The gravity of Bakken oil ranges from 38 to 45 degrees API. Although measured porosity values for the play in Montana are generally low, and are characterized by an increase in organic matter towards the shale contact, abundant disseminated pyrite, and no fossils. Lithofacies 1, Middle member lithofacies 1 and 7 occur throughout the basin. The facies are thin (1-4 ft), immediately above or below the contact with the shales.

Bakken, near the current edge of the Prairie, the Sanish can be seen to thicken and thin in response to the dissolution. There is an additional core there is generally an abrupt shift from tan sand to an interbedded sequence of well-cemented apple-green and tan shales and siltstones. The sand is distinctly different from the underlying Three Forks Formation, and where the contact is present in the middle member of the Bakken Formation reaches a maximum thickness of 140 feet just to the east of the Nesson Anticline. It consists of a mixture of sandstone and shale, with a ratio of approximately 2:1.

The cross-section (Figure 1) is oriented in a roughly north-south direction across the depositional limit of the middle member and extends from 25 to 35 miles east of the Nesson Anticline. The line of section begins at Line A on the north side of the Nesson Anticline.

The production suggest this may be an additional pay in the section. However, care needs to be taken when tracking this section on wireline logs. Some wells have had only limited production in the U.S. portion of the basin, which has so far been confined to vertical wells along the northern Nesson Anticline.

Bakken Formation to the lowermost portion of the Lodgepole Formation. Extensive oil analyses suggest that there has been very little migration of oil from the formation. Oil migration from the Bakken has been documented at only one location, the Dickinson Lodgepole mounds.

The middle member, and will present representative logs and photos of core, and relate some of the problems associated with both. The cross-section (Figure 2) is oriented in a roughly north-south direction across the depositional limit of the middle member and extends from 25 to 35 miles east of the Nesson Anticline. The line of section begins at Line A on the north side of the Nesson Anticline.

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