

Oil & Natural Gas Technology

DOE Award No.: DE-NT42959

Quarterly Report

January 1 – March 31, 2011

Electrical Resistivity Investigation of Gas Hydrate Distribution in the Mississippi Canyon Block 118, Gulf of Mexico

Submitted by:
Baylor University
One Bear Place, Box 97354
Waco, TX 76798

Principal Author: John A. Dunbar

Prepared for:
United States Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory

April 15, 2011



Office of Fossil Energy

**Electrical Resistivity Investigation of Gas Hydrate Distribution in
Mississippi Canyon Block 118, Gulf of Mexico**

Project Quarter 18 Report

Report Type: Quarterly

Starting January 1, 2011
Ending March 31, 2011

Author:
John A. Dunbar
Baylor University
Department of Geology

April 15, 2011

DOE Award Number:
DE-FC26-06NT142959

Submitting Organization:
Baylor University
One bear Place 97354
Waco, Tx 76798

Acknowledgment: "This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy under Award Number DE-FC26-06NT142959."

Disclaimer: "This report was prepared as an account of work sponsored by an agency of the United States Government. Neither the United States Government nor any agency thereof, nor any of their employees, makes any warranty, express or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the United States Government or any agency thereof. The views and opinions of authors expressed herein do not necessarily state or reflect those of the United States Government or any agency thereof."

”

ABSTRACT

Electrical methods offer a potential geophysical approach to determining the sub-bottom distribution of gas hydrate in the deep marine environment. Gas hydrate is essentially non-conductive. Hence, sediments with pore spaces partially filled with hydrate or containing veins filled with hydrate are more resistive than surrounding sediments with pore spaces filled with seawater. To date, attempts to map the sub-bottom distribution of gas hydrates using electrical methods have been done on an experimental basis using the controlled source electromagnetic method (CSEM). The CSEM method involves the generation of low-frequency EM signals from a source instrument and the reception of the signals by separate receiver instruments.

This project will evaluate an alternative electrical method, the direct current resistivity (DCR) method, for gas hydrate exploration. The DCR method involves the injection of a direct current between two source electrodes and the simultaneous measurement of the electric potential (voltage) between two or more receiver electrodes. In applications in which electrical coupling to the environment is not a problem and large source-receiver offsets are not required, the DCR method provides subsurface information comparable to that produced by the CSEM method, but with much less sophisticated instrumentation. Because the receivers are simple electrodes, large numbers can be deployed at relatively low cost.

To evaluate the DCR method for use in future commercial gas hydrate exploration, a prototype seafloor DCR system will be developed and used to conduct experiments at a site of known hydrate occurrence in Mississippi Canyon Block 118 (MC 118). The intent is not to develop a system that is optimized for collecting data in a production mode, but rather to develop a flexible system that can be used to conduct multiple experiments. The objectives of these experiments will be to test the DCR method to determine its applicability in gas hydrate exploration, to collect baseline seafloor electrical data useful in the design of future commercial seafloor DCR systems, and to contribute to the fundamental understanding of gas hydrate systems at the MC 118 site.

From January 2011 through March 2011:

- The seafloor instrument was re-wired to match the pin configuration of the new seafloor array.
- An initial test of the newly reconfigured seafloor resistivity system was successfully completed on land.
- A second test of the reconfigured system was successfully completed in a freshwater reservoir.

▪ Table of Contents

Section: Title	Page
ABSTRACT	3
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations	5
1.0 Introduction	6
1.1 Project Background.....	6
1.2 Project Objectives	7
1.3 Project Phases	7
1.4 Research Participants.....	8
1.5 Purpose of this report.....	8
2.0 Results and Discussion	8
2.1. Reconfiguration of the DCR system for high-resolution 3D surveying.....	8
Figure 2.1. Deployment of the seafloor electrode array in Lake Lavon, Texas	11
Figure 2.2. Position of lake-bottom array deployment within Lake Lavon, Texas.....	12
Figure 2.3. View of deployment area.....	13
Figure 2.4. Schematic of resistivity array lake deployment.....	13
Figure 2.5. Pseudosection for the gradient array.....	14
Figure 2.6. Pseudosection for the dipole-dipole array.	14
3.0 Milestone and budget tracking	15
Table 3.1. Revised Project Milestones.....	16
Table 3.2. Expenditures by project month.....	18
4.0 Plans for the next quarter	23
References.....	23

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

BSR	Bottom simulating reflection
CSEM	Controlled source electromagnetic
CRP	Continuous resistivity profiling
DC	Direct current
DCR	Direct current resistivity
DGPS	Differential global positioning system
GOM-HRC	Gulf of Mexico-Hydrate Research Consortium
GPS	Global positioning system
MC 118	Mississippi Canyon Block 118
RS232	Electronics Industries Association common computer interface standard
ROV	Remotely operated vehicle
UNOLS	University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System
4D	four-dimensional (three spatial dimensions and time)

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

One of several ongoing projects investigating the gas hydrate deposits on the northern Gulf of Mexico slope is being conducted by the Gulf of Mexico-Hydrate Research Consortium (GOM-HRC). This is a group of academic institutions and various State and Federal agencies formed to conduct multi-disciplinary studies of hydrate systems in the northern Gulf of Mexico. The group has had funding from DOE (Project numbers DE-FC26-00NT40920, DE-FC26-02NT41628 and DE-FC26-06NT42877), NOAA, and the MMS since 2001 to establish a multi-sensor seafloor monitoring site at a methane-hydrate location. The current work of the group is focused on Mississippi Canyon Block 118 (MC 118). Gas hydrate deposits at this site are believed to be derived from thermal gas actively migrating up deep-seated normal faults that intersect the seafloor.

