



# CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> Exchange Field Trial North Slope, Alaska Kickoff Meeting

January 22, 2009

National Energy Technologies Laboratory  
Morgantown, West Virginia

**ConocoPhillips**

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## Agenda

Introductions & ConocoPhillips Overview	Helen Farrell	10min
Award Status	Robert Miller	15min
Experimental basis for CO <sub>2</sub> -CH <sub>4</sub> exchange	James Howard	20min
Field Trial Overview & Status of Initial Deliverables	David Schoderbek	10min
Subtask 2.7: Pioneer #1 Logging While Drilling	David Schoderbek	10min
Site Selection status & Project Timeline	David Schoderbek	15min

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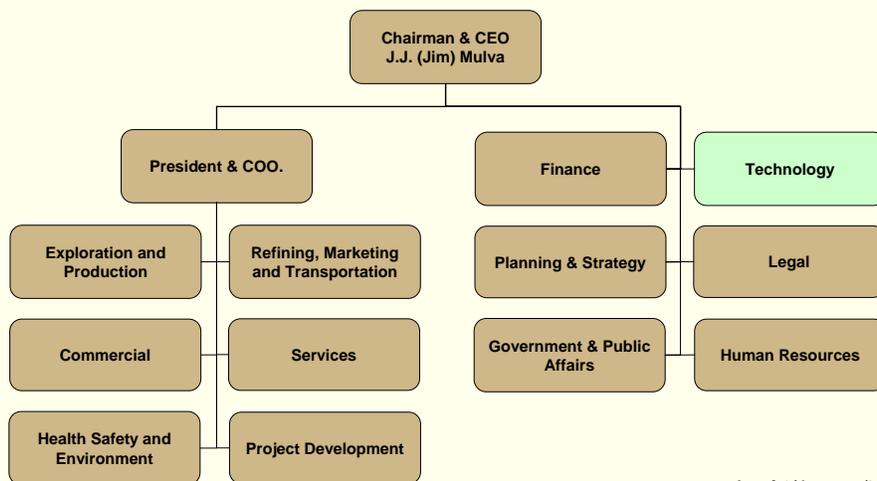
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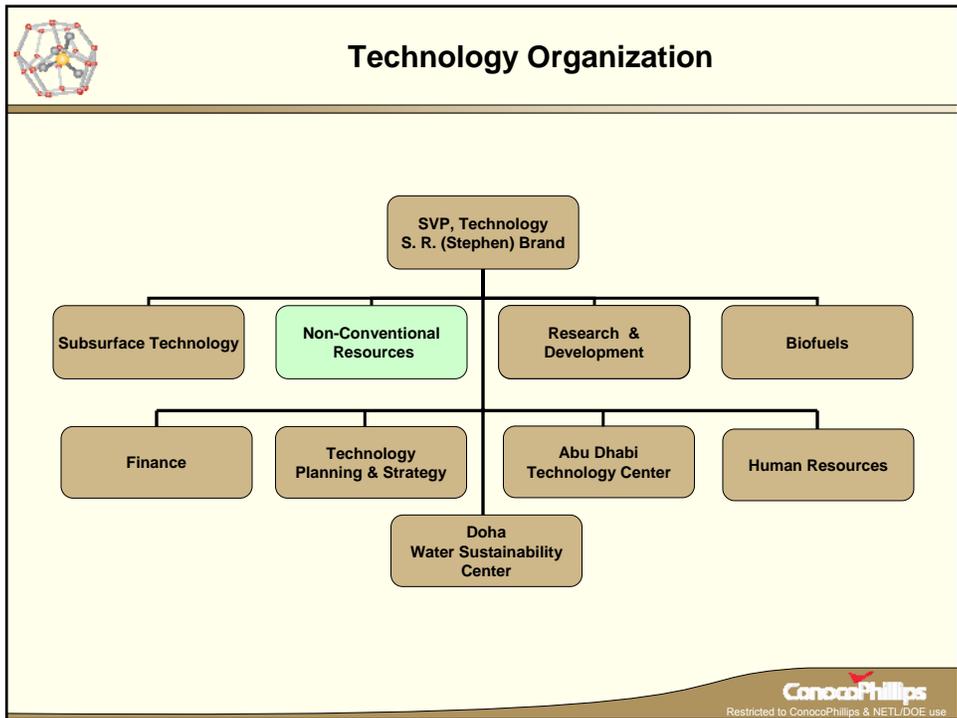
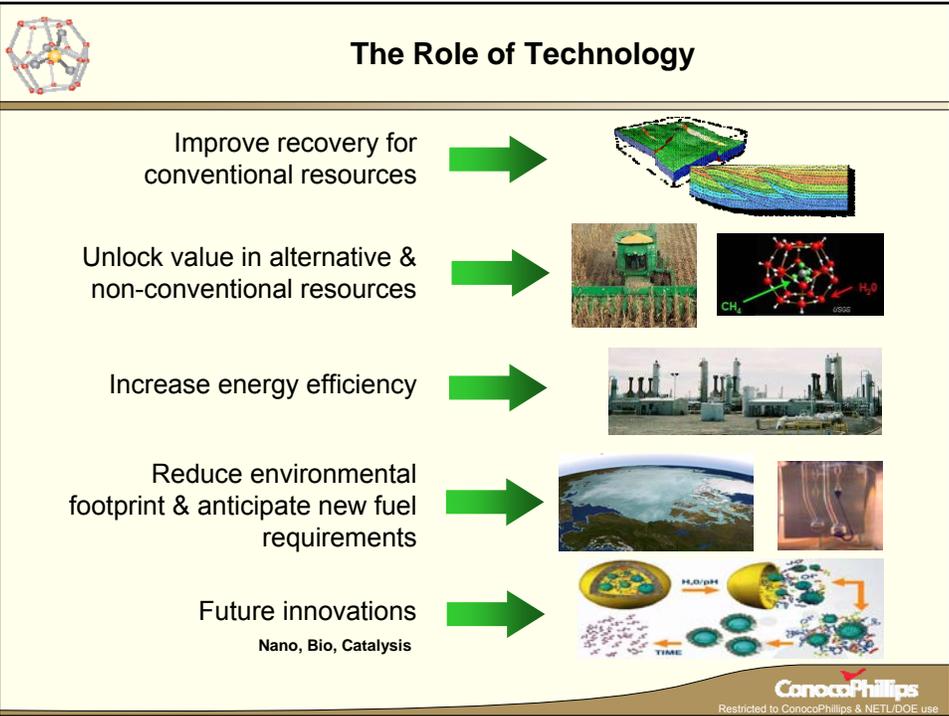
# ConocoPhillips

