## Deepwater Methane Hydrate Characterization and Scientific Assessment

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U.S. Department of Energy

National Energy Technology Laboratory Mastering the Subsurface Through Technology Innovation, Partnerships and Collaboration: Carbon Storage and Oil and Natural Gas Technologies Review Meeting

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### **Presentation Outline**

- Introduction
- The UT-GOM2-1 Expedition
- Laboratory Results

### Introduction

#### What is methane hydrate?



(Collett et al., 2009)





## Methane Hydrate as an Energy Resource



(from Fire and Ice, Fall 2006, Boswell & Collett)

#### Production tests of increasing scale in Japan and China

In Gulf of Mexico 4,000 TCF recoverable methane in hydrate sands

#### 2012 US Consumption ~25 TCF

(http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=33&t=6).

(Frye 2008)

#### Combustible ice heralds clean energy

By Zheng Xin and Zou Shuo | China Daily | Updated: 2017-09-04 07:10

2017: China completed its first test exploration in the South China Sea on July 9, which lasted 60 days. Total output exceeding 300,000 cu m and daily output surpassed 5,000 cu m/day.

An Energy Coup for Japan: 'Flammable Ice'

20,000 m3/day—2013 (6 days) 8300 m3/day—2017 (24 days)



Chinese technicians check their combustible ice mining equipment during an on-the-spot operation in Shenhu Area in the South China Sea, 320 kilometers southeast of Zhuhai city, Guangdong province. [Photo by Guo Junfeng/China Daily]

### Where are we today?

- Massive natural gas reserves trapped in hydrates in the deepwater
- For coastal nations with limited energy resources--a potential domestic energy source to provide energy security today.
- Can we produce environmentally, safely and economically?
- What are the basic flow and mechanical properties of these systems so that we can understand this behavior?

# The Challenge: Systems understanding of methane hydrate genesis and dissociation

- At the heart of how we produce
- Need physical samples to develop detailed experimental program
- Marine physical samples never acquired in U.S. Program

a. Response to Depressurization



Boswell et al., 2016

### **Technical Status**

7 year ~\$94MM (\$64MM Federal) drilling and science program to study coarse-grained methane hydrate deposits

- UT-GOM2-1 Engineering Test (2017)
- UT-GOM2-1 ~60 day Coring, in-situ testing program (2020)



UT GOM2-1 Executed Spring 2017 May 2 Mobilize May 11 Execute May 23 Demobilize May 26 Establish shore-based lab June 3 Complete Operations



#### UT-GOM2-1 Goals:

- Previous drilling inferred gas hydrate in sands
- Need physical samples to determine petrophysical properties
- Goal: capture pressure cores across hydrate bearing interval:
  - Gas source
  - Pore water composition
  - Sediment texture
  - Hydrate concentration
  - Hydrate Habit
  - Permeability
  - Relative Permeability



#### **UT-GOM2-1** Expedition Team

**Onboard scientists** Tim Collett, USGS Ann Cook, Ohio State University Skyler Dong, University of Texas Peter Flemings, University of Texas Gilles Guerin, Columbia University Melanie Holland, Geotek Kevin Meazell, University of Texas Joshua O'Connell, University of Texas Ethan Petrou, University of Texas Stephen Phillips, University of Texas Peter Polito, University of Texas Alexey Portnov, Ohio State University Manasij Santra, University of Texas Peter Schultheiss. Geotek Yongkoo Seol, NETL-DOE

<u>Education/outreach</u> Anton Caputo, University of Texas Drew Ott, Desolate Films Shore-based scientists Ray Boswell, NETL-DOE Athma Bhandari, University of Texas Rick Colwell, Oregon State University Sheng Dai, Georgia Institute of Technology Hugh Daigle, University of Texas Tom Darrah, Ohio State University David DiCarlo, University of Texas David Divins, University of New Hampshire Nicolas Espinoza, University of Texas Matt Frye, BOEM Jennifer Glass, Georgia Institute of Technology David Goldberg, Columbia University Meytal Higgins, ExxonMobil Junbong Jang, USGS Joel Johnson, University of New Hampshire Joel Kostka, Georgia Institute of Technology Jung-Fu Lin, University of Texas John Pohlman, USGS Derek Sawyer, Ohio State University Evan Solomon, University of Washington Zara Summers, ExxonMobil Carla Thomas, University of Texas William Waite, USGS Cliff Walters, ExxonMobil Kehua You, University of Texas

