

Surface and Subsurface Features of the Upper Pleistocene Beaumont Formation as Studied in a Proposed Super Collider Site in Liberty and Hardin Counties, Southeastern Texas

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In 1987 an area in Hardin and Liberty Counties in southeastern Texas was a much-studied candidate site for the ill-fated Superconducting Super Collider. The site is on the outcrop of the upper Pleistocene Beaumont Formation, which locally was deposited by a sequence of meandering, avulsing, suspended-load, paleo-Trinity River courses, now preserved as a well-defined to poorly defined depositional topography. Test holes in meanderbelt ridges showed that channel and point-bar silty fine to very fine sands are almost everywhere covered by approximately 10 to 40 ft (~3 to 12 m) of CH and CL overbank clays. Where com-

pletely penetrated, sand bodies are approximately 20 to 50 ft (~6 to 15 m) thick. Pedogenic calcareous deposits and slickensides at depths well below any influence from present-day surface processes are probably parts of lower horizons of truncated now-buried soils generated during the accumulation of the Beaumont, or on the surface of the underlying Lissie Formation. The relationship of one of the paleo-meanderbelts to the uplifted topographic surface of the Hull salt dome suggests that the rise of the surface postdated deposition of the Beaumont.

Offshore Development and the Marine Environment— Emerging Environmental Issues in the Outer Continental Shelf

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Energy exploration and production in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Gulf of Mexico are conducted under a comprehensive, environmental legislative and regulatory regime. There are indications that this regime may be evolving in the direction of more restrictive requirements. Anticipating future requirements is important to ensure that informed decisions are made by lawmakers and regulators and also by the exploration and production industry. Anticipating legislative and regulatory trends could help industry understand what information would be helpful to lawmakers and regulators, contribute to industry's having an effective voice in the development of

requirements, and stimulate the industry to develop alternatives that may be more responsive and cost effective.

Emerging and evolving Gulf of Mexico environmental issues include drilling fluids and produced waters discharge, naturally occurring radioactive material emission, natural resource damage assessment, Gulf of Mexico program continuation, air emissions, toxic release inventory reporting expansion, and exploration and production associated waste management. Charting a successful course through these issues may require new ways of working—both within industry and beyond.