

# **BULLETIN**

## **Corpus Christi Geological Society**



and

## **Coastal Bend Geophysical Society**



**January  
2026  
ISSN 0739 5620**

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## CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1068\* C.C.TX.78403

2025-2026

[www.ccgeo.org](http://www.ccgeo.org)

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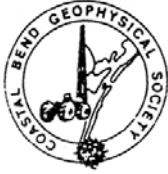
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**COASTAL BEND GEOPHYSICAL SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 181546\*C.C. TX. 78480**  
**2025-2026**

**OFFICERS**

President	Dr. Subbarao Yelisetti	361-593-4894	<a href="mailto:subbarao.yelisetti@tamuk.edu">subbarao.yelisetti@tamuk.edu</a>
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**Visit the geological  
web site at  
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## CCGS/CBGS JOINT MEETING SCHEDULE 2025-2026

September S M T W Th F S 2025							October S M T W Th F S 2025							November S M T W Th F S 1025						
1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

**2025-2026 Membership  
Kickoff Nueces Brewing Co.  
Downtown, 5 p.m.**

Meeting at Joe's Crab Shack  
Downtown. 11:00 Bar,  
11:45 lunch, 12:00 speaker.  
David Desenberg, "3-D  
Technology for Exploration."

Meeting at Joe's Crab Shack  
Downtown. 11:00 Bar, 11:45  
lunch, 12:00 speaker. Iris  
Montero Petrophysicist &  
Petroleum Engineer. "Chase  
Group Formation Evaluation:  
Hugoton Field, Kansas, Using  
Machine Learning."

December S M T W Th F S 2025							January S M T W Th F S 2026							February S M T W Th F S 2026						
1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3			1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Meeting at Joe's Crab Shack  
Downtown. 11:00 Bar, 11:45  
lunch, 12:00 speaker: Dr.  
Veronica Sanchez Associate  
Professor Geology Texas A&M  
Kingsville. "Overview of Texas  
A&M Univ. Kingsville Geology  
Field Camp."

Meeting at Joe's Crab Shack  
Downtown. 11:00 Bar, 11:45  
lunch, 12:00 speaker: Christopher  
Smith (PhD) Senior Chemist Advanced  
Hydrocarbon Stratigraphy.  
"Evaluating Volatiles Entrained in  
Legacy Unpreserved Cuttings from the  
Gulf of Mexico & Trinidad to  
understand the subsurface Movement  
of Oil Gas, Compartments/Seals/  
Baffles, and Neighboring Prospects."

## CCGS/CBGS Joint Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

March 2026							April 2026							May 2026						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30



Meeting at Joe's Crab Shack  
Downtown. 11:00 Bar, 11:45  
lunch, 12:00 speaker.

Shrimp Boil at Doc's

## Calendar Of Meetings and Events

Corpus Christi Geological/Geophysical Society..... Third Wed.—11:30a.m.  
 SIPES Corpus Christi Luncheons..... Last Tues.—11:30a.m.  
 South Texas Geological Society Luncheons..... Second Wed—noon San Antonio  
 San Antonio Geophysical Society Meetings..... Fourth Tuesday  
 Austin Geological Society..... First Monday  
 Houston Geological Society Luncheons..... Last Wednesday  
 Central Texas Section of Society of Mining, Metallurgy & Exp..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues every other month in  
 San Antonio



Dear colleagues,

The open-call deadline for abstract submissions to **GeoGulf 2026, 23-25 March 2026**, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, sponsored by NOGS, LGS, and BRGS, is coming soon: **01 December 2026**. At this stage, we do not plan on extending the submission deadline and will instead move fully to an invitational stage. You can find more information at <https://geogulf.org> or you can submit abstract(s) directly via <https://forms.gle/KQbeDpXsX6v1FU4g9>.

We have a number of sessions planned with 4 concurrent sessions (see below) Final themes may vary from this list dependent upon submissions. Although onshore and offshore Gulf of Mexico studies remain the focus of GeoGulf, we will accept analogue studies that explicitly tie to the Gulf Coast. Note, however, for students attending a Gulf Coast university, you can present any geoscience topic. Note also for students that poster presentation will be the preferred presentation type.

We will review abstracts and advise acceptance in a timely manner.

Although not required, we encourage that all accepted presenters submit an initial draft of a full technical paper or extended abstract for publication in the GeoGulf Transactions by **January 12, 2026** (limited extensions allowable on a case-by-case basis). Submission details will follow after acceptance of initial abstract.

Potential GCAGS Journal Authors: The call for papers announcement for the peer-reviewed 2025 GCAGS Journal is coming soon. We encourage potential Journal authors to present at GeoGulf 2026--please submit an abstract via the link above if interested in presenting your work at the convention. In general, for more information regarding publishing in the Journal, please contact Bob Merrill, Journal Editor, at [bmerrill@catheart.com](mailto:bmerrill@catheart.com).

Please feel free to contact me directly for further information.

Please also feel free to share this email to colleagues.

Hope to see you next Spring in South Louisiana! Geaux GeoGulf 2026!

Best regards,

James Willis  
GeoGulf 2026 Technical Program Chair

Proposed GeoGulf 2026 Session Themes

Gulf Coast Exploration and Production

Salt (Onshore and Offshore)  
Deepwater  
Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning  
Lithium  
Geothermal  
Carbon Sequestration  
Regional or Local Gulf Coast Geology  
Coastal Geology  
Environmental Geology  
Faulting, South LA & Gulf Coast  
Blown Seals  
Mississippi-Alabama-Florida (MAFLA)  
Paleontology/Biostratigraphy  
And more—We are the place for Gulf Coast Geoactivities! We'll fit you in! Got an idea for a theme session, please let us know!

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Season's Greetings and Happy New Year!

As most of you know, my primary professional career was in meteorology. But I have been involved with many other areas of earth science (including geology) during my foray into the world of education. Additionally, I have several relatives who work, or have worked, in the oil/gas business. My father worked for Union Texas Petroleum (a subsidiary of Allied Chemical) back in the early 1970s. Up until this year, I viewed hurricanes as my primary connection to the world of petroleum geologists...by the hurricane's enormous impact on Gulf oil/gas production and transportation. This year, meteorology affects oil/gas production and transportation in a much different way...through drought.

It is no exaggeration to state the current drought has the potential to adversely affect the economic future of the entire Coastal Bend. As of this writing, the combined water levels in our two primary water sources (Choke Canyon Reservoir and Lake Corpus Christi) stand at only 10.5%. This is significant because at least 50% of daily water consumption in the Coastal Bend is used by petrochemical companies. According to a recent Wall Street Journal article, these companies have invested tens of billions of dollars in our region over the past decade. If water levels continue to drop, these companies may have to scale back production operations. Furthermore, a lack of an adequate water supply could discourage future investment. All of this would be devastating to our regional economy.

Much has been said (and continues to be said) about relying on desalination plants to augment our hydrological sources of fresh water. Even if politicians can approve the plans for such a plant, benefits to our area would be several years down the road. Short-term options to allay the water crisis are few.

The most obvious short-term solution would be more rainfall! The coastal communities in/around Corpus Christi have received some recent rainfall, but we remain in a drought classified as "Severe" (third-highest category used by the National Weather Service). The area where we really need the rain is up I-37, in the northwestern part of our watershed. The northwestern reaches of tributaries feeding flows into the Frio and Nueces rivers extend as far north as just southwest of Hondo (not far from San Antonio). Unfortunately, this region is in the grips of an "Extreme" drought, which is the second-highest category used by the NWS.

How much rain does the northwestern part of the watershed need to replenish Choke Canyon and Lake Corpus Christi? By some estimates, 20-25 inches! It is very unlikely this deficit can be made up in the months ahead, as cooler air holds less water than the tropical air of our summer months. Perhaps a tropical cyclone could help us out early next summer, but that didn't happen this year. Let me close on a hopeful note for 2026. Graphs of our watershed water levels show cyclical intervals of full capacity, followed by intervals of much lower levels. Water levels increase again, followed by another interval of lower water levels. We can hope and pray our water levels start entering one of those recovery intervals in 2026, resulting in economic and environmental benefit for the entire region.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy and prosperous New Year!

Charles "Chuck" Benson  
CCGS President



## **CBGS President's Letter**

### **CBGS Board 2025-2026**

President- Dr. Subbarao Yelisetti

Vice President- vacant

Secretary/ Treasurer-Charles Benson

### **CBGS Scholarships**

The Coastal Bend Geophysical Society has awarded four scholarships in Fall 2025. The next round of scholarships will be awarded in Fall 2026. Scholarships will be awarded based on merit and need. The award amounts may vary with the minimum award being \$500. The application deadline is September 1, 2026.

### **Scholarship Requirements**

Criteria for awarding the Scholarship from Coastal Bend Geophysical Society of Corpus Christi, Texas:

1. Scholarships are open to undergraduate or graduate students.
2. Must have declared major in Geophysics, or Geology with a concentration in Geophysics or Petrophysics.
3. Preference is given to students attending Coastal Bend schools (TAMU-K, TAMU-CC and Del Mar College), then to Coastal Bend natives attending other universities.
4. Must have a GPA of at least 3.0 and be in good standing with the school.
5. Must make effort to attend a Coastal Bend Geophysical Society Meeting in Corpus Christi Texas after being awarded a scholarship to be recognized by the society.

### **News**

- At the time of writing this report, Brent crude futures are hovering at \$61.45 a barrel and US West Texas Intermediate crude futures are hovering at \$57.77 a barrel.
- According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts, crude oil production will average 13.61 million b/d in 2025, up from its previous forecast of 13.53 million bpd. In comparison, oil output averaged 13.23 million bpd in the previous year. Next year the output is expected to decline to 13.53 million bpd.
- EIA forecasts suggest a drop in Brent crude oil price to an average of \$55 per barrel in 2026.

### **CBGS Business**

CBGS currently has 28 active members, 2 honorary members, and 40 student members. Raised \$1,450 towards student scholarships through membership revenue this past year.

### **CBGS workshops/talks**

CBGS organized the November 2025 joint luncheon meeting with CCGS. CBGS is looking forward to offer more workshops/talks in the future. Topic/speaker suggestions are welcome. Email your suggestions to [Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu](mailto:Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu)

### **New Degree Tracks at TAMUK and Graduate Scholarships**

- Texas A&M University-Kingsville (TAMUK) started its first cohort of MS Petrophysics program in Fall 2018. If you are interested in joining this program in 2026, please contact the graduate coordinator for MS in Petrophysics, Dr. Subbarao Yelisetti at [Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu](mailto:Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu).
- The Department of Physics and Geosciences at TAMUK is offering competitive scholarships for MS Petrophysics students. For additional details about the program and scholarships, please visit the website:  
<https://www.tamuk.edu/artsci/departments/phge/phys/academics/gp.html>

### **Education/Events**

#### **-SEG**

SEG 2026 annual meeting (IMAGE) will be held in Houston, TX from August 17-20. See <https://seg.org/Events/Upcoming-SEG-Annual-Meetings> for additional details.

See <https://seg.org/Education/Lectures/Distinguished-Lectures> for information about upcoming SEG distinguished lecture in Houston and other locations.

See <https://seg.org/Education/Lectures/Honorary-Lectures> for SEG honorary lecture locations in Texas.

#### **-AGU**

2025 Fall AGU annual meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA from December 15-19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. <https://www.agu.org/Fall-Meeting>

### **Monthly Saying**

"We drilled in the right place - we were simply 30 million years too late." - Richard Bray  
President of Sohio on drilling the Mukluk Prospect, Beaufort Sea 1983

## Monthly Summary

Texas Oil and Gas Info	Current Month	Last Month	Difference	
<b>Texas Production</b>	<b>MMBO/BCF</b>	<b>MMBO/BCF</b>	<b>MMBO/BCF</b>	
Oil	164.6	168.9	-4.3	August
Condensate	26.4	27.5	-1.1	August
Gas	1119.7	1126.2	-6.5	August
	<b>Current Month</b>	<b>Yr to date - 2025</b>	<b>Yr to date - 2024</b>	
<b>Texas Drilling Permits</b>	412	6920	8683	November
Oil wells	56	1200	1742	November
Gas wells	32	473	491	November
Oil and Gas wells	280	4832	5943	November
Other	11	115	143	November
<b>Total Completions</b>	1093	18153	21022	November
Oil Completions	798	14115	16733	November
Gas Completions	295	4038	4289	November
New Field Discoveries	0	11	8	November
Other	360	7349	10391	November

Subbarao Yelisetti

President, CBGS

[Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu](mailto:Subbarao.Yelisetti@tamuk.edu)





**CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
COASTAL BEND GEOPHYSICAL SOCIETY**



## **LUNCHEON MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **January 21st, 2026**

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- Location:** Joe's Crab Shack, 444 North Shoreline Dr.,  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
- Student Sponsors:** Viper Exploration, Imagine Resources,  
Advent Geoscience Consulting,  
Wiedmann Oil & Gas. We Thank You!
- Time:** 11:30 AM Social, Lunch follows at 11:45 AM,  
Speaker at 12:00 PM
- Cost:** \$35.00 (additional \$10.00 surcharge without  
reservation: NO SHOW may be billed.)
- Reservations:** Please RSVP by 11:00 AM on Monday, January  
19th before the meeting!
- Email: [arrangements@ccgeo.org](mailto:arrangements@ccgeo.org)

Please note that luncheon RSVPs are a commitment to Joe's Crab Shack (Shoreline Drive) and must be paid even if you can't attend the luncheon.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR, PLEASE CONTACT US AT:**

[arrangements@ccgeo.org](mailto:arrangements@ccgeo.org)

## ***TALK ABSTRACT: Overview of Texas A&M University-Kingsville Geology Field Camp***

Traditionally, geology field camp marks the culmination of an undergraduate career. Field camps are designed as part of a rigorous curriculum in many programs to ensure that students obtain thorough understanding of the core disciplines: mineralogy, igneous and metamorphic petrology, sedimentology, stratigraphy, structural geology, and field methods. Many generations of undergraduates have stressed over the fact that they would be away from home for up to 6 weeks, working in remote locations applying their geology skills. With advances in geospatial techniques, many programs have adopted GPS technology and remote sensing applications in their courses, and others have implemented geophysical tools (e.g., GPR surveying, geophysical logging). Technology and software applications contribute to the skills needed without sacrificing the rigor of field work. The basis still stands, students must collect field data and decide how to interpret their findings. In short, utilizing all of their undergraduate geology knowledge and budding intuition.

Texas A&M University-Kingsville has devoted many decades to field experiences, from short 4-day trips during regular long semesters, to the 5 to 6-week summer capstone field camp course. In the 1980s summer field camps, the program took undergraduates to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and to the basins of west Texas and northern Mexico. Through the 2000s and early 2020s the program focused in Central Texas geology utilizing private ranch properties with excellent exposures of Precambrian to Cambrian rocks and providing a perfect setting to investigate Cretaceous stratigraphy. Dr. Sanchez, now working as the program coordinator and field camp director, revitalized the course with rigorous projects in west Texas (Big Bend National Park area, Christmas Mts., and Guadalupe Mts), central and northern New Mexico, and Arizona (Grand Canyon area). Mostly focusing on regional geology studies with emphasis on small-scale geologic mapping, the students apply skills learned in their previous courses and field trips. The course offers new locations and different problem-solving situations. Students integrate field observations with GIS-databasing and technical writing, in addition to delivering geologic maps, cross sections, measured sections, detailed field notes, as has traditionally been the expectation in many programs. With this approach, the expectations continue to be high: students wake up before sunup and start work in the early mornings, and return back to basecamp in the early evening. About 4 of the 6 weeks of the program, students are continuously working outdoors near a basecamp with day-breaks in between to allow rest or travel to the next location. The idea is to provide different geologic settings with specific problem-solving projects, for example: rifting tectonics in New Mexico, which requires detailed mapping of volcanic-clastic stratigraphy and structural analysis, versus volcanic and intrusive history of various outcrops in west Texas via geologic mapping and measured sections of volcanic deposits. In the end, the students formulate a “geologic history” based on specific observations and interpretations from their own field work.