#### Management/Administration

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Huge thanks to UTIG, UT Legal Affairs, Risk Management, and Purchasing Offices









#### Spud-in for H002 Well

#### Making up BHA

# Recovering pressure core







01 – Flemings, et al., GOM2: Prospecting, Drilling and Sampling Coarse-Grained Hydrate Reservoirs in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico

#### UT-GOM2-1 Expedition - May 2017



 12 successful pressure cores in main hydrate reservoir

#### Lithofacies

#### Lithofacies 2

- Interbedded with lithofacies 3.
- low density (2.05-2.1 g/cc) and high velocity (3000-3250 m/s)
- Ripples and/or cross-bedding.
- Most continuous underformed samples.

#### Lithofacies 3

- Interbedded with lithofacies 2
- High density (~1.9g/cc) and low velocity (~1700 m/s)
- Generally massive and more deformed



# PCATS – X-ray CT Lithofacies 2



'Sand' is 'sandy silt'



### Hydrate Concentration (S<sub>h</sub>)



### Hydrate Concentration (S<sub>h</sub>)

Core H005-04FB

	A	В	C	D	E		F	<b>G</b> Grain siz	н е	1
Core depth	density	P-wave velocity	X-rav	Litho-	Sh		Sand	Silt	Clay	C1/C2
(cm)	1.5 G/CM3 2.5	1500 M/S 3500	,	facies	0 % 100	0	% 100	0 % 100	0 % 100	0 30,000
_ 10 _	W/	1								
— 20 — — 30 —	Whenter	M	-		87		44	52	3	• 12,345
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— 70 — — 80 —	NMN V	Mu			32		24	63	12	•13,727
— 60 — — 70 — — 80 —	MANAN	Mul			32		24	63	12	•13





### **Really Dry Gas**



- Nearly pure methane
- Ethane < 200 ppm

#### Ongoing gas analyses

- Methane δ<sup>13</sup>C and δD
- Noble gases
- Clumped methane isotopes Δ18

#### Ongoing Experimental Analysis: UT Pressure Core Center

(a) Pressure Core Chamber and Mini-PCATS

GEO TEK 37 Cold Storage Room

(b) K0 Permeameter



#### K0 Permeability Measurement





- ✓ Tests pre- and post-dissociation
- ✓ Consolidation at Hydrostatic stress
- Consolidation K0 condition
- ✓ 3 permeability tests per stress state

(22 consolidation tests & 61 perm tests)

#### **Initial Permeability Measurements**



- ✓ Effective permeability (Sh=0.8) : ~10<sup>-2</sup> mD to ~10<sup>-3</sup> mD pre-dissociation
- ✓ Absolute permeability: ~0.5 mD to  $10^{-2}$  mD post-dissociation
- ✓ Mudrock layer in sample may drive low permeability measurement

#### **Initial Permeability Measurements**

#### (3) Result of Compressibility



**Consolidation Timing:** 

- ✓ Pre-dissociation:
- 1) Consolidation under hydrostatic stress
- 2) Consolidation under K0 conditions

Compressibility index  $C_{\rm c} = 0.09$ 

- ✓ Post-dissociation:
- 3) Consolidation under K0 conditions
- 4) Unloading and reloading under K0 conditions Compressibility index  $C_c = 0.15$

### Lessons Learned

- Extensive resources must be allocated to project management
- Permitting process is exhaustive and requires enormous focus and commitment.
- Must have strong institutional support (bonding, permitting, contracting, insurance).
- Pressure coring is still a developing technology:
  - Must bench and field test all equipment prior to going to sea.
  - Cannot make even minor changes after field testing
- Laboratory testing of pressure cores is a time-intensive process continually pressing the boundaries of technology
- Permitting process should begin earlier.

