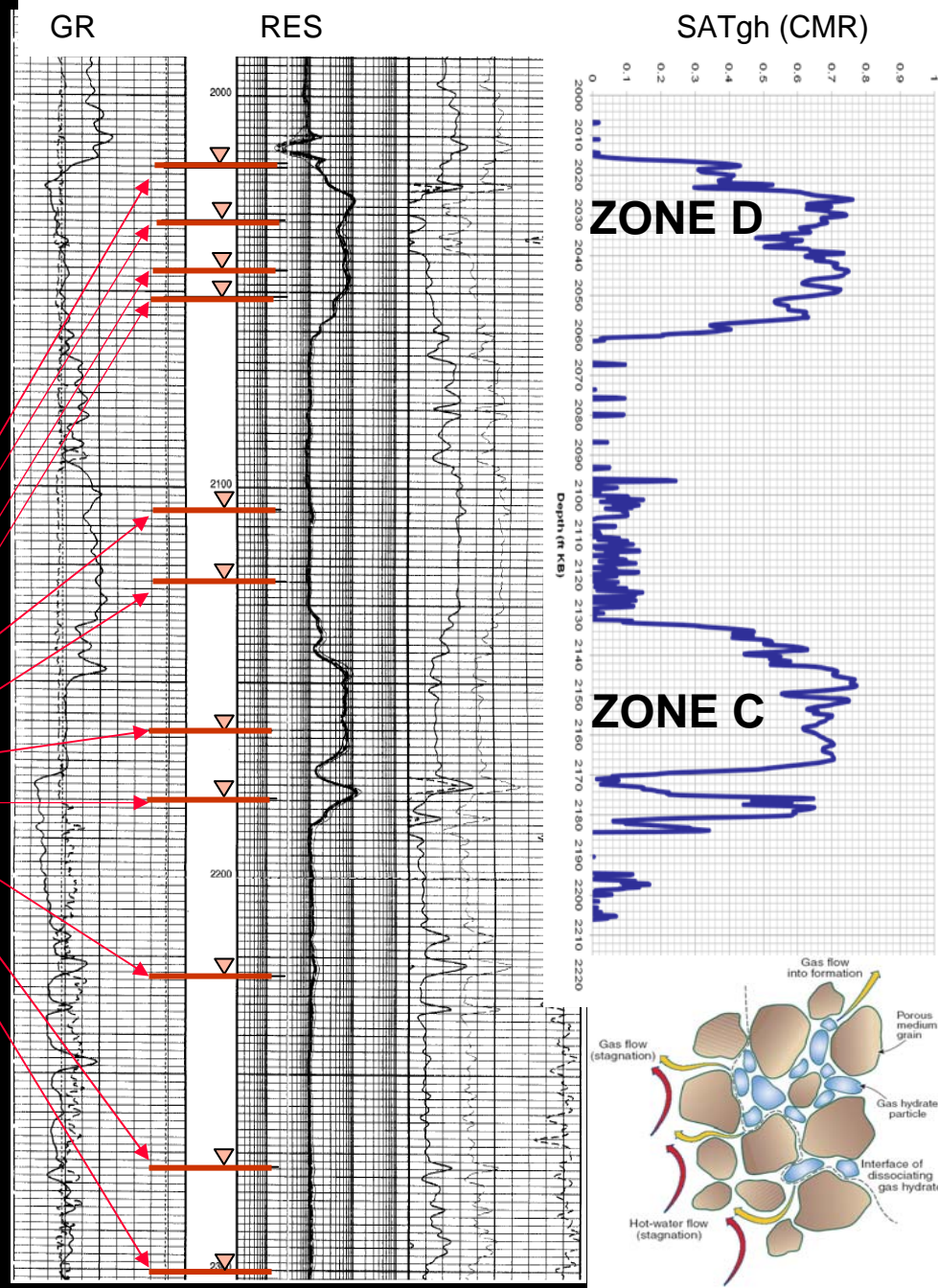
## SUMMARY OF ROUTINE CORE ANALYSES RESULTS

Vacuum Oven Dried at 140°F

BP Alaska  
MT. Elbert - 01 Well

Alaska, USA  
File: HH-36510

Core Number	Sample Number	Sample Depth, feet	Net Confining Stress, psi	Median Grain Size, microns	Permeability, millidarcys		Porosity, percent		Grain Density, gm/cc
					to Air	Klinkenberg	Ambient	NCS	
2	2-2-8	2017.10	572	10.27	12.2	10.1	33.2	33.1	2.70
2	2-2-21-27B	2018.35	572	6.76	4.74	3.78	32.6	32.5	2.71
2	2-5-17	2032.40	576	94.54	2100.	2020.	42.6	42.6	2.71
3	3-7-3	2045.90	580	74.55	1370.	1310.	43.0	43.0	2.71
3	3-5-28-34B	2051.45	582	88.60	1630.	1570.	42.3	42.3	2.72
5	5-8-1-6A	2106.60	597	6.94	1.46	1.15	32.0	31.9	2.72
6	6-5-30-36A	2124.75	602	25.25	145.	131.	34.2	34.2	2.72
8	8-12-12	2163.40	613	58.42	675.	636.	41.0	41.0	2.71
9	9-1-2-7A	2180.25	618	210.07	7650.	7470.	39.9	39.9	2.67
12	12-3-6-12A	2224.15	631	15.58	1.01	0.789	29.0	28.9	2.74
14	14-4-30-33A	2274.70	645	7.97	2.68	2.12	27.5	27.4	3.21
15	15-17-5	2301.10	652	62.24	815.	772.	40.1	40.1	2.71
21	21-4-30-35A	2433.35	690	12.80	1.31	1.03	29.4	29.3	2.71
22	22-4-20-23B	2454.95	696	9.99	1.34	1.06	30.4	30.3	2.70
23	23-22-7	2470.60	700	7.23	0.887	0.685	30.5	30.4	2.72
23	23-5-0-5B	2482.15	704	10.80	0.770	0.586	29.5	29.4	2.71
Average values:				43.87	900.	871.	30.5	34.8	2.74