The roughness of the terrain especially on hot summer days and the altitude factor have always brought issues. We will discuss these and other logistical items, the organization of the course, and the training students receive before setting off for the field in the summer. The student-to-faculty ratio has averaged about 15 to 2, allowing for close monitoring in the field and at camp. We have assistance from fellow geologists who volunteer their time to help students in the field. The program as a whole has experienced difficult times, including downsizing, budget cuts, low enrollment. We will share some solutions that have worked out recently.

We are very proud of the many generations that have successfully completed our field camp. They took with them a multitude of experiences and knowledge that have helped them grow as geologists. Those experiences include what they have shared with fellow students, many of whom become longtime friends. The “Geology Field Camp” makes us grow and discover an intrinsic drive that can’t quite be described, even if we have a million photographs to show. The experience is something that is lived and engrained in every geologist.

## **BIOGRAPHY: Dr. Veronica Sanchez**

Dr. Veronica Sanchez obtained a MSc (2005) and PhD (2011) in Structural Geology/Tectonics from the University of Houston, where she had the amazing opportunity to work with outstanding faculty and researchers. Her research focused on strike-slip deformation and basin development (Masters) and rifting mechanisms of the Tibetan Plateau (PhD). Throughout her time at UH she avidly participated in field work in various projects and courses in New Mexico, California, central and west Texas, and northern Mexico. She also held positions at ConocoPhillips (during undergraduate), Core Lab (after BSc, 2004-2005), and BP (2007).

In 2012-2015, Dr. Sanchez joined College of the Mainland, in Texas City, as Assistant Professor of Geosciences. She collaborated in interdisciplinary research symposiums as a way to entice research at the community college level. She also had the opportunity to design and lead a unique geology trip for a small group of students in an introductory class to explore regions of Ontario (impact sites, batholiths, faults), Quebec and New Brunswick (coastal geomorphology).

Dr. Sanchez joined the Department of Physics and Geosciences at Texas A&M University-Kingsville in 2015. As Associate Professor of Geology, Dr. Sanchez teaches geosciences to majors and nonmajors, and supervises undergraduate students in various research projects ranging from planetary geology to geologic hazards. She enjoys the collegiality and comradery arising from students exploring their own interests. She also co-advises graduate students in the Petrophysics master's program, which focuses on applications related to natural resource exploration and fluid properties. As the faculty advisor and mentor for the Geology Club, she enjoys enticing Geology to nonmajors and the community with demos and field trips. As program coordinator, she works closely with the undergraduate curriculum, ensuring a strong field-based training crosslinked with technology and laboratory tools. For several years, she has coordinated the Geosciences Research Symposium to provide students with a platform to share their research to the general public. Dr. Sanchez also serves as the director of the geology field camp.



**CORPUS CHRISTI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
COASTAL BEND GEOPHYSICAL SOCIETY**



## **LUNCHEON MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **February 18th, 2025**

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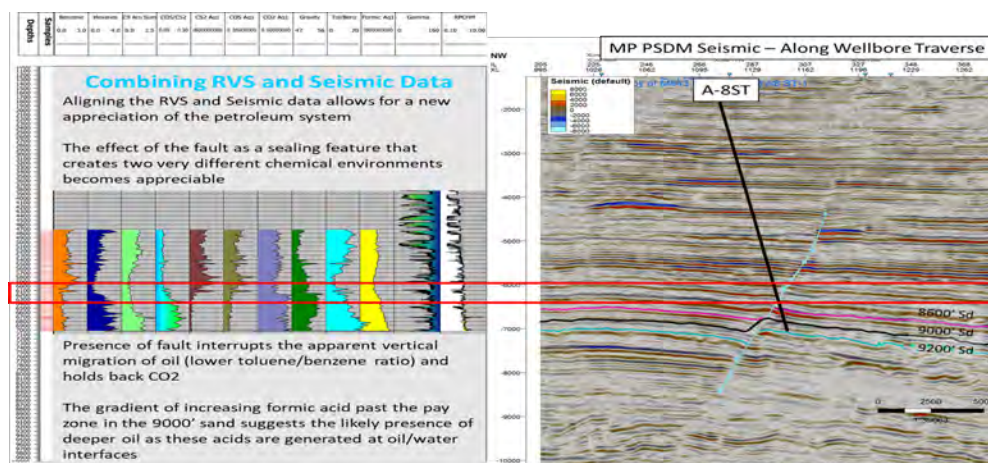
- Location:** Joe's Crab Shack, 444 North Shoreline Dr.,  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401
- Student Sponsors:** Viper Exploration, Imagine Resources,  
Advent Geoscience Consulting,  
Wiedmann Oil & Gas. We Thank You!
- Time:** 11:30 AM Social, Lunch follows at 11:45 AM,  
Speaker at 12:00 PM
- Cost:** \$35.00 (additional \$10.00 surcharge without  
reservation: NO SHOW may be billed.)
- Reservations:** Please RSVP by 11:00 AM on Monday, February  
16th before the meeting!
- Email: [arrangements@ccgeo.org](mailto:arrangements@ccgeo.org)

Please note that luncheon RSVPs are a commitment to Joe's Crab Shack (Shoreline Drive) and must be paid even if you can't attend the luncheon.

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE! IF YOU WOULD LIKE  
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[arrangements@ccgeo.org](mailto:arrangements@ccgeo.org)

# ABSTRACT



## Evaluating Volatiles Entrained in Legacy Unpreserved Cuttings from the Gulf of Mexico and Trinidad to Understand the Subsurface Movement of Oil and Gas, Compartments/Seals/Baffles, and Neighboring Prospects

Rock volatiles stratigraphy (RVS) was pioneered and developed since 2010 by Advanced Hydrocarbon Stratigraphy to provide actionable information for oil and gas operators by detailed analysis of volatile subsurface fluids entrained in geological samples, typically cuttings and core (which can be several decades old); since expanding to helium, geothermal, and CCS applications. RVS work in the Gulf and Caribbean is principally oil and gas though applications like offshore CCS and evaluating the paleo environment across the K-T boundary are ongoing. With direct measurements of 40+ compounds and rock properties RVS offers unique insights, especially when working with unpreserved cuttings for unplanned postmortems. Two wells, Cantium's OCS-G4903 A8SST1 drilled in 2018 in the shallow Gulf and Touchstone Exploration's Cascadura Deep-1 drilled in 2020 onshore Trinidad are discussed. In both cases RVS was run on unpreserved cuttings and assessed how HC resources moved in the subsurface, where compartments/baffles/seals were/weren't encountered, and the prospects for neighboring pay zones/accumulations.



BIOGRAPHY: Christopher Smith (PhD)  
Senior Chemist  
Advanced Hydrocarbon Stratigraphy

Christopher Smith has been a Senior Chemist with Advanced Hydrocarbon Stratigraphy (AHS) since January 2019 and moved to Midland in 2022 working on data analysis, instrumentation, client engagements, and business development. Most of his analysis work focuses on the Permian, the Anadarko and Arkoma basins in Oklahoma, the North Slope in Alaska, and the Marcellus. Since 2020 a significant portion of Christopher's work has been geared toward expanding the uses of AHS's unique patented technologies into non-traditional fields for AHS beyond oil and gas – these include successful engagements and projects with academia, government, and operators on subsurface studies in carbon capture and sequestration, helium exploration, and geothermal power. Additionally, he has pushed AHS to be involved in scientific studies on permafrost in the Arctic and the paleo environment before, during, and after the Chicxulub impact. Prior to working for AHS, he received his PhD in analytical chemistry from the University of Arizona with focuses on instrumentation, data analysis programming, spectroscopy, electrophysiology, surfactants, and surface modification chemistries. He also completed a MA in history at the University of Tulsa as a Henneke Research Fellow in 2012. He completed his undergraduate work cum laude in 2011 with degrees in chemistry, history, and biochemistry also from the University of Tulsa.

## **3-D Technology For Exploration**

### **David Desenberg**

This presentation will be a story about how 3-D technology is used for exploration in our industry. Specifically, the presentation will show how Brayton Operating Company evolved, highlighting a cursory review of two or three of our most significant 3-D discoveries.

While it will review the 3-D results and successes, it will also be an overview of the anatomy of 3-D technology via the metamorphosis of a small oil company. Brayton recognized very early of a new way to apply emerging technology.

Further, it can be rewarding to recognize and apply new technologies as they manifest and continue to manifest themselves through time. After 3-D technology, our industry has seen horizontal drilling evolve quite significantly.

### **Biography**

Dave was awarded a degree in geology from Dickinson College (Carlisle, Pennsylvania) in 1974. He spent most of his career in Corpus Christi as President, co-owner, and co-founder of Brayton Operating Corp. and the various Brayton companies.

Brayton was a pioneer in the use of 3-D seismic for exploration purposes. Beginning in the late 1990's, the company shot over 550 square miles of proprietary 3-D seismic in South Texas, and drilled over 300 wells. Brayton employed roughly 15 professionals and support staff (or more) during most of our active period with employment peaking at approximately 35 employees during the Pure Resources years. We were probably the largest of the small independents in Corpus for much of the late 1990's and 2000's. Brayton was active from 1986 to 2010.

Dave has retired in Calallen. He enjoys gardening and landscaping at his residence. Dave enjoys maintaining classic cars, and stays connected to the latest developments in the oil & gas industry.

Today we'll be going back to the 1990's. A history lesson if you will. I'm going to talk about the use of 3-D seismic as an exploration tool which prior to that time really had not been used in such a way...at least not on shore Texas. I will be doing this from the perspective of my companies, the Brayton Companies from right here in Corpus Christi.

We/Brayton were early to recognize the potential use of 3-D for exploration and I would argue that very quickly we refined and executed the process faster and better than virtually all our competitors.

Our company, Brayton, started from nothing, with no funding, at one of the worst times in the history of the oil field. We were young, inexperienced and candidly, we just didn't know any better. Said another way, we didn't know if we could somehow do it, that is build a company but more importantly, we didn't know we couldn't.

Somehow, we made it. In total, we didn't just survive, we ultimately prospered.

Over a 20 plus year period Brayton employed many folks, shot approximately 550 SM of proprietary 3-D seismic and drilled and operated well over 300 wells with an economic success rate of roughly 70%.

The 1980's was very tough! Oil below \$10/bbl. Gas near \$1/MMBTU.

Many lost jobs. Many left the industry. Pharmacist...

The small company I had been working for shut down January 1 of 1986.

Majors and large independents reacted by selling, merging, largely exiting South and Gulf Coast Texas. They "Got out of Dodge."

But.... not to sound trite but "Adversity really does breed opportunity." Acreage controlled/held for many years was suddenly "open", free for others to explore.

In the 1990's Major and Larger Independents left and acreage held for decades was suddenly open! Great opportunity for we, the little guys. Bottom line: Acreage formerly held was now much more likely to be open!

The 80's were hell but by the early 1990's, things did improve some. Brayton was now a small employer, roughly 5-8 folks, drilling and operating 8-12 wells a year. We weren't getting rich but we were paying the bills and getting smarter, better...

Explored the Frio, Yegua and Wilcox but evolved into really preferring the Yegua. We explored using subsurface and 2-D seismic.

Yegua: could often see targets on 2-D seismic and wells often had high flow rates, rich in liquids and could yield 5+BCFG plus condensate.

**Slide 1: Johnny and Dave:** Picture shows us in front of our first field discovery. I think we both had a can of Schlitz, cheap beer for those that do not know. It's what we could afford. I think Johnny was on his second or third. We were thrilled!



So, we were fortunate. We made some discoveries by the early 1990's, sold production and now had a little money in the bank.

To this point 3-D had been used perhaps exclusively to exploit known fields or to refine sub-surface and 2-D prospects.

A few companies were beginning to use 3-D as an exploration tool. Remember and to reiterate, the majors and large independents were mostly gone! Funny to say but thank you, deep downturn!

So, first wave of exploration use: small, less than 25 SM, target specific and on the cheap. Permitted acreage, lease on results. It kept upfront cost low but had risk that others would grab desired acreage.

Again, Brayton was not the first to use 3-D for exploration but we were very early.

So initially Brayton followed suit.

**Slide 2: Shoot Map, Phase 1.** Note the Shoot Map, our 550 SM of proprietary 3D data and our first 3-D, phase I outlined in Red.

About 30 SM, target specific over Toro Grande Field. 120 BCFG and 2MMBC.

Disappointing! 2-D and sub-surface did a good job. We drilled a few wells with mixed results.

But... Leads at south end of Phase 1!! Possible new field/fields!

### **Slide 3 Shoot, Phase 11**

So, we opted for a much bigger 60 SM shoot now known as Phase 11. The way we conducted Phase 11 became our model for our specific technique. Option, lease and minimize permitting. Shoot evaluate fast and convert options to leases as needed. We became THE EXPERTS at getting shoots done and done...fast!

Now, I want to mention our Brayton Geo team in the mid to late 90's... Tom Long, Bob Barnard and yours truly.

Specifically, the new Phase 11 3-D data with the help of amplitude anomalies and AVO analysis identified several very interesting fault blocks primarily at Yegua AY-3 level. Here we go! Here's the mapping:

### **Slides 4-8: Maps and Sections.**

### **Slides 9-10: O'Conner-Miller #15" Log.**

### **Slide 11: Brayton, O'Conner-Miller. #3**

### **Slide 12: Picture of Discovery Well During Logging**

The first well yielded a new field discovery: El Toro Max Field. The discovery led to total production of T/C: 21.8 BCFG & 1,660,351 BC.

So, we had our formula and we were damn good at it. Over the ensuing 4 or 5 years, Brayton continued to put together and shoot ever larger 3-D surveys, as fast as possible, with the effort ultimately totaling over 550 SM of data. We operated all but one shoot and, in each case, shot the 3-Ds on a proprietary basis. Total shoot acquisition cost was north of \$50MM.

The shoots led to literally millions of dollars of drilling and hundreds of wells with roughly a 70% economic success ratio. Our efforts also provided employment for many.

But business wise: We had shot a tremendous amount of data and had many prospects but we had accumulated lots of debt and no way to even begin to fund a large drilling program.

Needed to kick it up another notch. Solution: external funding.

After considering other options, Brayton sold out to Pure Resources (Titan/Unocal in Midland) in November of 1999. Initially, Pure simply bought our production/asset company and contracted us to help during the transition.

**Slide 13: Pure Resources.** As we were closing the sale to Titan/Pure we were drilling a very promising Yegua prospect on our latest shoot. Brayton had 35% of the prospect. It hit big time: >5000MCFG per day. Two months later, we had another big one with several other promising anomalies identified.