To date GOM-HRC has conducted site reconnaissance by direct sampling from a deep submersible, gravity coring, multi-beam profiling, and shallow source – deep receiver seismic profiling. This work has established that there are both active and dormant gas vents at the site and that gas hydrate is exposed at the seafloor in the active vents. An apparent bottom simulating reflection (BSR) beneath the vent area suggests that the base of the hydrate stability zone is approximately 200 m below the seafloor. The group's near-future plans include deployment of a seafloor seismic array, installing pore-fluid samplers, bottom-towed P- and S-wave seismic profiling, and vertical array seismic profiling.

Although hydrates are observed at the seafloor and a BSR marks the apparent base of the hydrate stability zone at the site, the distribution of gas hydrates within the stability zone has not been determined. Attempts to map the distribution of hydrates seismically have not yet produced usable results. Electrical methods offer an alternate approach to mapping the concentration of hydrates within the stability zone. Gas hydrate is essentially non-conductive. Hence, massive hydrate blocks have high electrical resistivities ($\geq 100 \Omega\text{m}$) and sediments with pore spaces partially filled with hydrate are more resistive (2 to 100 Ωm) than surrounding sediments with saline pore fluids ($\leq 1 \Omega\text{m}$). This resistivity contrast has been widely exploited to quantify downhole hydrate concentration from resistivity logs (e.g. Hyndman et al., 1999; Collett and Ladd, 2000).

To date, the only attempts to map the sub-bottom distribution of gas hydrates by electrical methods have been done on an experimental basis using the controlled source electromagnetic method (CSEM) (e.g. Edwards, 1997; Hyndman et al., 2001). The CSEM method involves the generation of low-frequency EM signals from a source instrument and the reception of the signals by separate receiver instruments. The CSEM systems used in gas hydrate experiments were scaled-down versions of systems used in exploration for conventional petroleum deposits at depths of 3 to 6 km. Petroleum CSEM systems are re-purposed systems used in academic studies to image the electrical properties of the ocean crust and upper mantle to depths of 10 – 12 km (MacGregor et al., 2001).

The current project will evaluate an alternative electrical method, the direct current resistivity (DCR) method, for gas hydrate exploration. The DCR method involves the injection of a direct current between two source electrodes and the simultaneous measurement of the electrical potential (voltage) between two or more receiver electrodes. In applications in which electrical coupling to the environment is not a problem and large source-receiver offsets (many kilometers) are not required, the DCR method provides subsurface information comparable to that produced by the CSEM method, but with much less sophisticated instrumentation. Because the receivers are simple electrodes, large numbers can be deployed at relatively low cost, potentially resulting in higher resolution images of the hydrate distribution. Also, because of the low power of the source and inherent stability of voltage measurements, adaptation of DCR instruments for use in long-term site monitoring will not be as difficult as would be the case with CSEM instrumentation.

In this project, the Recipient will evaluate the DCR method for gas hydrate applications at the MC 118 site. Because of the previous work done by GOM-HRC, the MC 118 site will make an ideal laboratory for this purpose. Massive gas hydrate blocks have been observed outcropping at the seafloor and a potential BSR underlying the site at a depth of approximately 200 m has been mapped. Hence, there is no doubt that the site contains gas hydrate. The ongoing work of GOM-HRC will provide a range of auxiliary data with which sub-bottom conditions can be independently constrained and the DCR results can be evaluated. In addition, infrastructure at the site, such as a site-wide power source and facilities for mass data storage and routine data recovery, will make long-term monitoring experiments using DCR instruments much easier than would be the case for a standalone experiment. For these reasons, work on the current project will be coordinated with that of GOM-HRC, results from the project will be presented at GOM-HRC meetings, and data generated will be freely shared with GOM-HRC members.

1.2 Project Objectives

The current project is a pilot study, the over arching objective of which is to evaluate the DCR method for future use in commercial gas hydrate exploration and exploitation. To this end, a prototype seafloor DCR system will be developed and used to conduct experiments at the MC 118 site. The intent is not to develop a system that is optimized for collecting data in a production mode, but rather to develop an inexpensive, yet flexible system that can be used to conduct multiple experiments. The objectives of these experiments will be to test the DCR method to determine its applicability to gas hydrate exploration, to collect baseline seafloor electrical data useful in the design of future commercial seafloor DCR systems, and to contribute to the fundamental understanding of gas hydrate systems at the MC 118 site.

1.3 Project Phases

The project as originally planned was to be conducted in two phases. The first phase involved the development of an experimental bottom-towed DCR system, configured for continuous resistivity profiling (CRP) on the seafloor. Once complete, the experimental system was used to conduct a reconnaissance survey of the methane vent area at the MC 118 site. The resulting data will be complimentary to seismic data, previously collected at the site and will help characterize the overall hydrate distribution at the site. Based on the results for the first phase, the second

phase of the project involves reconfiguring DCR system for high-resolution 3D surveying of the methane vent area of MC118. The resulting data will be used to better constrain the 3D distribution of hydrate within the vent region of MC118.

