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# MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

## Recent Meetings Attended

by John Bluemle

In the past several months, I've attended several conferences and meetings. I attended the annual meeting of the **Association of American State Geologists** in Fairbanks, Alaska, June 4 - 10. The group meets each year in a different state to discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. At our meetings, nearly every federal agency that deals with geologic issues makes a presentation and we are able to question them on their activities. We take several geologic field trips, before, during, and after the meeting. One of the more interesting field trips in Alaska was to a large lignite mine, the production of which is shipped mainly to South Korea.

Also in June, I attended the **1999 Roads Scholar Workshop** in the Turtle Mountains. This four-day workshop included several presentations on various historic and scientific aspects of the Turtle Mountain area. I also gave a talk on the Geology of the Hills.

I attended the **Weyburn Monitoring Workshop** in Regina, Saskatchewan, August 25 - 27. The workshop dealt primarily with the upcoming CO<sub>2</sub> flood of Weyburn Field (the CO<sub>2</sub> will be provided by Dakota Gasification plant in Beulah) and the fate of the CO<sub>2</sub> in the reservoir, particularly its reaction with the formation and formation fluids, its movement within the reservoir, etc. The participants worked at trying to devise ways to predict what happens to carbon dioxide in a carbonate reservoir and about optimizing CO<sub>2</sub> disposal in an oil reservoir as opposed to optimizing oil production.

The enhanced oil-recovery project at Weyburn will take approximately 5,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a day, using it to increase recovery of oil and prolong the life of the field.

While at the meeting, participants traveled to Weyburn oil field to view the operations there and receive information on the geology and reservoir characteristics of the field.

I accompanied a group on a one-day field trip through an area of western North Dakota on September 2 for the **Northwestern GeoTechnical Workshop**. The group saw several land slides and other examples of unstable ground that have affected highways in the area. My purpose in attending the field trip was to provide geologic background to the group, explaining the geologic causes for various kinds of slope failure in western North Dakota.

From October 23 - 27 I was in Denver for the annual meeting of the **Geological Society of America**. While attending these meetings I also met with the Association of American State Geologists (the interim meeting, held each year in conjunction with GSA) and I attended the annual meeting of the North American Commission on Stratigraphic Nomenclature, of which I am a Commissioner.

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## Mitchell attends State Mapping Workshop

NDGS Geologist and ESIC Coordinator Karen Mitchell attended the 1999 State Mapping Workshop in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, August 2-5. The U.S. Geological Survey National Mapping Division (USGS-NMD) hosted the workshop which brought together 77 officials and agency representatives from 21 Eastern and Central states. The workshop was held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) and focused on national initiatives, new mapping policies and procedures, and enhancing open communication among agencies. The workshop centered around formal presentations by USGS personnel detailing the status and outlook of the major USGS-NMD programs, including the graphics program (conventional paper topographic maps), elevation program, vector program, National Aerial Photographic Program and associated digital orthophoto quadrangle program, and the Land Cover/Characterization program. In addition, there were opportunities for considerable interaction between USGS and state representatives.

The USGS was primarily interested in facilitating an exchange of information on state agencies' mapping and digital data requirements, applications, and concerns. Most states depend on these USGS programs to produce and maintain current maps and basic digital data for use by state agencies and the general public, since they don't have the resources to do this independently. The USGS is increasingly dependent on state governments to cooperate as financial or working partners in this data creation and maintenance, as the need for maps and basic geospatial data outstrips the ability of the USGS to independently produce them. Open communication between the USGS and the states is essential to minimize any duplicate efforts in data creation, prioritize programs, and create mutually beneficial federal/state partnerships. Events like this workshop foster this communication and help ensure that basic maps and geospatial data will continue to be accurate and publicly available.

## \*\*\* INVITATION \*\*\*

The North Dakota Geological Survey and Saskatchewan Energy and Mines are pleased to announce the upcoming **Eighth International Williston Basin Horizontal Well Workshop** to be held in Bismarck, North Dakota, May 7-9, 2000. We invite your participation!

As before, the workshop will provide an informal setting in which to exchange information on horizontal drilling and completion in the Williston Basin, make contacts, and identify future opportunities. The workshop is co-sponsored by the North Dakota Geological Survey and Saskatchewan Energy and Mines and focuses on the specific area of the Williston Basin. The Basin continues to experience horizontal drilling activity with growing interest in deeper horizons. Horizontal wells have been used very successfully in old fields to revive production and in newly discovered fields to improve production rates and recoveries. Horizontal wells are also being used in enhanced recovery operations.

The Eighth International Workshop will concentrate on specific topics of interest to operators who are active, or would like to become active in further oil-development projects in the Basin on both sides of the border. As a participant, you are encouraged to play an active part in making this endeavor a success and we hope that you will come away from the workshop with an improved awareness of the technical opportunities for horizontal wells in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, southeast Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. In addition, this is an opportunity for you to develop and/or renew contacts with other Williston Basin exploration and production companies, consultants, and service companies active in the employment of horizontal well technology.

### Format

To achieve the above format, we propose to have numerous presentations from companies and individuals with experience in the Williston Basin or with technology applicable to the Basin along with ample time for examination of posters and service company displays. There will also be plenty of opportunity for informal "one-on-one" discussions of topics.

The workshop begins on Sunday, May 7, with registration and an informal "ice-breaker." Monday and Tuesday's focus will be on engineering, geology, and new technologies. A short course workshop addressing evaluation of reservoirs for CO<sub>2</sub> enhanced recovery operations will be held Sunday afternoon. The short course is free but will be limited to 100 people.

### Informal Posters

One of the features of the workshop is that any participant who wishes may put up a visual technical display. We will provide poster board and/or table space at **NO CHARGE** to registrants who would like to do this. However, since space is limited it will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. The tone of the meeting is informal, as are the poster presentations. Poster displays can consist of maps, logs, drilling reports, or whatever you think will allow for a focused discussion. The posters have been a popular focus for the workshops and we believe this aspect is consistent with the workshop's aim of encouraging greater individual contact and opportunity for development across the border. You may also include a one- or two-page summary of your display in the workshop preprint.

### Registration

The workshop will be held at the Radisson Inn, Bismarck, North Dakota. Pre-registration cost is \$60 US (\$90 Canadian) with on-site registration increased to \$70 US (\$100 Canadian). To register for the **Eighth International Williston Basin Horizontal Well Workshop**, or for more information, please contact Sheila Senger at (701) 328-8000.

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