NAPE: Jack Hightower, the Pure CEO obviously liked what we were accomplishing and hired Johnny and I NAPE to run what became the "Pure Gulf Coast Office."

Brayton/Pure continued to experience dramatic drilling success on our newest 3-D. Several wells, testing beautiful Yegua anomalies, hit big time, yielding per well production rates in excess of 5000 MCFG & 500 BC/well.

Subsequently, Pure hired most of our team and many new employees like Sebastian Wiedmann, Don Kling, Blackie Pitzer, Kathy Hardy, Rex Morris, Jim Gresham and lots of others. At peak, the Corpus office had about 35 employees.

Johnny ran the Land Department and I headed up exploration, production and the overall Gulf Coast Division for Pure.

Here is mapping of several of our Menefee Field discoveries? Brayton T/C: 14.1 BCFG & 748,694 BC and some of the section, logs etc.

**Slides 14-18: Taylor, Cranek discoveries.**

**Slides 19-23: Titan, Appling #1 Discovery.**

Over the next 2 ½ years we shot two more 3-Ds, ultimately totaling about 550 SM of proprietary data.

Drilled and operated nearly 100 wells with Pure.

We discovered reserves yielding a 4/1 RO1 for Pure over that 2 ½ years.

Spent \$23.54MM in drilling yielding a Net Risked Total Return of \$82MM ( 3.50/MCFG & \$26/BO).

It was a ton of fun! Midland loved us!

#### **Slide 24: Brayton Resources 11**

After Pure we took 2 months off and in July of 2002 re-established Brayton.

Kept roughly 15 staff employees.

Still had many “first generation” prospects. We put together 6-10 well packages and marketed to industry retaining 25.50%. Typically did 2-3 packages per year.

Also re-established our relationship with American Bank and ultimately outgrew American. By 2004, American Bank had syndicated our loans, though ultimately, we outgrew American Bank and their partners.

Ultimately, we sold out again to a Houston company, Alta Mesa Resources. It was another good relationship.

The relationship with Alta Mesa terminated in early 2009. The Desenberg/Seibert relationship ended shortly thereafter having lasted 22 years. It was productive, fun and very satisfying for both us and the many great employees and partners.

#### **Slide # 25: Shoot Map**

Total for our 22-years run. Mostly I don't know but we:

- Shot 550 SM of proprietary 3-D seismic. Cost \$50 MM+
- Drilled more than 300 wells at a cost estimated at \$150MM
- Estimated 70% economic success ratio
- Employed 10-35 folks. What would that payroll total?
- Reputedly the largest renter for years in the Wilson Tower

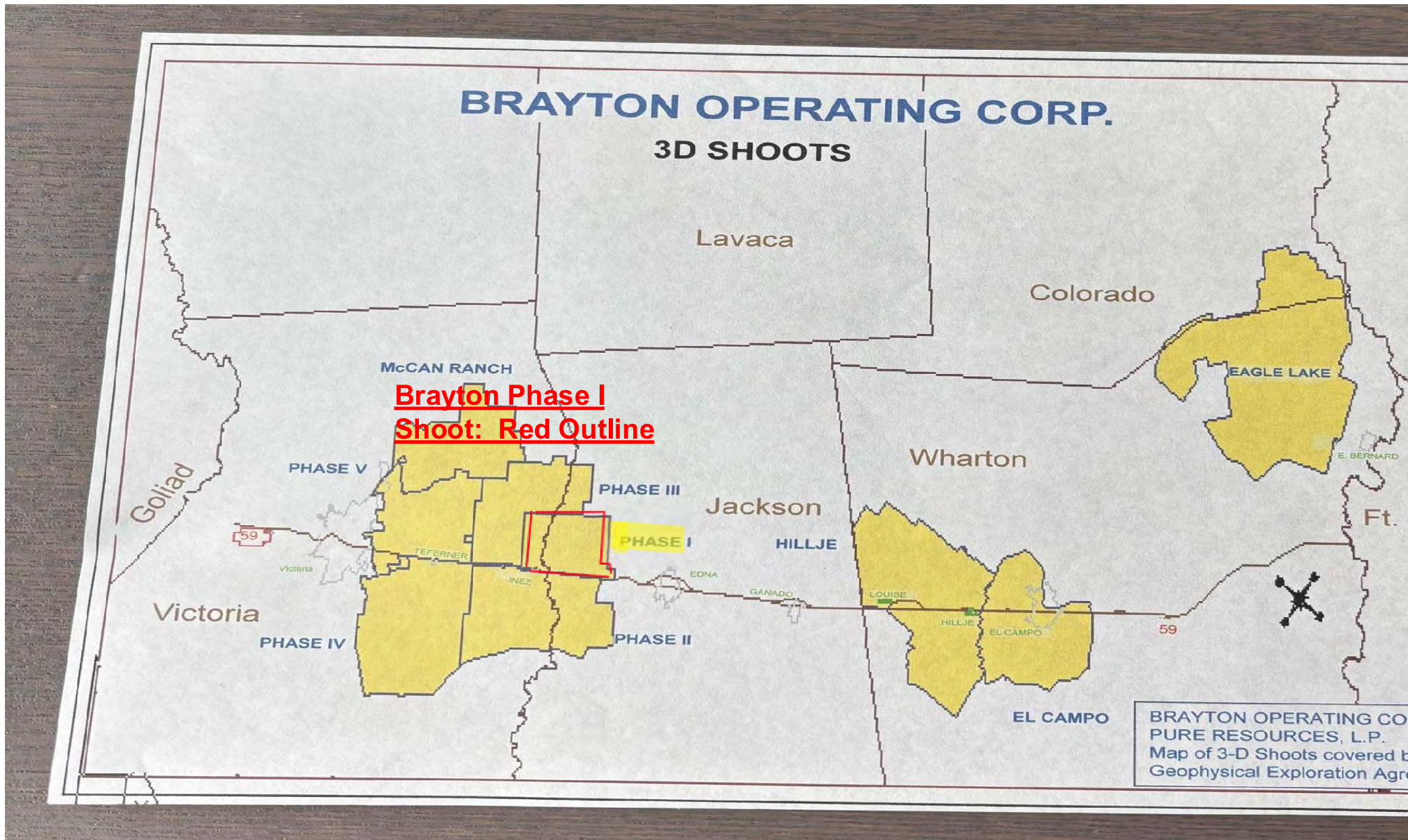
Bottom line, Brayton had an impact, a big impact for a company that grew out the imaginations of two young oil guys beginning in the pit of bad times. We started with nothing, but we had the most important things Optimism, persistence and drive. We just didn't know any better!

David Desenberg

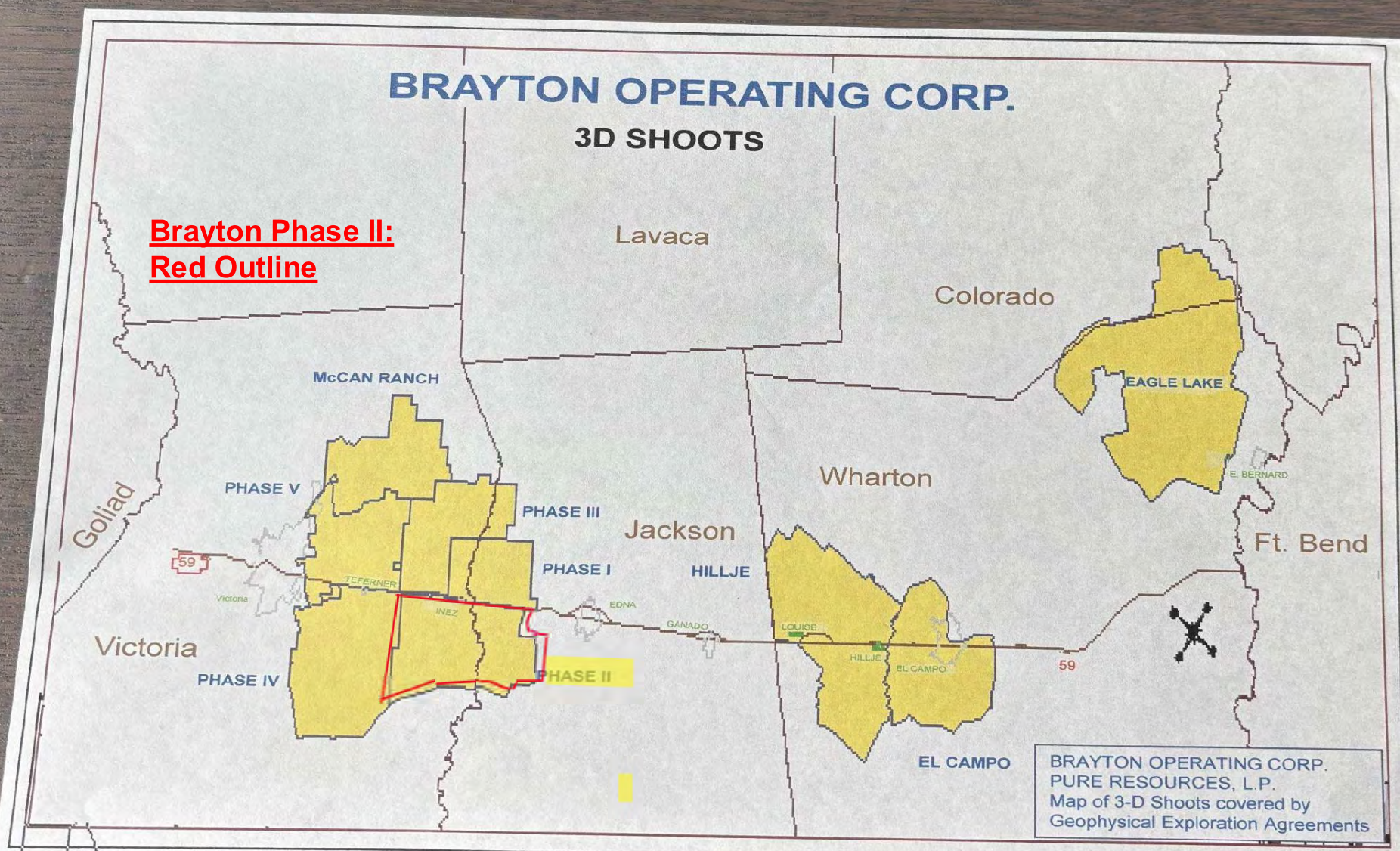
Johnny Seibert and Dave  
Desenberg: Circa 1987  
First Field Discovery