1.4 Research Participants

Three institutions will contribute directly to the project. John Dunbar and his graduate students at Baylor University, Department of Geology, in Waco, Texas will develop the geophysical specifications for the experimental DCR system, participate in the initial testing and offshore experiments with the system, process and interpret the resulting DCR data, and report the results of the project in national meetings and peer-reviewed journals. Dunbar will also have overall management responsibility for the project. For the purposes of identification in this document, work done or primarily led by John Dunbar and his graduate students will be referred to collectively as work done by the Recipient.

Paul Higley and personnel at Specialty Devices, Inc. of Wylie, Texas (SDI) will be the subcontractor that will take the lead in conducting the offshore operations. SDI is an industrial member of GOM-HRC and has been the prime subcontractor for the development and deployment of much of their seafloor instrumentation. Work done for the project by Paul Higley and his employees will be referred to collectively as work done by SDI.

Mats Lagmanson and personnel of Advanced Geosciences, Inc. of Austin, Texas (AGI) will be the subcontractor in charge of fabricating the experimental DCR system. AGI is a leading manufacturer of commercial DCR systems used in near-surface geophysics on land and shallow marine applications. Work done by Markus Lagmanson and his employees will be referred to collectively as work done by AGI.

1.5 Purpose of this report

The purpose of this report is to document the research results during the Quarter 18 of the project, from January 2011 through March 2011.

2.0 Results and Discussion

2.1. Reconfiguration of the DCR system for high-resolution 3D surveying

The main limitations of the reconnaissance survey conducted in Phase 1 of the project were that the array used was designed to image as much as 200 m below the seafloor, at the expense of near-bottom resolution, and the signal to noise ratio of the resulting data was relatively poor. The results of the Phase 1 survey indicate that the most interesting resistivity anomalies, suggestive of high concentration hydrate deposits, occur within 50 m of the seafloor. Hence, the goals of the DCR system reconfiguration for Phase 2 are to improve near-bottom resolution and to increase the signal to noise ratio. The main changes in the DCR system from the reconnaissance 2D survey configuration will be the addition of a new, shorter electrode array, with dedicated source and receiver electrodes. That is, unlike in the general-purpose reconnaissance survey array, the source and receiver assignments will be fixed throughout the

survey. This makes it possible to use larger and more efficient copper electrodes connected by heavier-gauge wire for the sources and low-noise titanium electrodes for the receivers. An external, low-noise preamplifier will also be added to the front end of the cable to boost the signal level by a factor of at least 100, prior to entering the instrument housing. Together, these changes should dramatically increase the signal-to-noise ratio and shallow resolution over that achieved in the reconnaissance survey.

This project quarter was devoted to testing the performance of the reconfigured resistivity system in preparation for the Phase 2 survey of MC118 to be conducted in summer 2011. The goal of these tests was to verify that each component of the reconfigured system works properly and that together they can be expected to produce high-quality data on the deep seafloor.

Converting the resistivity instrument for use with the 500 m long, 13-electrode array to be used in Phase 2, required re-wiring the instrument to match the channel order of the new array and the development of new instruction sets for computer control of the system. To verify that these changes work properly, we conducted an initial test of the seafloor system on land, side-by-side with a matching land resistivity system, also produced by AGI. This test was conducted in an open field near the SDI office in Wylie, Texas. The electrodes of the seafloor array were attached to stainless steel stakes driven into the ground at points 5 m apart along a line, for a total active array length of 50 m. Hence, the offsets between the various electrodes were spaced at one-tenth the offsets at which they will be in the seafloor deployment. This was done so that electrodes of a land system with 6 m electrode spacing could be attached to the same stakes for a one-to-one comparison. The expectation was that, if the modifications to the seafloor system were correct, the measurements made with the seafloor system would match those made with the independent land system, driven using the same instruction sets.

An initial attempt at this test made on January 6, 2011 failed. Subsequent evaluation of the seafloor instrument by AGI indicated that the problem was the loss of the cable address settings, which are stored in nonvolatile memory onboard the instrument. The problem was solved by re-addressing the cable electrodes using a feature in the controlling AGI software. A second attempt made on January 30, 2011, also failed. Subsequent testing indicated that the pin assignments in the seafloor instrument violated assumptions about electrode ordering made in the AGI instrument control software. After the required modifications were made a third attempt was made on March 30, 2011, which was successful.

During the March 30 test, both the seafloor and land systems were used to collect data sets with gradient array and dipole-dipole array configurations. For the gradient array configuration, the source electrodes are located at either end of the array and the 8 receiver electrode pairs are spaced evenly between. For the dipole-dipole array configuration, the source electrodes are adjacent at the front of the array and the 8 receiver electrode pairs are spaced evenly along the rest of the array. For a given array length, the gradient array results in deeper penetration and higher signal voltage levels compared to the dipole-dipole array. The dipole-dipole array results in higher vertical resolution at the expense of depth of penetration and signal level. The Phase 1 survey data were collected using the gradient array configuration, because signal levels for the dipole-dipole configuration were below system noise level and maximizing the depth of penetration was a prime consideration.