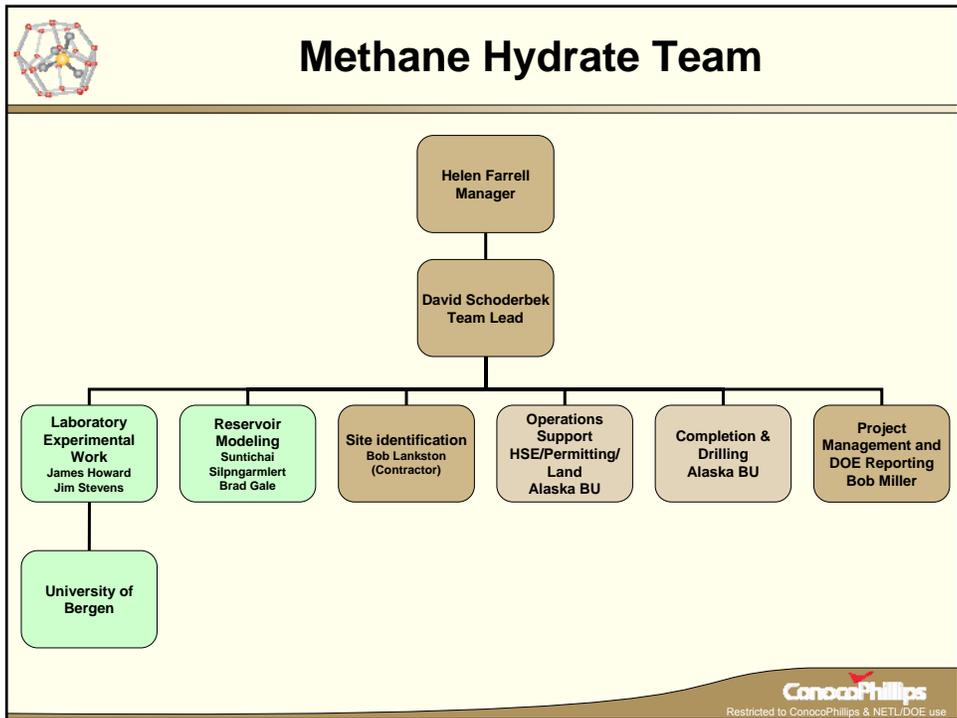
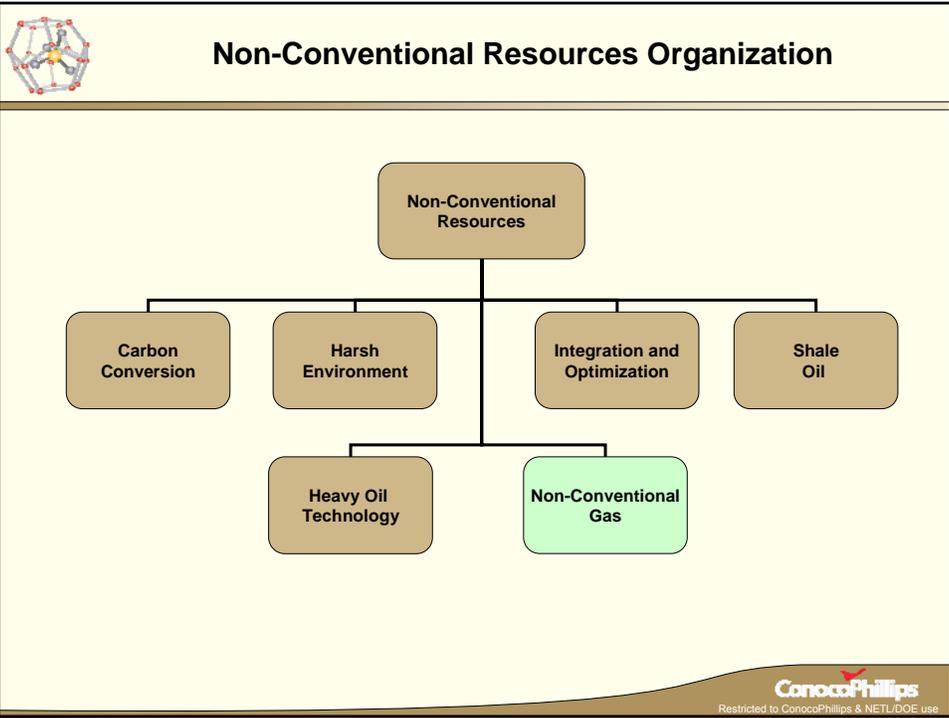