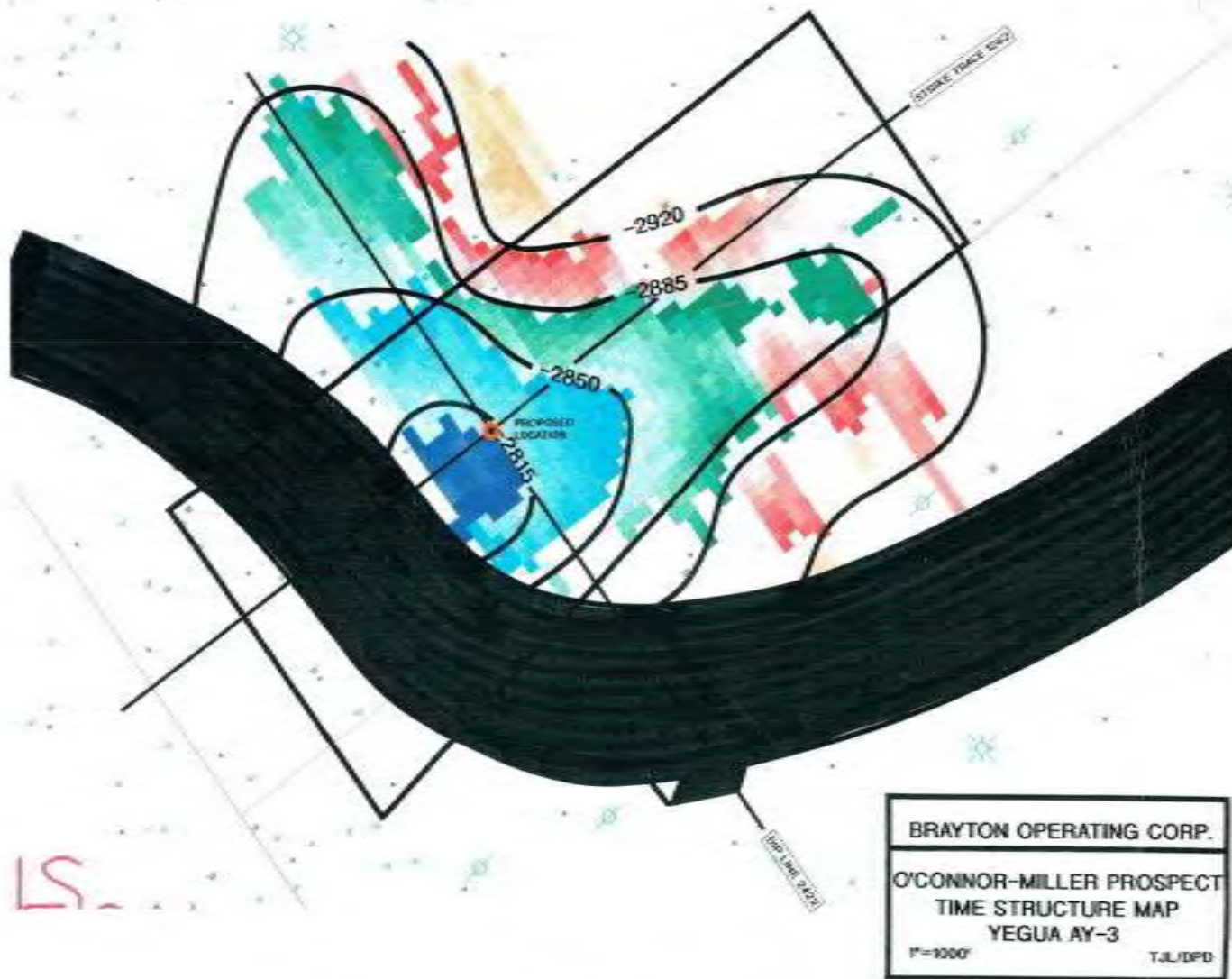


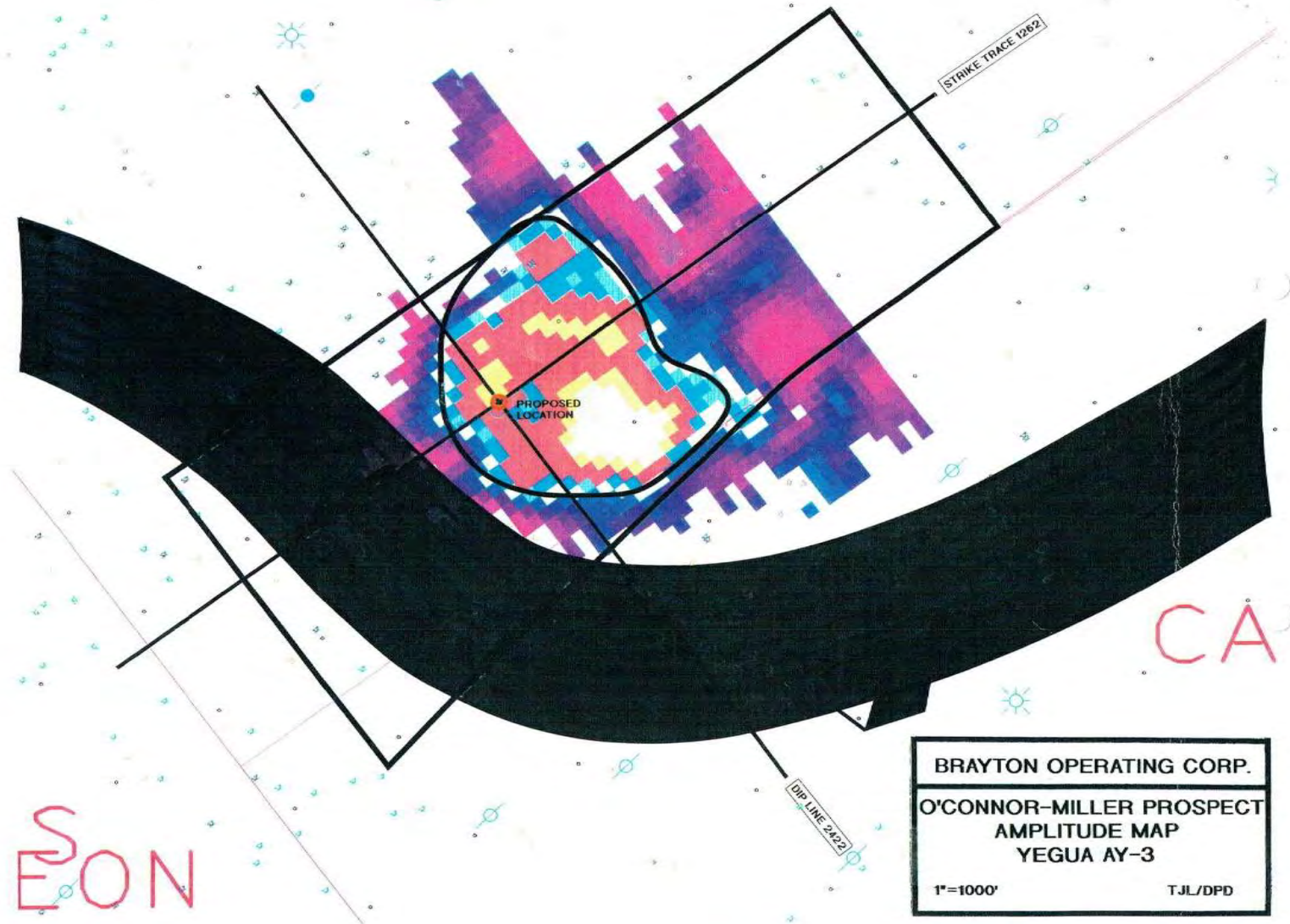






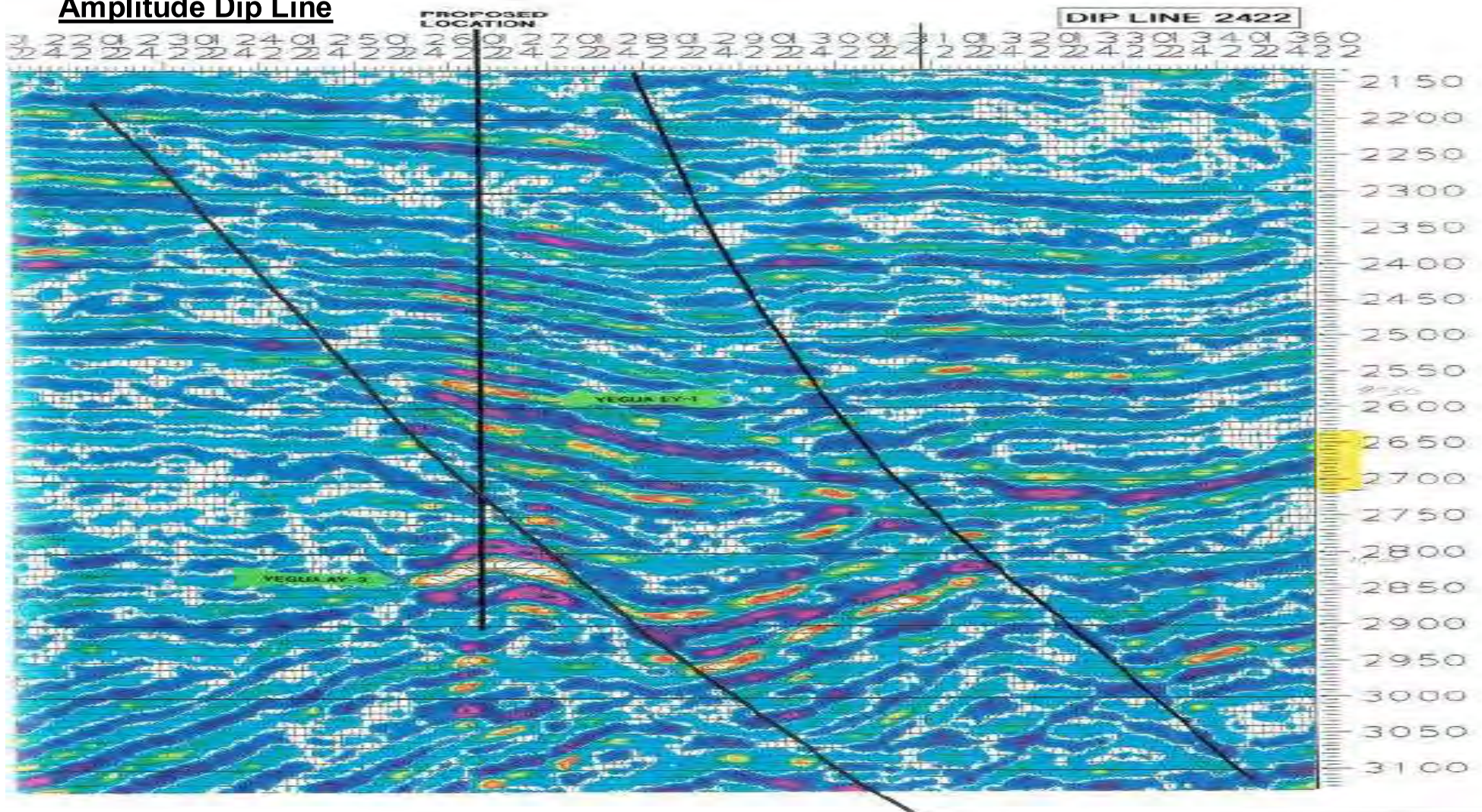






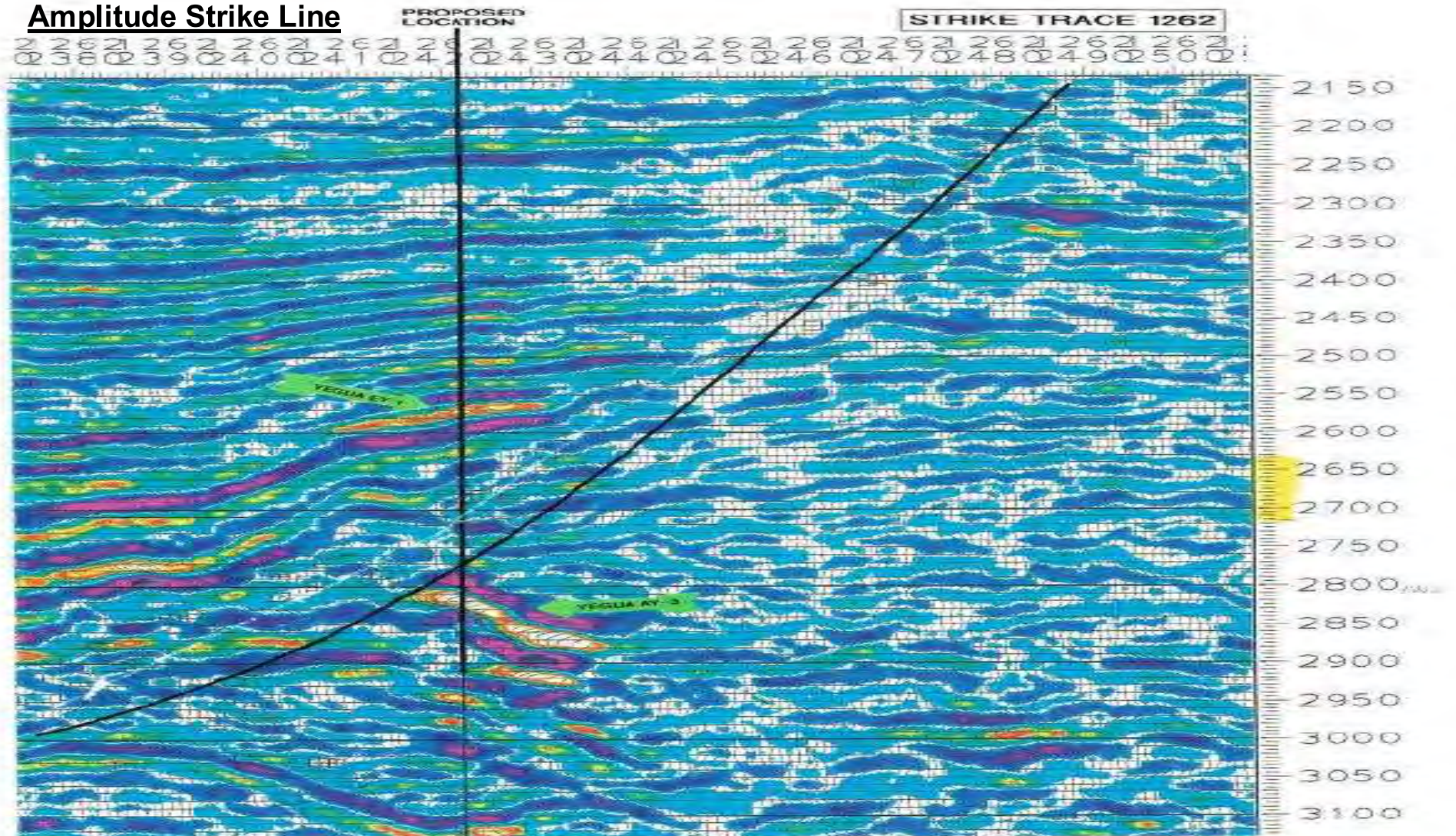


## Amplitude Dip Line

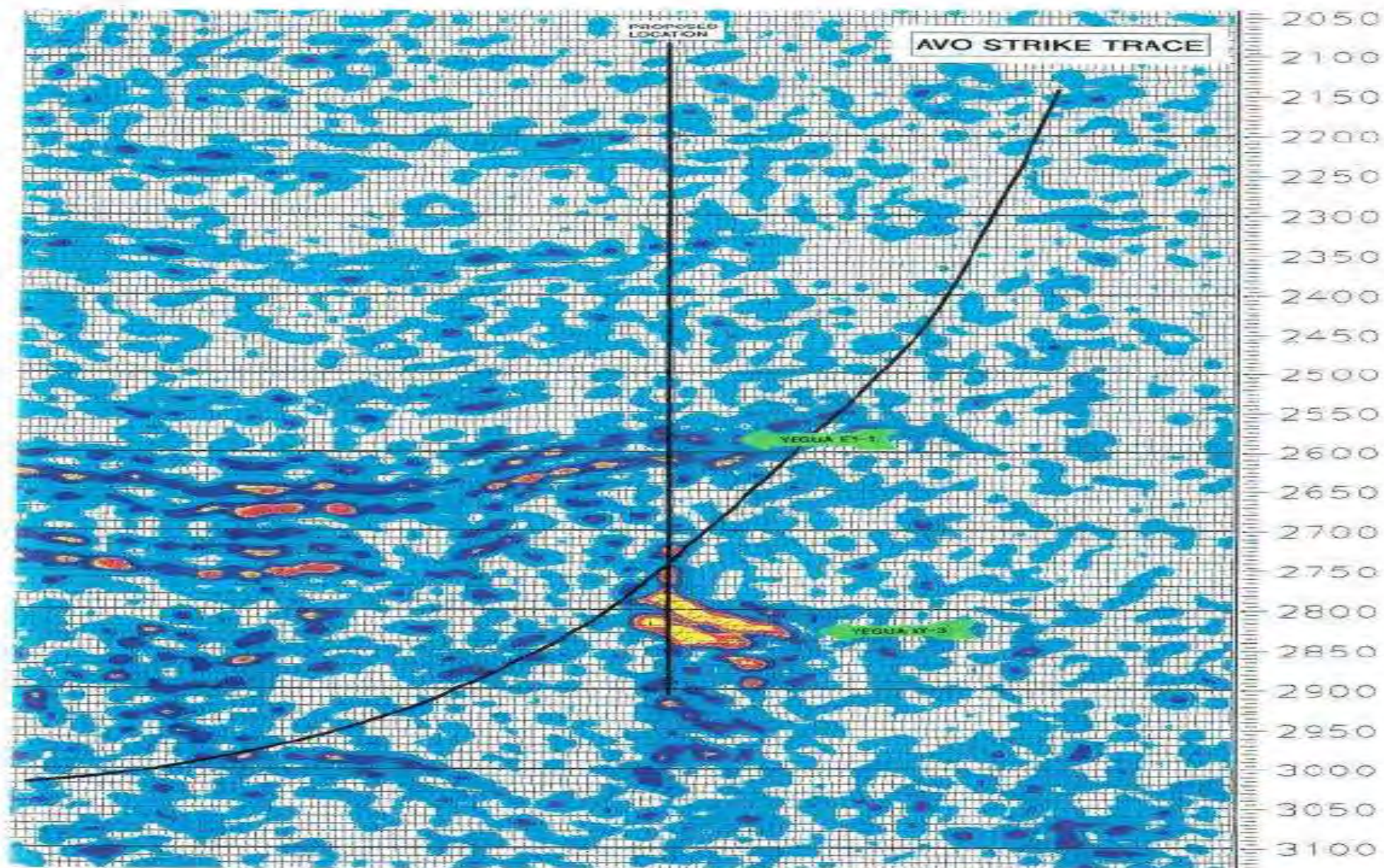




## Amplitude Strike Line



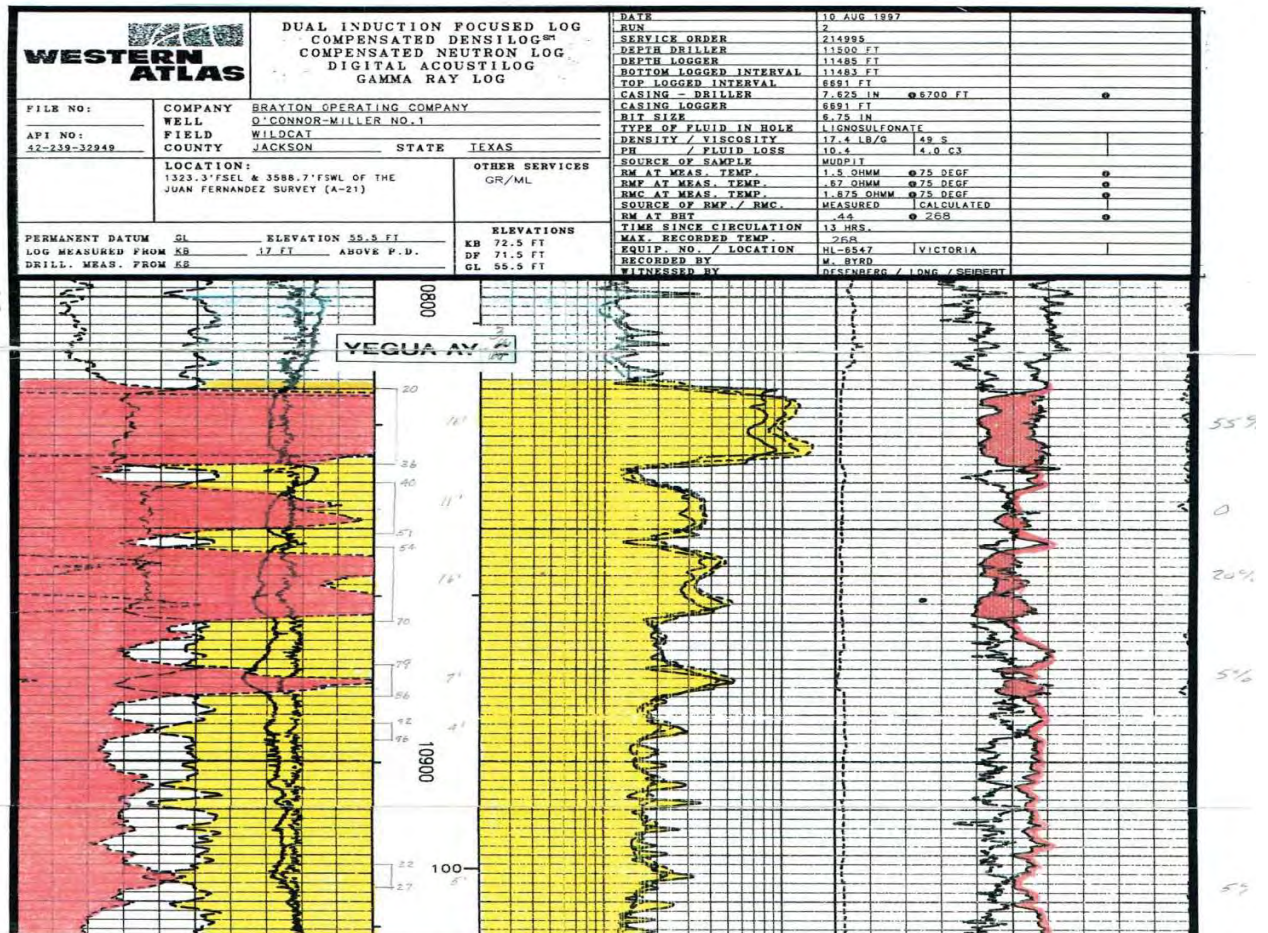




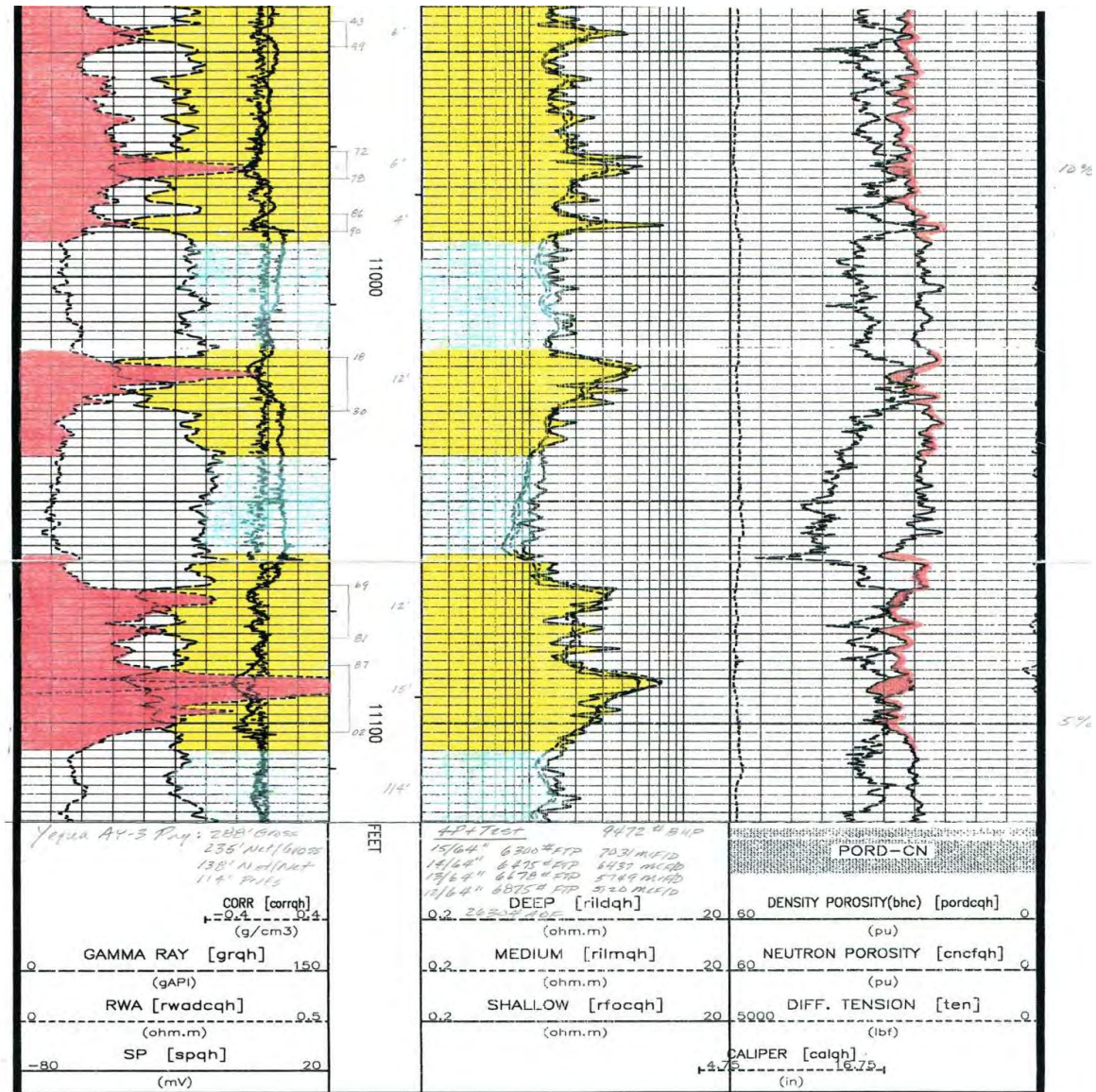


# MAXIMA RESOURCES, INC.

O'Connor-Miller No. 1 Well  
