



# The AAPG/EMD NEWSLETTER

October, 1982  
Vol. 5, No. 1

Ruffin I. Rackley, President  
AAPG Energy Minerals Division  
2651 South Chase Lane  
Denver, Colo. 80227

## EMD Executive Committee And Business Meetings Highlights

An EMD Business Meeting was held June 28, and EMD Executive Committee Meetings were held June 30, and September 21. Below are highlights of those meetings.

### Business Meeting — June 28:

The secretary reported an increase of membership of 182 members from the 1981 total. Present membership (June, 1982) is now 1,736.

The 1982 AAPG-EMD program chairman for the Dallas Convention is David Itz. David is the Gulf Coast Section councillor for EMD.

David Itz would like to get the AAPG school of Coal Bearing Sequences to Texas. There followed a general discussion of the AAPG short course on coal. It was suggested by President Fuchs that the coal course should be an EMD function. Ruffin Rackley, as incoming president, will follow this proposal through the AAPG headquarter's staff.

Michel Halbouty reported on the upcoming Circum Pacific Conference Aug. 27-29, 1982. He noted that the forecasted attendance is over 1,000. He reported that he has a very good series of papers of which 70 percent are authored by foreigners. He would like an EMD member to go as an official representative of the EMD and also to report for the EMD.

Halbouty also reported on his discussion with President Ronald Reagan on the cessation of funding to the Remote Sensing Program. Satellite D<sub>1</sub> will be launched July 9, but more satellites will be funded after that. He requested EMD membership support to help continue this program.

Keith Murray reported on the Rocky Mountain Coal Symposium held in May at Park City, Utah. EMD was one of the sponsors of the meeting. Over 300 were registered for the symposium.

Murray reported that EMD will be represented at the AAPG Rocky Mountain Sectional meeting Sept. 18-21, 1983, in Billings, Mont. Billy Roberts and Denis Rehrig are meeting co-chairmen.

The EMD Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Sectional meeting of the AAPG in the spring of 1984.

David Itz noted that for the Dallas meeting in April 1983, three EMD sessions were planned. A

field trip to the Big Brown Lignite mine was also in the planning stages.

Jack Pederson, as chairman of the European meeting committee, reported on the progress of the meeting preparations. The meeting is now scheduled for Jul. 15-18, 1984.

Ralph Gray, Coal Chairman, reported on the progress of the Decade of North American Geology Coal Resources Volume. He also noted that the GSA sponsored volume on Coal Fields of North America is in preparation.

Gray also proposed the publication of commodity reviews is not feasible in the short time period proposed by the AAPG. More time will be needed to put the reviews into press. He also suggested coordinating the publication of all the various commodities.

Bill Berge, Geothermal Committee Chairman, reported on the progress of the Geothermal Landmark Papers Volume which is a joint venture of EMD and the Geothermal Resources Council. The papers for inclusion in the volume are now being selected.

Berge also reported that there will not be a joint GRC-EMD Basin and Range meeting and field trip this year.

Mr. Bob Greider of GRI is the new EMD Geothermal Committee Chairman.

Carroll Knutson, Shale Oil Chairman, announced that the Eastern oil shale industry is growing.

Ross Lennox, Tar Sands Chairman, suggested that a special publication on tar sands be published by EMD/AAPG. It could be done with the Geological Society of Canada as a joint publication.

Aureal Cross, Education Committee Chairman, suggested that two members of each section be appointed to the Publication Committee. He outlines a series of programs for the EMD to undertake either by themselves or with AAPG.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Energy Minerals Division hold their 1984 annual meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, in the spring of 1984 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Section of the AAPG.

### Executive Committee Meeting — June 30:

James A. Miller, Union Oil, Brea, Calif., will be the new EMD Remote Sensing Committee Chairman.

The Commodity chairman will be asked by President **Rackley** to nominate semi-permanent authors for each commodity for the annual AAPG Development Volume.

Vice President **Berge** suggested the possibility of a standing "Annual Meeting Committee Chairman" who will provide continuity to the business of meetings. He would pick chairmen, suggest programs, etc.

