
EERC
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA
Critical Challenges.
Practical Solutions.

Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC)

ADVANCED CHARACTERIZATION OF UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS RESERVOIRS TO ENHANCE CO_2 STORAGE RESOURCE ESTIMATES

Bethany Kurz
Assistant Director for Integrated Analytical Solutions

U.S. Department of Energy
National Energy Technology Laboratory
Mastering the Subsurface Through Technology Innovation, Partnerships and Collaboration:
Carbon Storage and Oil and Natural Gas Technologies Review Meeting
August 13–16, 2018

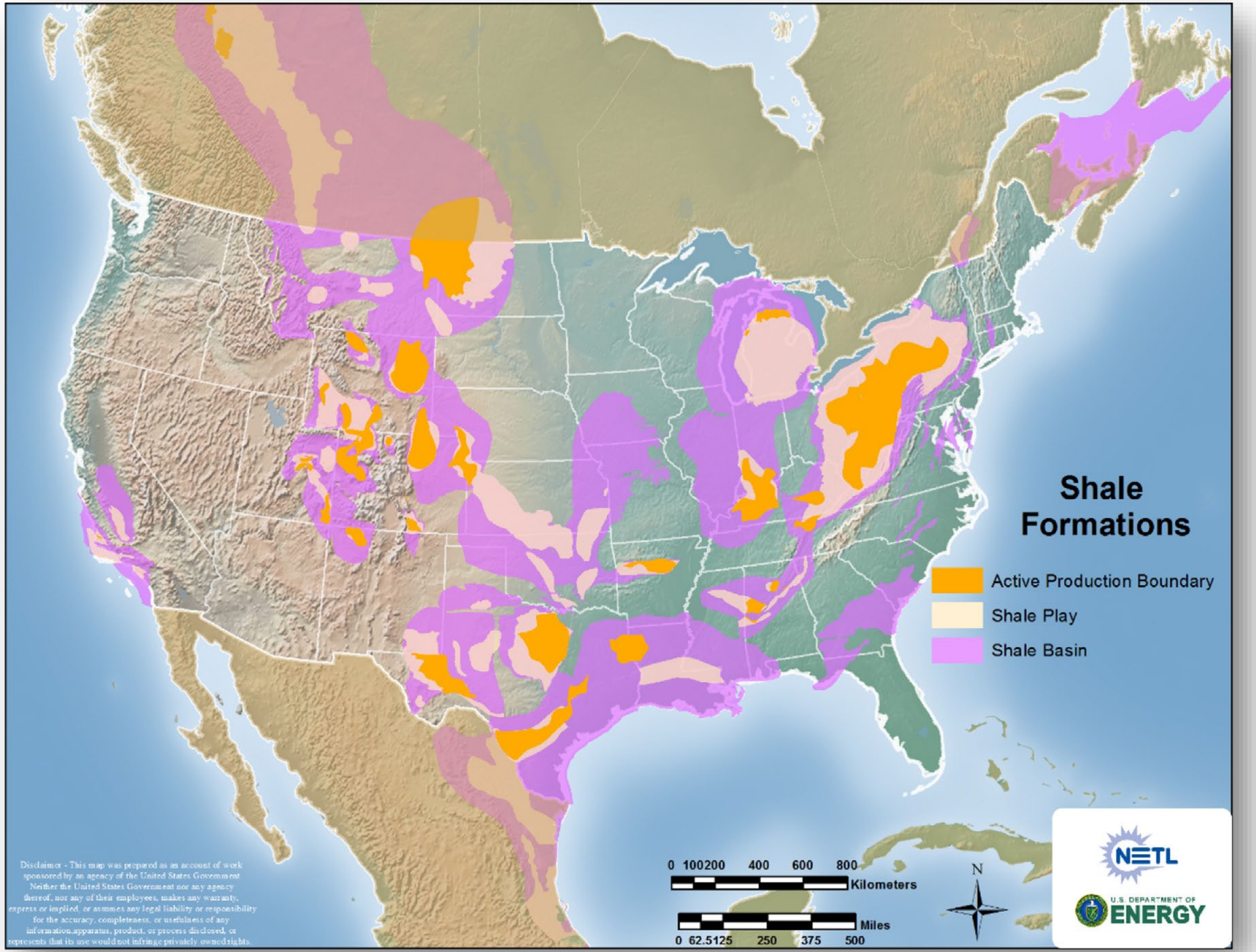
Critical Challenges. **Practical Solutions.**

PROJECT TEAM

- DOE NETL
- Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) at the University of North Dakota
- Hitachi High Technologies America

PROJECT GOALS

- Development of advanced characterization methods and/or procedures to better identify the properties of organic-rich shales (and other unconventional reservoirs) that affect CO_2 transport and storage.
- Application of those methods to improve the existing equations used to volumetrically estimate CO_2 storage capacity.



J.S. Levine et al., International Journal of Greenhouse Gas Control 51 (2016), 81–94.

DOE NETL MASS STORAGE EQUATION

$$G_{CO_2} = V_e\left[\rho_{CO_2}\phi E_\phi + \rho_{sCO_2}(1-\phi)E_s\right]$$

where:

G_{CO2} = CO_2 mass storage resource of organic-rich shale formation;

V_e = Volume of formation that can effectively be accessed for CO_2 storage;

ρ_{CO2} = Density of CO_2 at reservoir conditions;

ϕ = Total porosity due to pores and fractures;

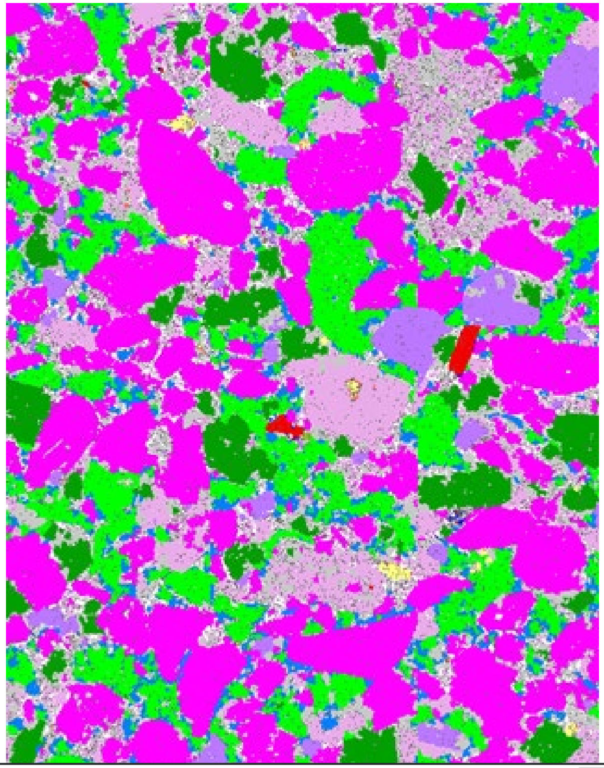
E_ϕ = Fraction of total porosity available for CO_2 storage

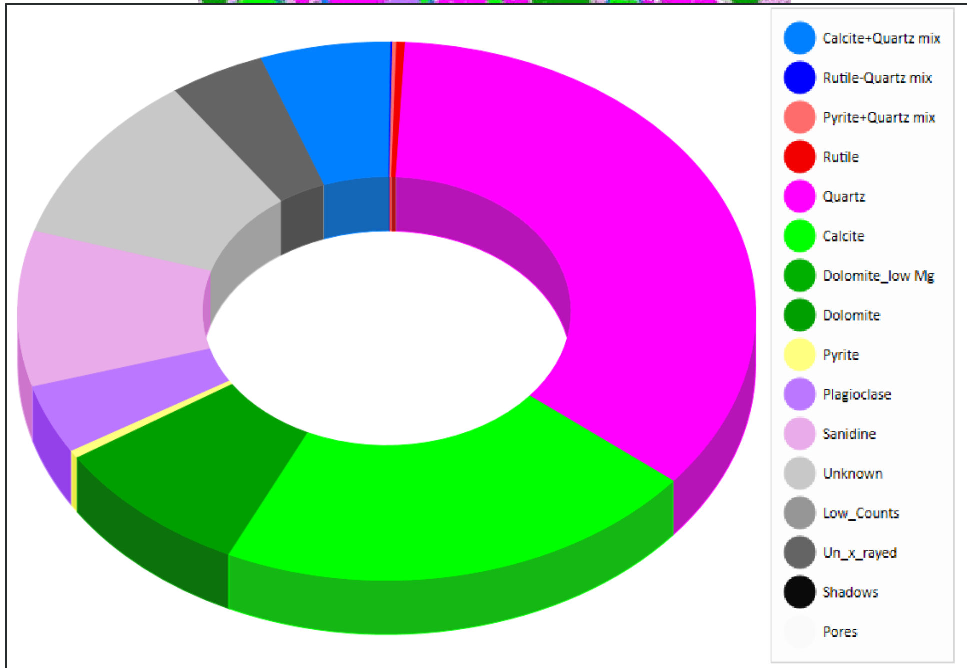
ρ_{sCO2} = Maximum mass of CO_2 sorbed per unit volume of solid phase rock $(1 - \phi)$; and,

E_s = Fraction of solid phase available for CO_2 sorption.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

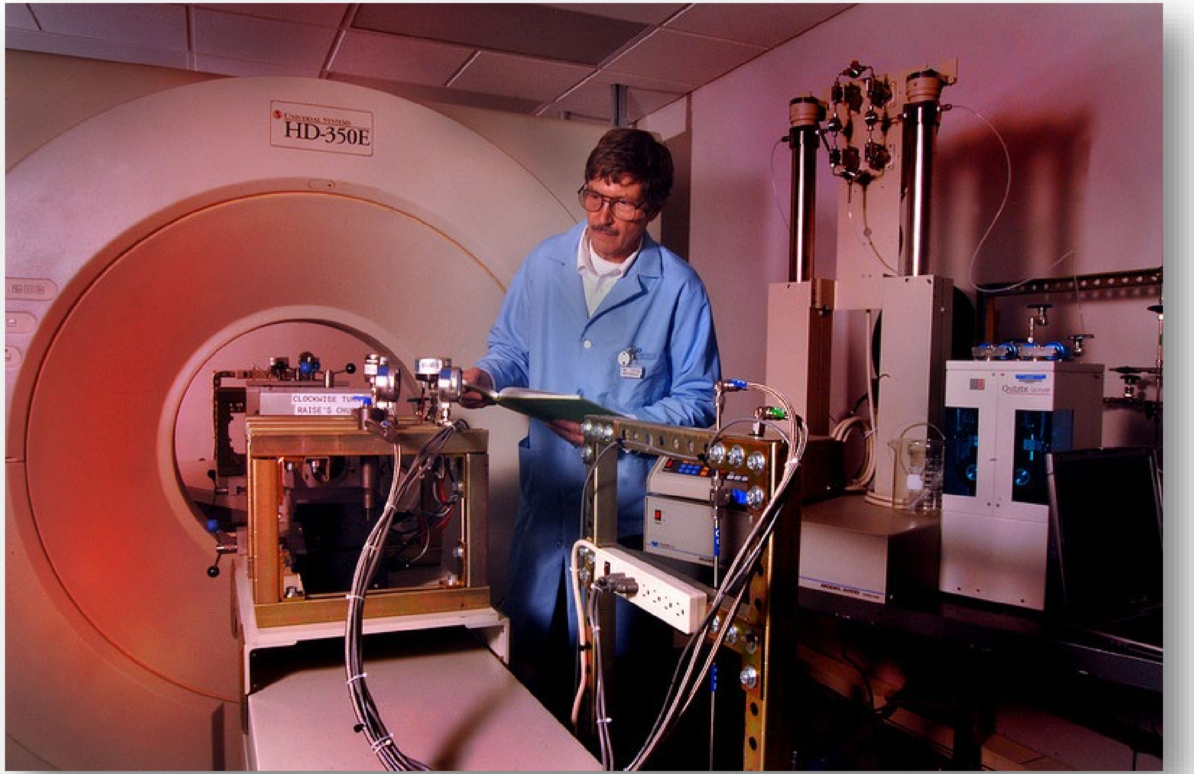
- Development of advanced field emission scanning electron microscopy (FESEM) and image analysis methods to better characterize the following within organic-rich shales and other tight formations:
  – Mineralogy and kerogen content
  – Porosity and pore-size distributions
  – Fracture networks
- Collaboration with Hitachi to develop and/or improve data processing and image analysis routines to better characterize and quantify features of interest in unconventional formation samples.