Jackson County, Texas



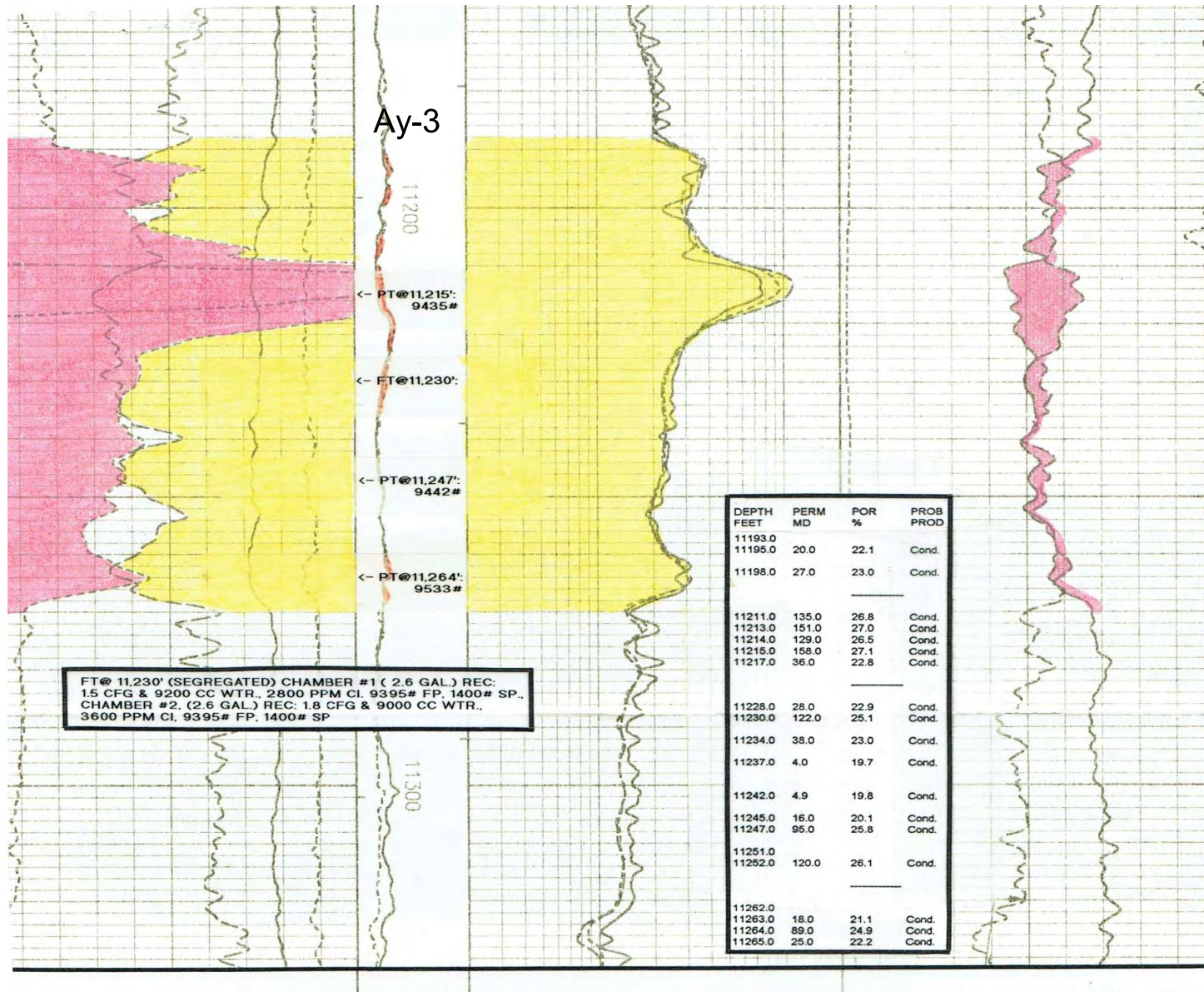






Brayton, O'Conner-Miller #3

T/C: 8.1 BCFG &  
325,911 BC



Brayton, O'Connor-  
Miller #1: Discovery  
Well for El Toro Max  
Field, 8/10/97

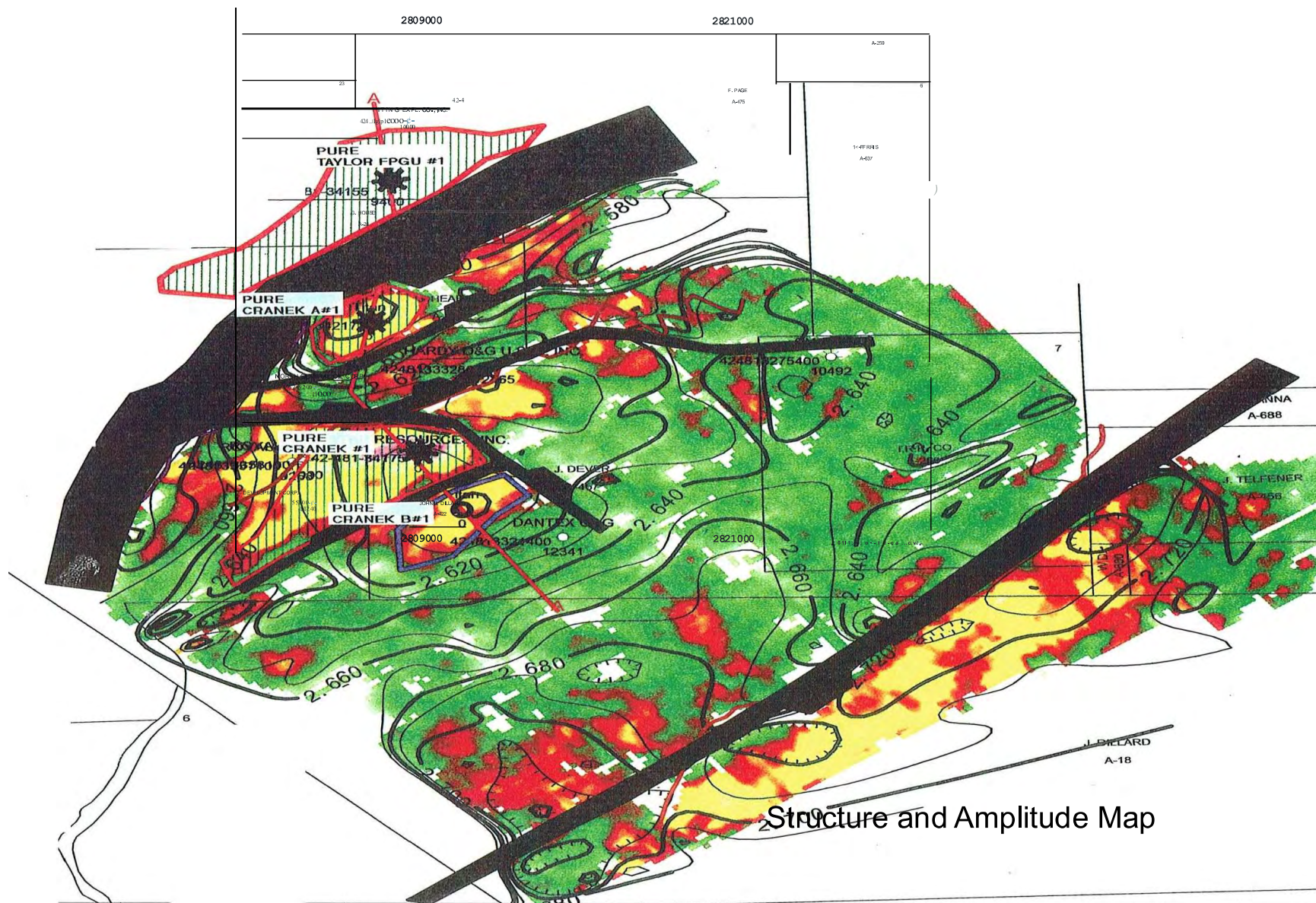
El Toro Max Field,  
T/C: 21.8 BCFG &  
1,660,351 BC

Note white car in front of  
rig: The man sitting in the  
car is Matt Rukovich.