As of 1/January/2009



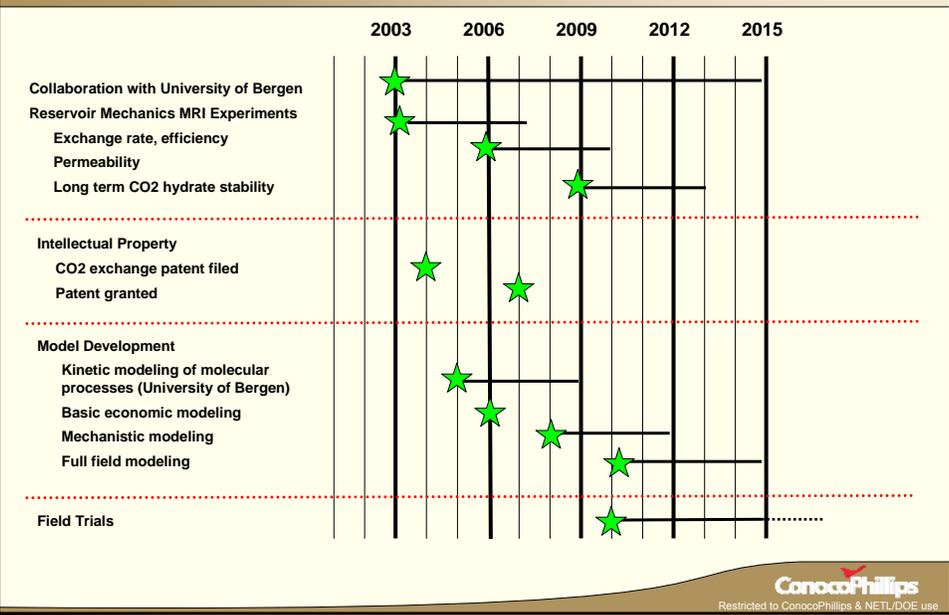
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# Exchange Technology Development



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## Award Status

### 2008 Activity:

Description	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Proposal Submitted							
Notification of Award							
Revisions Requested							
Revisions Submitted							
Notice of Financial Asst. Award							
First Contact from DCAA							
Limited Rights Draft Submitted							
DCAA Visit to COP							
Project Management Plan Complete							
Petition for Advance Waiver Submitted							
DCAA Audit Complete							

### Current Status:

Await NETL Proposal(s) to Resolve Conditional Status

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## Natural Gas Hydrates in Lab

### Previous Work by Others

- Extensive Fundamental Properties of Bulk Hydrates – Flow Assurance.
- P-T Conditions for Hydrate Formation Well Established.
  - Sand Size Pores ~ Bulk Properties
- Porous Media Studies.
  - CH<sub>4</sub> vs. THF – Inc. Pressure Requirements.
  - Emphasis on Sand Packs.
- Limited Work on Production Scenarios.

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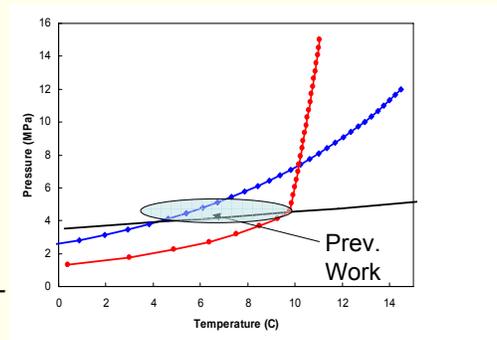
## Early Thoughts on CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange

Thermodynamics of CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange Recognized.

### Assumptions:

Slow Kinetics (*Based on Bulk, Solids*)

Free Water Released (*Dissociation/Reformation at Macro-Scale*).