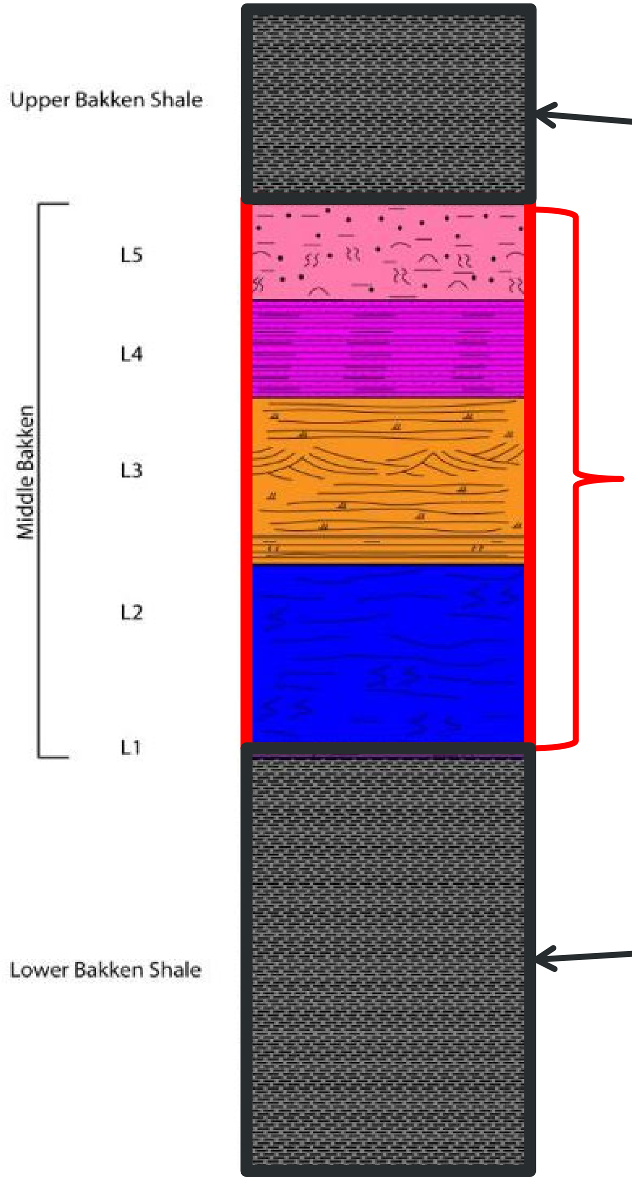
PROJECT OBJECTIVES (continued)

- Collaboration with NETL's CT Scanning Laboratory in Morgantown to investigate the effects of CO_2 exposure on organic-rich shales at the core scale (Dustin Crandall).
- Development of improved methods to estimate the storage resource potential of unconventional formations in collaboration with NETL staff (Angela Goodman).



https://www.netl.doe.gov/research/coal/carbon-storage/research-and-development

BAKKEN FORMATION LITHOLOGY



Upper Bakken Shale: Brown to black, organic-rich

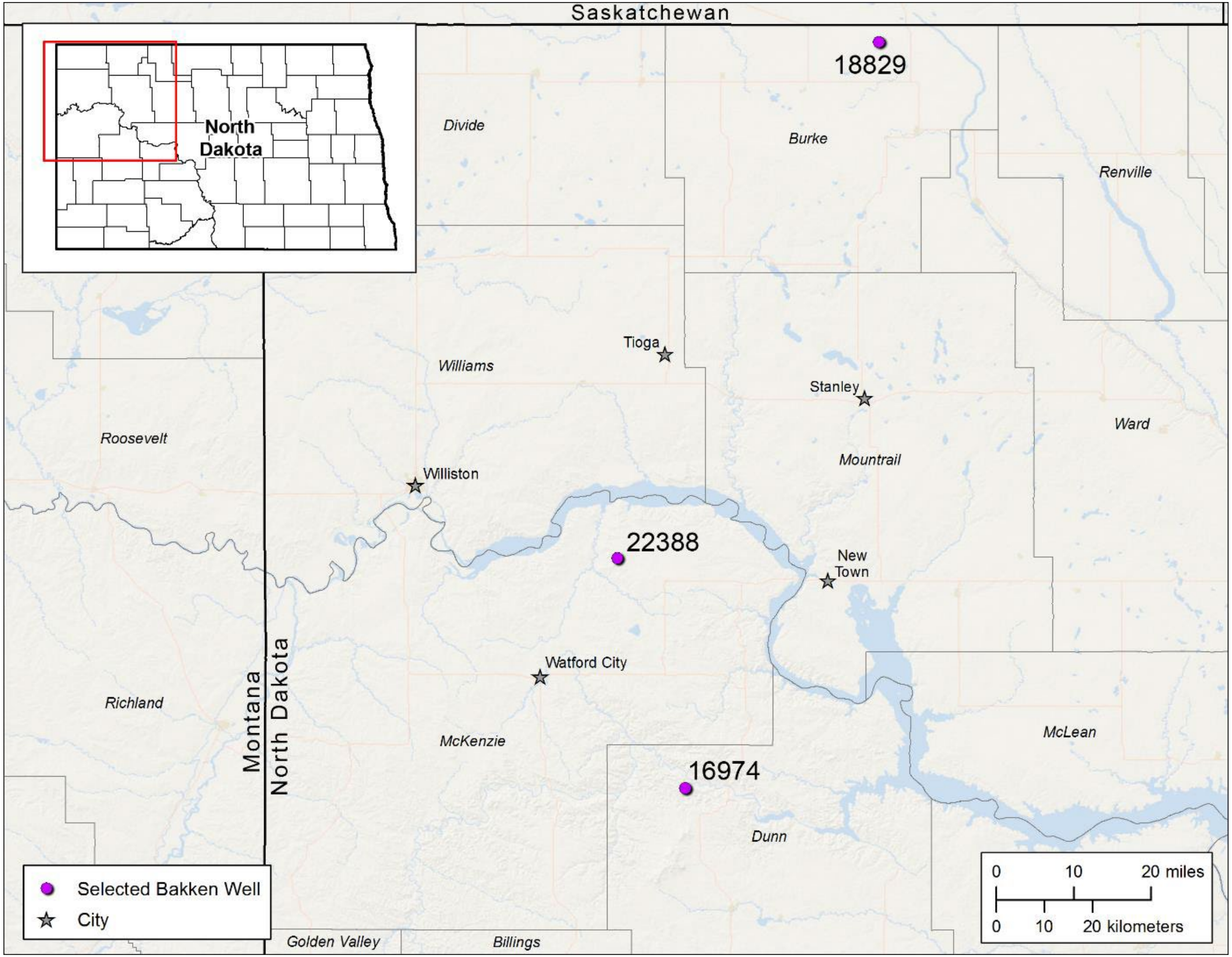
- **Bakken source rock**

Middle Bakken: Variable lithology (up to nine lithofacies), ranging from silty sands to siltstones and tight carbonates

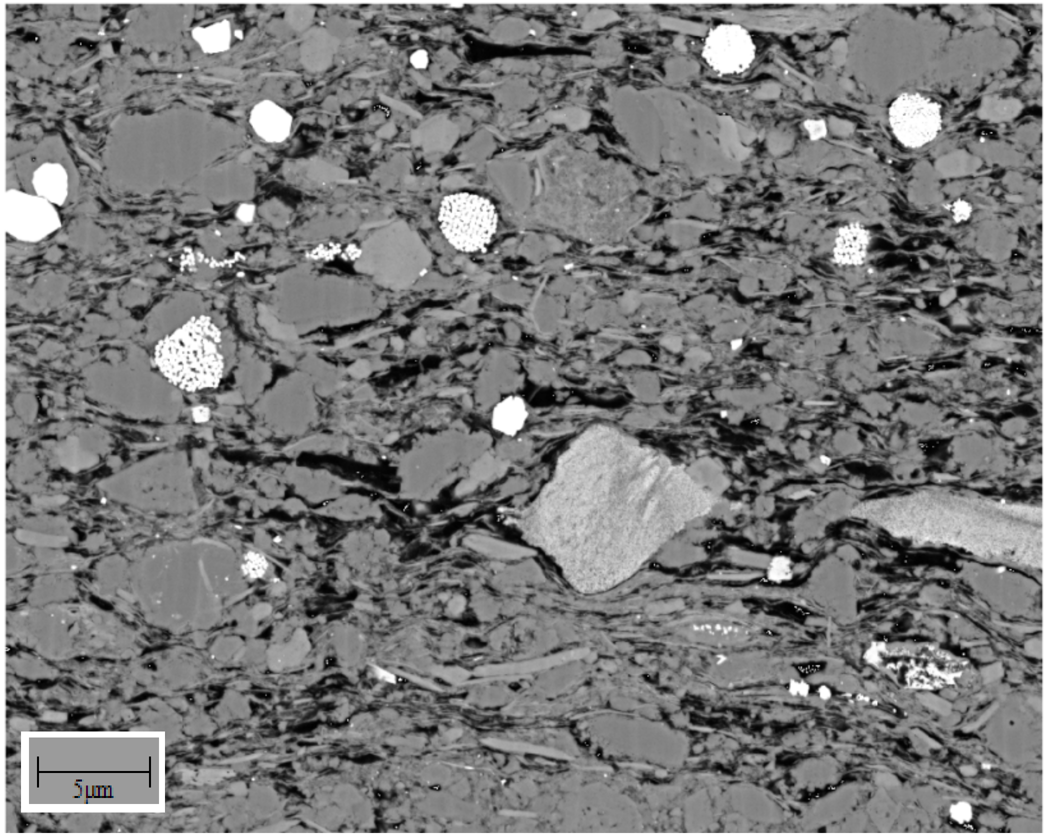
- **Bakken tight reservoir rock (horizontal drilling target)**

Lower Bakken Shale: Brown to black, organic-rich

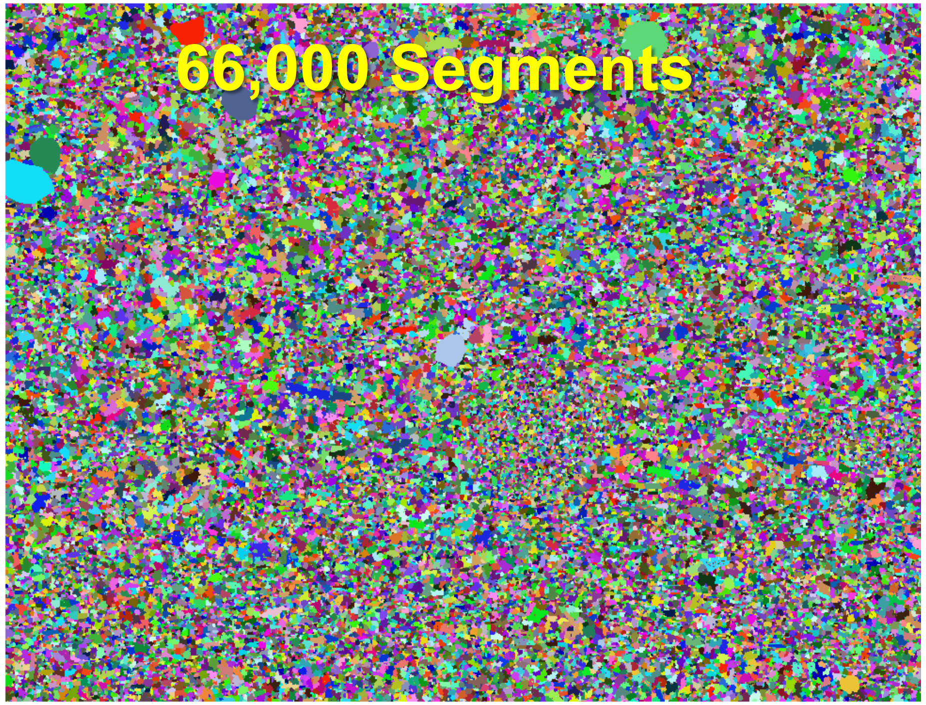
- **Bakken source rock**

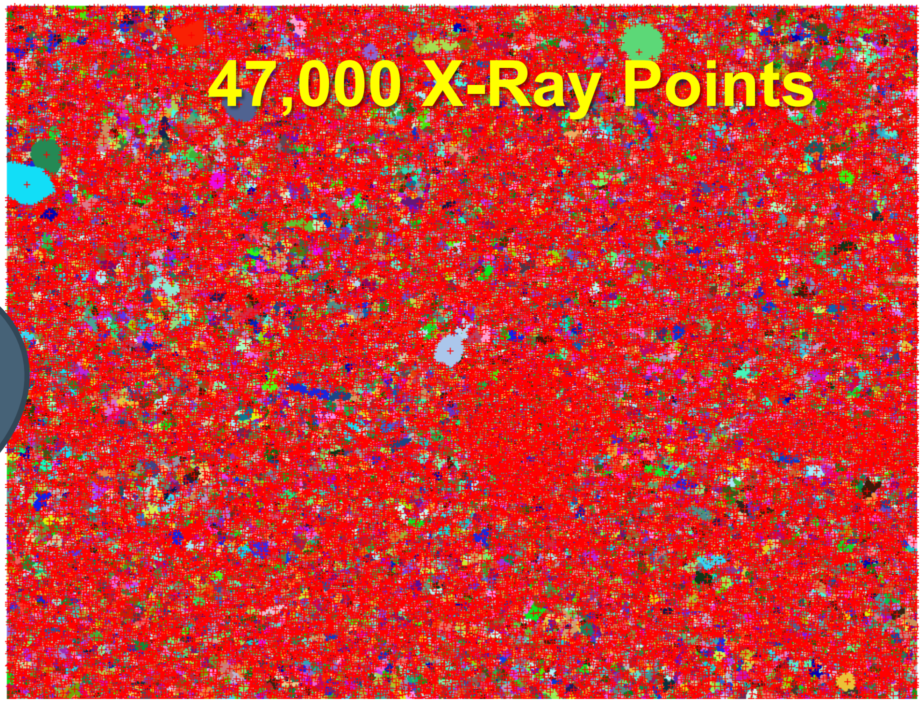

Saskatchewan
North Dakota
18829
Divide
Burke
Renville
Williams
Tioga
Stanley
Ward
Roosevelt
Mountrail
Williston
22388
New Town
Watford City
Richland
Montana
North Dakota
McKenzie
McLean
16974
Dunn
Selected Bakken Well
City
Golden Valley
Billings
0 10 20 miles
0 10 20 kilometers