# Petrophysical Grain Size Data from Core

BP Alaska  
MT. Elbert-01 Well

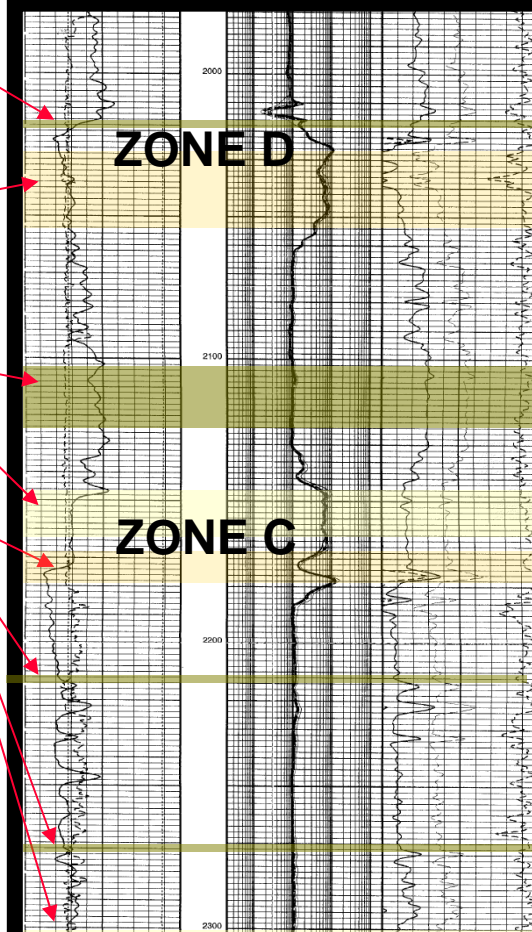


Conventional Core Plug Trim  
File: HH-36510  
Date: 2-21-08

## LASER GRAIN SIZE SUMMARY

Core Run	Depth, feet	ID Number	Sand					Silt					Clay
			Crs %	Med %	Fine %	Vf %	Total	Crs %	Med %	Fine %	Vf %	Total	Clay %
2	2016.00	2-1-17	0.0	0.0	0.5	2.7	3.1	7.2	13.1	20.6	24.4	65.3	31.6
2	2017.10	2-2-8	0.0	0.0	0.1	5.8	5.9	15.7	17.3	18.5	18.6	70.1	24.0
2	2018.35	2-2-21-27B	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.3	8.3	15.0	20.3	23.0	66.6	32.1
2	2026.70	2-14-17	0.0	0.3	22.9	42.6	65.8	14.4	5.9	5.9	3.5	29.8	4.4
2	2032.40	2-5-17	0.0	0.6	28.9	43.6	73.1	11.4	4.3	4.6	2.8	23.1	3.8
2	2035.40	2-8-14-20A	0.0	0.0	17.0	42.0	58.9	18.9	6.5	6.6	4.1	36.0	5.1
3	2045.90	3-7-3	0.0	0.0	16.2	43.6	59.8	16.7	5.3	6.9	4.6	33.6	6.7
3	2051.45	3-5-28-34B	0.0	0.0	16.7	60.0	76.8	7.5	1.9	6.0	3.3	18.7	4.5
5	2106.60	5-8-1-6A	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	4.0	15.7	25.3	22.4	67.4	32.1
6	2124.75	6-5-30-36A	0.0	0.0	0.1	12.2	12.3	29.6	20.8	13.0	10.6	73.9	13.8
7	2146.70	Whole Core	0.0	0.0	7.5	32.2	39.7	22.7	10.3	10.1	7.6	50.6	9.7
8	2163.40	8-12-12	0.0	0.0	9.6	36.7	46.2	24.0	7.5	7.7	6.1	45.3	8.5
8	2169.20	8-5-9-13A	0.0	0.0	13.1	44.1	57.2	21.9	6.0	6.2	3.8	37.9	4.9
9	2180.25	9-1-2-7A	0.5	32.4	55.7	6.9	95.4	0.5	1.7	0.7	0.9	3.9	0.7
12	2224.15	12-3-6-12A	0.0	0.1	1.3	5.8	7.2	18.6	23.9	16.4	12.1	71.0	21.8
14	2274.70	14-4-30-33A	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.2	1.2	8.2	18.7	22.3	21.5	70.7	28.1
15	2301.10	15-17-5	0.0	0.0	9.9	39.6	49.5	24.3	7.4	7.1	5.0	43.8	6.7
18	2363.20	18-18-5A	0.0	0.0	0.1	1.5	1.6	11.6	23.1	21.6	18.4	74.7	23.8
20	2414.85	20-2-32-36A	0.0	0.0	2.9	28.8	31.7	29.4	10.4	9.8	8.3	57.9	10.4
21	2433.35	21-4-30-35A	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	2.4	16.2	24.7	20.4	15.9	77.2	20.4
22	2454.95	22-4-20-23B	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.5	7.5	23.3	27.5	19.5	77.8	21.7
23	2470.60	23-22-7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3	3.7	14.8	27.6	26.3	72.4	27.3
23	2482.15	23-5-0-5B	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	1.9	12.2	23.0	23.0	18.3	76.5	21.6

