numerous shallow top values.

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The Gulf/AOSTRA Surmont Project—South Athabasca Oil Sands Deposit, Alberta, Canada

In September 1979, Gulf Canada Resources Inc. and the Alberta Oil Sands Technology and Research Authority entered into an agreement to determine the technical, economic and environmental feasibility of recovering bitumen from oil sands utilizing a system of horizontal wells and a steam recovery process. Two methods of access to the bitumen-bearing formation were to be considered: wells drilled from the surface and whipstocked to the horizontal, and wells drilled from tunnels located either above, within, or below the pay zone. It is believed that a horizontal well system is more cost effective, will have better recoveries, and have less environmental impact than a vertical well system.

The project site is located approximately 330 km (205 mi) northeast of Edmonton, Alberta, in the southern extent of the Athabasca oil sands deposit. The oil-bearing, Lower Cretaceous McMurray Formation occurs at a depth of 275 m and ranges in thickness from 64 to 87 m. Gross oil pays range in thickness from 25 to 43 m. At this location, the McMurray Formation is interpreted as having been deposited in a fluvial environment grading upward into a coastal plain and shallow-marine environment.

Due to the complex nature of the in-situ recovery process, it is essential that the geology of the oil-bearing sands is accurately interpreted with respect to channel and permeability trends. Other geological problems associated with the recovery process involve water supply and disposal. Steam recovery systems require large quantities of boiler quality water; hence, a reliable supply of relatively inexpensive water must be in place prior to pilot start-up. Also, owing to the large amounts of water produced, adequate underground disposal must also be available.

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Facies Analysis of Pinnacle Reefs of Guelph Formation (Middle Silurian), Northern Michigan

Five facies were defined on the basis of a Q-mode cluster analysis of petrographic data derived from well core samples of five Guelph Formation pinnacle reefs. The five statistically significant facies are crinozoan facies, bryozoan facies, mixed skeletal facies, stromatoporoid-coral facies, and brachiopod facies. Additionally, empirical data were used to define an algal facies.

Pinnacle reefs initially formed as carbonate mud mounds when bryozoan and crinozoan "mud dwellers" baffled and trapped sediment. This mechanism allowed the mounds to grow upward into a zone near wave base. As mud-mound buildup reached wave base, an ecological regime suitable for the development of a stromatoporoid-coral reef was established.

Guelph Formation pinnacle reef growth ended after the deposition of an algal boundstone lithofacies. Crests of pinnacle reefs were at or close to sea level prior to a major sea regression marking the end of the Niagaran Series. and ROBERT EHRLICH, Univ. South Carolina, Columbia, SC

Dispersal and Provenance of Terrigenous Sand by Fourier Grain Shape Analysis, Northern Puerto Rico

The narrow, steep, north insular shelf of Puerto Rico contains terrigenous sands and silts derived from rivers originating in nearby mountains. This compact system provides an ideal setting for the study of sand sized sediment dispersal and provenance in coastal and nearshore environments using Fourier shape analysis.

Quartz sand shape on the north shelf reflects the lateral change in source-rock composition. The shelf can be divided into a western part containing dominantly angular quartz grains and an eastern part containing rounded abraded quartz sand. Rivers feeding the western shelf drain a significant body of granitic rock, whereas rivers to the east drain a quartz-poor, volcanic rock terrane. Rounded grains on the eastern shelf are mostly relict.

Quartz sand shapes do not change significantly with changing size either upstream or on the shelf. A size-shape dependence does exist in downstream, river mouth, and slope environments (fine sand is more angular than coarser sand) and on beaches (fine sand is more abraded than coarser sand).

It is significant that environments in which size-shape relationship exists are also sites of mixing between sands of different origins and transport histories. For example, samples studied from downstream and river mouth areas indicate mixing between fine-grained, angular fluvial sand, and coarser, smoother residual sand. Mixing occurs because fluvial sand is deposited on the shelf only when storm-induced flooding results in rivermouth bypassing.

This study suggests that investigations into the origin of sizeshape relationships can aid in understanding climatically controlled, short-term changes in terrigenous output.

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Hydrocarbon Accumulations in Overthrust Belt of Alberta

Estimated proved and probable ultimate reserves of marketable natural gas in Alberta are 80.5 tcf, of which approximately 10.5 tcf are in Paleozoic carbonate reservoirs that have been involved in thrust faulting in the Foothills belt of Alberta. Interpretation of exploration data in this belt has contributed significantly to our understanding of the geology of the southern Canadian Rocky Mountains as a whole.

The Precambrian basement is overlain by a westward-thickening prism of Paleozoic sedimentary deposits that contain important reservoirs in Upper Devonian and Mississippian carbonate rocks. Approximately 8% of the reserves are in the Upper Devonian and 87% in the Mississippian. There is close correlation between reserves found and facies trends within the Mississippian Rundle Group. A widespread organic-rich source rock, the Exshaw Formation, provided the major charge for both Mississippian and Devonian reservoirs. Jurassic marine shales overlie the Mississippian in the southern part of the belt and form an effective seal and possible source rock. In the northern part of the belt, the Mississippian is overlain by Triassic sedimentary rocks in which reservoirs are present. Cretaceous sandstones generally lack reservoir qualities and less than 5% of the reserves found to date are in the Cretaceous.

The Outer Foothills are characterized by closely spaced listric thrust faults that repeat the Mesozoic section. Some of the thrusts cut deep enough to carry a single or multiple thrust slices