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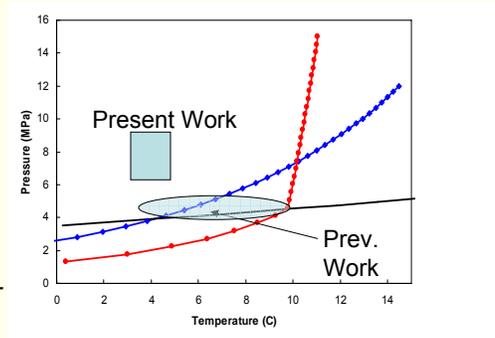
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Slow Kinetics (*Based on Bulk, Solids*)

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- Current Experiments Run at Elevated T-P Conditions Relative to Earlier CH<sub>4</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange Studies and Are Comparable to North Slope Reservoir Conditions.

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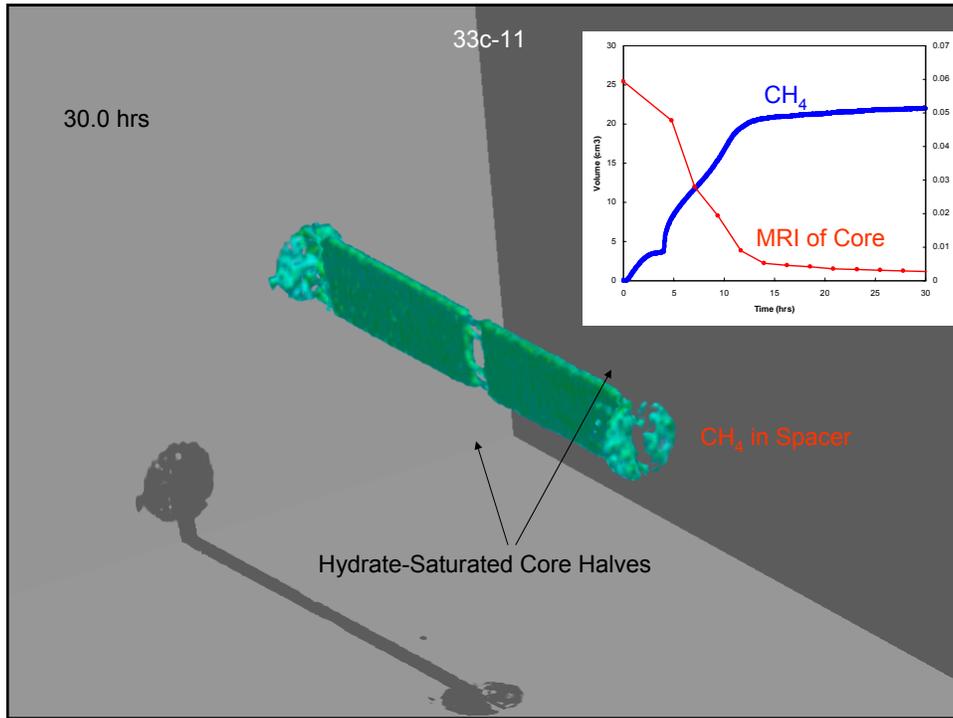


## Summary of COP Experiments

- Hydrate Formation – CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> Exchange and CH<sub>4</sub> Production Experiments Completed at Series of P-T Conditions, Initial Water Saturation and Water Composition.
- Most Experiments Monitored with MRI – Additional Information Beyond PVT.

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## CH<sub>4</sub> - CO<sub>2</sub> Production Scenario

- Replace CH<sub>4</sub> in Hydrate Structure with CO<sub>2</sub>.
- COP Patent (**US 7,222,673**) Based on the Absence of Produced Free Water.
- Keys are Understanding of Rates of Exchange and Recovery Efficiency.

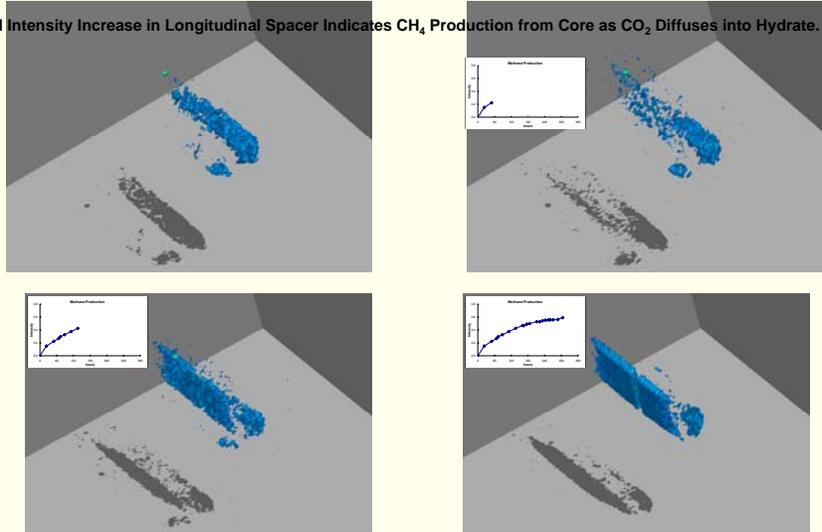
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## CH<sub>4</sub>-CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange

MRI Intensity Increase in Longitudinal Spacer Indicates CH<sub>4</sub> Production from Core as CO<sub>2</sub> Diffuses into Hydrate.