# Synergy Opportunities

- We are a global resource that supports research into hydrate system
  - Technical Advisory Group reviews sample requests.
  - Samples to NETL, USGS, JOGMEC (Japan)
  - Open Shared testing of pressure coring tools with Japan

## **Project Summary**

#### - Key Findings

- Interbedded clayey silt and silty sand at cm to m scale.
- 'Sand' is 'sandy silt'
- 90% hydrate saturation in silty sand; lithology controlled.
- Really dry gas
- In situ salinity is near seawater
- Permeability (1 sample with a mudstone layer in it!)
  - Effective permeability (Sh=0.8) : ~10-2 mD to ~10-3 mD pre-dissociation
  - Absolute permeability: ~0.5 mD to 10-2 mD post-dissociation

## **Project Summary**

- Steps Forward: UT GOM2-2
  - Explore for new hydrate location
  - Drill and Core 2nd depositional environment (sheet sands)
  - Perform in-situ testing (permeability, pressure).
  - Acquire high technology logging suite across hydrate
  - Full suite of pressure coring and standard coring to capture downhole behavior.
- Steps Forward: International Experimental Program
  - Systematic analysis of hydrate petrophysics through U.S. and international partners.

# Appendix

These slides will not be discussed during the presentation, but are mandatory.

### Benefit to the Program

- This effort will acquire and analyze the petrophysical properties of hydrate-bearing coarse grained reservoirs.
- It will address the question of how to produce them environmentally, safely and economically.
- Specifically, it will determine what are the basic flow and mechanical properties of these systems so that we can understand this behavior?

### **Project Overview**

Goals and Objectives

- Describe the project goals and objectives in the Statement of Project Objectives.
  - How the project goals and objectives relate to the program goals and objectives.
  - Identify the success criteria for determining if a goal or objective has been met. These generally are discrete metrics to assess the progress of the project and used as decision points throughout the project.

### **Organization Chart**

- Project Team
  - The University of Texas Institute for Geophysics is the prime contractor, responsible for leading development and execution of all scientific, technical, and logistical aspects of the project.
  - There are five sub-recipients on this project:
    - Ohio State University: Site characterization and technical science lead
    - Oregon State University: Microbiology lead
    - University of New Hampshire: Lithostratigraphy lead
    - University of Washington: Organic and inorganic geochemistry lead
    - Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory: Wireline logging and logging-while-drilling lead

### **Organization Chart**



### **Organization Chart**

- Project Advisory Group
  - The Project Advisory Group is responsible for guiding technical project decisions. This group includes members of the Project Team, BOEM, USGS, DOE, and industry.



#### PHASE 1: Oct 2014 – Sep 2015

D	Task Name			Sen	Qtr 1, 2015	Qtr 2, 2015	ab Mar Qt	r 3, 2015 Apr May Jun	tr 4, 2015	Sen	Qtr 1, 2016
1	Task 1.0: Project Ma	nagement and Plannin	g	step	I How			and the part of	THE I HUY	- top	
2	M1A: Update Project Management Plan				⇒ ⇒ 3/18						
3	M1B: Project Kick-	off Meeting				12/11					
4	Task 2.0: Site Analysis and Selection										1
5	M1C: Site Location and Ranking Report										9/30
6	Task 3.0: Develop Pre-Expedition Operational Plan									-	1
7	M1D: Preliminary Field Program Operational Plan Report										9/30
8	Task 4.0: Complete IODP CPP Proposal M1E: Updated CPP Proposal Submitted			_							-
9										1	6 10/1
10	Task 5.0: Pressure Co	oring System Mods & T	Testing		P						•
11	M1F: Demonstrati	on of a viable PCS tool	(Lab Test)								9/30
	-										
		Task		Inactive Task	_	Manual Summary Ro	allup	External Milestone	٥		
roje	ct: GOM2 Phase1	Split	mannanana	Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary	-	Deadline	*		
-3-	en é suite (nere)	Milestone	•	Inactive Summary	1	1 Start-only	E	Progress	-	_	
		Summary		Manual Task	t.	Finish-only	3	Manual Progress	0.00	_	
		Project Summary	1	Duration-only	-	External Tasks					