DATA ACQUISITION



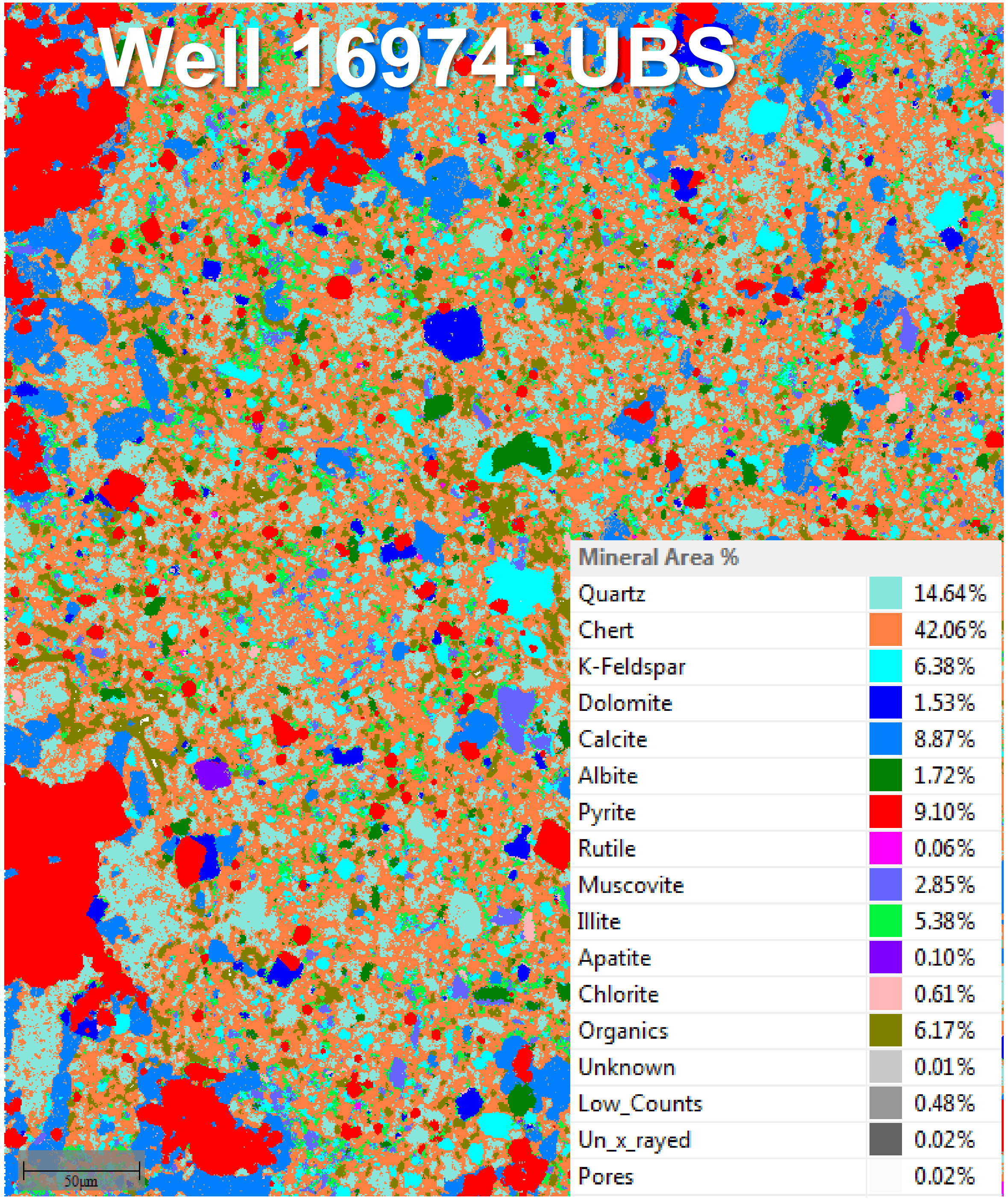
LBS
Example





Field Parameters:
Magnification – 1500x
Image Resolution – 40 nm/pixel
Field Size – 85 µm x 85 µm
Total pixels per frame – 4.5 million
Final mineral map frames – 40

Big Data Process!


Well 16974: UBS
Mineral Area %
Quartz 14.64%
Chert 42.06%
K-Feldspar 6.38%
Dolomite 1.53%
Calcite 8.87%
Albite 1.72%
Pyrite 9.10%
Rutile 0.06%
Muscovite 2.85%
Illite 5.38%
Apatite 0.10%
Chlorite 0.61%
Organics 6.17%
Unknown 0.01%
Low_Counts 0.48%
Un_x_rayed 0.02%
Pores 0.02%
50µm

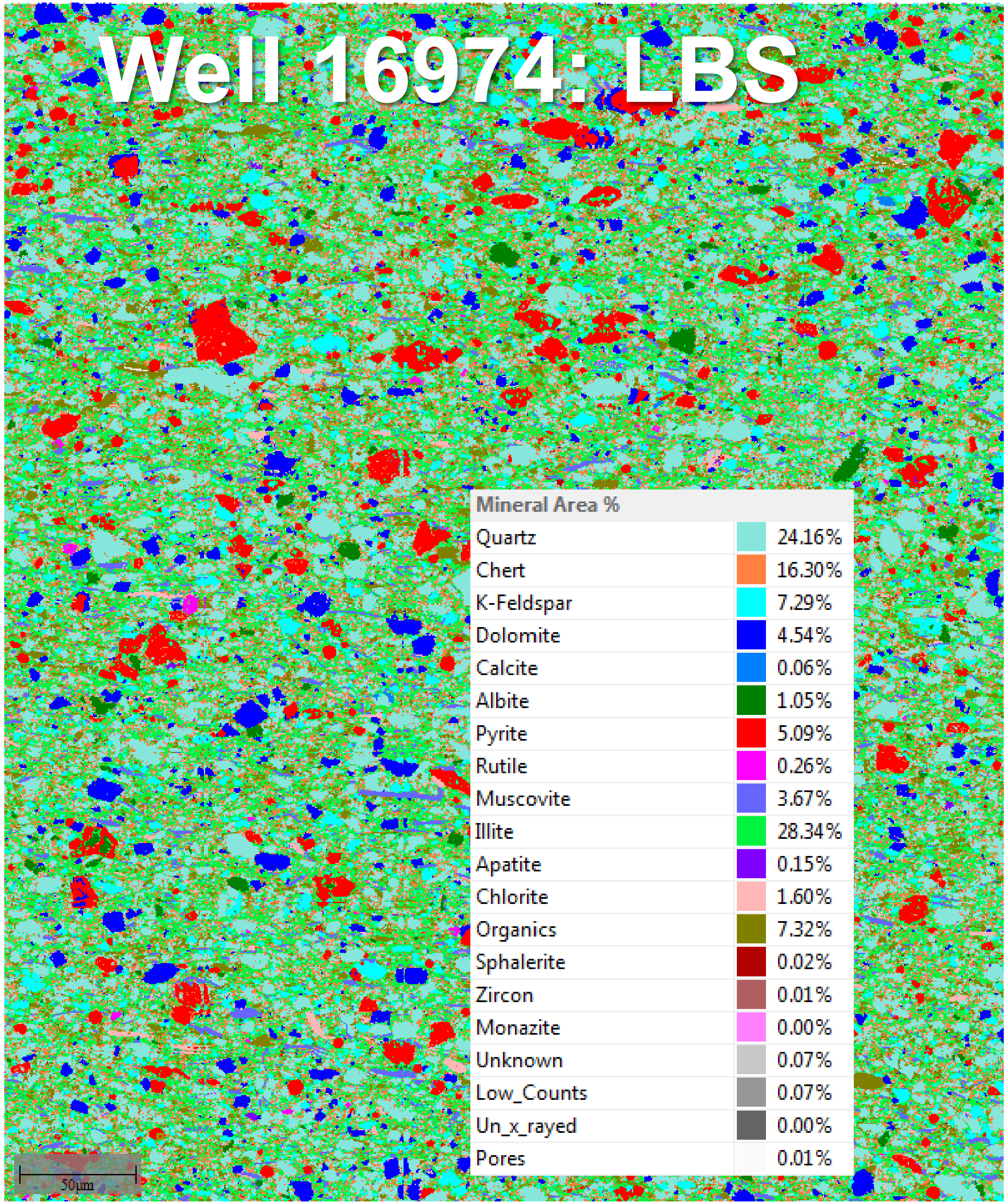
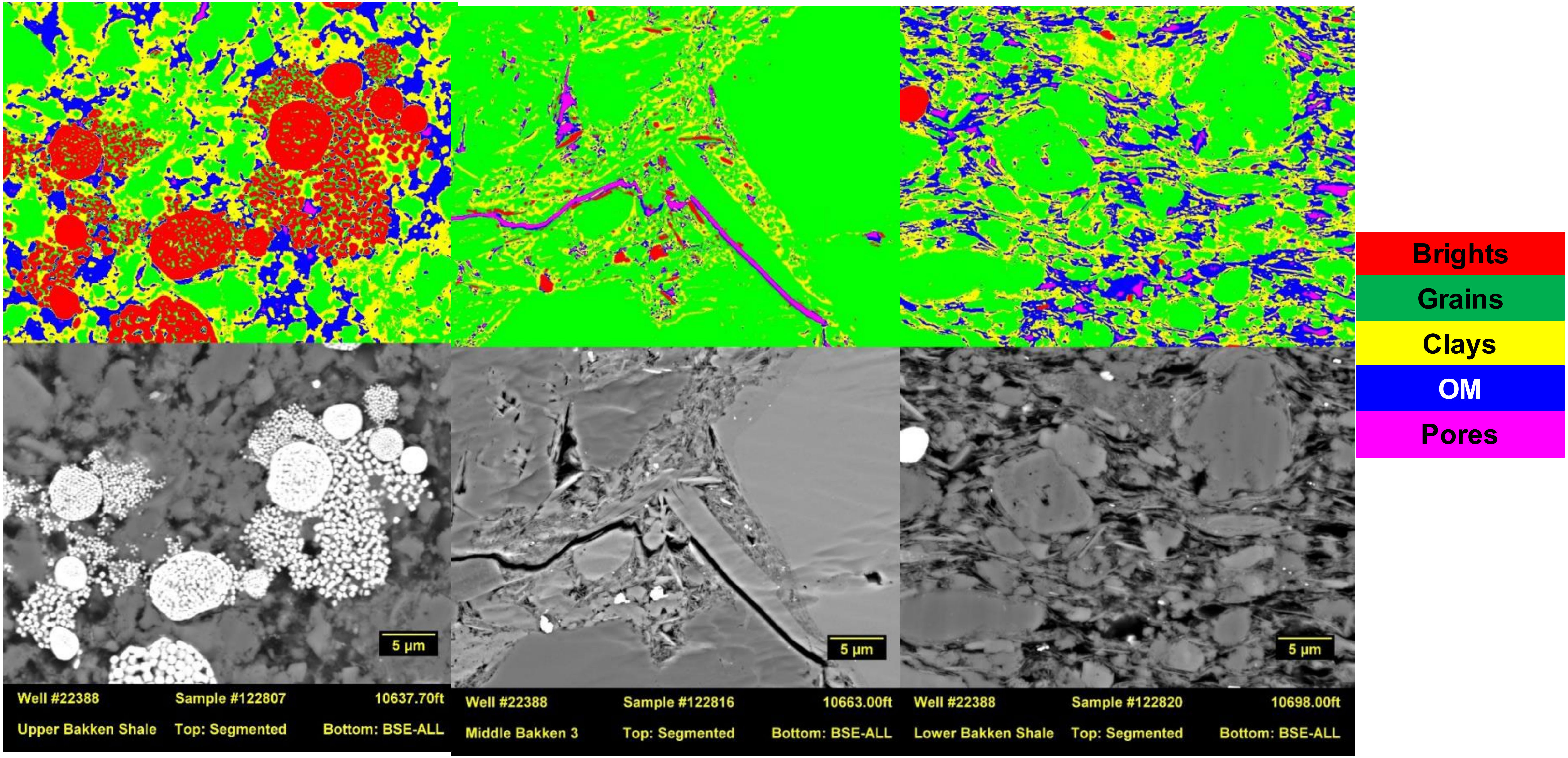
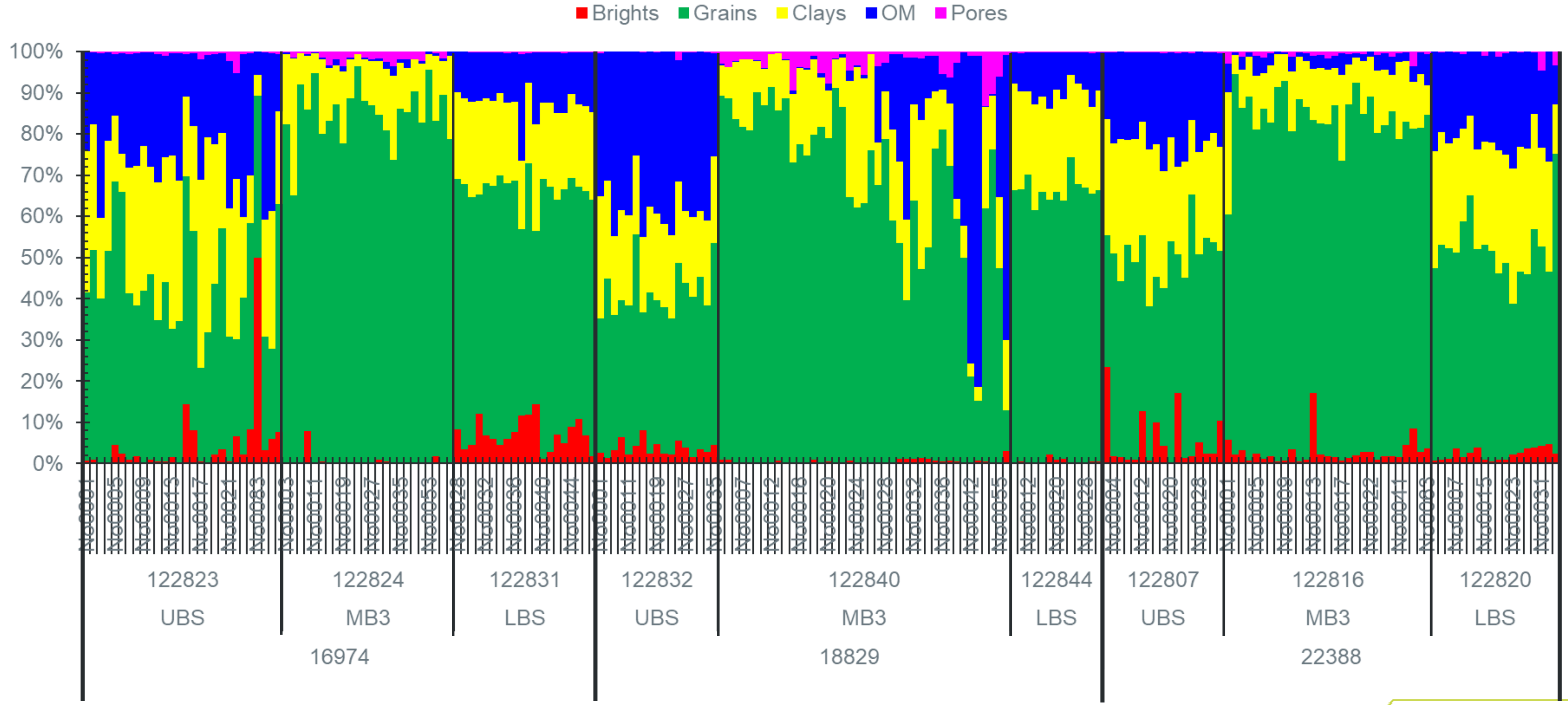

