glomerates commonly top the upper facies. In general, producing-zone porosity increases upward from subtidal to intertidal.

RYDER, ROBERT T., GERALD N. SMITH, and MYUNG W. LEE, U.S. Geol. Survey, Denver, CO

Seismic Models of 15 Stratigraphically Controlled Oil and Gas Fields Containing Sandstone Reservoirs in Rocky Mountain Basins

Two-dimensional, normal-incidence, ray-theory seismic models were generated for 15 stratigraphic traps which have accumulated oil and gas in the Rocky Mountain province. The investigation is a feasibility study to determine the seismic character of moderate-sized (6-30 m thick), lenticular sandstone reservoirs in Rocky Mountain basins. The models are noise free and do not include all the complexities of the seismic phenomenon, but they do provide a reasonable indication of the anomaly to be expected for a specific problem and the quality of seismic data required to solve it. The fields chosen for the model studies represent different kinds of stratigraphic traps, and the reservoirs range in age from Late Pennsylvanian to Late Cretaceous. The fields include nine from the Powder River basin, three from the Denver basin, two from the Green River basin, and one from the San Juan basin.

Each seismic model was constructed from a detailed geologic cross section and typically consists of 30 layers and several hundred velocity and density values. Effects of inelastic attenuation, interbed multiples and diffractions, are not incorporated in these seismic models. Hydrocarbon effects should be partly represented through the response of acoustic and density logs from which the models were derived. Final synthetic seismic sections are displayed with symmetrical Ricker wavelets at three different frequencies.

Many of the 15 fields investigated appear to be detectable on conventional seismic sections, although several of the anomalies are very subtle. The seismic expression of the objectives modeled are manifested by amplitude changes due to acoustic contrasts at stratigraphic boundaries, or to constructive interference of waveforms.

RYDER, ROBERT T., U.S. Geol. Survey, Denver, CO

Middle Member of Minnelusa Formation (Middle and Upper Pennsylvanian)—Implications for Stratigraphic-Trap Oil Accumulations in Powder River Basin, Wyoming

The middle member of the Minnelusa Formation (Middle to Upper Pennsylvanian) thins northward across the Powder River basin from about 150 m thick in the Hartville uplift to less than 50 m near the Wyoming-Montana border. Much of the thinning occurs beneath a regional, pre-Permian unconformity, which is identified in the south half of the basin by a mudstone commonly identified as the red shale marker.

Cyclically arranged units up to 10 m thick, composed in ascending order of black organic-rich shale, mud-supported dolomite, anhydrite, and quartzose sandstone, characterize most of the middle Minnelusa. The majority of the sandstone units (informally designated in the subsurface as the Leo sandstones) are less than 3 m thick, tabular shaped, and commonly cemented with anhydrite and dolomite. Locally, however, the sandstones, particularly in the first Leo interval, are lenticular and linear, very porous, and attain thicknesses of more than 15 m. Several of these 10 to 15-m thick, linear first Leo sandstone bodies trend northwest across the southern Powder River basin. They probably represent wadi-type channels that have cut across sabkha and associated peritidal deposits during low stands of sea level. The source of the Leo sandstones is presently uncertain, but at least the lowermost ones appear to be distal equivalents of the Tensleep Sandstone (Desmoinesian) to the northwest.

Where the thicker sandstone units of the first Leo cross anticlinal noses such as at Red Bird, Pine Lodge, and Little Buck Creek, they commonly contain stratigraphically trapped oil. The oil in these fields was probably locally derived from the thin (0.5 to 2 m), widespread, black organic-rich shale units in the middle member. The lenticularity, proposed northwest trend, thickness, porosity, and associated probable source rocks make these sandstone units prime targets for oil and gas exploration in the sparsely tested, deep, southern Powder River basin.

RYER, THOMAS A., U.S. Geol. Survey, Dever, CO, and ERLE G. KAUFFMAN, Natl. Museum Natural History, Washington, D.C.

Physical Evidence for Cretaceous Tides, Western Interior Basin, North America

Shallow-marine and marginal-marine sandstone bodies constitute important reservoirs for oil and gas in the Western Interior. The geometries and physical characteristics of these bodies reflect the hydrographic regimes of their paleoenvironmental settings.

Tidal range is a primary determinant of hydrographic regime and is, therefore, an important factor in paleoenvironmental reconstruction and in delineation of exploration targets. Two opposed models exist for tidal patterns in epeiric seas: (1) tidal ranges were small, with the amplitude of the tidal wave generally decreasing away from apertures with the oceans; and (2) tidal ranges were large, the tidal wave being amplified with increasing distance from the apertures and attaining maximum amplitudes in the interior parts of the seas. A variety of evidence indicates that the second model is more applicable to the interior Cretaceous seaway. In the Western Interior Cretaceous, features that indicate tides include tidal inlets, tidally influenced reaches of river systems, tidal flats, linear sand bars, and thick foreshore sequences. These paleoenvironments are characterized by suites of physical and biogenic structures. The distribution of these features indicates that tides were present throughout the interior Cretaceous seaway. Microtidal conditions prevailed in the area of its connection with the proto-Caribbean. Tidal range increased northward along the western shoreline, attaining mesotidal amplitudes in Wyoming, in Montana, and probably in southern Alberta. Tidal patterns farther to the north cannot be discerned on the basis of physical evidence. The east-