	Sand > 50%
	Sand 20%-50%
	Sand < 20%





# Core CTscans

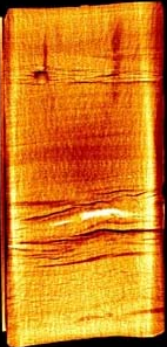
0 deg Longitudinal



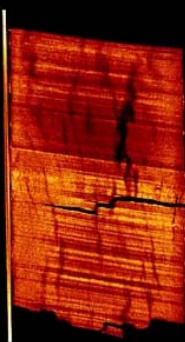
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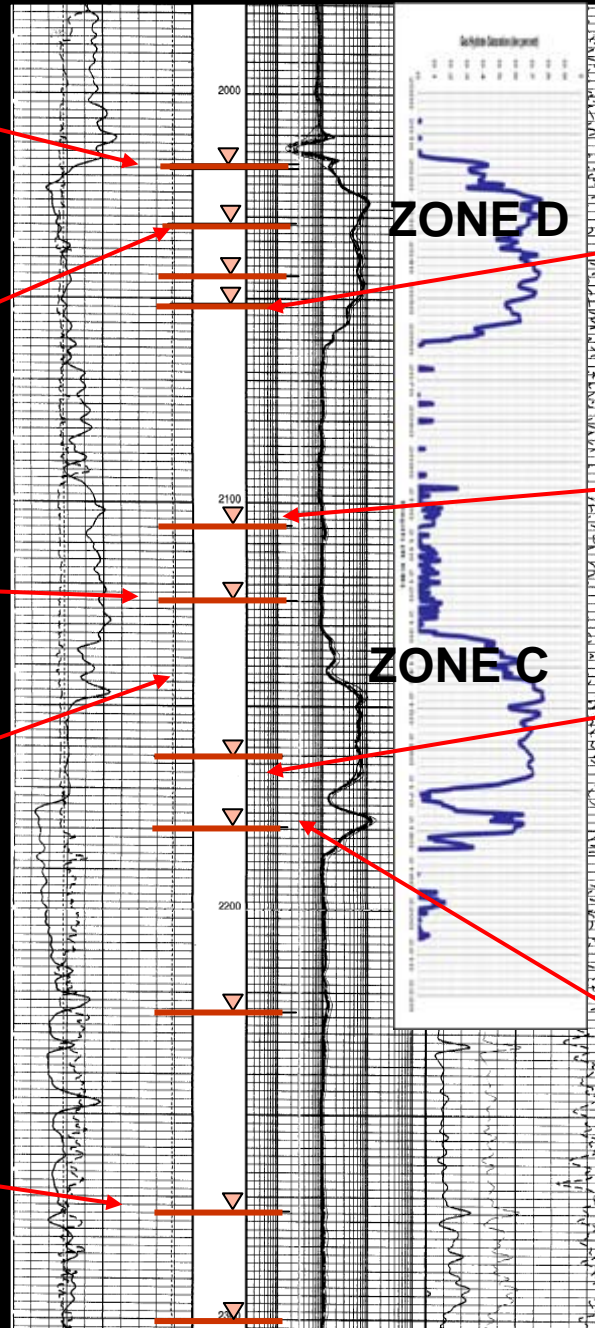
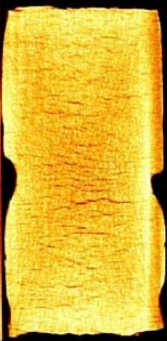
0 deg Longitudinal



0 deg Longitudinal



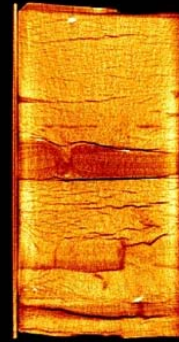
0 deg Longitudinal



ZONE D

ZONE C

0 deg Longitudinal



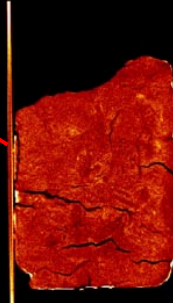
0 deg Longitudinal



0 deg Longitudinal



0 deg Longitudinal



# Core XRD Results



OMNI LABORATORIES, INC.  
X-RAY DIFFRACTION  
(WEIGHT %)

Client: BP Exploration Alaska  
Well: Mt. Elbert 01  
Area: Milne Point Field, North Slope Borough, Alaska  
Sample Type: Conventional Core

Note high pyrite in transgressive top of D (but not in C). Note also 10%+ feldspars in D sand except in cleanest sands at top of regressive section

File No: HH-36510  
Date: 02/28/08  
Analyst: G. Walker

Sample Identity	CLAYS				CARBONATES			OTHER MINERALS						TOTALS		
	Chlorite	Kaolinite	Illite	Mx I/S*	Calcite <sup>1</sup>	Dol/Ank	Siderite	Quartz	K-spar	Plag.	Pyrite	Zeolite	Barite	Clays	Carb.	Other
2-2-8	12	3	13	2	0	0	Tr	54	1	6	9	0	0	30	Tr	70
2-2-21-27B	14	3	17	3	0	0	Tr	47	1	7	8	0	0	37	Tr	63
6-5-30-36A	7	2	9	1	0	0	Tr	67	1	12	1	0	0	19	Tr	81
8-12-12	6	1	7	1	0	0	Tr	73	1	10	1	0	0	15	Tr	85
9-1-2-7A	2	1	2	Tr	0	0	Tr	90	1	3	1	0	0	5	Tr	95
12-3-6-12A	11	2	12	2	0	0	Tr	61	1	10	1	0	0	27	Tr	73
22-4-20-23B	13	3	15	3	0	0	Tr	53	1	11	1	0	0	34	Tr	66
AVERAGE	9	2	11	2	0	0	Tr	64	1	8	3	0	0	24	Tr	76