Well 16974: LBS
Mineral Area %
Quartz 24.16%
Chert 16.30%
K-Feldspar 7.29%
Dolomite 4.54%
Calcite 0.06%
Albite 1.05%
Pyrite 5.09%
Rutile 0.26%
Muscovite 3.67%
Illite 28.34%
Apatite 0.15%
Chlorite 1.60%
Organics 7.32%
Sphalerite 0.02%
Zircon 0.01%
Monazite 0.00%
Unknown 0.07%
Low_Counts 0.07%
Un_x_rayed 0.00%
Pores 0.01%
50µm

IMAGE SEGMENTATION USING ILASTIC

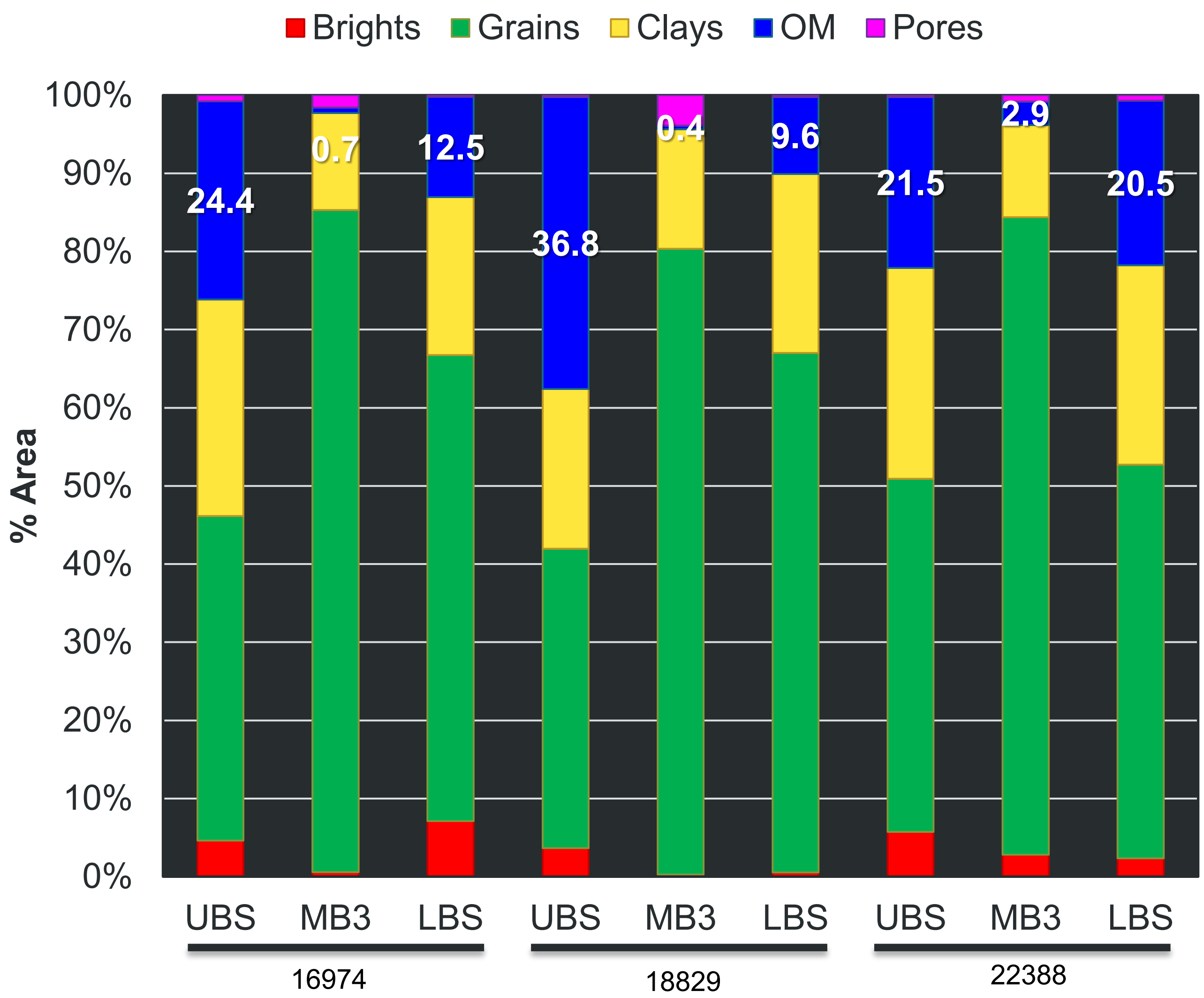


OCCURRENCE OF KEY COMPONENTS (AREA %) IN EACH SCENE

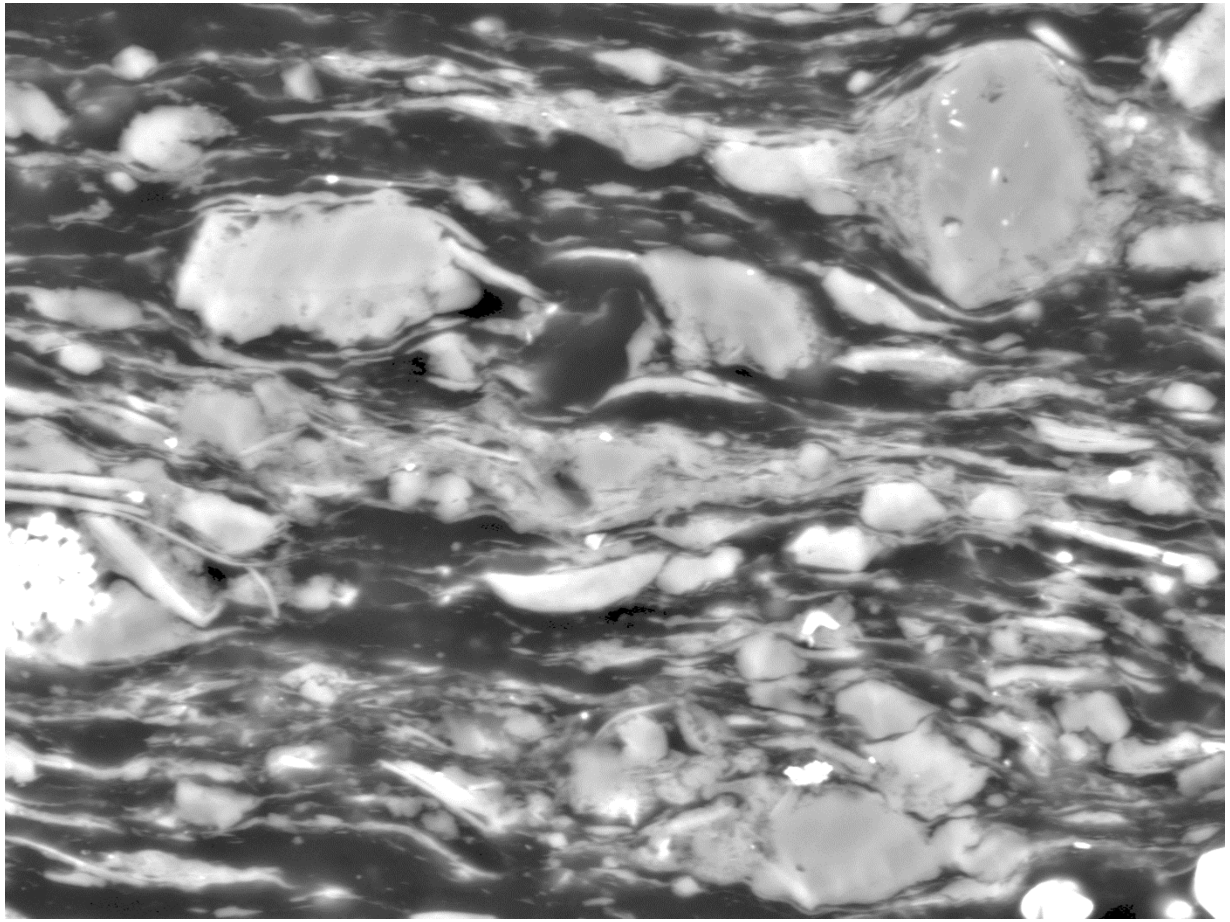


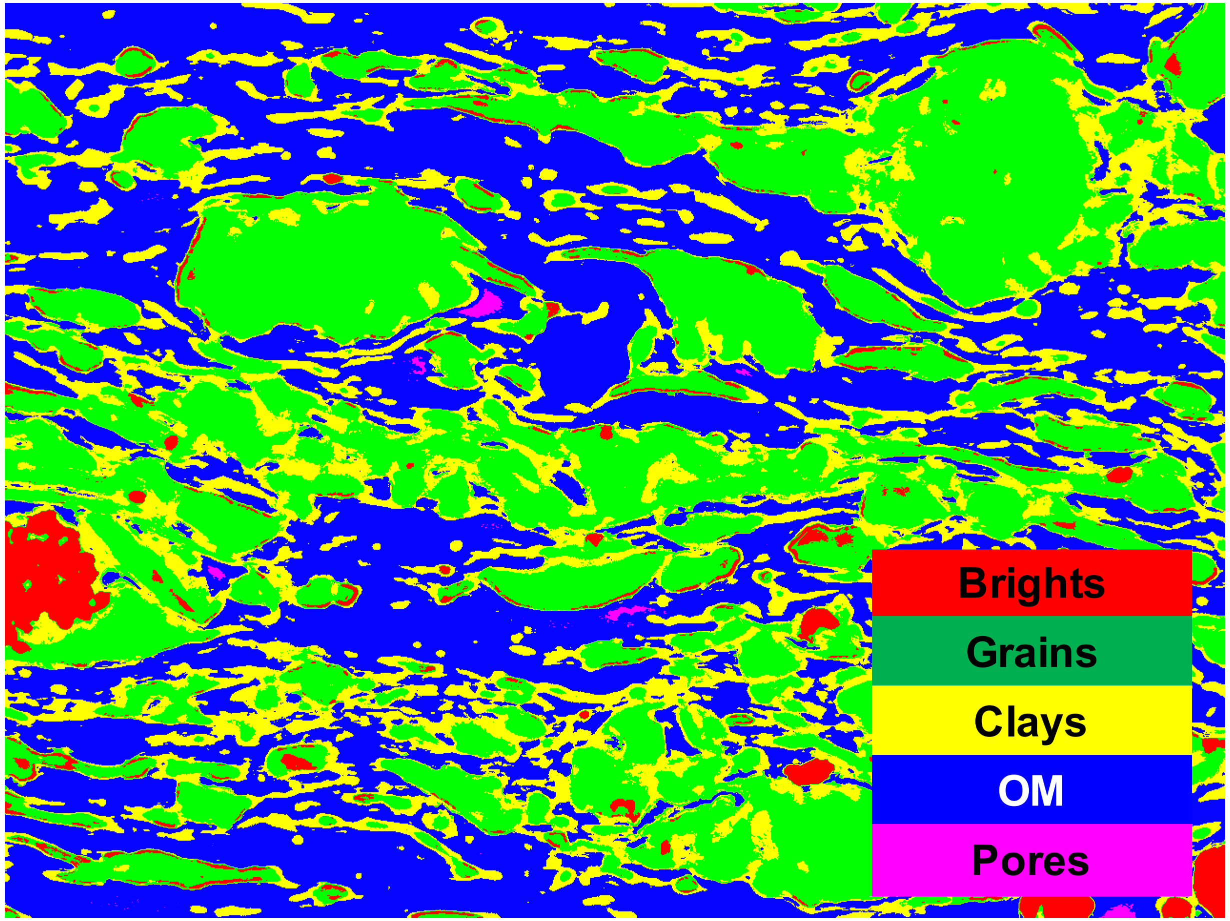
SUMMATION OF KEY COMPONENTS

