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by *Chris Chaffin*
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Bayou Postillion: Phoenix in the Swamp

Significant hydrocarbon discoveries are still being found in onshore south Louisiana. One such prolific oil and gas field is Bayou Postillion in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. The field was discovered in 1956 and has produced in excess of 340 bcf of gas equivalent to date. New activity on the southern flank of the field has given rise to a large discovery in south Louisiana. The pay zone is the upper Oligocene Discorbis 14. Reserves are estimated at approximately 70 bcfe. Penn Virginia Oil & Gas, L.P. started leasing the structural crest in 2004 while Century Exploration Houston Inc. leased the downdip acreage. The difference in leasing philosophies is the result of different interpretations of the 3D seismic survey. The pay section gives a seismic amplitude response that had been interpreted as pay and/or sand thickness. The completion of additional wells in an updip position proved that sand thickness was more likely responsible for the seismic response.

Seven new wells have been drilled in Bayou Postillion beginning in 2005. First production from the new activity was from the

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Century Exploration #1-ST Herald Hodges & Lee in March 2005. At one point daily production rates were in excess of 100 mmcf from six wells. At the beginning of March 2008, the six active wells were producing 71.1 mmcf/d and 138 bopd and have cumulatively produced 38.8 bcf and 131.6 mbo. ■

Biographical Sketch

CHRIS CHAFFIN is currently an explorationist with Penn Virginia Oil & Gas, L.P. working the Miocene and upper Oligocene of south Louisiana. He began his career in Houston with El Paso Production Company and has also worked for Hilcorp Energy Company. Mr. Chaffin has a BS in geology from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and an MS in geology from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