The results of the initial test indicate that the seafloor and land systems produce the same average apparent resistivities for both array configurations, within one standard deviation in reading variability. Noise levels, as measured by comparing repeat measurements between the same electrodes, were about 20% higher on the seafloor system using the dipole-dipole configuration versus the land system (0.57 % for the seafloor system versus 0.48 % for the land system). In contrast, noise levels for the two systems were essentially the same for the gradient configuration (0.20% for the seafloor system versus 0.21 for the land system). The increased noise level in the seafloor system with the dipole-dipole configuration was apparently caused by the relative high electrode contact resistance for the titanium electrodes compared to the stainless steel electrodes of the land system (800 to 1200 Ohms for the seafloor system versus less than 200 Ohms for the land system). Titanium was chosen for the receiver electrodes of the seafloor system because of its low noise characteristics in salt water. However, on land the oxide coating that forms on the surface of the titanium interferes with the galvanic contact between the electrode and the stainless steel stake. Since, in the seafloor application the electrodes make direct contact with the conductive medium (seawater), the greater noise level in the land test is not of concern.

Once we verified that the seafloor system works correctly, the next question was how the system would perform in water at full offsets? To determine this, we deployed the array on the bottom of a freshwater reservoir, Lake Lavon, on the outskirts for Wylie, Texas (Figures 2.1-2.4). For the test, the array was stretched to its full 500 m length and then the measurements made on the land test were repeated. We began by finding a sheltered location in shallow water suitable for anchoring the boat, marked its location on the GPS navigation system, and drove to a point 500 m away to begin deploying the array back towards the anchor point. Once array was deployed and the boat firmly anchored, we began the test. To minimize the risk of tangling the array in submerged trees and other obstructions, we left the array stationary throughout the test.

We began the test by measuring the electrode-to-electrode resistances as was done in the land test. In water, the electrode-to-electrode resistance dropped to 175 to 200 Ohms between electrodes spaced 50 m apart, compared to the 850 to 1200 Ohms between electrodes 5 m apart on land. This verified that the increased contact resistance observed on land did not carry over to deployment in water. Next, we collected short data sets with both gradient and dipole-dipole array configurations. The gradient array measurements produced an average apparent resistivity of 5.54 Ohm-m, which is approximately 10 times the typical apparent resistivities observed on the seafloor at MC118 in the Phase 1 survey. The difference is due to the differences in the resistivities of the two environments. Because the voltage signal levels observed for a given current injection level vary in proportion to the apparent resistivity, the signal levels observed in the lake test are expected to be approximately 10 times higher than those that will be experienced on the seafloor. We plan to compensate for this drop in signal level with the pre-amplifier at the front end of the array. For the gradient array, the received voltage levels varied from 10.6 millivolts (mV) at the near offset to 1.4 mV at the far offset. Comparable signal levels on the seafloor can be expected to be approximately 1.06 mV to 140 microvolts (μV). These levels are consistent with signal levels observed during the Phase 1 surveys at comparable offsets using the gradient array. For the dipole-dipole array the signal voltages ranged from 6.7 mV at the near offset to 27.6 μV , which correspond to 670 μV to 2.76 μV on the seafloor, respectively.



Figure 2.1. Deployment of the seafloor electrode array in Lake Lavon, Texas.