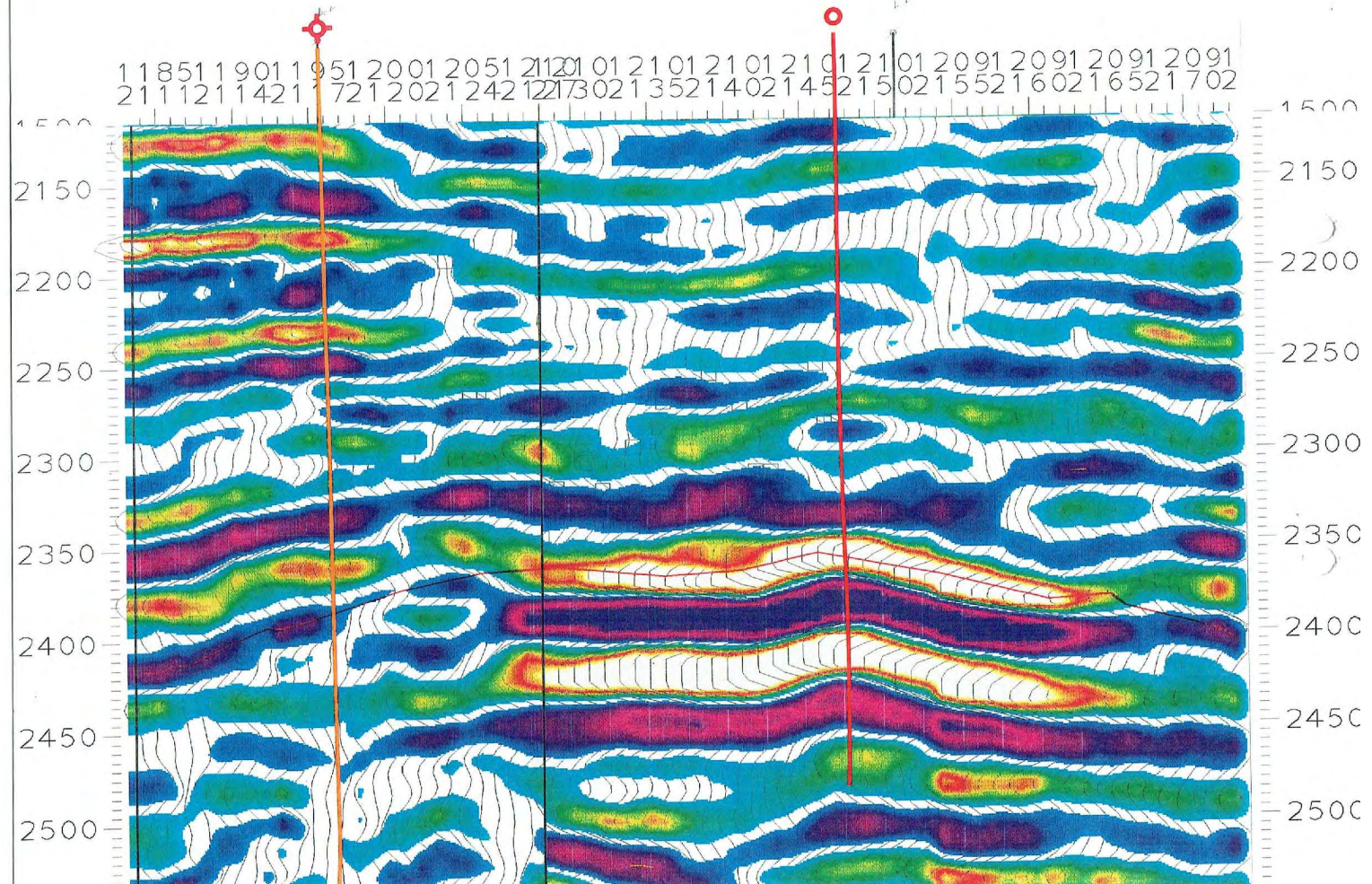






PROPOSED LOCATION  
PROJECTION

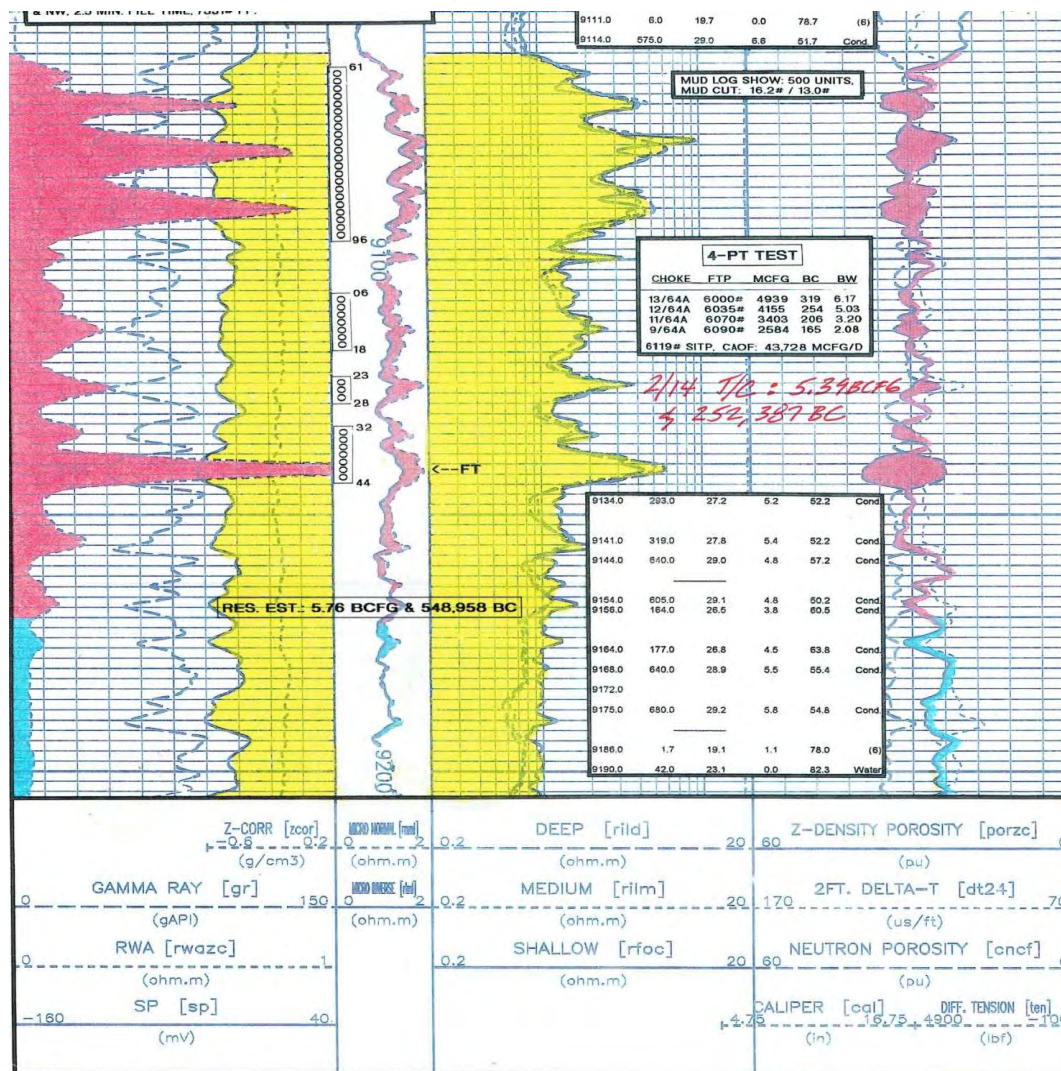
Royal Oil & Gas  
Roades "A" #1





# Brayton, Taylor Family GU #1

T/C: 5.1 BCFG &  
252,329 BC





Taylor Fam. Tr. GU-1



2146.0  
1212.0

Cranek A-#1(HE#1)