#### PHASE 2: Oct 2015 – Jan 2018



#### PHASE 3: Jan 2018 – Sep 2019

	Task Name	Qtr	r 1, 2018 Qtr 2, 2018 Qtr 3, 2018	Qtr 4, 2018         Qtr 1, 2019         Qtr 2, 2019         Qtr 3, 2019           Aug         San         Oct         Nov         Dag         Fab         Mar         Mar <t< th=""></t<>
1	Write Phase 2 Report	Dec	lan Peo Mar Apr May Jun Ju	Aug sep i ust i nov i uec i jan i reb i mar i Apr i may i jun i jui i Aug sep
	M2E: Update Operational Plan		4/12	
	M2F: Document results of BP2/Phase 2 Activities		♦ 4/15	
	PHASE 3		ł	
	Task 1.0: Project Management and Planning (Cont'd)			
	Task 6.0: Technical and Operational Support of CPP Proposal (Cont'd)			
1	Task 9.0: Pressure Core Transport, Stg., and Manipulation (Cont'd)	1 1		
	Task 10: Pressure Core Analysis (Cont'd)	1 25		
2	Task 13.0: Maintenance and Refinement of Pressure Core Transport, Storage, and Manipulation			
3	Task 14.0: Performance Assessment, Modifications, and Testing of DOE Pressure Coring System			19
1	M3A: Demonstration of a viable PCS tool for hydrate drilling: Lab Test			• 1/1
5	M3B: Demonstration of a viable PCS tool for hydrate drilling: Land Test			• 4/1
5	Task 15.0: Field Program Preparations	1.09		
7	M3C: Complete Refined Field Program Operational Plan Report			• 1/1
8	M3D: Completion of required Field Program Permits			- 1/1
9	Budget Period 3 Go/No-Go Decision Point			

	Task		Project Summary	L	🕴 Manual Task	1	Start-only	£	Deadline	
Project: GOM2_Phase3_2018_FI	Split	annannannan	Inactive Task		Duration-only		Finish-only	a	Progress	
Date: Fri 7/27/18	Milestone		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup	_	External Tasks		Manual Progress	
1	Summary	1	Inactive Summary		Manual Summary	0	External Milestone	•		

#### PHASE 4: Oct 2019 – Sep 2021

ID	Task Name		Half 1, 2	020	Half 2, 2020	Le Le Lu Lu	Half 1, 2021	Half 2, 202	Half 1, 20
1	Write Phase 3 Report			FIMIAL	ALLIA	STOLNT	DIJIFIMI	ALMIJIJIA	ISTOTNIDIJ.
2	M3E: Document results of BP3/Phase 3 Activities (Phase end +90)		<ul> <li>12/3</li> </ul>	1					
3	PHASE 4 / BP4								-
4	Task 1.0: Project Management and Planning (Cont'd)		19						-
5	Task 6.0 Technical and Operational Suppoirt of CPP Proposal (Cont'd)		1 1						
6	Task 9.0: Pressure Core Transport, Storage, and Manipulation (Cont'd)		1						-
7	Task 10: Pressure Core Analysis (Cont'd)				1			1	
8	Task 16.0: Research Expedition Field Operations				-				
9	M4A: Completion of Planned Field Research Expedition Operations				• 5/28	_			
10	Task 17.0: Project Data Analysis and Reporting				-				-
11	M4B: Complete Preliminary Expedition Summary					9/30			
12	M4C: Complete Project Sample and Data Distribution Plan				• 6/1				
13	M4D: Contribute to IODP Proceedings								• 9/30
14	M4E: Initiate Comprehensive Scientific Results Volume with Appropriate Scient	tific Journal							• 9/30
15	Close out								-
-									
-	Tage Droise+ Summary	1 1	Manual Task		Start-only	1	Deadline		
Proje	ect: GOM2_Phase4_2018 Split Inactive Task		Duration-only	_	Finish-only	3	Progress		
Date	: Fri 7/27/18 Milestone 🔶 Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary Rollup		External Tasks		Manual Progress		
	Summary Inactive Summary		Manual Summary		External Milestone	\$			

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### End of presentation