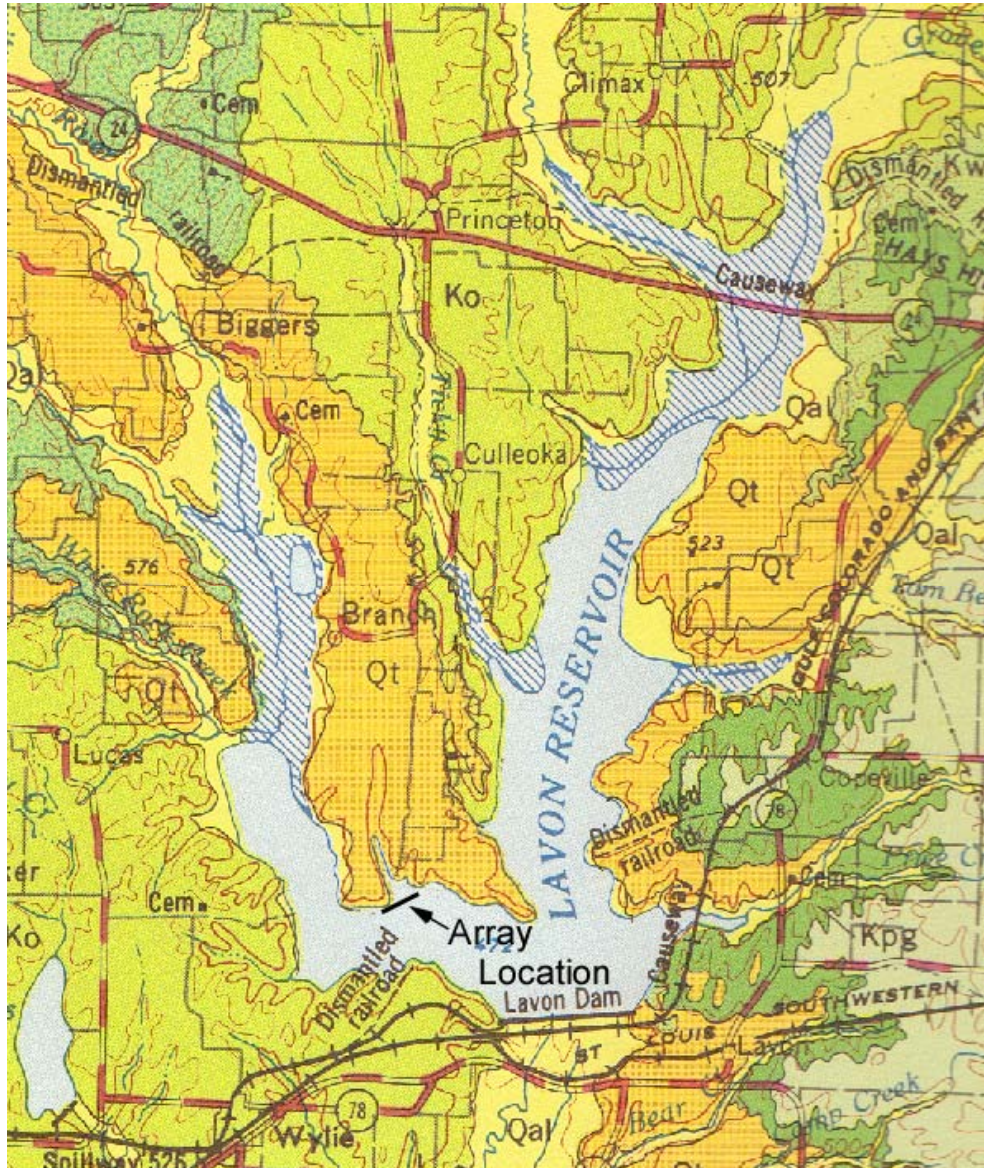


Figure 2.2. Position of lake-bottom array deployment within Lake Lavon, Texas. The array was deployed in 3 to 5 m of water across the end of a peninsula and small inlet. The location was chosen to avoid submerged trees and boat traffic.



Figure 2.3. View of deployment area. The site is viewed from the front of the array to the end of the array, with the boat at anchor in shallow water. The array was laid on the bottom, across the end of a peninsula (foreground-left) and across a small inlet (background-left).

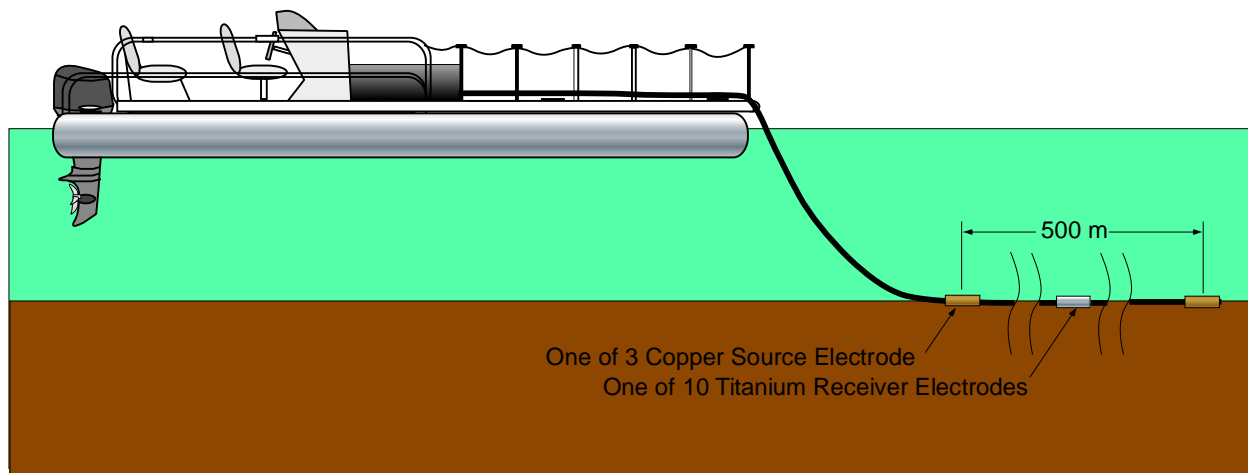


Figure 2.4. Schematic of resistivity array lake deployment.

During the test, 40 consecutive measurements were made with gradient and dipole-dipole configurations with the array stationary on the bottom. A useful way to visualize these data is to assume the array was being towed along the bottom at a uniform rate. To simulate this, the

electrode locations were shifted by a set amount (10 m) between each reading and then data were processed as if the array had been moving. The results show the variation in apparent sub-bottom resistivity versus reading along the array, but also preserve variation along the profile (Figures 2.5 and 2.6).