- Currently working on a method to approximate the volume of the various sample components based on 2-D extrapolation.
- The image analysis data also allow us to evaluate:
  - Statistical parameters to assess key sample properties, such as compositional variability.
  - Grain and pore size distribution.
  - Fracture porosity.

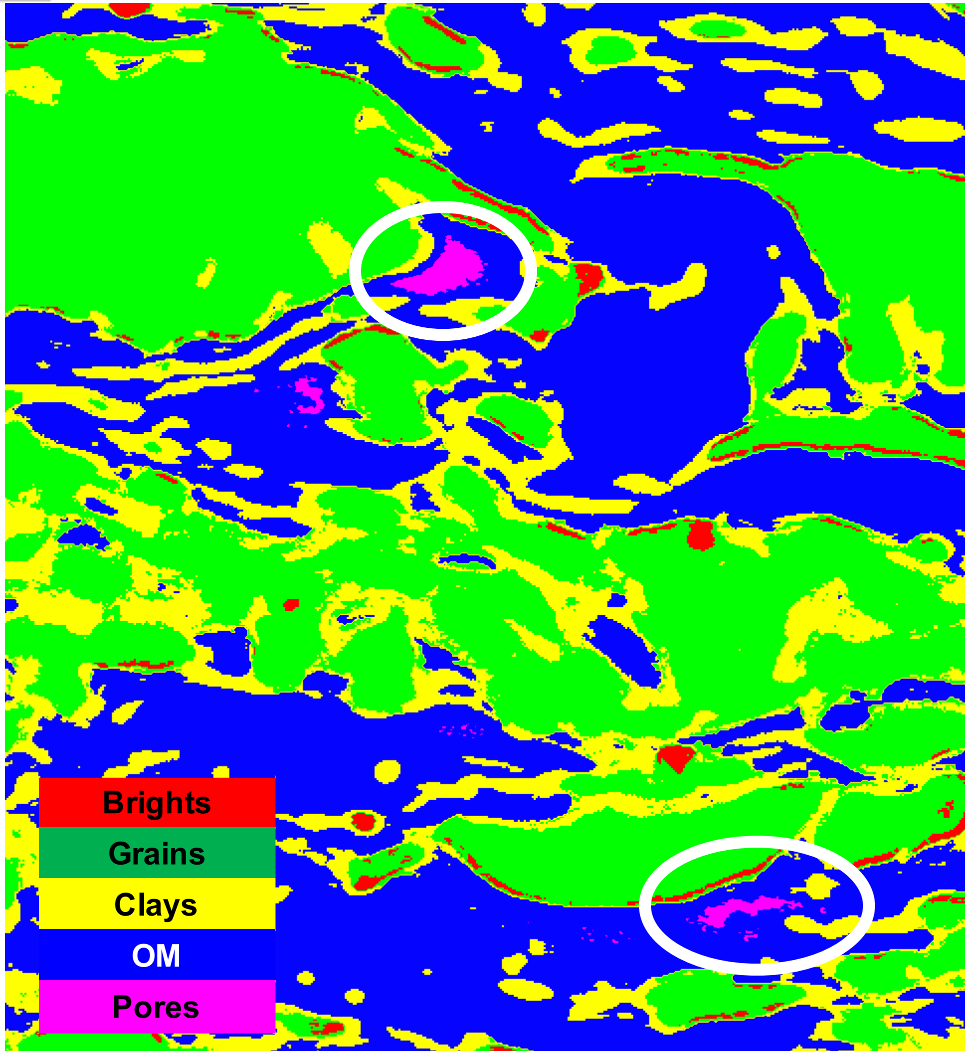


ESTIMATING EFFICIENCY FACTORS USING IMAGE ANALYSIS





EXAMPLE OUTPUT

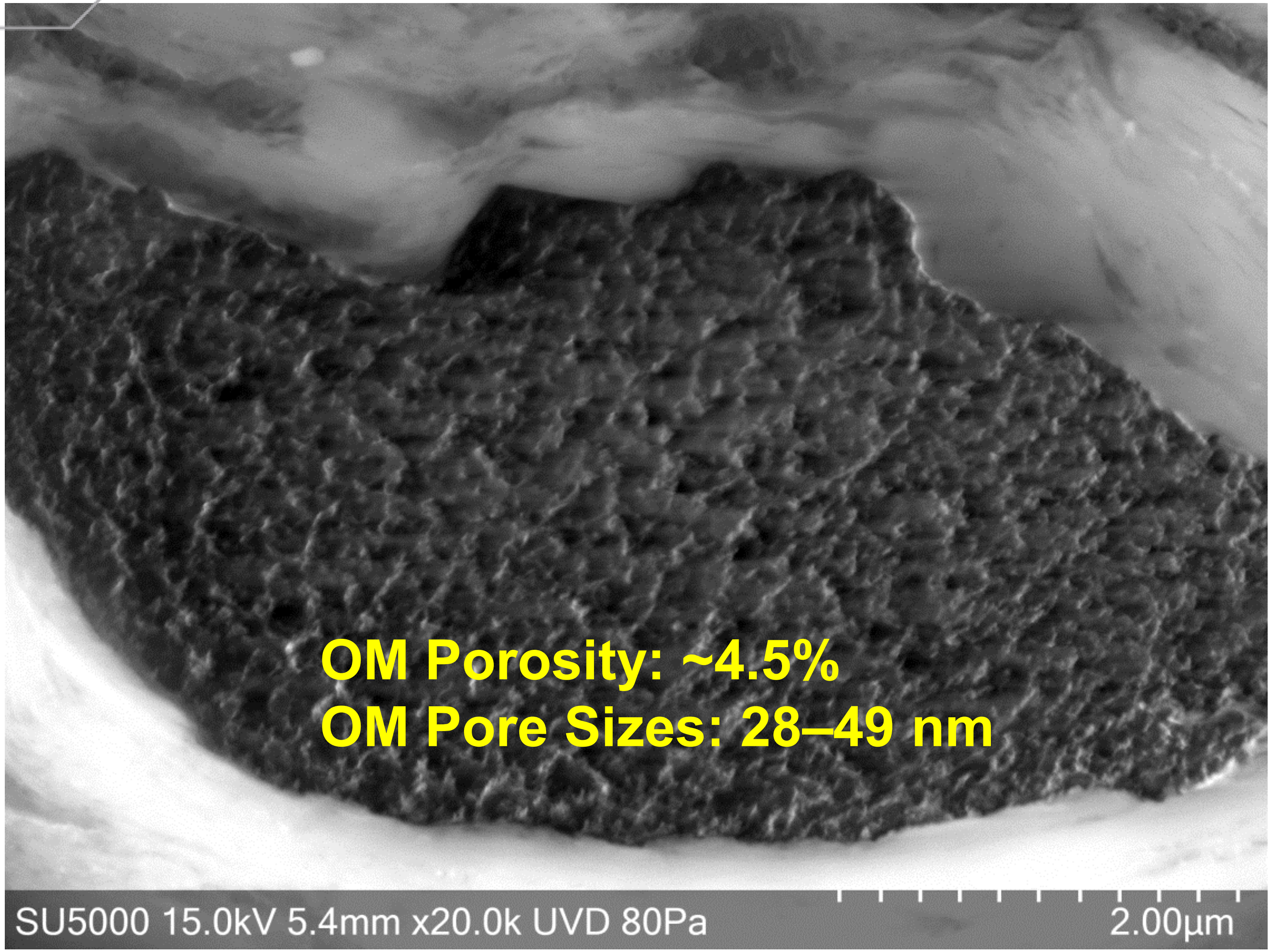


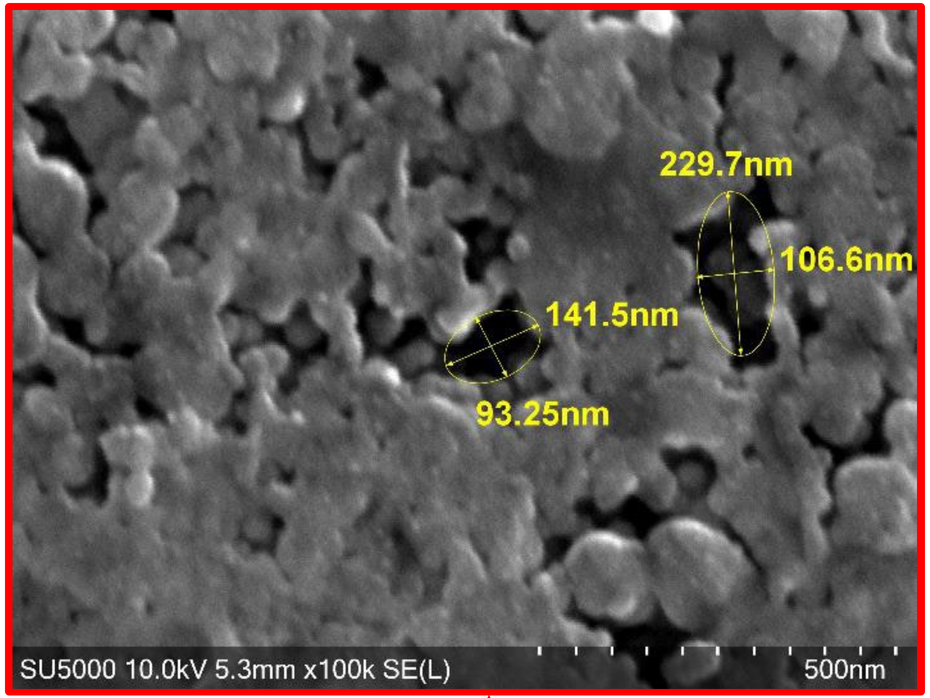
Label	Area, μm^2	Perimeter, µm
Brights	34.4	6.9
Grains	481.5	34.2
Clays	275.9	59.6
OM	550.9	31.3
Pores	1.9	0.4