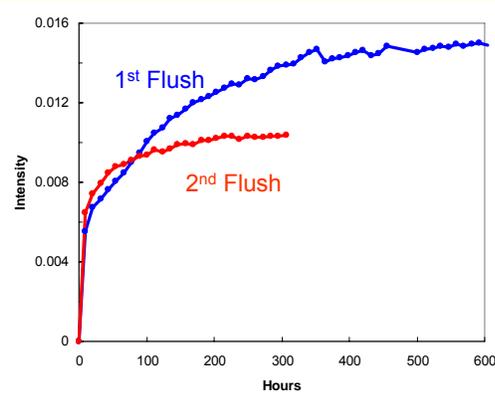


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## Methane Production

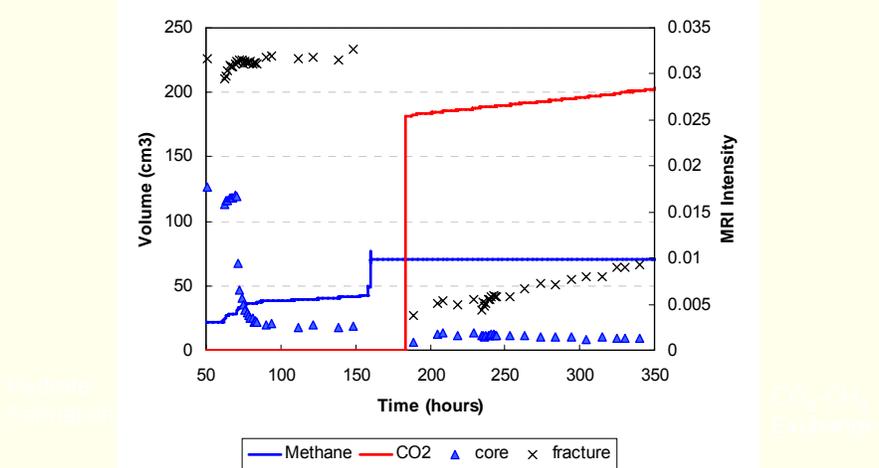
- Monitor MRI Intensity In Spacer.
  - Longitudinal
  - Transverse at Outlet.
- CO<sub>2</sub> “Soak” vs. Active Injection.
- Reproducible Rates.
- CH<sub>4</sub> Recovery Approaches Theoretical Limit.



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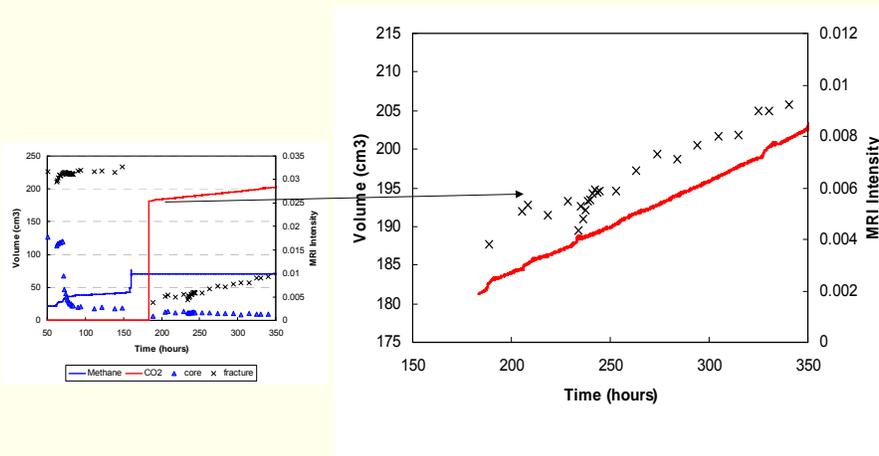
## Volumetrics and MRI Results



Methane is Consumed as Core is Cooled and Hydrate Forms in Core (Dec. MRI Intensity). After CO<sub>2</sub> Flush Methane is Produced in Fracture (Inc MRI Intensity) as CO<sub>2</sub> is Consumed. No Change in MRI Intensity in Core.



## Volumetrics and MRI Results

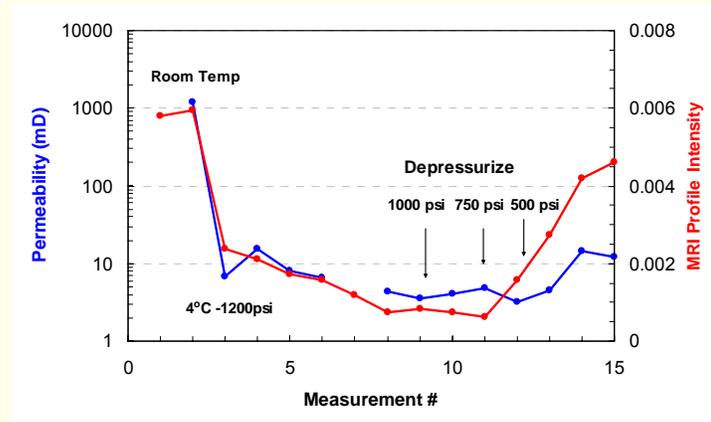


MRI Intensity in Fracture (CH<sub>4</sub>) and CO<sub>2</sub> Volume Consumption



## Permeability in Hydrates

- MRI Intensity Loss Indicates Hydrate Formation. Correlates with Permeability Decrease.
- Permeability Remains Constant During CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange.