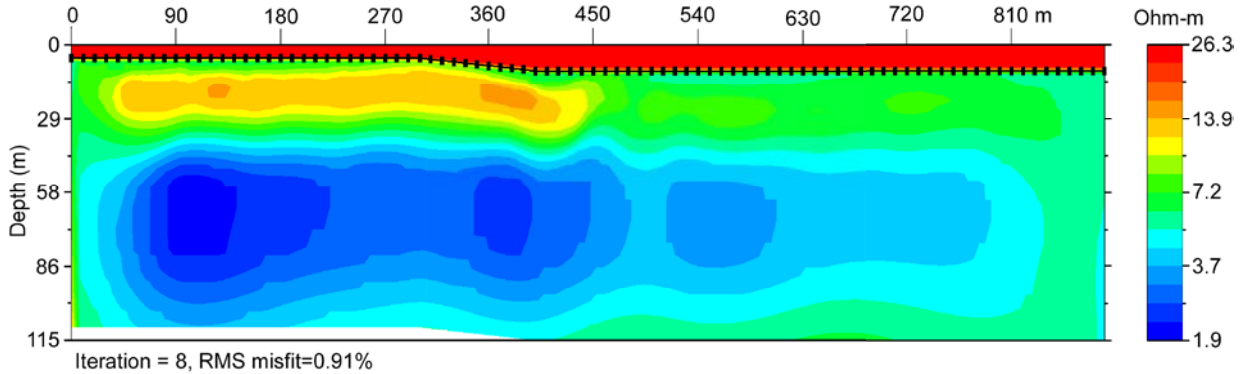


Figure 2.5. Pseudosection for the gradient array. The section was generated using data collected using a fixed gradient array. The water column was assigned the independently measured resistivity of 26.3 Ohm-m.

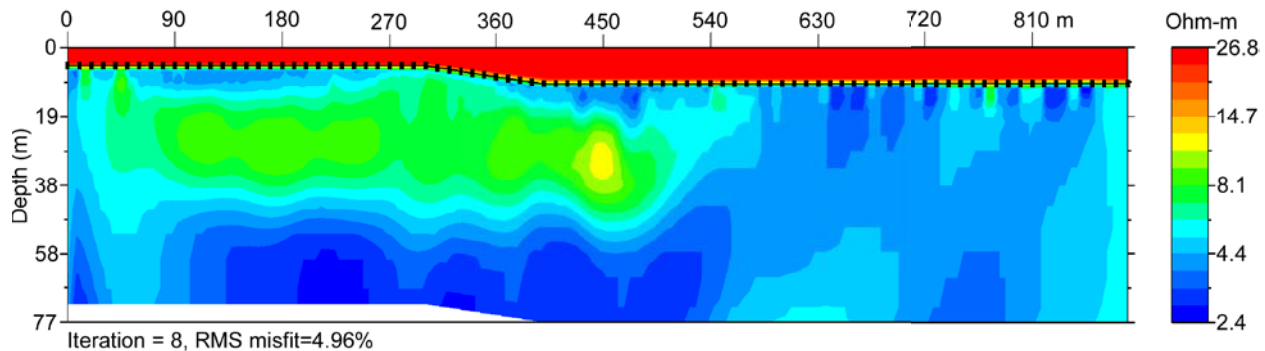


Figure 2.6. Pseudosection for the dipole-dipole array.

If the resistivity structure was uniform along the length of the array, the expected result of the pseudosection processing would be a uniform resistivity section. However, both sections show a high-resistivity zone at near offsets and lower resistivity at far offsets. This difference likely reflects a real difference in the sub-bottom resistivity structure associated with the Quaternary alluvium beneath the peninsula versus the Cretaceous shale, which underlies the inlet (Figure 2.1). The main differences in the sections are the greater penetration achieved with the gradient array and the higher noise level with the dipole-dipole array.

The AGI resistivity instrument used as the basis for the seafloor system has a maximum input signal voltage of 10 V and works best for signal input greater than 1 mV. Lower signal levels can produce useable data, but at reduced quality. To bring the signal levels up into desired range for the seafloor application, we plan to add a low-noise pre-amplifier to the front end of the array. Because the amplifier will be electrically isolated in a separate pressure housing from the AGI instrument, the radio-frequency noise generated by the instrument will not influence the signal prior to pre-amplification. Also, low-noise titanium electrodes will be used to reduce background electrode noise caused by electro-chemical processes on the electrode surface. One of

the goals of the Lake Lavon test was to gather data with which to estimate raw signal levels at the electrodes in order to establish the necessary pre-amp gains for the different array configurations. For the Lake Lavon tests, we estimate that a pre-amp gain of 100 will result in gradient array signal levels ranging from 106 mV at near offsets to 14.0 mV at far offsets, which meets the requirements for optimal data for the AGI instrument. Similarly, a pre-amp gain of 400 would result in dipole-dipole signal levels ranging from 268 mV at near offsets to 1.10 mV at the far offsets. Our plan is to have a dip-switch selectable gain setting on the pre-amp, so that the gain level required for the selected array type can be set prior to deployment. That will allow either gradient or dipole-dipole array configurations to be used on the seafloor. With this information, it will now be possible to complete the pre-amplifier.

