

Oil & Natural Gas Technology

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Quarterly Research Performance Progress Report (Period ending 3/31/2013)

Methane Hydrate Field Program

Project Period (October 1, 2012 - September 30, 2013)

Submitted by:

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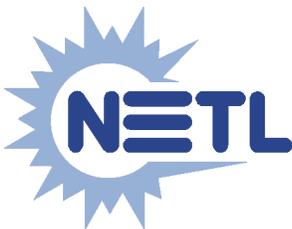

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National Energy Technology Laboratory

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Office of Fossil Energy

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

The primary objective of the project is to conduct scientific planning that will help enable future scientific ocean drilling, coring, logging, testing and analytical activities to assess the geologic occurrence, regional context, and characteristics of methane hydrate deposits along the continental margins of the U.S. with an emphasis on the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic margin. The goals that must be reached to obtain the objective are to assemble the gas hydrate project science team led by a community liaison. Engage the hydrate community through a community workshop with the goal of developing a methane hydrate “science plan” for a hydrate sampling program.

The major activities and accomplishments of this reporting period were to complete the first draft of the Methane Hydrate Historical Review and Synthesis document via regular meetings with the Methane Hydrate Science Team using audio conference calls and editing several iterations of the draft document. Once finalized, the document was sent to DOE-NETL.

Workshop planning also continued during the reporting period with the finalization and distribution of the invitation list. Substantial effort was been applied to completing the draft workshop plan which led to the creation of a list of challenges as determined by the methane hydrate research community. The list of challenges is currently being used to create an engaging agenda that will lead to a vital methane hydrate science plan.

What was accomplished under these goals?

During the reporting period the methane hydrate team completed the draft historical review document and submitted to DOE. Furthermore, substantial workshop planning was completed in advance of the June 4-6, 2013 workshop.

A list of the milestones and associated completion dates are listed in the chart below.

Milestone Title/Description	Planned Completion Date	Actual Completion Date	Milestone Status Report	
			Verification Method	Comments (Progress towards achieving milestone, explanation of deviation from plan, etc.)
Secure Lead Community Liaison	5-Oct-12	5-Oct-12	Email notification to DOE	Completed. Tim Collett will serve at LCL
Attend the project kickoff meeting	15-Oct-12	15-Oct-12	Participate in online Meeting	Completed. Team attended online meeting
Finalize Hydrate Science Team	9-Nov-12	31-Dec-12	Email list to DOE	Completed. Team finalized
Complete review of historical projects	4-Jan-13	31-Mar-13	Email report to DOE	Completed. Compiled report, circulated for hydrate team review, finalized draft and sent to DOE. Now preparing for website distribution
Create workshop plan and send invitations	4-Jan-13	5-Feb-13	Email plan and invitation to DOE	Completed. Generated the draft workshop plan and invitee list. COL sent out invitations
Hold workshop and complete workshop report	21-Jun-13		Execute workshop plan	A draft agend is complete. Plans for a workshop website are complete. The workshop will be promoted via newsletters and web. Logistics package will be sent to participants
Complete hydrate science plan writing meeting	5-Jul-13		Hold science plan writing meeting	Now scheduled for July 24-26, at COL - Washington, D.C.
Circulate the hydrate science plan draft for review	16-Sep-13		Email draft plan to DOE	The draft science plan will be provided to DOE in advance of the end of the fiscal year
Finalize and submit hydrate science plan to DOE	30-Sep-13		Email science plan to DOE	When complete, the hydrate science plan will be disseminated by mail, email and web

The milestones have been established to support the creation of the primary project deliverables listed below.

- **Historical Methane Hydrate Project Review and Synthesis**
This brief report includes a systematic review of goals and accomplishments of the ODP-IODP and other industry sponsored historical methane hydrate research drilling expeditions to date. This effort identifies the most critical unknowns (challenges) relative to our understanding of the geologic controls on the occurrence of methane hydrate in nature and how these factors may impact the energy resource potential of methane hydrates. This review includes the analysis of both technical concerns that are related to the universal occurrence of methane hydrates and specific regional concerns that may be unique to a given region or hydrate accumulation. This “living document” is being used to construct the agenda for the “U.S. Hydrate Community Drilling Workshop”.
- **Workshop Report**
The Workshop Report will include a complete synthesis of the results of the U.S. Hydrate Community Drilling Workshop, which will be incorporated into the final version of this historical review and will be used as the genesis of the Methane Hydrate Project Science Plan.
- **Methane Hydrate Project Science Plan**
Methane hydrate project science plan document represents the primary deliverable of this proposed project. The methane hydrate project science plan is intended to set the goals for a future hydrate drilling expedition and sampling program. The methane hydrate project science plan, as prepared by the Project Science Team, will build upon the foundation of the “Historical Methane Hydrate Project Review and Synthesis” and the “workshop report”. The science plan will include specific recommendations for location of drilling leg(s) and drill sites specifically selected to address the methane hydrate research goals identified in this study. Various technical concerns will also be addressed, including recommendations regarding the type and amount of conventional and pressure cores that should be acquired, the type of core analysis that should be performed, the acquisition of the wireline and/or logging-while-drilling log data, and possible allocations for formation testing. It is envisioned that “methane hydrate project science plan” will be similar to a less detailed version of an IODP Expedition Prospectus that are produced as part of the normal IODP planning process.

What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

Nothing to report

How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

A website has been established at www.oceanleadership.org/methane and this will be used for disseminating workshop information, meetings reports and other pertinent documents to the communities of interest.

What do you plan to do during the next reporting period to accomplish the goals?

The next reporting period will cover the Methane Hydrate Workshop in Washington, D.C. on June 4-6, 2013. Most activities will surround final workshop preparation such as confirming plenary session speakers, agenda updates and logistics updates. A draft workshop report will also be generated during the next reporting period. We will also continue to promote the workshop through newsletters and our websites.

PRODUCTS:

A working draft of the Historical Methane Hydrate Project Review and Synthesis document was reviewed and finalized by the Methane Hydrate Science Team and sent to DOE. This document is now undergoing packaging to be placed on the project website located at www.oceanleadership.org/methane.

PARTICIPANTS & OTHER COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS:

Who has been involved?

What individuals have worked on the project?

Greg Myers-COL

PI

Nearest Person Month Worked:	less than one month
Contributions to the project:	Led the project
Funding Support:	N/A
Collaborated with individual in foreign country:	Yes
Countries of foreign collaborators:	Korea, Norway
If traveled to foreign country(ies), duration of stay:	0

David Divins-COL

PI

Nearest Person Month Worked:	less than one month
Contributions to the project:	Led the project
Funding Support:	N/A
Collaborated with individual in foreign country:	Yes
Countries of foreign collaborators:	Korea, Norway
If traveled to foreign country(ies), duration of stay:	0

Tim Collett-USGS

Lead Community Liaison

Nearest Person Month Worked:	less than one month
Contributions to the project:	Formulated plan to create the hydrate science team
Funding Support:	N/A
Collaborated with individual in foreign country:	Yes
Countries of foreign collaborators:	Korea, Norway
If traveled to foreign country(ies), duration of stay:	0

What other organizations have been involved as partners?

Nothing to report

Have other collaborators or contacts been involved?

We continue to utilize the Methane Hydrate Science Team to discuss project issues and deliverables. The team meets via teleconference bi-weekly.

IMPACT:

By engaging academic and industry experts in the field of marine methane hydrates, the project team heightened the awareness of work being initiated by DOE-NETL.

CHANGES/PROBLEMS:

Nothing to report

SPECIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Nothing to report

BUDGETARY INFORMATION:

See SF-425 under separate cover

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