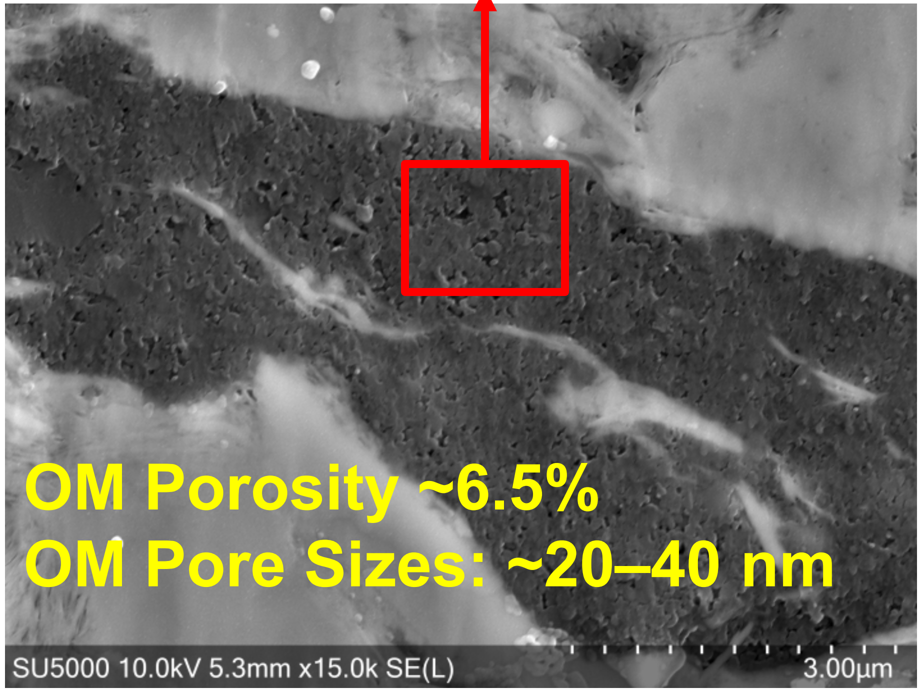
Phases	Shared Border, µm
Brights AND Grains	6.1
Brights AND Clays	3.1
Brights AND OM	1.3
Brights AND Pores	0.0
Grains AND Clays	27.9
Grains AND OM	9.1
Grains AND Pores	0.0
Clays AND OM	31.3
Clays AND Pores	0.0
OM AND Pores	0.3

SOLID BITUMEN STRUCTURE AND POROSITY

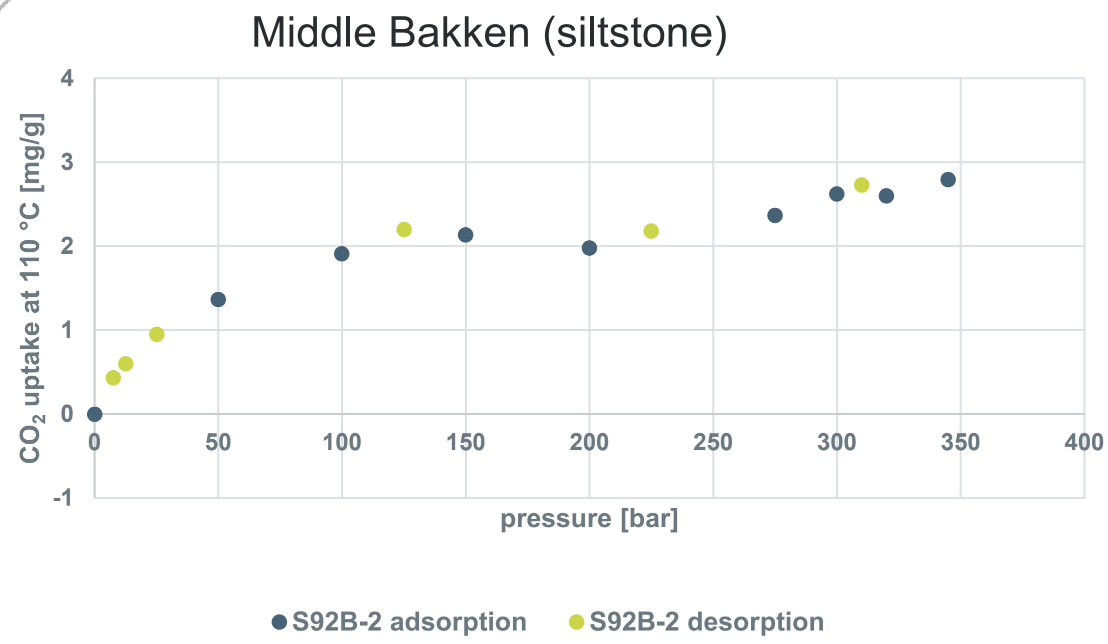
18829 – LOWER BAKKEN SHALE

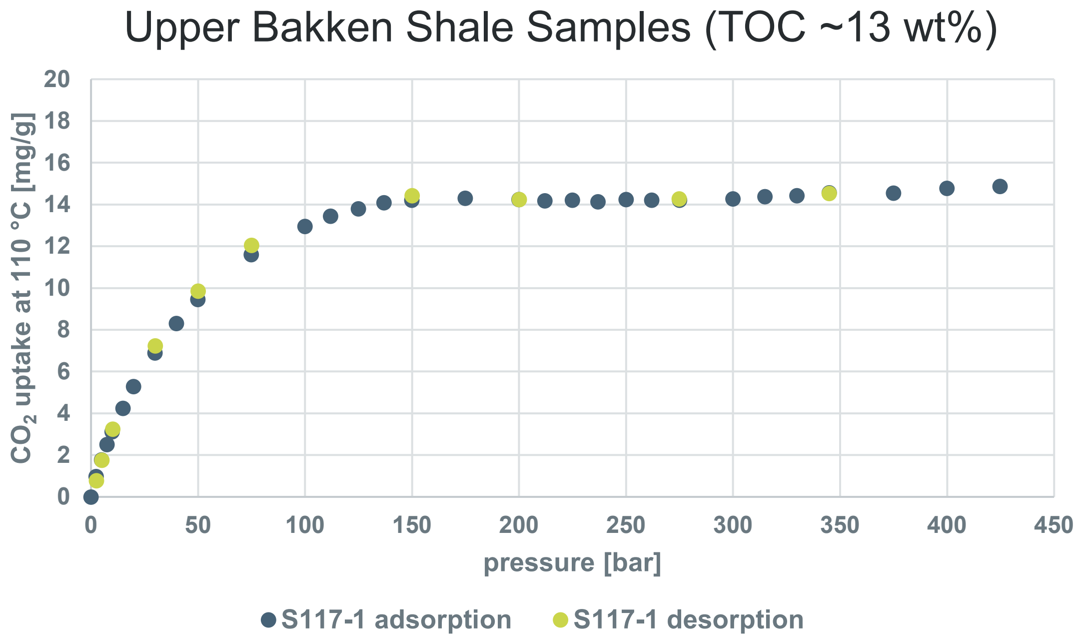


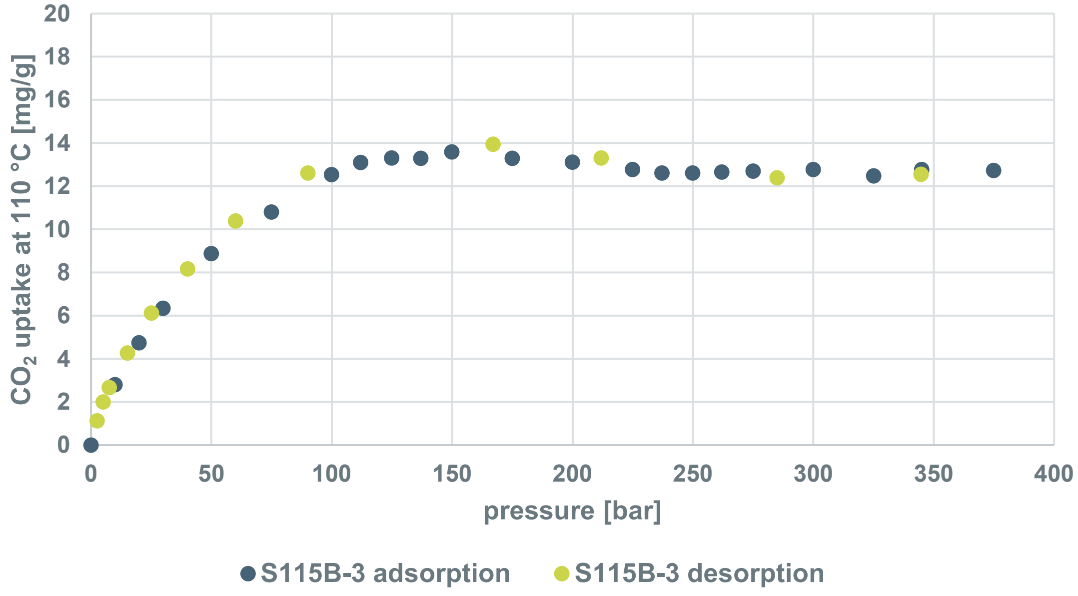




CO_2 ADSORPTION ON BAKKEN SAMPLES



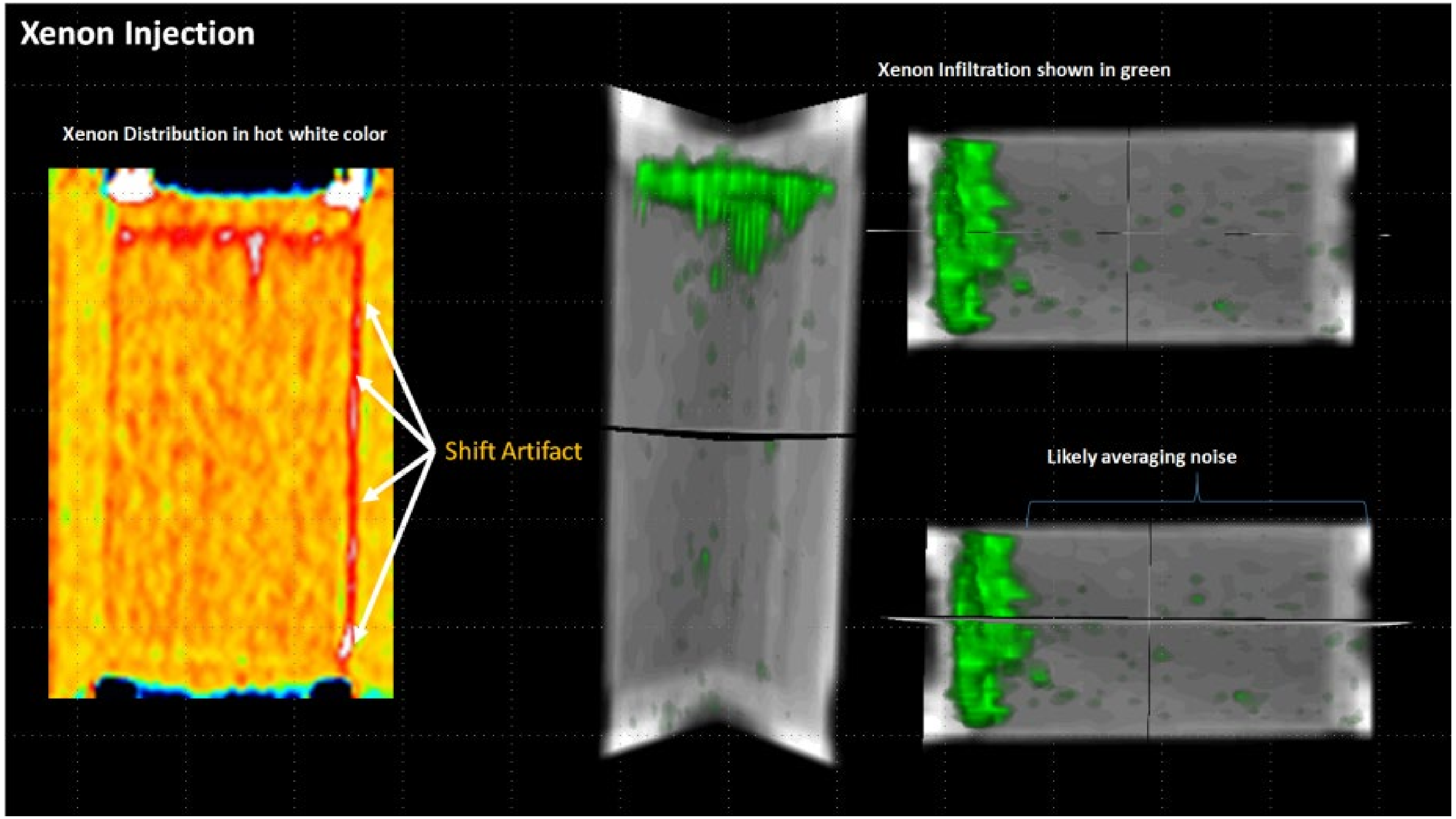




Data collected by Volker Herdegen, Institute of Thermal, Environmental and Natural Products Process Engineering, Germany.