3.0 Milestone and budget tracking.

As of the end of Project Quarter 18, the components of the reconfigured DCR system for Phase 2 have been completed and tested, with the exception of the pre-amplifier. With the results from the initial system tests, we will now be able to complete this last component. In spite of this delay, the DCR system reconfiguration is on schedule to be completed in time to be used on June-July GOM-HRC cruise. To meet expected expenditures for the system re-configuration, approximately \$27,000 of remaining student support funds and \$5000 in travel and supplies were transferred to the instrumentation budget item. In this quarter \$20,000 was spent on the final payment for the new array, \$76 was spent on materials for testing, and \$743 was spent on travel on multiple trips between Baylor University, SDI, and AGI. Phase 2 is currently within budget.

Table 3.1. Revised Project Milestones. Grey shaded quarters indicate period of activity, by the end of which the milestones occur. The \checkmark symbols indicate the quarter in which project tasks/subtasks were completed. The X symbols indicate tasks not completed because of technical problems and associated milestones not met. The \diamond symbols indicate the time of go/no-go decisions at Critical Path Milestones. Grey-shaded quarters indicate originally planned period of activity and milestones. Red-shaded quarters indicate originally planned period of activity and milestones.

Task/ Milestone	Task/Milestone Description	Project Duration - Start: 10/2006 End: 9/2009												Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Actual Start Date	Actual End Date	Comments
		Project Year 1				Project Year 2				Project year 3								
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10	Q11	Q12					
Task 1	Research Management Plan	√												10/06	12/06	10/06	11/06	
Task 2	Technology Status	√												10/06	12/06	11/06	12/06	
Task 3	Adaptation of DCR system																	
Subtask 3.1	DCR system components		√											1/07	6/07	1/07	3/07	
Subtask 3.2	Deep-Sea electrode array						√							1/07	5/07	4/07	3/08	
Subtask 3.3	Assembly of DCR system						√							5/07	6/07	4/08	5/08	
Task 4	Test of Bottom-towed system						X	System Repair						2/07	3/09	5/09	5/09	
CPM 1	DCR system test successful				◇		X						√◇	2/09	3/09	5/09	5/09	
Task 5	Bottom-towed survey													3/09	6/09	6/09	6/09	
CPM 2	Completion of DCR survey						◇						√◇	6/09	6/09	6/09	6/09	
Task 6	Analysis of DRC data													8/09	9/09	8/09	8/09	
Task 7	Project Final Report													9/09	9/09			

Table 3.1 continued.

Task/ Milestone	Task/Milestone Description	Phase II Duration - Start: 10/2006 End: 9/2009								Planned Start Date	Planned End Date	Actual Start Date	Actual End Date
		Project Year 4				Project Year 5							
		Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20				
Task 2.1	Reconfigure for 3D surveying									11/09	5/10	1/10	12/10
Task 2.2	Test of 3D DCR System									5/10	6/10	12/10	3/11
CMP 2.1	Test of 3D DCR System Complete			◇						5/10	6/10	1/11	3/11
Task 2.3	3D DCR Survey of MC 118									5/10	3/11		
CMP 2.2	Completion of 3D Survey						◇			3/11	3/11		
Task 2.4	Analysis of 3D DCR Data									6/10	7/11		
Task 2.5	Project Final Report									7/11	10/11		

Table 3.2. Expenditures by project month.

Baseline Reporting Quarter	YEAR 1: Starting 10/06 Ending 9/07											
	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	10-6	11-06	12-06	1-07	2-07	3-07	4-07	5-07	6-07	7-07	8-07	9-07
Baseline Cost Plan												
Federal Share	0	0	0	3,305	30,000	15,000	54,288	0	17,695	0	0	2,971
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	14,995	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	14,995
Total Planned	2,263	2,263	2,263	18,300	32,263	17,263	56,551	2,263	17,695	0	0	17,966
Cumulative Baseline Cost	2,263	4,526	6,789	25,089	57,352	74,615	131,166	133,429	151,124	0	0	169,090
Actual Incurred Cost												
Federal Share	0	0	0	2,310	5,210	1,145	(914)	4,404	5,104	38,324	1,791	892
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	14,995	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	14,995
Cumulative Baseline Cost	2,263	4,526	6,789	24,094	31,567	34,975	36,324	42,991	48,095	86,419	88,210	104,097
Variance												
Federal Share	0	0	0	995	24,790	13,855	55,202	(4,404)	12,591	(38,324)	(1,791)	2,079
Non-Federal Share	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Variance-Monthly	0	0	0	995	24,790	13,885	55,202	(4,404)	12,591	(38,324)	(1,791)	2,079
Cumulative Variance	0	0	0	995	25,785	39,640	94,842	90,438	103,029	64,705	62,914	64,993

Table 3.2 continued.

Baseline Reporting Quarter	YEAR 2: Starting 10/07 Ending 9/08											
	Q5			Q6			Q7			Q8		
	10-7	11-07	12-07	1-08	2-08	3-08	4-08	5-08	6-08	7-08	8-08	9-08
<u>Baseline Cost Plan</u>												
Federal Share	2,971	2,971	5,930	3,068	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	2,263
Total Planned	5,234	5,234	8,193	5,331	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	2,263
Cumulative Baseline Cost	174,324	179,558	187,751	193,082	195,345	197,608	199,871	202,134	202,134	202,134	202,134	204,397
<u>Actual Incurred Cost</u>												
Federal Share	1,179	7,876	1,492	2,979	1,321	1,321	16,423	1,279	4,400	2,220	29,686	0
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	2,263
Cumulative Baseline Cost	106,539	116,678	120,433	125,675	129,259	132,843	151,529	155,071	159,471	161,691	191,377	193,640
<u>Variance</u>												
Federal Share	1,791	(4,905)	4,438	89	(1,321)	(1,321)	(16,423)	(1,279)	(4,400)	(2,220)	(29,686)	0
Non-Federal Share	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Variance-Monthly	1,791	(4,905)	4,438	89	(1,321)	(1,321)	(16,423)	(1,279)	(4,400)	(2,220)	(29,686)	0
Cumulative Variance	66,785	61,880	66,318	66,407	66,086	64,765	48,342	47,063	42,663	40,443	10,757	10,757

Table 3.2 continued.