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## CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> Exchange Observations

- Demonstrate that CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> Exchange Does NOT Involve Free Water.
- Produced CH<sub>4</sub> is Greater Than Free Gas in Pores.
- Mass Balance Calculations Indicate That ~70% of Original CH<sub>4</sub> in Hydrate is Exchanged.
  - ~ Theoretical Limit for Structure I Hydrates.
- Exchange Rates are Fast.
  - First-Order Kinetics
- Permeability Remains Constant During Exchange.

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## Accomplishments

- Reproducible Hydrate Formation in Sandstone Pores.
  - Monitor with  $\Delta V_{\text{gas}}$  and MRI.
- Measure Permeability During Hydrate Formation
  - $K$  vs.  $S_{hy} / S_w$
- Determine CH<sub>4</sub> “Filling Factor” in Formed Hydrates.
  - ~ Theoretical Limit
- Produced CH<sub>4</sub> from Hydrate Through CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange.

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## 2009 Experiment Goals

Support for Field Trial

- Evaluate Role of Free Water on Hydrate Reformation and Permeability.
- Determine Effect of N<sub>2</sub> Injection on CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange.
- Collect Additional Experimental Depressurization Data for Simulation Model Input / Validation.

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## COP 2009 Experiments

- CO<sub>2</sub> Injectivity / Permeability in Samples with Free Water (Mt. Elbert Analogue).
- Form Hydrates and Run CO<sub>2</sub> Exchange in Sand Packs – N. Slope Analogue.
- N<sub>2</sub> Injectivity Test – Effect of Diluting CO<sub>2</sub> Stream on Kinetics and Thermodynamics of Exchange Mechanism.

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# Field Trial Overview

Goal: reservoir-scale trial  
 Alaska North Slope  
 CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> exchange

**Methane Hydrates Production Field Trial**

**What is the purpose of the trial?**  
 This well will be drilled to gain scientific knowledge and test a potential production technology which was developed by ConocoPhillips and the University of Bergen (Norway). ConocoPhillips and the University have been developing the technology since 2003. This well represents the first experiment outside a laboratory of the production technology in which a carbon dioxide molecule is exchanged for a methane molecule locked up in the hydrate structure. The methane gas is produced, and the carbon dioxide is sequestered inside the hydrate structure.

**Why is conducting this trial?**  
 This well will be performed by ConocoPhillips in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy through the Methane Hydrate Program of the National Energy Technology Laboratory. The DOE is recognized as an international leader in methane hydrate research.

**What will the trial accomplish?**  
 The well will answer two basic questions. First, does the laboratory-scale exchange mechanism work in the field, with minimal sand and water production? Secondly, what kind of rate producing efficiency is demonstrated? Although ConocoPhillips has previously demonstrated this technology in a laboratory setting, this well will be the first field-scale well. The results of this trial will allow ConocoPhillips to establish a broad-based development plan for the technology, including additional field trials.

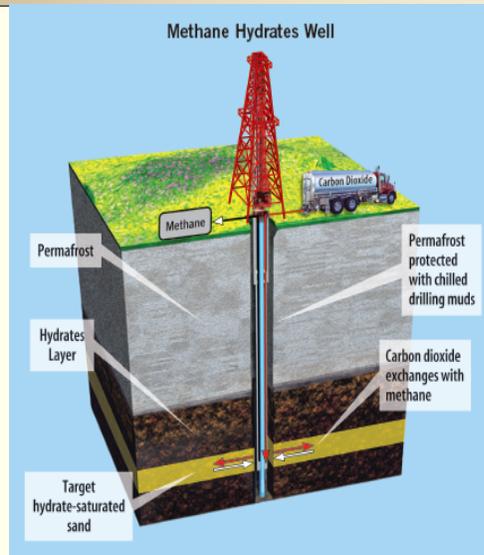
**Why do this trial?**  
 Methane hydrates hold a significant potential to supply the world with clean-burn fuel. This trial is an important step in developing a promising production technology to access the potential and ultimately to produce methane from gas hydrates while sequestering carbon dioxide.