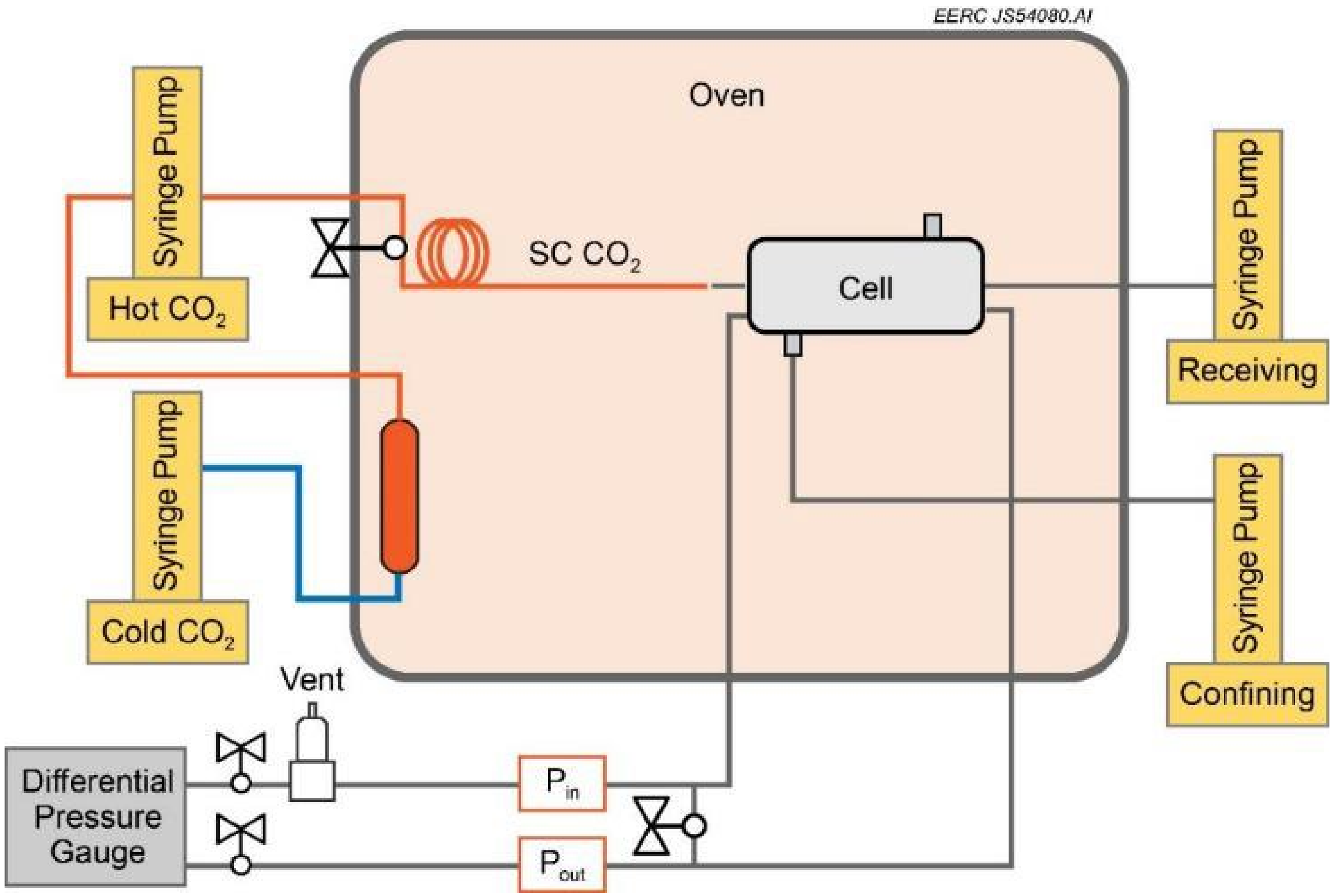
NETL COLLABORATION

- Evaluation of CO_2 permeation/flow over time into fractured and unfractured Bakken core plugs.
- Three sets of experiments completed to date:
  - Helium injection
  - Xenon injection
  - CO_2 injection
- All experiments accompanied by CT scanning and image analysis.



LABORATORY CO_2 FLOW-THROUGH TESTING

- Three samples tested
  - Upper Bakken Shale
  - Lower Bakken Shale
  - Middle Bakken (laminated)
- Length – 30 mm
- Diameter – 30 mm
- 5000 PSI injection pressure
- 4600 PSI outlet pressure
- 160°F
- Plugs tested in an “as received” condition

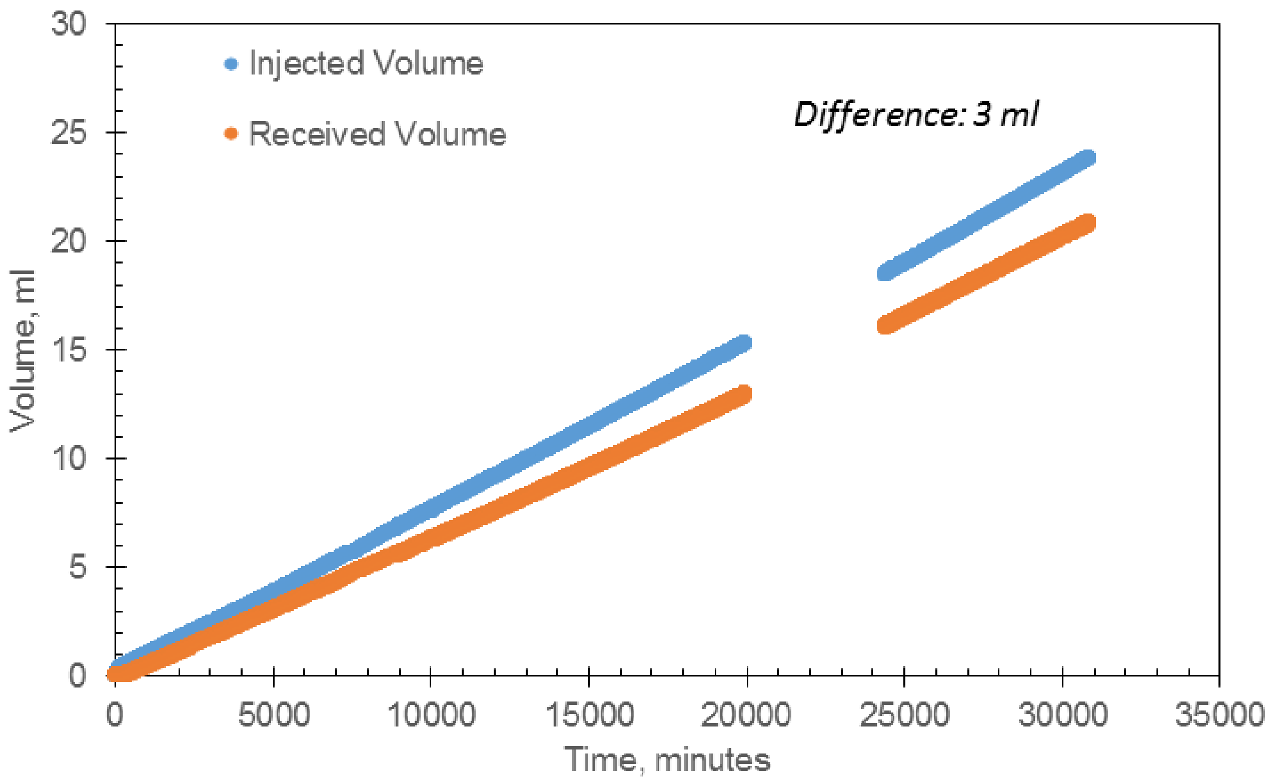


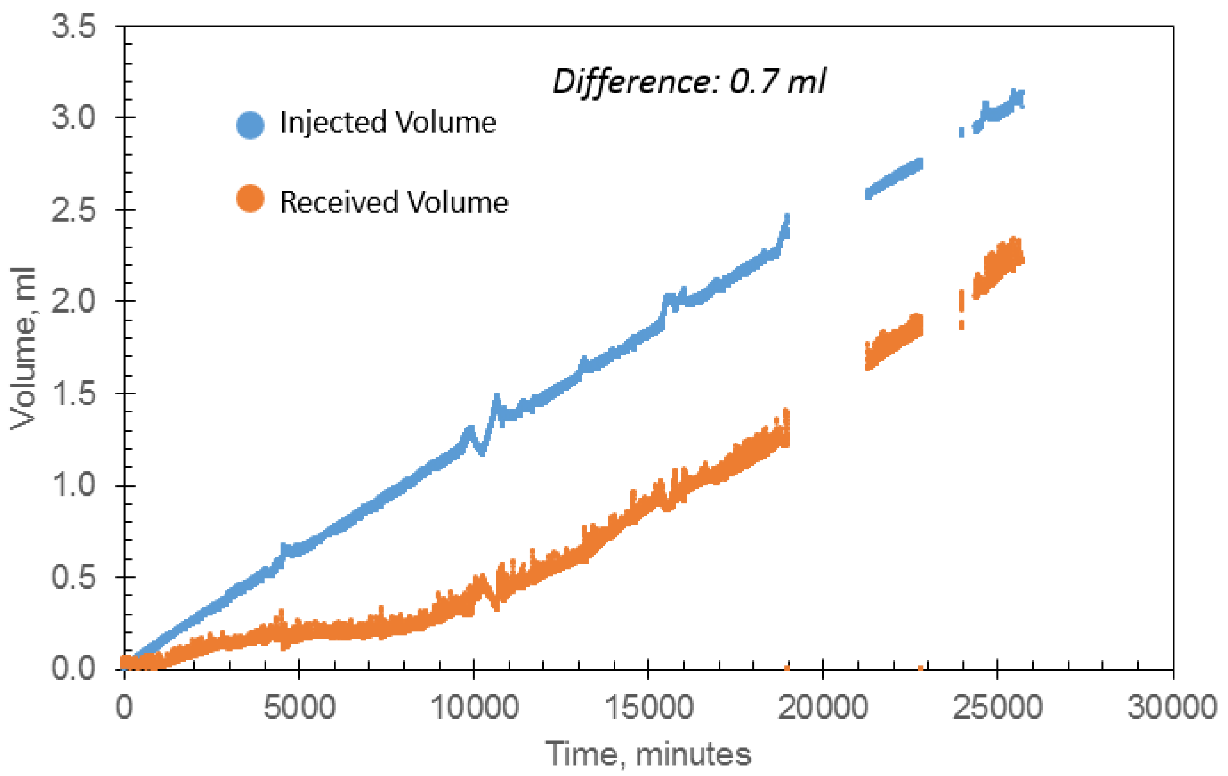
TEST RESULTS

*Permeation rate calculated using P=(Q/A)/Ø

Upper Bakken Shale (horizontal)
500-hour test duration (21 days)
Permeation: 5 cm/day
Permeability: 7.6 nD
Results demonstrate fracture flow