Baseline Reporting Quarter	YEAR 4: Starting 10/09 Ending 9/10											
	Q13			Q14			Q15			Q16		
	10-9	11-09	12-09	1-10	2-10	3-10	4-10	5-10	6-10	7-10	8-10	9-10
<u>Baseline Cost Plan</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500	5,000	5,000	5,000
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	2,263	2,263
Total Planned	2,263	2,263	2,263	9,763	9,763	9,763	9,763	7,500	7,500	5,000	7,263	7,263
Cumulative Baseline Cost	227,027	229,290	231,553	241,316	251,079	260,842	270,605	278,105	285,605	290,605	297,868	305,131
<u>Actual Incurred Cost</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	2,500	5,499	2,750	12,742	1,682	7,465	4,977	0	0
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	844	0	2,263	2,263
Cumulative Baseline Cost	223,288	225,551	227,814	232,577	240,339	245,352	260,357	262,039	270,348	275,325	277,588	279,851
<u>Variance</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	5,000	2,001	4,750	(5,242)	5,818	35	23	5000	5000
Non-Federal Share	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(844)		0	0
Total Variance-Quarterly	0	0	0	5,000	7,001	11,751	(5,242)	576	(233)	(210)	5000	5000
Cumulative Variance	3,739	3,739	3,739	8,739	10,740	15,490	10,248	16,066	15,257	15,280	20,280	25,280

Table 3.2 continued.

Baseline Reporting Quarter	YEAR 5: Starting 10/10 Ending 9/11											
	Q17			Q18			Q19			Q20		
	10-10	11-10	12-10	1-11	2-11	3-11	4-11	5-11	6-11	7-11	8-11	9-11
<u>Baseline Cost Plan</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	0	20,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	10,650	0	0	0
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	0	0	0	2,263	2,263
Total Planned	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	22,263	12,263	12,263	5,000	10,650	0	2,263	2,263
Cumulative Baseline Cost	307,394	309,657	311,920	314,183	336,446	348,709	360,972	365,972	376,622	376,622	378,885	378,885
<u>Actual Incurred Cost</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	511	20,000	232						
Non-Federal Share	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263	2,263						
Cumulative Baseline Cost	282,114	284,377	286,640									
<u>Variance</u>												
Federal Share	0	0	0	(511)	0	9,768						
Non-Federal Share	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Total Variance-Quarterly	0	0	0	(511)		9,768						
Cumulative Variance	25,280	25,280	25,280	24,769	24,769	34,537						

4.0 Plans for the next quarter

During Quarter 19, the preamplifier and digital compasses will be fabricated and attached to the array and the completed system tested. The current target cruise for the start of the Phase 2 3D survey of MC118 is June, 2011.

References

- Collet T. S. and J. Ladd, Detection of gas hydrates with downhole logs and assessment of gas hydrate concentrations (saturations) and gas volumes on the Blake Ridge with electrical resistivity log data, Proceedings of the Ocean Drilling Program, Scientific Results, v. 164, p. 179-191, 2001.
- Constable, S. C., A. S. Orange, G. M Hoversten, H. F. Morrison, Maine magnetotellurics for petroleum exploration Part I: A sea-floor equipment system, Geophysics, v. 63, p. 816-825, 1998.
- Edwards, R. N., On the resource evaluation of marine gas hydrate deposits using sea-floor transient electric dipole-dipole method, Geophysics, v. 62, p. 63-74, 1997.
- Hyndman R. D., T. Yuan, and K. Moran, The concentration of deep sea gas hydrates from downhole electrical resistivity measurements, Earth and Planetary Science Letters, v. 172, p. 167-177, 1999.
- MacGregor, L., M. Sinha, and S. Constable, Electrical resistivity structure of the Valu Fa Ridge, Lau Basin, from marine controlled-source electromagnetic sounding, Geophysical Journal International, v. 146, p. 217-236, 2001.
- Petiau, G. and A. Dupis, Noise, temperature coefficient, and long time stability of electrodes for telluric observations, Geophysical Prospecting, v. 28, p. 792-804, 1980.

National Energy Technology Laboratory

626 Cochrans Mill Road
P.O. Box 10940
Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940

3610 Collins Ferry Road
P.O. Box 880
Morgantown, WV 26507-0880

13131 Dairy Ashford, Suite 225
Sugarland, TX 77478

1450 Queen Avenue SW
Albany, OR 97321-2198

2175 University Ave. South
Suite 201
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Visit the NETL website at:
www.netl.doe.gov

Customer Service:
1-800-553-7681

