

MASTER

Eastern Gas Shales Project - U.S. Department of Energy

U.S. Geological Survey - Office of Energy Resources - Branch of Oil & Gas Resources
Shale characterization and Resource Appraisal of Devonian black shales of the

Appalachian basin

Interagency Agreement DE-A121-79MC-10866

Wallace de Witt, Jr., Technical Program Coordinator
Quarterly Report for October to December, 1981Program Objectives

To characterize, by means of stratigraphic, paleontologic, structural, mineralogic, geophysical, geochemical, and hydrocarbon-productivity data, the dark-brown to black gas-productive and potentially gas-productive shales and associated rocks of Middle and Late Devonian age in the Appalachian basin; to assist personnel of the Morgantown Energy Technical Center (METC) by coordinating and monitoring the work of other EGSP cooperators in stratigraphic studies; to assist the U.S. Geological Survey's Division of Printing in printing large-sized EGSP graphics; to synthesize a comprehensive paleogeographic and depositional model of the basin of accumulation of the shaly Devonian rocks; to maintain a data system capable of storing for retrieval the diverse data generated in the Appalachian basin by the EGS Project; to respond to specific requests by METC personnel for data germane to the characterization work; to assist in technology transfer to Devonian shale data at meetings and symposia by presenting talks, papers, and exhibits as well as appearing as panel experts at meetings with METC and industry representatives; and at the conclusion of the shale characterization study make a resource appraisal of the energy potential of the brown and black Devonian gas shales in the Appalachian basin.

Department of Energy funds for the U.S. Geological Survey's characterization and approval program have been exhausted. Final reports for 4 of the 9 projects of the program were released to METC during FY 1981, and the final reports for the remaining 5 projects will be released shortly. Monthly progress reports will continue to be submitted to DOE until the last of the program work has been completed and the last of the project final reports submitted to METC.

Milestones for DecemberStratigraphy - 9410-01791

John Roen's work continues on the text for the final report for the Stratigraphy Project.

U.S.G.S. Open-file Report 81-551 by R. C. Kepferle, John G. Beard, and James D. Pollock entitled "Lithologic and Stratigraphic Description of Cores of Organic-Rich Shale of Late Devonian and Early Mississippian Age in Northeastern Kentucky" was released in December and a copy was transmitted to METC in mid-month. The report deals largely with the detailed near-surface stratigraphy of the black shales in Flemming, Lewis, and Rowan Counties in northeastern Kentucky and adds to our general knowledge of those rocks adjacent to the Ohio River and the exposures near Buena Vista, Ohio, where oil was distilled from the black shale before Drake drilled his first well at Titusville, Pa., to start the oil industry in the Appalachian basin. The work was a cooperative effort by the U.S.G.S.

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the Kentucky Geological Survey and the Institute of Mining and Minerals Research of the University of Kentucky.

Roy Kepferle retired from the U.S.G.S. after more than 30 years of diligent service on his 55th birthday, December 29, 1981.

Geophysics - Borehole Gravity - 9410-11828

Project completed. Jim Schmoker's final report, USGS Open-File Report #81-181 was released in April 1981.

Geochemistry - Source Bed Study - 9410-11844

George Claypool is still working on the text of his final report.

Structure Study - 9410-01845

Project completed: two final reports, U.S.G.S. Open-file Report #81-1129 by Len Harris and Open-file Report #81-1341 by Bill Perry and Bill Colton were released in November and December 1981 respectively.

Conodont Maturation - Paleontology 9410-11846

Anita Harris' final report is in peer review.

Geochemistry-Trace Element Study - 9410-11847

Project completed. Joel Leventhal's final report for the Trace Element project was released in June 1981 as USGS Open-File Report #81-778.

Data System - 9410-11898

Project completed. Ted Dyman's final report for the Data Systems project was released in July 1981 as U.S.G.S. Open-File Report #81-598.

Clay Mineralogy - 9410-11900

Project completed. John Hosterman and Sallie Whitlow's final report for the Clay Mineralogy project was released in May 1981 as U.S.G.S. Open-File Report #81-585.

Resource Appraisal

Ron Charpentier reports the appraisal manuscript is in the Denver Technical Reports Unit for processing prior to evaluation by the Committee to review resource appraisal values.