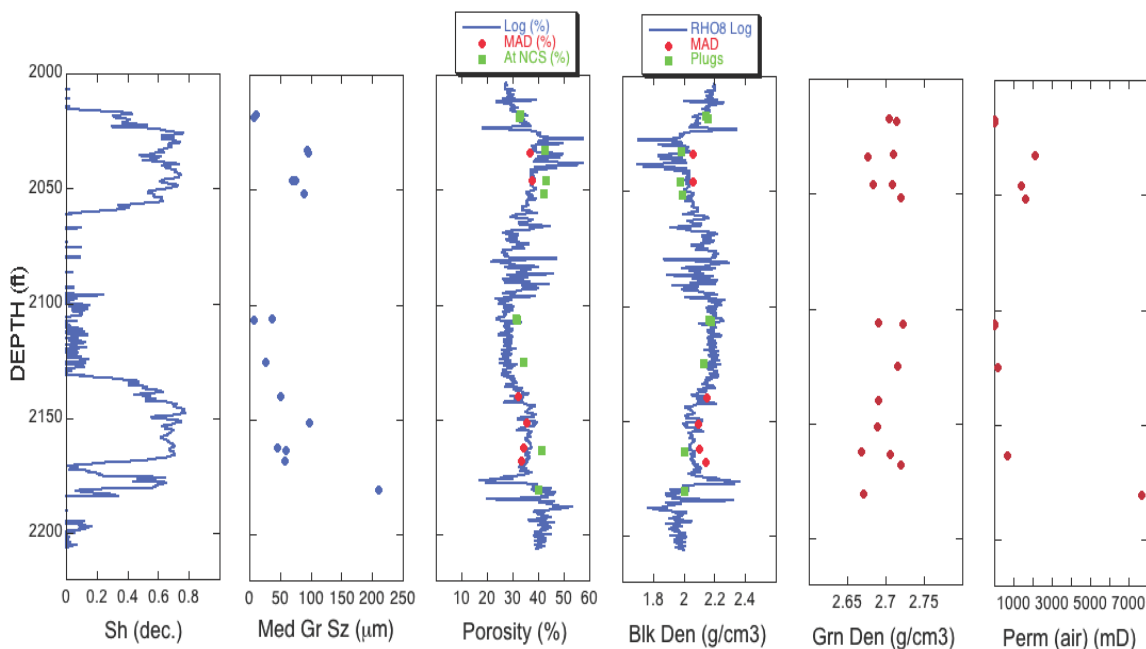
\* Randomly interstratified mixed-layer illite/smectite; Approximately 90-95% expandable layers

<sup>1</sup> May include the Fe-rich variety

2017'  
2018'  
2124'  
2163'  
2180'  
2224'  
2454'

ZONE D

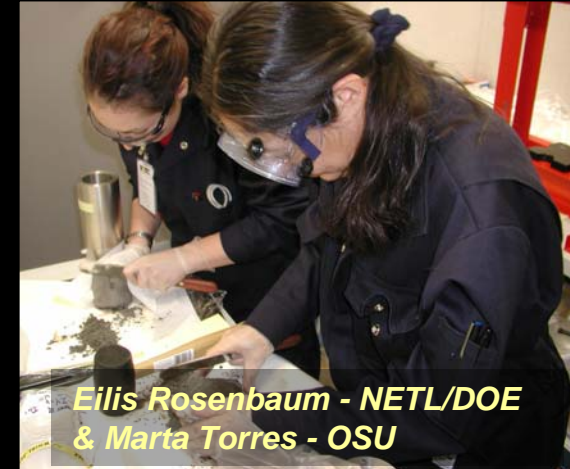
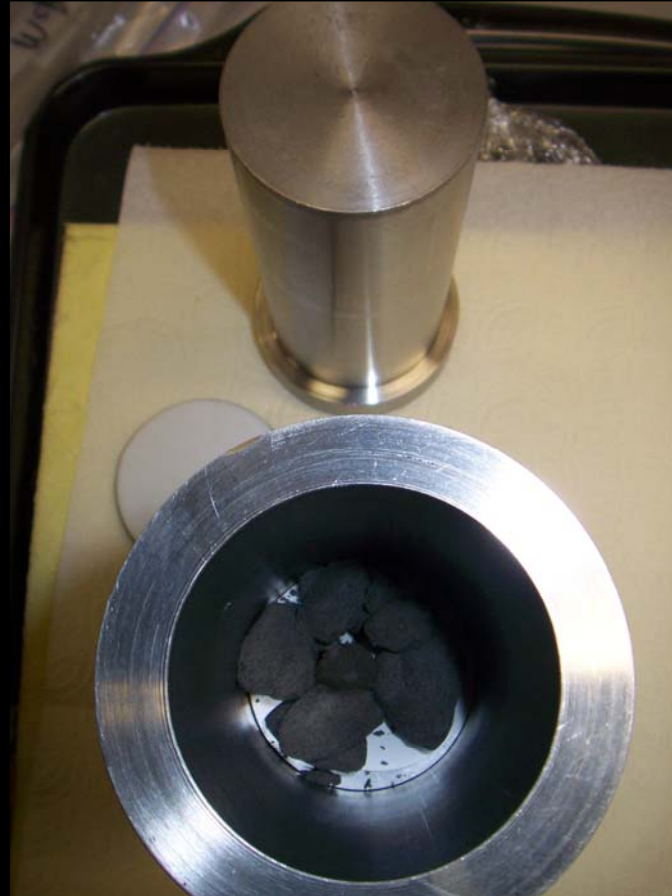
ZONE C





# Core Sampling

## Onsite Pore-Water Geochemistry Lab

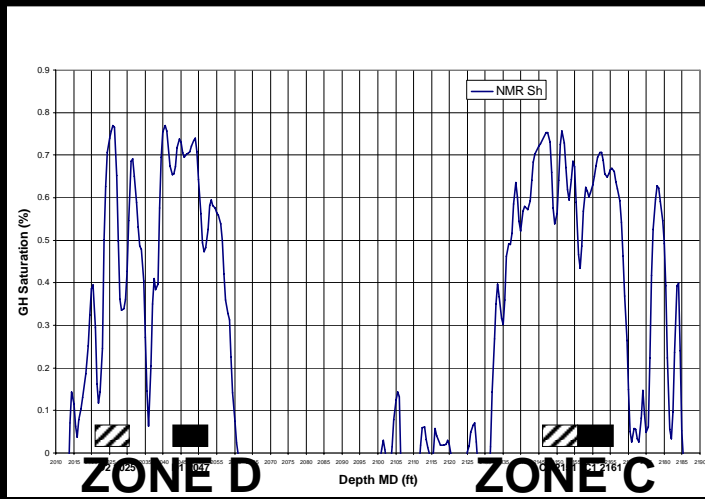


***Core samples are squeezed to extract/examine pore water samples and analyzed for thermal properties***



# Downhole Data Acquisition Modular Dynamics Testing (MDT)

- Tests reservoir response to fluid withdrawal and pressure reduction
- Indication of reservoir quality and performance
- Tests conducted at four locations two per pay zone
- Critical data for reservoir simulation calibration and potential production test



