
MEETINGS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Ninth Williston Basin Horizontal Well and Petroleum Conference

John Bluemle, Randy Burke, Paul Diehl, Tom Heck, and Julie LeFever attended the ninth meeting of what was previously known as the Williston Basin International Horizontal Well Workshop. The conference was held April 29 – May 1, 2001, in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. This year the name of the meeting was changed so that it would more closely reflect what has been a gradual shift in topics presented from exclusively horizontal well subjects to the inclusion of technologic advances applicable to both vertical and horizontal drilling, evaluation, stimulation, and production. The name change to “Ninth Williston Basin Horizontal Well and Petroleum Conference” reflects a broader topic content than was envisioned at the then one-day workshop’s origin. In addition to horizontal well topics, we invited presentations of drilling, completion, and production innovations which could be applied to improve or advance the oil and gas industry in the Williston Basin. As in the past eight years, organizing and hosting the conference remained a cooperative effort with the Saskatchewan Energy and Mines. Twenty-five papers were presented and included topics such as the use of horizontal wells to inject CO₂ in the Weyburn Field EOR project, shallow biogenic gas reserves in the Williston Basin, relative permeability modifiers, real-time reservoir stimulation, neural network modeling of reservoirs, and high pressure air injection for EOR of medium and light oil reservoirs. Paul Diehl gave a talk, titled “Cedar Hills Red River “B:” Relationship Between Small Structures and Production” at this conference. There were also more than 40 poster presentations and industry information booths on display during the entire conference.

The 2001 conference marked the first time the NDGS-SEM organized conference was held concurrently with the Petroleum Society of CIM. Participants were able to attend presentations of both organizations as they chose. Attendance was 385 at the 2001 conference, an increase over the 2000 attendance of 325.

The Tenth Williston Basin Horizontal Well and Petroleum Conference will be held May 5 - 7, 2002, in Bismarck, North Dakota, at the Radisson Inn. For information call 701-328-8000 or e-mail ndgspubs@state.nd.us.

Other Conferences in the Oil Patch

Randy Burke, Paul Diehl, Tom Heck, and Julie LeFever attended the AAPG annual meeting, held in Denver, Colorado, in June 2001. Randy and Paul also attended the Optimized Horizontal Exploitation Technology workshop in Dickinson on September 29, 2001. This was the first Petroleum Technology Transfer Council workshop held in North Dakota. It was sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Region PTTC and the North Dakota Geological Survey. Hopefully, future PTTC workshops useful to North Dakota operators will be presented in the State.

Paul Diehl was on the road again to attend the “Principles of Groundwater Flow and Hydrodynamics with Solutions to Practical Problems and Applications to Rocky Mountain Basins” on May 17-18, 2001. This two-day course was sponsored by Rocky Mountain Region of Petroleum Technology Transfer Council, SPE, and Montana Geological Society. Groundwater flow and hydrodynamic conditions are important considerations in the search for oil and gas reservoirs in the Williston Basin.

NDGS Geologist in the Public Eye

Paul Diehl was the invited speaker during the May 2001 meeting of the North Dakota Geological Society. He made a Powerpoint presentation, titled “Cedar Hills Red River “B:” Relationship Between Small Structures and Production,” which greatly expanded upon the talk he gave two weeks earlier at the Ninth Williston Basin Horizontal Well and Petroleum Conference.

Mark Gonzalez, living by the adage that any day in the field beats any day in the office, accompanied Mike Anderson, Tom Jensen, and Jerry Feist of ND Game and Fish to the Little Missouri Badlands in July. Anderson and Jensen film and produce a weekly TV program, *North Dakota Outdoors*, for distribution to the television stations in North Dakota. This particular program highlighted geologic features and fossils in the Badlands. Also in July, Mark visited Don Schwert’s summer class at NDSU and gave a presentation on arroyo formation in the Little Missouri Badlands. Prof. Schwert spent the rest of the day giving Mark a personal tour of the geology and environmental hazards in the Fargo-Moorhead area. In August, Mark traveled north to the Youth Conservation Camp, held at the YMCA camp west of Garrison. He gave a presentation on the Landforms of North Dakota to the campers, aged 12-18.