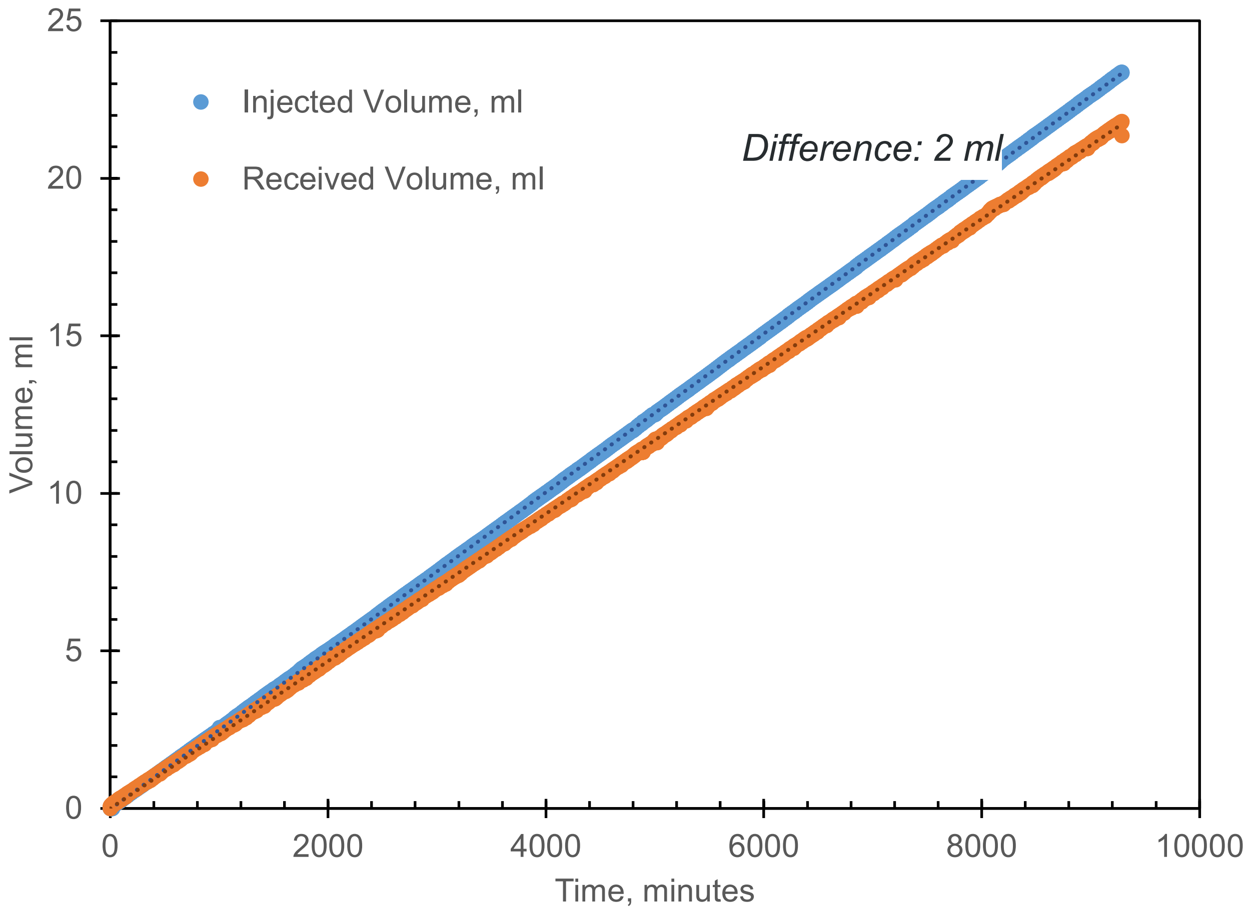
Lower Bakken Shale (vertical)
420-hour test duration (17.5 days)
Permeation: 0.9 cm/day
Permeability: 1.4 nD
Results demonstrate matrix flow





TEST RESULTS

Middle Bakken Laminated (horizontal)
150-hour test duration (6 days)
Permeation: 13 cm/day
Permeability: 54 nD
Results demonstrate matrix flow



ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Development of advanced FESEM and image analysis methods to better characterize the following in organic-rich shales and other tight formations:
  - Mineralogy and kerogen content
  - Pore and grain-size distributions
  - Pore/mineral and pore/organic contacts (including methods to quantify these relationships)
- Collaboration with Hitachi to improve the data-processing and image analysis routines to better characterize and quantify features of interest in unconventional formation samples.
- Evaluation of CO_2 permeation rates and changes over time in fractured and unfractured Bakken core plugs.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Need additional adsorption data for kerogen and different clay types at reservoir pressure (4000–7000 psi).
- Differentiating between adsorption and absorption, especially on or within organic matter.

SYNERGY OPPORTUNITIES

- A key outcome of this project is the development of new methods and/or protocols to identify and quantify the physical and geochemical factors that affect CO_2 transport, migration, and sorption in unconventional reservoirs.
- The methods developed are also being used to expand NETL's volumetric equations for estimating the CO_2 storage capacity in organic-rich and tight rock formations by providing a method to estimate the storage efficiency factors related to CO_2 adsorption on clays versus organic matter.

PROJECT SUMMARY

- The majority of pore space in the Bakken shale is surrounded by organic matter.
- Organic matter porosity (as determined using FESEM) varies widely within individual samples and between samples from different wells and/or depths.
- Continued collaboration with NETL to expand the volumetric storage equation for shales by accounting for the efficiency factors associated with CO_2 sorption onto clays and organic matter.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Energy & Environmental Research Center
University of North Dakota
15 North 23rd Street, Stop 9018
Grand Forks, ND 58202-9018

www.undeerc.org
701.777.5050 (phone)

Bethany Kurz
Assistant Director for Integrated Analytical Solutions
bkurz@undeerc.org

THANK YOU!

APPENDIX

BENEFIT TO THE PROGRAM

To improve understanding of the key geologic factors that influence CO_2 storage resource estimates in organic-rich shales and other unconventional reservoirs and to better define the efficiency factors associated with each key parameter, the Energy & Environmental Research Center (EERC) is developing advanced analytical techniques to better understand the distribution of clay minerals and organics, porosity type and volume, and natural fracture occurrence and characteristics in representative shale and tight rock samples. This effort supports NETL's Carbon Storage Program goal of improving the ability to predict CO_2 storage capacity in geologic formations to within ±30% through improved characterization of key features that affect CO_2 storage in unconventional reservoirs.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The main goal of this project is to develop advanced characterization methods and/or procedures for studying the properties of organic-rich and other tight shale formations using advanced analytical techniques, with the aim of improving assessment methods for estimating the CO_2 storage capacity of such formations. The overall goal of the project will be accomplished through the following seven objectives:

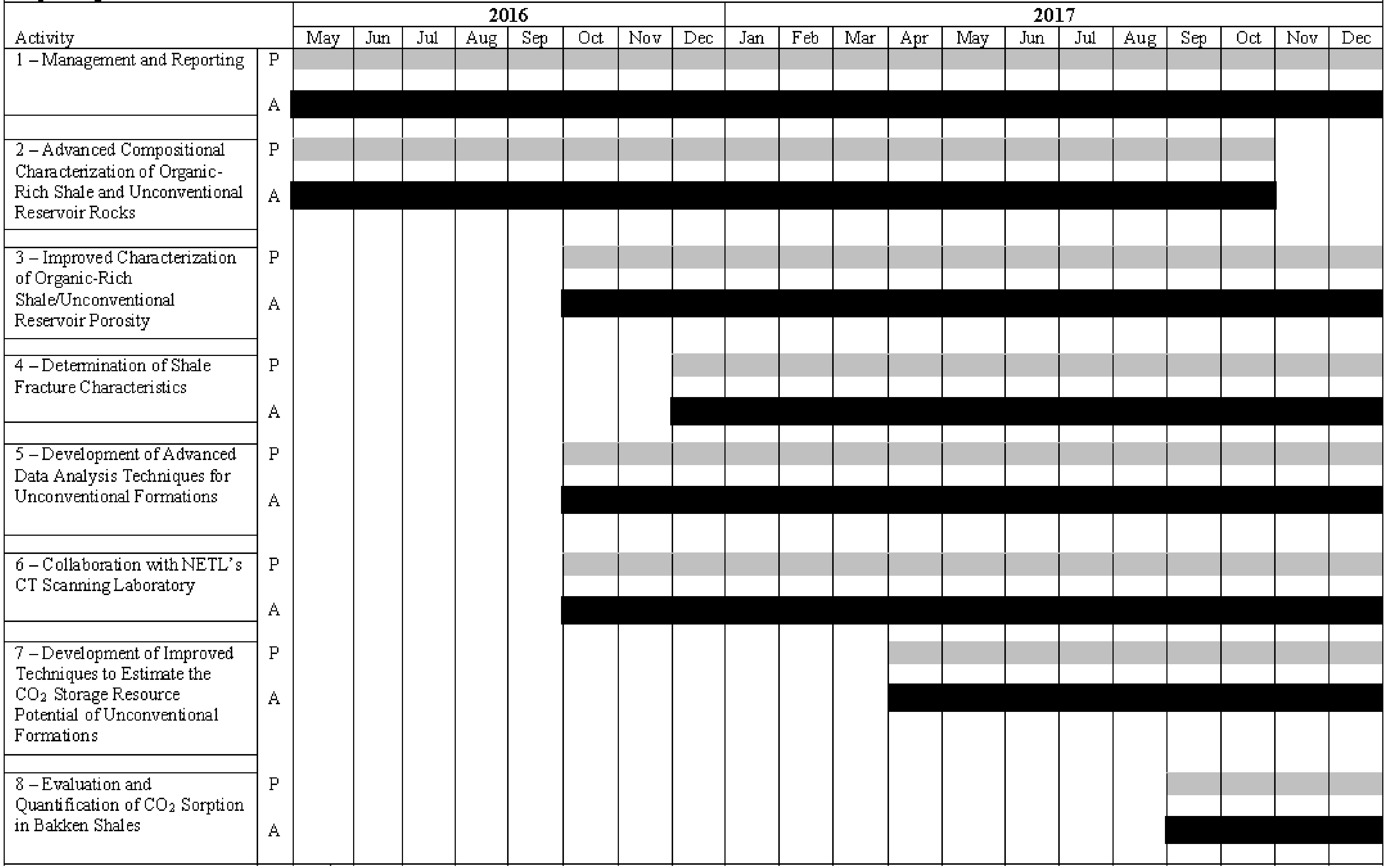
- Develop advanced FESEM and image analysis methods to better characterize the mineralogy and kerogen content of organic-rich shales and other tight formations.
- Develop improved methods to better estimate porosity and pore-size distributions in organic-rich shales and other tight formations.
- Develop enhanced methods to improve the characterization of fracture networks within organic-rich shales and other unconventional rocks.
- Collaborate with Hitachi to develop and/or improve data processing and image analysis routines to better characterize and quantify features of interest in unconventional formation samples.
- Collaborate with NETL's CT scanning laboratory in Morgantown to investigate the effects of CO_2 exposure on organic-rich shales at the core scale and evaluate CO_2 sorption within organic-rich shales.
- Develop improved methods to estimate the storage resource potential of unconventional formations in collaboration with NETL staff.
- Evaluate and quantify CO_2 sorption in Bakken shales.

The above tasks directly relate to NETL's Carbon Storage Program goal of improving the ability to predict CO_2 storage capacity in geologic formations to within ±30%. How the project goals and objectives relate to the program goals and objectives. Eight milestones have been developed and are being tracked to ensure completion of the project goals and objectives.

GANTT CHART

Subtask Time Line

Program Title: EERC–DOE Joint Program on Research and Development for Fossil Energy-Related Resources
Cooperative Agreement No.: DE-FE0024233
Subtask Title: Subtask 1.1 – Advanced Characterization of Unconventional Oil and Gas Reservoirs to Enhance CO_2 Storage Resource Estimates
Subtask Manager: Bethany Kurz
Period of Performance: 5/1/16 – 4/30/19
Reporting Period: 4/1/18 – 6/30/18



GANTT CHART (CONTINUED)

Subtask Time Line

Program Title: EERC–DOE Joint Program on Research and Development for Fossil Energy-Related Resources
Cooperative Agreement No.: DE-FE0024233
Subtask Title: Subtask 1.1 – Advanced Characterization of Unconventional Oil and Gas Reservoirs to Enhance CO_2 Storage Resource Estimates
Subtask Manager: Bethany Kurz
Period of Performance: 5/1/16 – 4/30/19
Reporting Period: 4/1/18 – 6/30/18