# Modular Dynamic Testing (MDT)

- Extensive and repeatable flow and pressure transient data obtained from 4 extended Dual-Packer OH MDT's
  - Collected formation temperature data tracking cooling and warming events during flow and build-up periods – an industry first
  - 4 gas samples obtained from each test interval
  - Observed rapid cooling (and potential freezing of pore water) during gas hydrate dissociation/gas flow
  - Produced free pore water from gas hydrate zone without causing gas hydrate dissociation
  - 1 pore water sample obtained from D1 test interval

# Presentation Outline

- Project Overview / Schedule
- Resource Characterization
- Stratigraphic Test Results
- **Reservoir Simulation**
  - Production Testing
  - Conclusions / Future Plans



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# Mt Elbert Gas Hydrate Well Summary

- Demonstrated safe data collection in shallow unconsolidated, GH-bearing sediments
  - good hole = outstanding core recovery and log suite
- Confirmed GH reservoir in close conformance to pre-drill predictions
  - ability to prospect for hydrate using G&G approach
  - improved confidence in broader ANS GH resource assessment
- Coring, Logging, Pressure Testing Program
  - fully integrated data and sample set
  - moveable fluids in fully-saturated reservoirs quantified and accessed
  - gas release via depressurization
- Acquisition and analysis of complete and integrated dataset for cost of ~\$6.0 million



bp





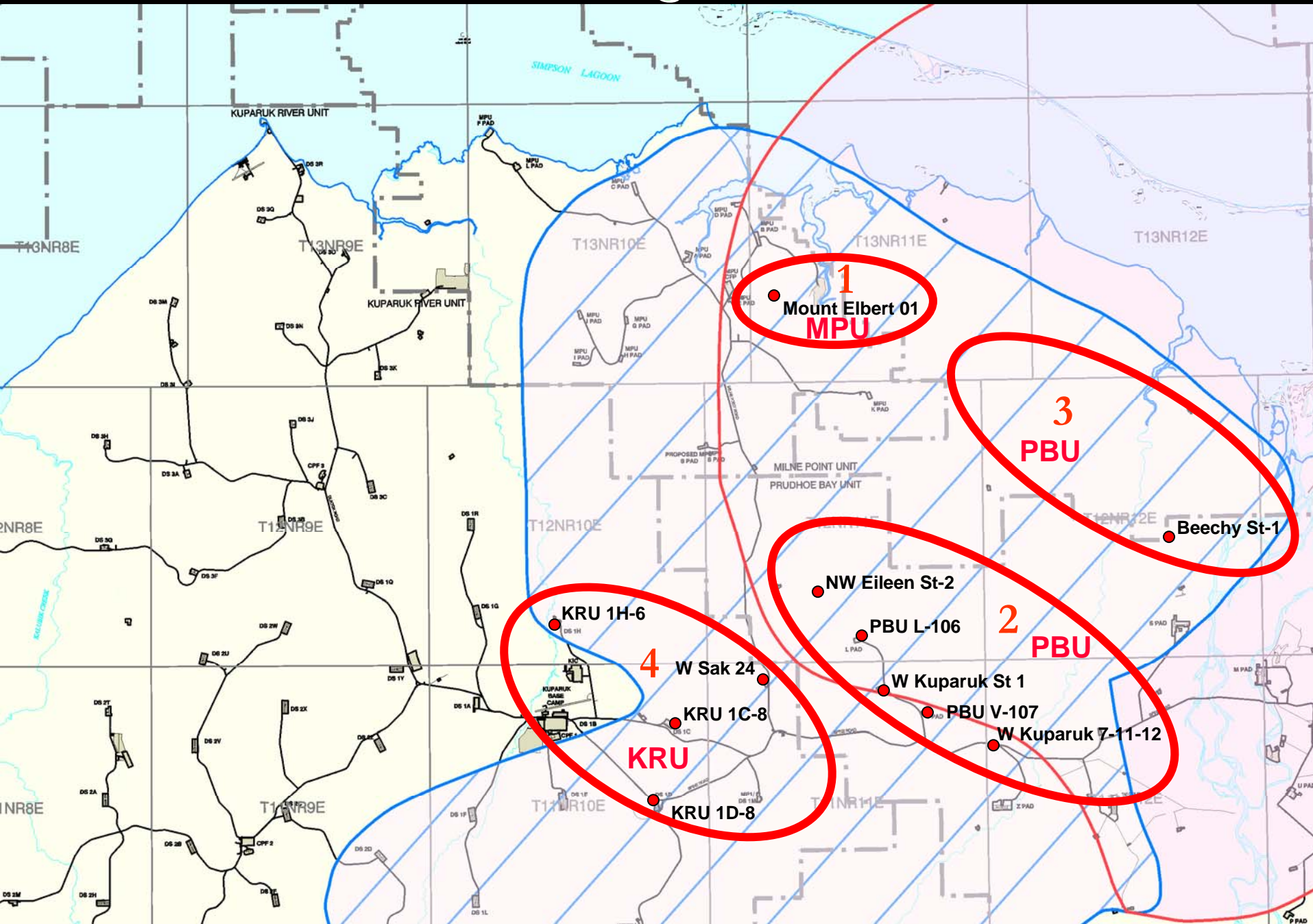
# Project Phase 3b – beyond 2009+

## Parameters for a Successful Production Test

- Site with continuous, long-term access
  - Maximize likelihood for success
  - Conduct long-term operations
  - Build on past success, learn from others
- Designed to determine the potential productivity of gas hydrate reservoirs
  - Validate simulations
  - Maximize knowledge, not just rate
  - Demonstrate technical recovery
  - Test multiple completion scenarios
- Carefully manage risks
  - Maintain operationally simple
  - Meet all HSE requirements
  - Minimize impacts to existing operations
  - Optimize reservoir conditions



