

JANUARY MEETINGS

WA BRANCH (Jan 28th)



New Technology — A Major Impact on a Producing Field: North Rankin Gas Field

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New technology, especially the significant advances in 3D seismic interpretation techniques and drilling technology, has had a major impact on the development planning for the North Rankin Field. Significant advances have been made through the application of: horizon at-

tribute processing, seismic amplitude analysis and long-reach drilling technology.

Horizon attribute processing, including image processing techniques, has led to a better understanding of the structurally complex region on the northern flank of the field. These studies, coupled with new geological concepts related to opposing fault regimes, have concluded that good reservoir communication should exist across a fault zone previously thought to subdivide the field into compartments. The drilling of expensive, long-reach wells into the northern sector has thus been deferred, and may never be required, because of the newly developed structural model.

Although North Rankin has been producing for over seven years with a total of 23 development wells drilled, understanding of the geological structure is still being improved by using new technology and ideas.