2133.0  
1226.0

Cranek 1



2117.0  
1260.0

# Amplitude Dip Section

2117.0  
1280.0

2.200

2.300

2.400

2.500

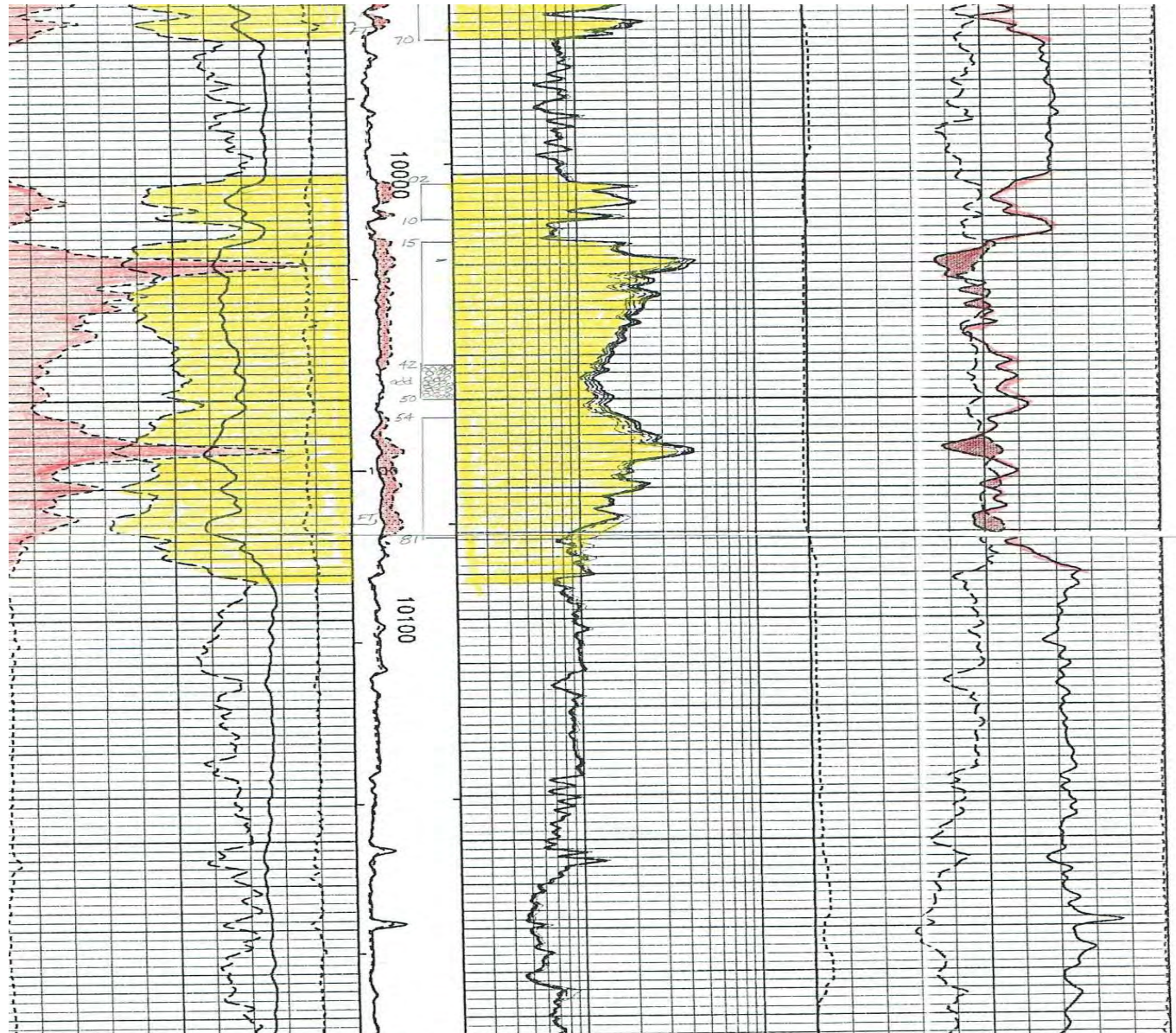
Ay-1

Ey Po



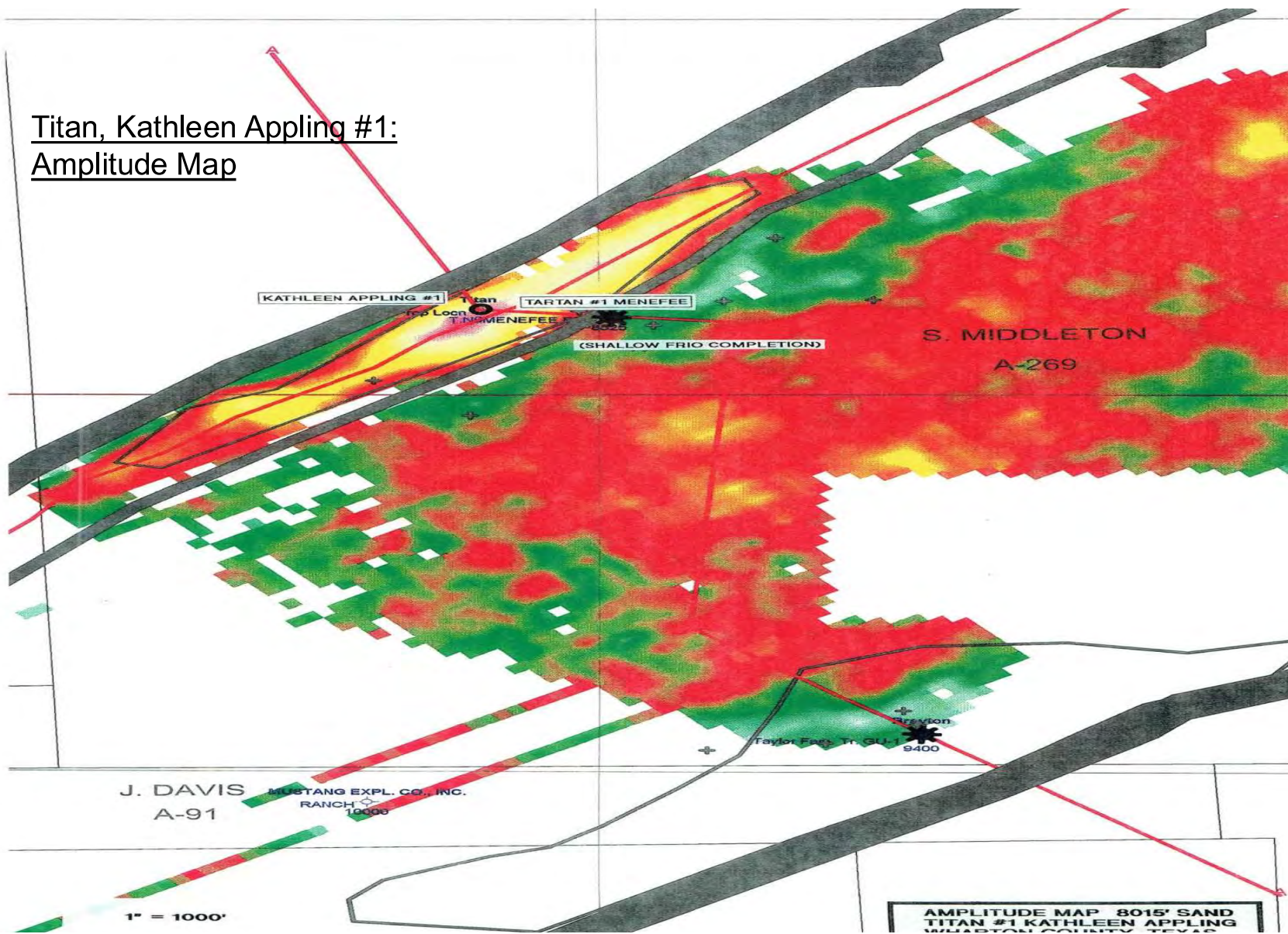
Titan, Cranek GU #1

T/C: 1.72 BCFG \$  
140,130 BC



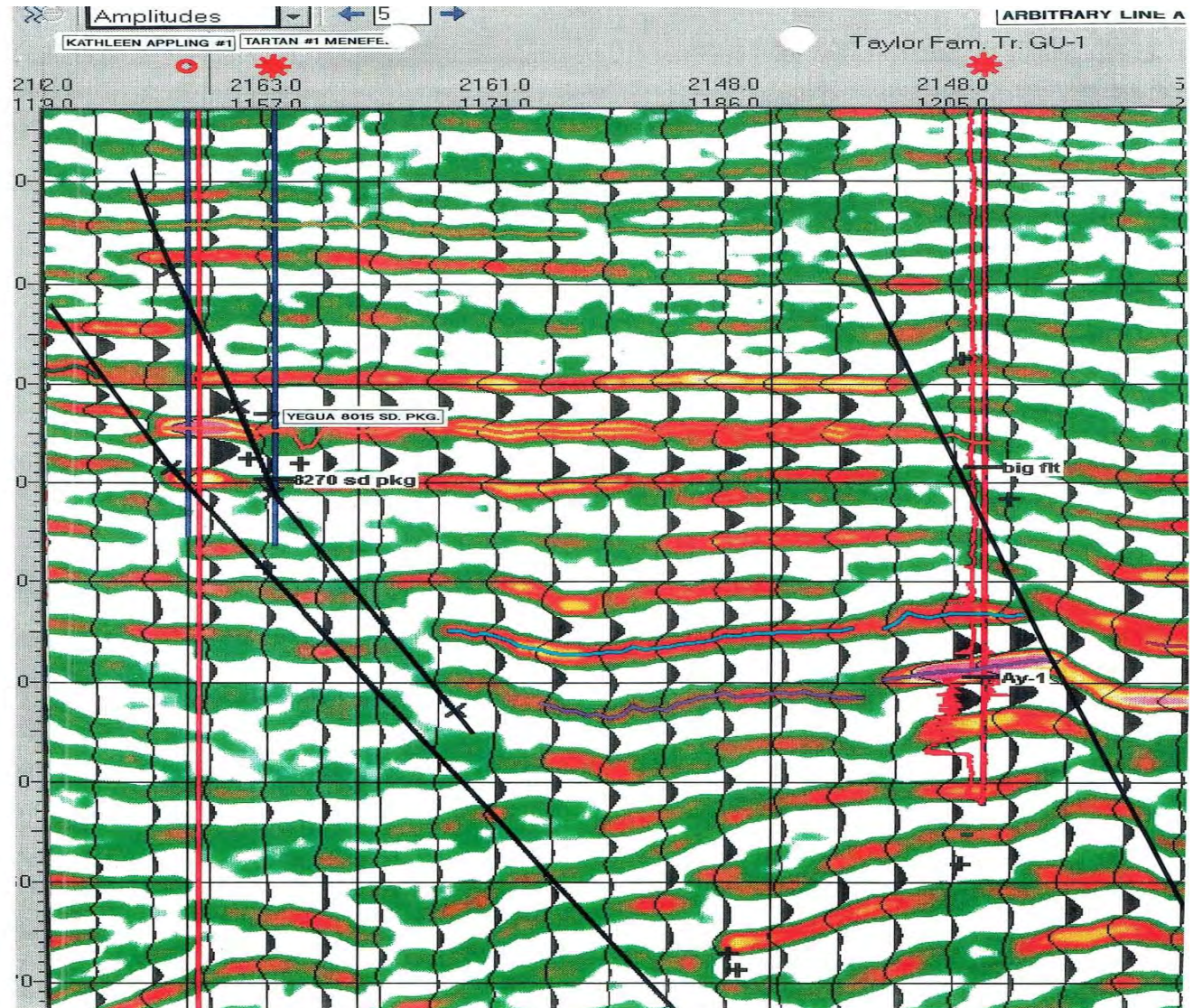


Titan, Kathleen Appling #1:  
Amplitude Map



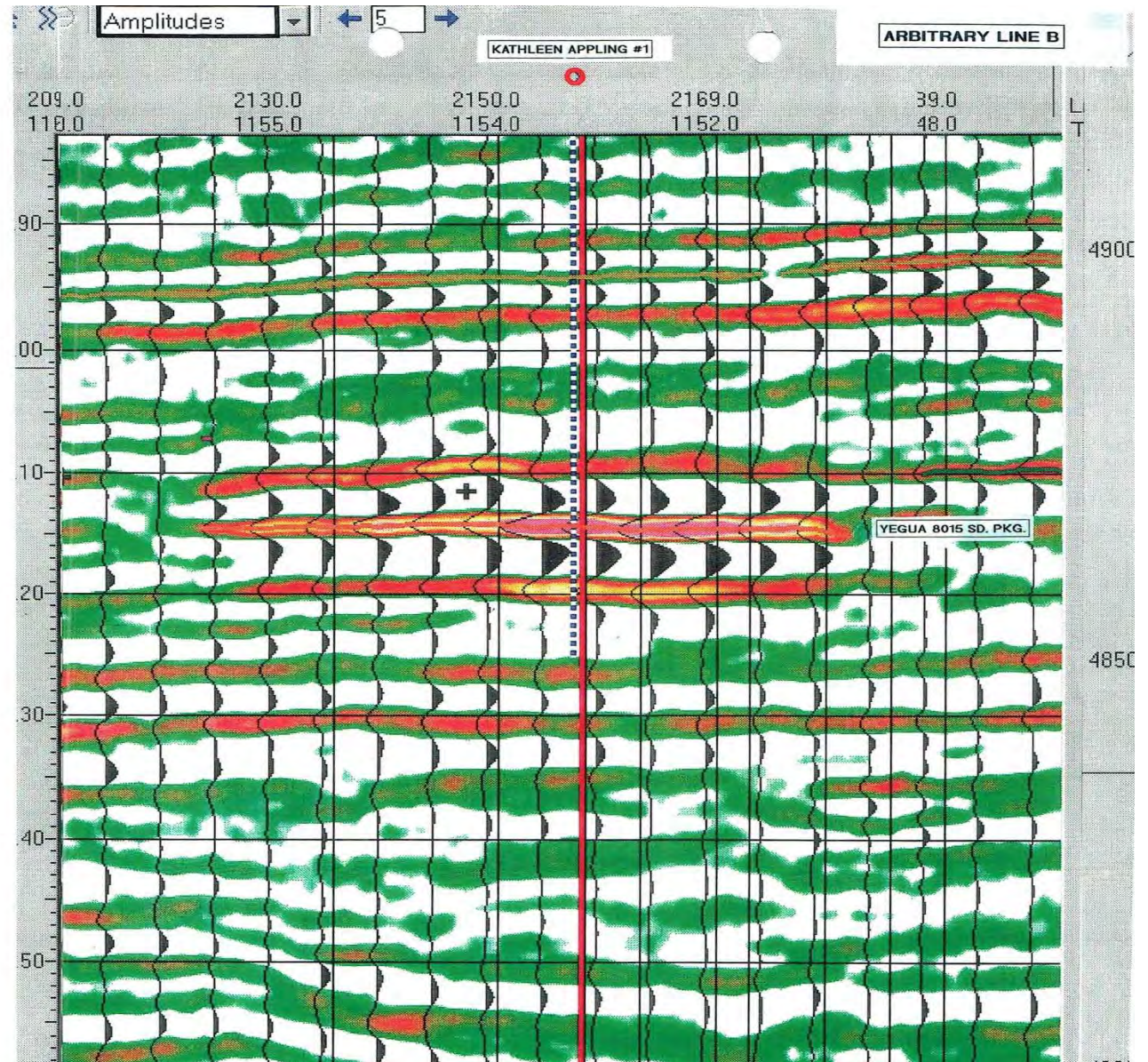


Titan, Kathleen Appling #1:  
Amplitude Dip Line



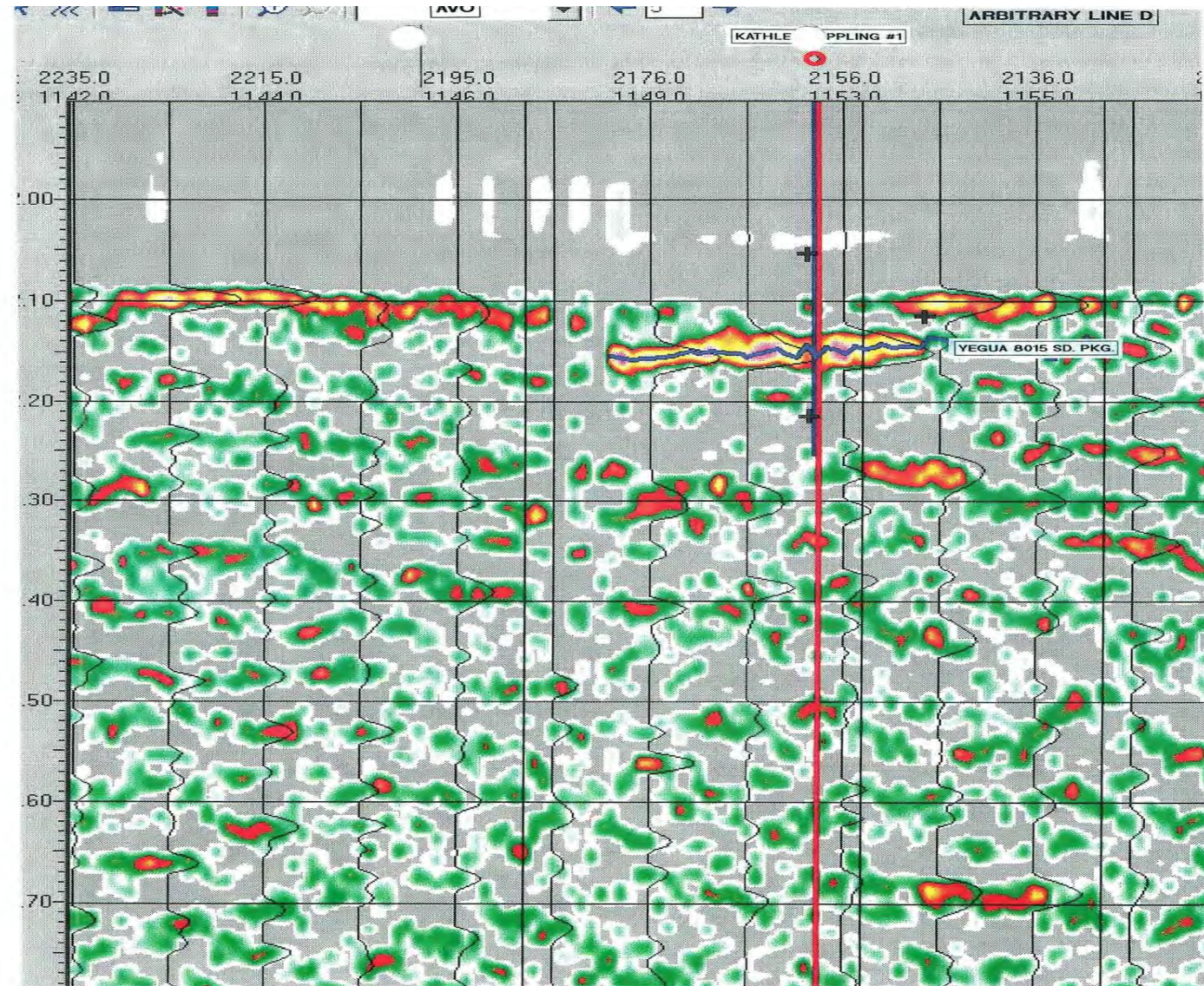


Titan, Kathleen Appling  
#1: Amplitude Strike Line





Titan, Kathleen Appling #1: AVO





## T/C: 4.6 BCFG &amp; 239,860 BC

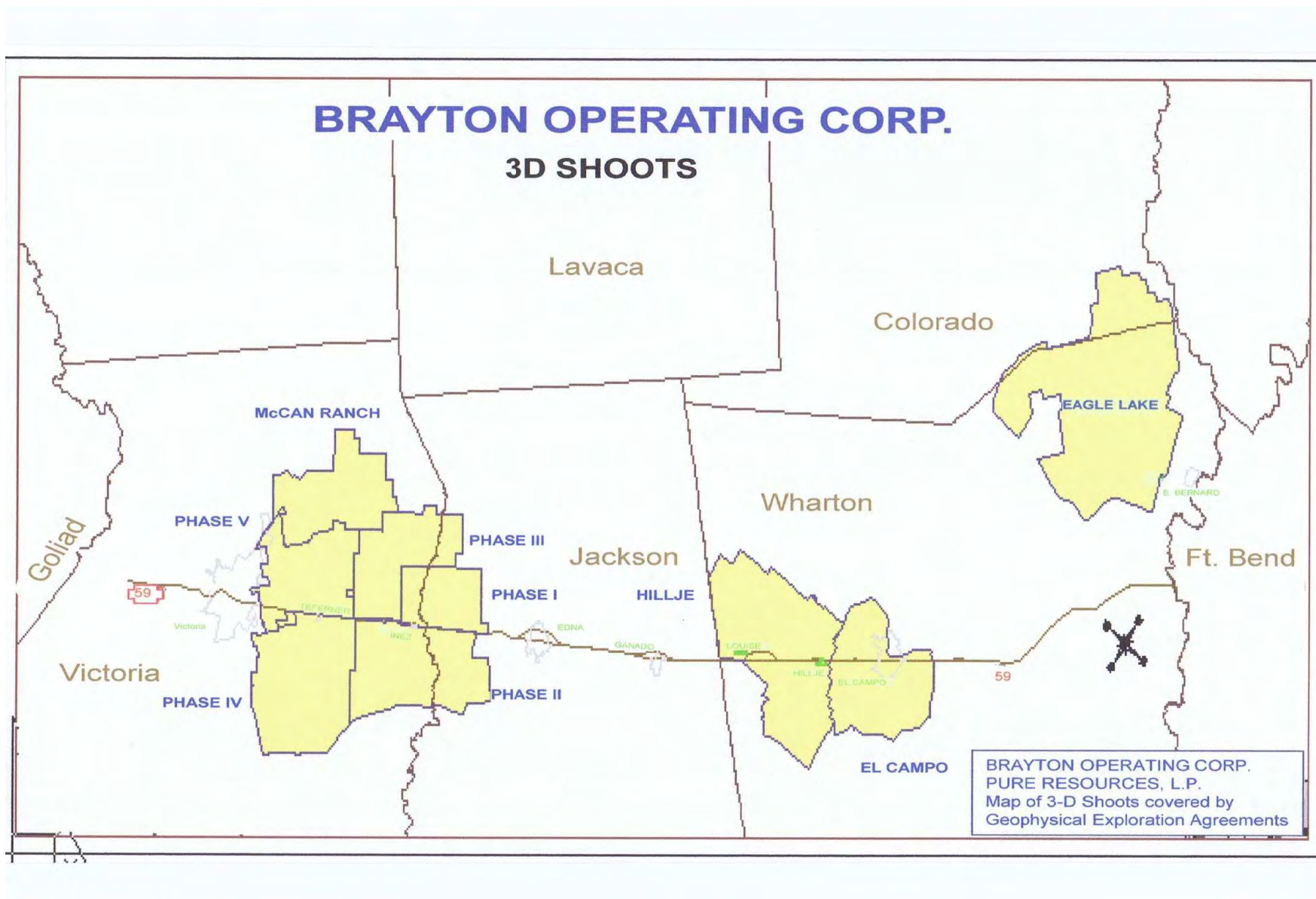






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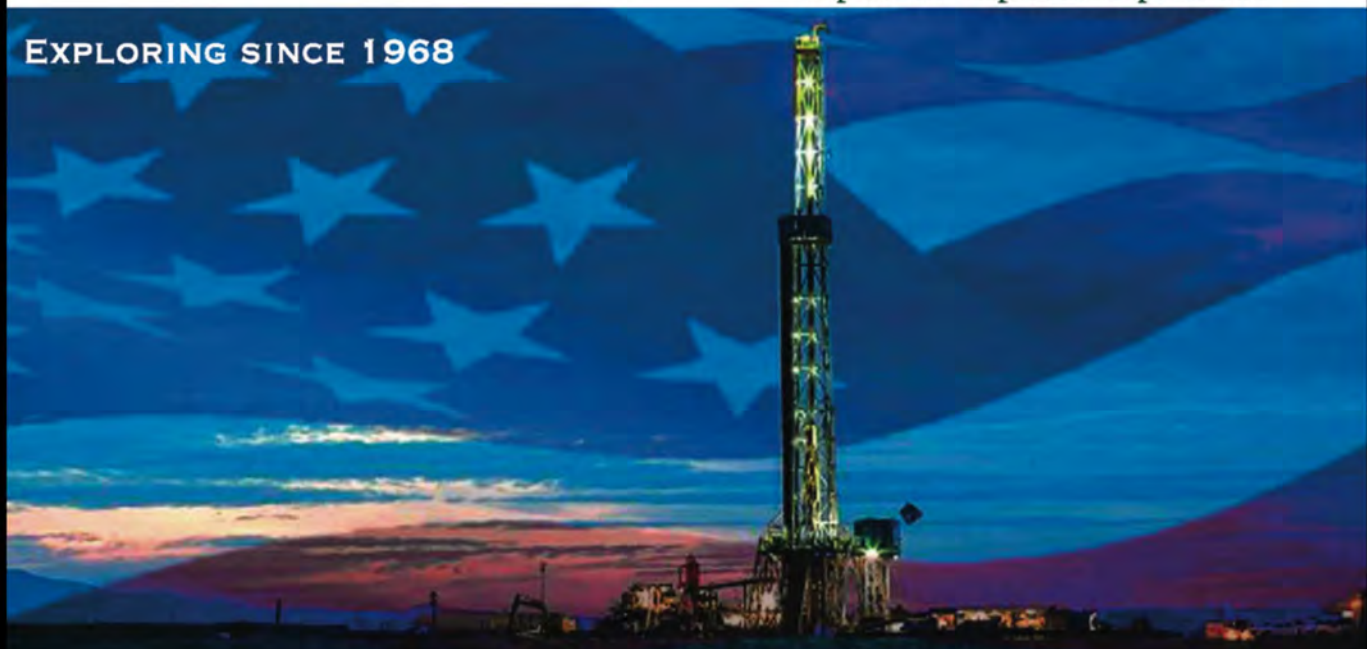


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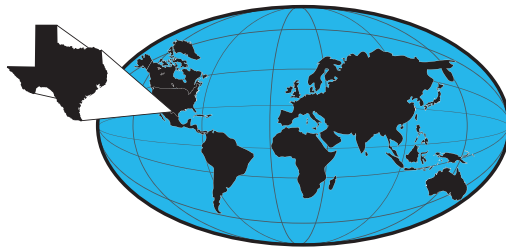
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## Papers available for purchase at the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology

Note: Publication codes are hyperlinked to their online listing in [The Bureau Store](http://begstore.beg.utexas.edu/store/) (<http://begstore.beg.utexas.edu/store/>).

Cretaceous-Wilcox-Frio Symposia, D. B. Clutterbuck, Editor, 41 p., 1962.  
[CCGS 002S](#) \$15.00

Type Logs of South Texas Fields, Vol. I, Frio Trend. Compiled by Don Kling. Includes 134 fields. 158 p., 1972. Ring binder.  
[CCGS 015TL](#) \$25.00

Type Logs of South Texas Fields, Vol. II, Wilcox (Eocene) Trend. Compiled by M. A. Wolbrink. 98 p., 1979. Ring binder.  
[CCGS 016TL](#) \$25.00

### Field Trip Guidebooks

South Texas Uranium. J. L. Cowdrey, Editor. 62 p., 1968.  
[CCGS 102G](#) \$12.00

Hidalgo Canyon and La Popa Valley, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. CCGS 1970 Spring Field Conference. 78 p., 1970.  
[CCGS 103G](#) \$8.00

Padre Island National Seashore Field Guide. R. N. Tench and W. D. Hodgson, Editors. 61 p., 1972.  
[CCGS 104G](#) \$5.00

Triple Energy Field Trip, Uranium, Coal, Gas—Duval, Webb & Zapata Counties, Texas. George Faga, Editor. 24 p., 1975.  
[CCGS 105G](#) \$10.00

Minas de Golondrinas and Minas Rancherías, Mexico. Robert Manson and Barbara Beynon, Editors. 48 p. plus illus., 1978.  
[CCGS 106G](#) \$15.00

Portrero Garcia and Huasteca Canyon, Northeastern Mexico. Barbara Beynon and J. L. Russell, Editors. 46 p., 1979.  
[CCGS 107G](#) \$15.00

Modern Depositional Environments of Sands in South Texas. C. E. Stelling and J. L. Russell, Editors. 64 p., 1981.  
[CCGS 108G](#) \$15.00

Geology of Peregrina & Novillo Canyons, Ciudad Victoria, Mexico, J. L. Russell, Ed., 23 p. plus geologic map and cross section, 1981.  
[CCGS 109G](#) \$10.00

Geology of the Llano Uplift, Central Texas, and Geological Features in the Uvalde Area. Corpus Christi Geological Society Annual Spring Field Conference, May 7-9, 1982. Various pagination. 115 p., 53 p.  
[CCGS 110G](#) \$15.00

Structure and Mesozoic Stratigraphy of Northeast Mexico, prepared by numerous authors, variously paginated. 76 p., 38 p., 1984.  
[CCGS 111G](#) \$15.00

Geology of the Big Bend National Park, Texas, by C. A. Berkebille. 26 p., 1984.  
[CCGS 112G](#) \$12.00



# GEO LINK POST

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/books/landsapes/index.php> Free service. Rare, fragile, hard-to-find, public domain documents covering various topics about the landscape of Texas. Includes the Texas Geological Survey from 1887 until 1894.

**USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN** <http://tapestry.usgs.gov> The CCGS is donating to all of the 5th and 6th grade schools in the Coastal Bend. Check it out--it is a spectacular map. You might want to frame one for your own office. The one in my office has glass and a metal frame, and It cost \$400 and it does not look as good as the ones we are giving to the schools.

**FREE TEXAS TOPOS'S** <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm> these are TIFF files from your state government that can be downloaded and printed. You can ad them to SMT by converting them first in Globalmapper. Other digital data as well.

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<http://www.geographynetwork.com/> Go here and try their top 5 map services. My favorite is 'USGS Elevation Date.' Zoom in on your favorite places and see great shaded relief images. One of my favorites is the Great Sand Dunes National Park in south central Colorado. Nice Dunes.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/asropix.html> Astronomy picture of the day--awesome. I click this page everyday.

<http://www.spacimaging.com/gallery/ioweeek/iow.htm> Amazing satellite images. Check out the gallery.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/topo/globegal.shtml> More great maps to share with kids and students.