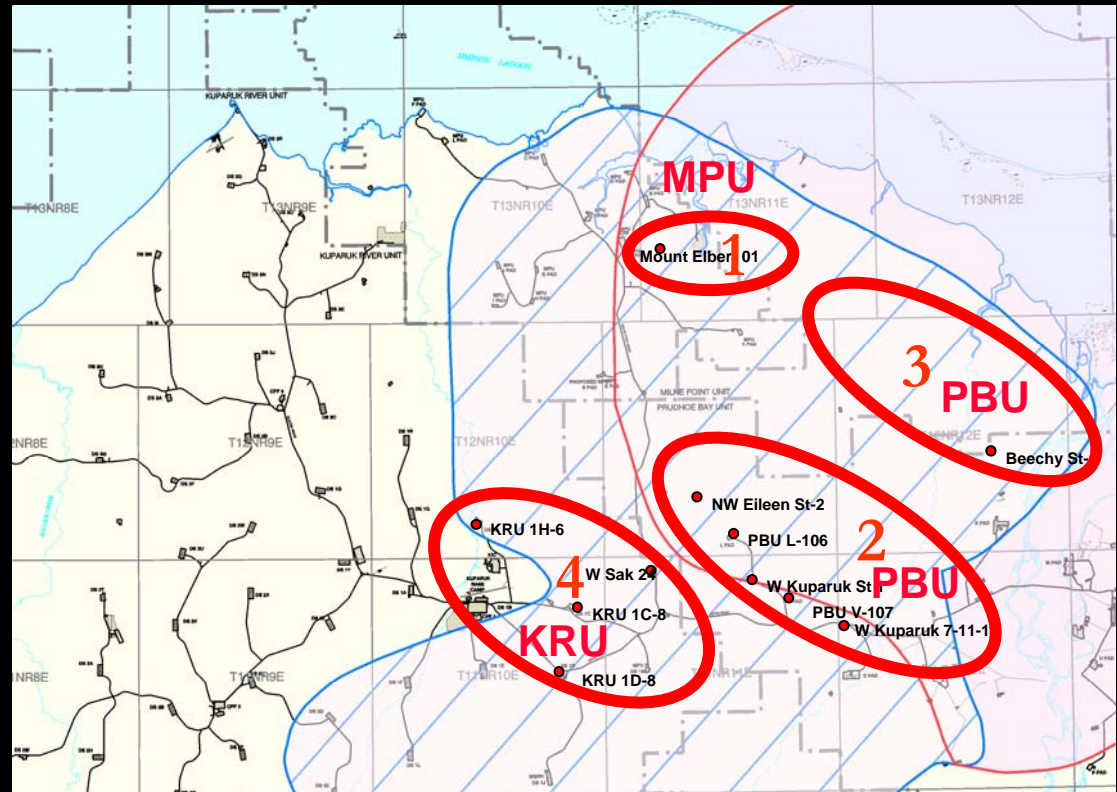
# Site Evaluation – Long-term Production Test



# Four areas under evaluation within Eileen trend for Production Test Site

## Key Criteria

- Probability of Success
  - Reservoir presence and quality
  - Temperature
  - Nature of contacting units (pressure support?)
  - Modeling results
  - Operational flexibility (multiple zones)
- Ease of Access
- Logistics/Facilities
- Program Complexity





# Site Comparison and Risk Detail

MPU/KRU option					PBU L option /down-dip		
Parameter	MP E-pad	MP B-pad	KRU <i>W Sak 24</i>	KRU 1H	PBU L-pad	PBU Kup St. <i>3-11-11</i>	PBU <i>downdip</i>
Temp <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H	H	M	M	L
Ownership <sup>2</sup>	L	L	M-L	M-L	H	H	H
Access <sup>3</sup>	M*	M*	L	L	L	L	H
Geo Risk <sup>4</sup>	L	L	M	M	L	L	H
Data <sup>5</sup>	L	L	M	M	L	M	H
Well Risk <sup>6</sup>	L-M	L-M	M	M	M	M	H
Facilities <sup>7</sup>	L	L	M	L	L	M	H
Gas <sup>8</sup>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Interference <sup>9</sup>	L	?	L	H?	H?	L	L
Water <sup>10</sup>	L	L	M	L	L	M	H
Market <sup>11</sup>	L?	L?	L	L?	M	M	M
Options <sup>12</sup>	M-H	M-H	H	H	L	L	M-H

# General comparison of test site options

Target	Depth	Contact	H (ft)	Sw/Swirr (%)	Phi (%)	K (mD)	T (oC)	Pressure gradient	Salinity (ppt)
Milne Point Unit – Mount Elbert Prospect									
C-sand	2132	Water	52	35/25	35	1000	3.3 - 3.9	9792	5
D-sand	2014	Water?	47	35 -	40	1000	2.3 – 2.6	9792	5
Prudhoe Bay Unit – L-pad vicinity									
C2-sand	2318	Shale	62	25	40	1000	5.0 – 6.5	9792	5
C1-sand	2226	Shale	56	25	40	1000	5.0 – 6.5	9792	5
D-sand	2060	Shale	50						
E-sand	1915	Shale	50						
Prudhoe Bay Unit Down-Dip from L-pad									
C-sand	2500	?	60*	25	40	1000	~12	9792	5
Kuparuk River Unit – West Sak 24 vicinity									
B-sand	2260	Shale?	40	35	40	1000	2.0 – 3.0	9792	5

***KRU and MPU units are very similar, both colder and are treated as one scenario for modeling***

- MPU/KRU-like reservoirs
- PBU L-pad-like reservoirs
- Warmer reservoirs such as those that occur down-dip of the PBU L-Pad area

