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by *Richard Fowler  
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Dominion E&P

## Rigel Field Appraisal and Development

The Rigel exploration well, the Texaco OCS-G-18207 #1, was drilled in 1999 in GOM block MC252 in 5200' water depth. The well targeted a Miocene age, low-relief downthrown closure/stratigraphic trap that was supported by a strong amplitude response on the 3D seismic data. The results of the Rigel exploration well were disappointing (see log strip below). The well encountered what was interpreted to be a 176' thick gas-charged, low-permeability siltstone in the Rob E-age target. This reservoir was believed to be uneconomic at that time.

This presentation focuses on a few stalwart individuals' efforts to continue to pursue appraisal of this marginal discovery. These efforts included pre-appraisal geologic modeling, reservoir modeling and analog work. The presentation will show the results of the appraisal drilling and compare the post-appraisal model with the pre-appraisal model.

The appraisal drilling by Dominion, the operator, with its partners, Mariner and Newfield, was highly successful. As a result, the Rigel Field is currently being developed as a one-well subsea tieback, as part of a larger subsea system. The project is well underway and expected to begin production in 2005. The presentation will also demonstrate the methods used to enhance the profitability of the development after appraisal drilling was completed. ■

### Biographical Sketch

RICHARD FOWLER is the Deepwater Development Manager for Dominion E&P. He has been heavily involved in all of Dominion's Deepwater Projects including the Devils Tower Spar Development, the Front Runner Spar Development, and the Spiderman and San Jacinto developments in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico. He has been with Dominion (formerly CNG Producing) for eight years and previously with Exxon for 12 years in various reservoir engineering and operational assignments. Rick has a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Tulane University. He has been President of the SPE Delta Section, Chairman of the GOM Deepwater Symposium and committee member for the Geology and Geophysics Session for the SPE ATCE. He currently serves on the OTC Program Committee.

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ED FRAME is a Staff Geologist in the Deepwater Exploration Group of Dominion E&P's Offshore Business Unit. He has worked on several deepwater exploration projects, including Rigel, Spiderman, San Jacinto and the recent Thunder Hawk discovery. He has been with Dominion (formerly CNG Producing) for 16 years, working a variety of geological and technical assignments. Ed has a Bachelor of Arts degree in geology and anthropology from the University of Delaware.

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