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# Field Trial Overview: Plan

- Existing gravel or ice pad
- Chilled-mud drilling system
- Pre-test formation evaluation (coring/LWD optional)
- Low-temperature casing cementing
- Rigless (coiled tubing) completion
- Perforation & N<sub>2</sub> injection to confirm perm
- Downhole real-time monitoring (p & T)
- Injection of CO<sub>2</sub> followed by shut-in
- Flowback & metering thru test separator
- Post-test formation evaluation
- Rigless plug & abandon



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# Status of Initial Deliverables

**CONOCOPHILLIPS GAS HYDRATES PRODUCTION TEST  
PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**A. Executive Summary:** The ConocoPhillips Gas Hydrates Production Test has three objectives:

- 1) Validation of the laboratory-proven production process whereby methane gas is produced from a hydrate structure by carbon dioxide exchange.
- 2) Determination of the impact of injecting carbon dioxide on a hydrate-saturated reservoir & understanding the impact on permeability and production performance.
- 3) Determination of how the carbon dioxide/methane exchange process can be advanced to the next level of testing i.e. pilot scale field evaluation.

**Project Description:** ConocoPhillips (COP) proposes to conduct a gas hydrates production trial in Alaska to evaluate a laboratory proven production process whereby carbon dioxide is exchanged in situ with the methane molecule in the hydrate structure, releasing the methane. The trial will include a carbon dioxide injection system, a wellbore flow system, and a production system. COP will evaluate the impact of carbon dioxide on the hydrate saturated formation in a full-scale trial which will evaluate the proposed exchange process. COP will collect data to further our understanding of gas hydrates. COP will use advanced monitoring techniques to fully evaluate the exchange process. COP will determine the volume of methane produced, carbon dioxide injected, and the carbon dioxide required to successfully determine the conditions for production and test some of the objectives of the project.

**Phase 1 (Budget Period 1) - Site Identification**

**Table 1 - Project Management Plan** ConocoPhillips will work with the DOE Project Officer to create a detailed Project Management Plan (PMP) formulated in accordance with the guidance provided by DOE. The PMP will be submitted within 30 days of the award. The DOE Project Officer will have 20 calendar days from receipt of the PMP to review and provide comments to ConocoPhillips. Within 15 calendar days after receipt of the DOE's comments, ConocoPhillips will submit a final PMP to the DOE Project Officer for review and approval. Highlights of the completed PMP include work breakdown structure, milestone log, project schedule/timeline, success criteria at decision points, risk management, communication requirements, and a funding & costing profile.

Initial submission 11.06.08  
Revision submitted 11.26.08

**Oil & Natural Gas Technology**

DOE Award No.: DE-HT0006553

**Technology Status Assessment**

**ConocoPhillips Gas Hydrate Production Test**

Submitted by:  
ConocoPhillips  
7000 G Street  
Andover, MA 01915  
November 26, 2008

Initial submission 11.06.08  
Revision submitted 11.26.08

**NETL** 

Office of Fossil Energy

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## Subtask 2.7: Pioneer #1 Logging While Drilling

### Evaluation of Additional Gas Hydrate Identification Technologies

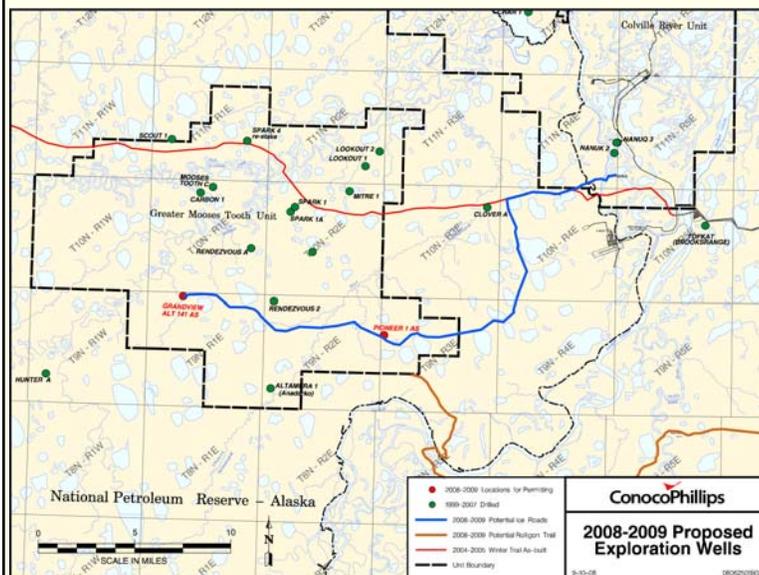
- Q1'09 Pioneer exploratory well in eastern NPR-A
- Acquire LWD log suite (Gamma Ray, Sonic, Resistivity)
- Surface casing to approx 3000ft depth
- Estimated LWD sonic cost: \$60k
- Tool charges: \$35k
- Data processing: \$25k



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## Pioneer #1 Logging While Drilling