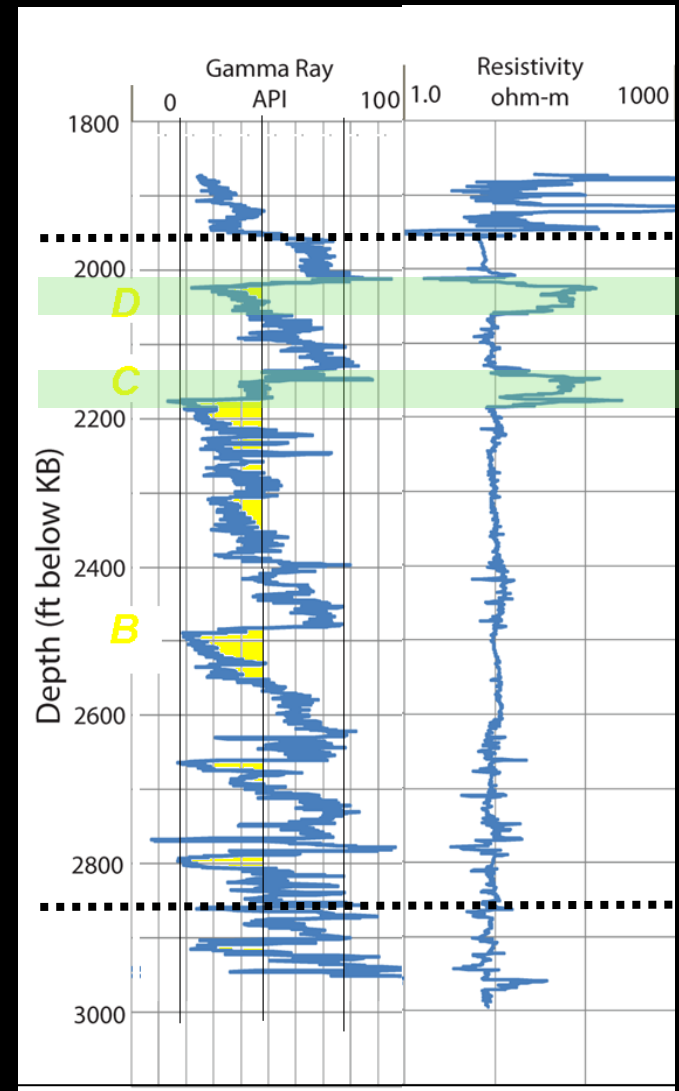
# Milne Point (or Kuparuk River) unit option

## *Favorable*

- Low geologic risk
- Ease of access to land and facilities

## *Unfavorable*

- High risk of poor test results
  - Low formation temperature (2-3 C)
  - Lower zone (at least) likely in contact with free water
- No surface location for vertical well
  - must drill directionally
- Fewer options – 2 possible zones
- Lateral extent unclear





# Prudhoe Bay down-dip option

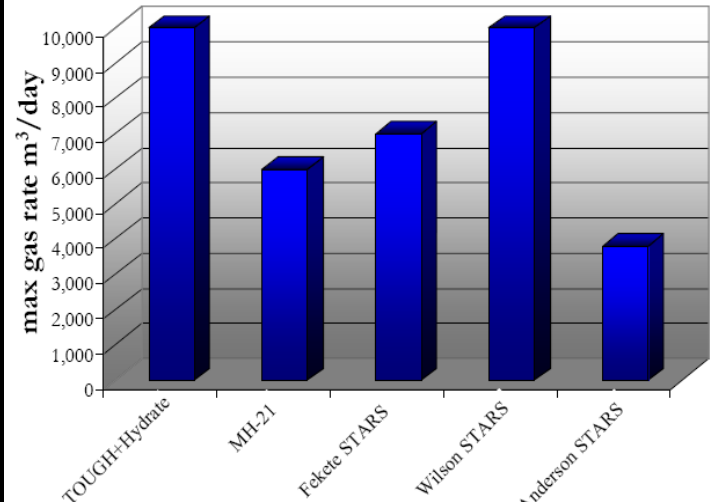
## *Favorable*

- Temperatures as high as 12C
- Most favorable simulation results

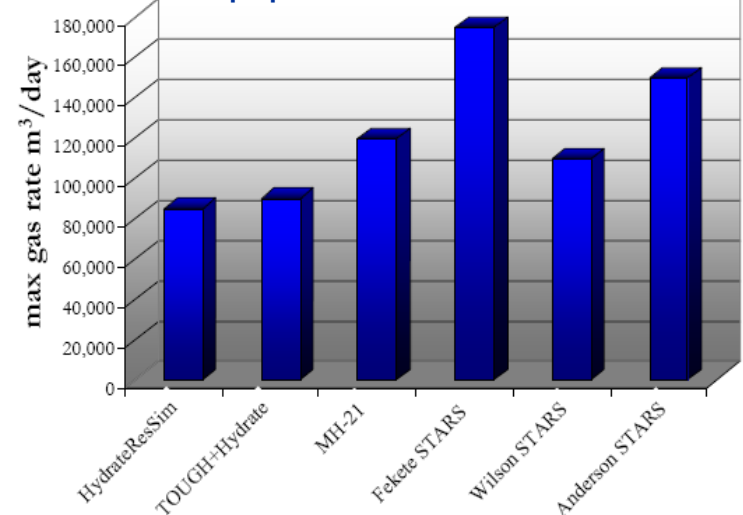
## *Unfavorable*

- Much higher geologic risk
  - very few nearby well penetrations
  - uncertainty as to reservoir presence and fill
  - Potentially limited reservoir options
- No viable surface site infrastructure or facilities
  - Extended reach well or near permanent gravel pad at prohibitive cost

MPU-KRU option basecase simulation results



PBU down-dip option basecase simulation results



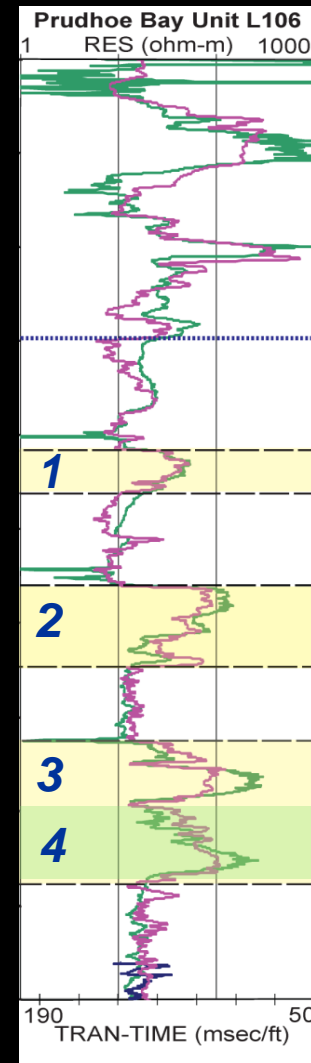
# W. Prudhoe L-pad vicinity option

## *Favorable*

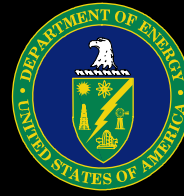
- **Acceptable technical risk**
  - Moderate temperature (3-6 C)
  - Expect at least scalable production rates
  - Can drill vertically
  - Multiple zones each ~15m thick
- **Acceptable geologic risk**
  - Close offset to high-quality log suites
  - Clean, fully saturated sands
  - Recent 3D data in hands of industry partners

