

NOON MEETING, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1973

ATKINSON FIELD
LIVE OAK AND KARNES COUNTIES, TEXAS

by

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ABSTRACT

Excellent shallow gas production from a Reklaw (Eocene) sand was discovered after only two exploratory attempts to define the purely stratigraphic trap. The trap is formed where a marine channel sand meanders across a homocline. Structural influence except for regional tilting appears to be negligible. While a substantial profit from finding another such field seems obvious, the economics of making the search is considered. Dry hole costs versus the discounted present value of the field are compared to the U. S. exploratory success ratio of 1 out of 58 to determine the profitability of making the search. At a wellhead gas price of 35¢ per Mcf the projected dollar return from the Atkinson Field could support an exploratory effort of over 250 dry holes before the venture became non-profitable.

BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW:

Richard H. Sams was born in Atlanta, Georgia. He received a B.A. Degree in geology from Emory University, Atlanta in 1957 where he was awarded the W. A. Tarr Award for outstanding work in Earth Sciences. Mr. Sams then served three years as an officer at the U. S. Naval Research Centers in San Francisco and Pasadena, California. He then returned to graduate school at the University of California at Los Angeles where he received a master's degree in geology in 1964.

Mr. Sams was employed by the Humble Oil and Refining Company in Corpus Christi, Texas from 1964 to 1968 where he engaged in all phases of geological exploration activities throughout South Texas. He then became an independent geologist conducting exploration and consulting work in San Patricio, Brooks, Calhoun, Kleberg and Live Oak Counties, Texas. Mr. Sams is now District Geologist for the Texas Gulf Coast for Tesoro Petroleum Corporation, San Antonio.

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(continued - Biographical Review - Richard H. Sams)

Mr. Sams is a Certified Professional Geologist and a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. He also holds membership in the Corpus Christi and South Texas Geological Societies. He was editor of the Corpus Christi Geological Society Bulletin, 1969-1970 and has published technical articles on California, Georgia and Texas Geology.