[www.ccgeo.org](http://www.ccgeo.org) Don't forget we have our own we page.

<http://terra.nasa.gov/gallery/> Great satellite images of Earth.

[www.ermaper.com](http://www.ermaper.com) They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

<http://terrasrver.com> Go here to download free aerial photo images that can be plotted under your digital land and well data. Images down to 1 meter resolution, searchable by Lat Long coordinate. Useful for resolving well location questions.

# TYPE LOGS OF SOUTH TEXAS FIELDS by Corpus Christi Geological Society

## NEW (2019)TYPE LOGS IN RED;

## lost now found

### ARANSAS COUNTY

Aransas Pass/McCampbell Deep  
Bartell Pass  
Blackjack  
Burgentine Lake  
Copano Bay, South  
Estes Cove  
Fulton Beach  
Goose Island  
Half Moon Reef  
Nine Mile Point  
Rockport, West  
St. Charles  
Tally Island  
Tract 831-G.O.M. (offshore)  
Virginia

### BEE COUNTY

Caesar  
Mosca  
Nomanna  
Orangedale(2)  
Ray-Wilcox  
San Domingo

### Tulsita Wilcox

Strauch Wilcox

### BROOKS COUNTY

Ann Mag  
Boedecker  
Cage Ranch  
Encintas  
ERF

Gyp Hill  
Gyp Hill West

Loma Blanca

Mariposa

Mills Bennett

Pita

Tio Ayola

Tres Encinos

### CALHOUN COUNTY

Appling  
Coloma Creek, North  
Heyser

Lavaca Bay

Long Mott

Magnolia Beach

Mosquito Point

Olivia

Panther Reef

Powderhorn

Seadrift, N.W.

Steamboat Pass

Webb Point

S.E. Zoller

### CAMERON COUNTY

Holly Beach  
Lutties  
San Martin (2)  
Three Islands, East

Vista Del Mar

### COLORADO COUNTY

E. Ramsey  
Graceland N. Fault Blk  
Graceland S. Fault Blk

### DEWITT COUNTY

Anna Barre

Cook

Nordheim

Smith Creek

Warmley

Yorktown, South

### DUVAL COUNTY

DCR-49

Four Seasons

Good Friday

Hagist Ranch

Herbst

Loma Novia

Petrox

Seven Sisters

Seventy Six, South

Starr Bright, West

### GOLIAD COUNTY

Berclair

North Blanconia

Bombs

Boyce

Cabeza Creek, South

Goliad, West

### St Armo

Terrell Point

### HIDALGO COUNTY

Alamo/Donna

Donna

Edinburg, West

Flores-Jeffress

Foy

Hidalgo

LA Blanca

McAllen& Pharr

McAllen Ranch

Mercedes

Monte Christo, North

Penitas

San Fordyce

San Carlos

San Salvador

S. Santallana

Shary

Tabasco

Weslaco, North

Weslaco, South

### JACKSON COUNTY

Carancahua Creek

Francitas

Ganado & Ganado Deep

LaWard, North

Little Kentucky

Maurbro

StewartSwan Lake

Swan Lake, East

Texana, North

West Ranch

### JIM HOGG COUNTY

Chaparosa

Thompsonville,N.E.

### JIM WELLS COUNTY

Freeborn

Hoelscher

Palito Blanco

Wade City

### KARNES COUNTY

Burnell

Coy City

Person

Runge

### KENEDY COUNTY

Candelaria

Julian

Julian, North

Laguna Madre

Rita

Stillman

### KLEBERG COUNTY

Alazan

Alazan, North

Big Caesar

Borregos

Chevron (offshore)

Laguna Larga

Seeligson

Sprint (offshore)

### LA SALLE COUNTY

Pearsall

**HAWKVILLE:EAGLEFORD**

### LAVACA COUNTY

Hallettsville

Hope

Southwest Speaks

Southwest Speaks Deep

### LIVE OAK COUNTY

Atkinson

Braslau

Chapa

Clayton

Dunn

Harris

Houdman

Kittie West-Salt Creek

Lucille

Sierra Vista

Tom Lyne

White Creek

White Creek, East

### MATAGORDA COUNTY

Collegeport

### MCMULLEN COUNTY

Arnold-Weldon

Brazil

Devil's Waterhole

Hostetter

Hostetter, North

### NUECES COUNTY

Agua Dulce (3)

Arnold-David

Arnold-David, North

Baldwin Deep

Calallen

Chapman Ranch

Corpus Christi, N.W.

Corpus Christi West C.C.

Encinal Channel

Flour Bluff/Flour Bluff, East

GOM St 9045(offshore)

Indian Point

Mustang Island

Mustang Island, West

Mustang Island St.

889S(offshore)

Nueces Bay/Nueces Bay

West

Perro Rojo

Pita Island

Ramada

Redfish Bay

Riverside

Riverside, South

Saxet

Shield

Stedman Island

Turkey Creek

### REFUGIO COUNTY

Bonnieview/Packery Flats

Greta

La Rosa

Lake Pasture

Refugio, New

Tom O'Connor

### SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

Angelita East

Commonwealth

Encino

Enos Cooper

Geronimo

Harvey

Hiberia

Hodges

Mathis, East

McC Campbell Deep/Aransas Pass

Midway

Midway, North

Odem

Plymouth

Portilla (2)

Taft

Taft, East

White Point, East

### STARR COUNTY

El Tanque

Garcia

Hinde

La Reforma, S.W.

Lyda

Ricaby

Rincon

Rincon, North

Ross

San Roman

Sun

Yturria

### VICTORIA COUNTY

Helen Gohike, S.W.

Keeran, North

Marcado Creek

McFaddin

Meyersville

Placedo

### WEBB COUNTY

Aquilares/Glen Martin

Big Cowboy

Bruni, S.E.

Cabazon

Carr Lobo

Davis

Hirsch

Juanita

Las Tiendas

Nicholson

O'Hem

Olmitos

Tom Walsh

### WHARTON COUNTY

Black Owl

### WILLACY COUNTY

Chile Vieja

La Sal Vieja

Paso Real

Tenerias

Willamar

### ZAPATA COUNTY

Benavides

Davis, South

Jennings/Jennings, West

Lopeno

M&F

Pok-A-Dot

### ZAVALA COUNTY

El Bano

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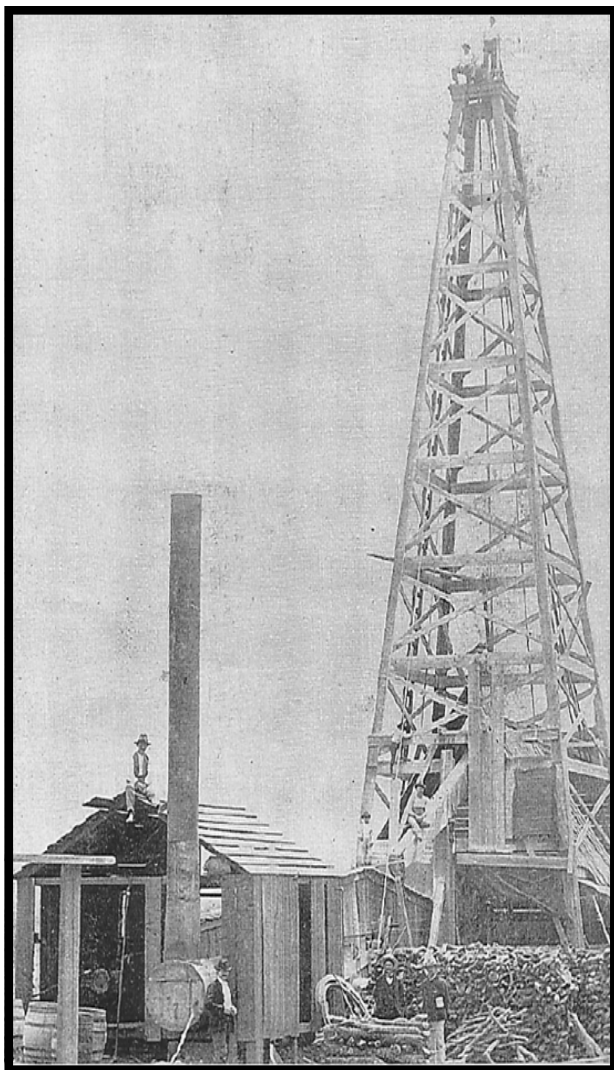
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