## *Unfavorable*

- **Complex contractual arrangement**
  - Would require approval of all Stakeholders



# The Team



## INDUSTRY

- BP Exploration Alaska
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Ryder Scott Company
- RPS - APA Energy
- Interpretation Services, Inc.
- Doyon Drilling, Inc.
- ReedHycalog (Corion)
- Drill Cool Systems, Inc.
- Omni Laboratories
- Schlumberger
- MI Swaco



## GOVERNMENT

- US Geological Survey
- Department of Energy

## ACADEMIA

- U. Alaska-Fairbanks
- U. Arizona
- Oregon State University





- Backup Misc.

# Contribution to R&D Community

## Results, Reporting, Publications, Presentations

- DOE Reports: 15 major DOE Technical Reports, 4Q02-2Q08
- 1 Topical Report on Drilling and Data Acquisition Planning, 6/05
  - Published 2005 Regional Modeling in June 2006 Q Report
- DOE Advisory Committee / other Government presentations
- Present project updates - technical conferences/public meetings
  - Annual AAPG Meeting Oral/Poster Sessions 2002 – 2008
  - 2002-04: >20 external presentations
  - 2005-08: ~20 external presentations
  - M.S. Thesis: 3 + 2 pending UA and 5 + 1 pending UAF
  - >30 professional publications
- Participate openly in Model Comparison Studies: 2005 – 2008
- Industry-standard input - Operations designs and production test

**THEMATIC VOLUME PROPOSAL  
JOURNAL OF MARINE AND PETROLEUM GEOLOGY  
SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF 2007 USDOE-BP-USGS  
“MOUNT ELBERT” HYDRATE STRATIGRAPHIC TEST  
MILNE POINT UNIT, ALASKA NORTH SLOPE**

Eds. Dr. Ray Boswell, U.S. DOE, National Energy Technology Lab  
Dr. Tim Collett, U.S. Geological Survey  
Dr. Brian Anderson, West Virginia University/NETL-IAES  
Robert Hunter, ASRC Energy Services

Our proposed time schedule is as follows:  
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Completion of initial reviews: May 1, 2009.  
Completion of review-revision process: July 1, 2009.  
Appearance on the web: August 15, 2009.  
Hardcopy: Jan-Feb, 2010.



# THEMATIC VOLUME PROPOSAL

## Introductory Materials (Hunter, ed.)

1. R. Hunter (ASRC Energy): Research overview and Stratigraphic Test
2. M. Lee (USGS): 3D seismic analysis of Mount Elbert prospect
3. T. Collett (USGS): Regional geologic framework
4. R. Boswell (DOE): Geologic controls of gas hydrate, Milne Point
5. S. Wilson (RyderScott Co.) Regional production modeling

## Coring Program (Boswell, ed.)

6. K. Rose (DOE): Core operations and sedimentology
7. B. Winters (USGS): Physical and grain-size properties
8. B. Winters (USGS): Geotechnical behavior
9. T. Lorenson (USGS): Gas geochemistry
10. M. Torres (Oregon St. U.): Porewater geochemistry
11. F. Colwell (Oregon St. U.): Microbial community diversity
12. T. Kneafsey (LBNL): Core disturbance and handling
13. L. Stern (USGS): SEM and XRD imaging and characterization
14. H. Lu (Natural Resources Canada): Characteristics of gas hydrate
15. A. Johnson (U. Alaska-Fairbanks): Gas-Water Relative Permeability

# THEMATIC VOLUME PROPOSAL

## **Well Logging Program (Collett, ed.)**

- 16. T. Collett (USGS): Operations and core/log data
- 17. M. Lee (USGS): Data analysis
- 18. Y. Sun (Texas A&M): High-resolution dielectric properties
- 19-21: TBD: Advanced log analyses

## **MDT Program (Anderson, ed.)**

- 22. B. Anderson (West Va. U.): Operations summary and interpretation
- 23. M. Pooladi-Darvish (U. Calgary): MDT data - implications
- 24. M. Kurihara (Japan Oil Eng.: MDT/Mallik data findings

## **Production Modeling (Anderson, ed.)**

- 25. B. Anderson (West Va. U.): Regional production modeling overview
- 26. J. Rutqvist (LBNL): Geo-mechanics during production testing
- 27. G. Moridis (LBNL): Evaluation of gas production testing
- 28. M. White (PNNL): Production of Gas Hydrate using CO<sub>2</sub> Injection

# Proactions & Reactions

## Project Management Challenges

- **Gates / Phases / Decisions**

- 2001 – Present: Industry / Government Alignment
  - Underestimated time needed to maintain/grow alignment
- 2002 – 2004: Reservoir Description & Modeling
  - Recommended MPU field area Field Operations
  - Regional Eileen trend resource potential not evident
  - Led to 2005 Redirection → Regional Development Model
  - Maintained & Increased Industry support for Operations
- 2006-07: Field Operations Approved / Executed
  - 2006 → Third-party delays with Drilling Rig
    - Optimized Safety, Drilling, & Data Acquisition program
  - 2007 → Budget Overruns ~\$1.1MM
    - Documented Costs → Strong Industry & DOE Commitment
    - Demonstrated ability to Implement Operations / Acquire Data





# Methane Hydrate Resource Petroleum System Components

- Source – Thermogenic - Biogenic
- Migration – Fault Systems
- Reservoir – Sub-Permafrost  
Shallow Sands
- Trap – Complex Structural and  
Stratigraphic through 4D
- Seal – Can Self-Seal
- Stability – Pressure/Temperature
- Gas/Water – Clathrate Structure