Pioneer #1 ●  
25mi WSW  
of Nuiqsut

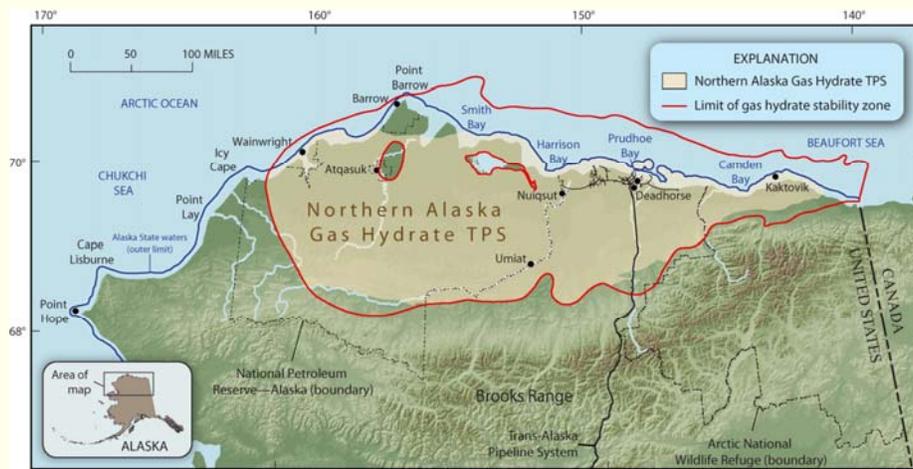


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2008-2009 Proposed  
Exploration Wells

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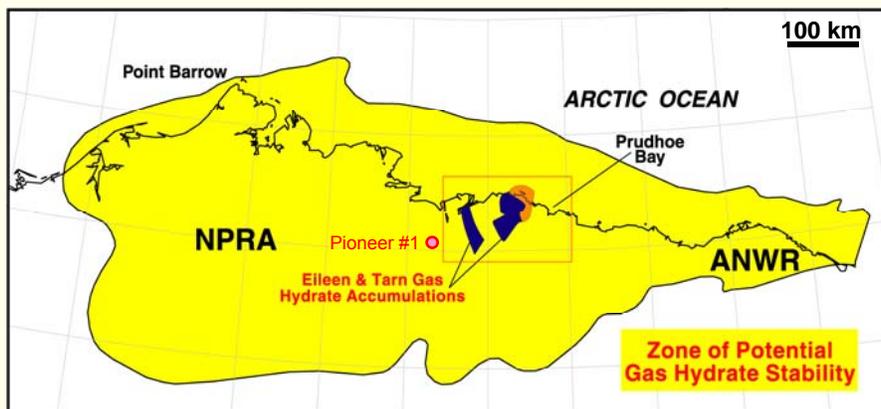
# USGS Hydrate Petroleum System



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# USGS Tarn & Eileen Hydrate Accumulations



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## Site Selection

- Culled 5700-well database down to 900 wells w/GR/ $\Delta t$ / $R_t$
- Identified “top 100” plus overlay USGS & in-house studies
- Developing & populating Ranking Matrix

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## Ranking Criteria

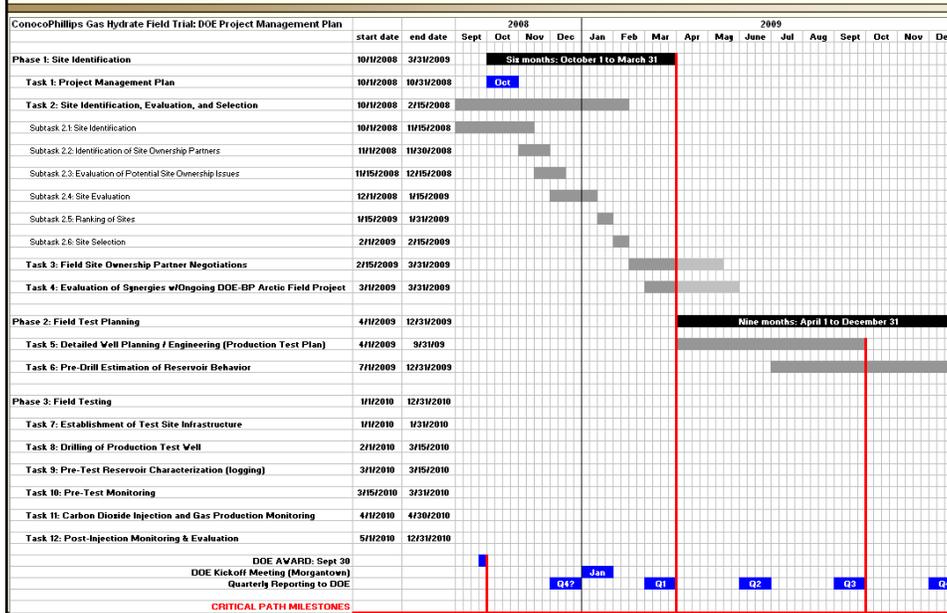
- Hydrate thickness
- Number of sands
- Confidence of occurrence
  - Log coverage
  - Log quality
  - Depth below calc'd PFrost
- Gas hydrate saturation
- Depth/temperature
- Mudlog shows/drilling data
- Seismic quality & character
- Ownership/operatorship
- Access: road & pad
- Historic conventional prod
- Simultaneous Operations

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## Timeline





## Tasks Underway

- Site selection/Laboratory experimentation
- Reservoir Simulation code validation
  - depressurization & CO<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>4</sub> exchange
- Cyclic CO<sub>2</sub> injection/CH<sub>4</sub> flowback test design
- ID & evaluate synergies w/BP-DOE project



Thank you for your attention

Questions?