Cygan suggested a topic for the symposium in an upcoming meeting "What is the future of the energy minerals business?" He suggested panel members be commodity analysts, company presidents, corporate recruiters and members of "Think Tanks" such as SRI.

Executive Committee Meeting — Sept. 21:

The treasurer reported a net loss of \$3,582 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1982.

Discussion regarding generation of income resulted in a decision not to raise the annual dues but to propose publications and field trips in order to provide income to the division.

President **Rackley** reported that the number of EMD members in the Denver area is 170. He hopes that with sufficient publicity and encouragement we can expect a large turnout at the meeting.

AAPG General Convention in 1983 will be held in Dallas in mid-April. EMD will sponsor several sessions. The EMD luncheon will be held Tuesday, Apr. 19, at the **Marriot** Hotel. Dr. William Fisher, Head of the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, will be the featured speaker.

Outreach Committee Chairman Gary Huber, and President **Rackley** have been reviewing membership lists of SEG and DREGS to identify potential members for EMD.

President **Rackley** recently discussed the EMD involvement in AAPG publications. He suggested that EMD reviewers be involved in any paper on an EMD commodity.

The Remote Sensing Review Paper will be published by AAPG under a government grant. After 1,000 copies, AAPG and EMD can support and profit from the publication of extra copies. It should be in press in April or May 1983.

The Geothermal Landmark Volume is in preparation. Vice President **Berge** will meet with Geothermal Committee Chairman, **Bob Greider**, in October to coordinate with GRC/EMD authors and editors to get the volume into publication.

EMD Publications Chairman, **John Gableman**, will work with the AAPG staff in order to get some of the Calgary EMD papers published in the BULLETIN.

The Nominating Committee for 1983 consists of **Robert Fuchs**, Chairman., and **Jack Pederson** and **Frank Kottowski** as members.

The next meeting will be the Fall Business Meeting scheduled for Nov. 4, 1982, 5:30 p.m., **ReGENCY** Hotel, Denver, Colo.

## President's Message

The Energy Minerals Division is coming of age in its efforts to provide a forum for the advancement of the science of geology as it relates to earth materials capable of being used for energy production. Energy Minerals papers and sessions at Sectional meetings are commonplace and our participation in those meetings is becoming the norm. The integration of EMD into AAPG sectional meetings is neither uniform nor complete because of the diversity of activities of our members and the extent of the activities by our members in other professional organizations. Whether this is due to the increasing awareness of the AAPG members or to the gentle reminders and persuasion by the Headquarters staff I can't say for sure, but I am certainly grateful for the acceptance of EMD by the Association.

Last year President **Fuchs** concentrated his administration of the Division on papers, publications and publicity. As a result of this you have received the "Energy Minerals" reprint volume of former BULLETIN papers. *Uranium in Volcanic and Volcaniclastic Rocks* was published late in 1981. A volume of *Unconventional Uranium Deposits* is being brought together by **John Gableman**, and rights are being sought to print extra copies of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory report for NASA on Remote Sensing for only the cost of running the extra copies. In addition, the frequency of energy mineral topics appearing in the BULLETIN is increasing with some future issues expected to contain large portions on energy mineral topics.

The increasingly rapid advances in geological and geophysical sciences are demonstrating the close relationships which may exist to produce a variety of fossil fuel and mineral occurrences. Tectonics and sedimentation are not the exclusive province of the petroleum geologist nor are hydrodynamics and hydrothermal fluid migration the exclusive province of the "hard rock" geologist. Just as the rank of coal deposits and the thermal maturation of hydrocarbon source beds are products of similar or the same geologic conditions, other geologic processes produce more than one fuel or mineral deposit. It, therefore, is increasingly important that the dissemination of knowledge from the various fields of geology be as complete as possible. It goes without saying that leadership in any given field will be held by those who borrow and apply knowledge from the broadest possible scientific base.

As a goal for the current year I am attempting to broaden the involvement of EMD members in the activities of the Division and, more importantly, to increase the interaction between EMD members and our friends and sponsors in the conventional petroleum industry. We have much to learn from each other that will enrich us intellectually and enlighten us professionally.

## Energy Minerals Division

Report to the Sept. 8, 1982, Advisory Council meeting.

Progress continues to be made in our current program of publications. The reprint of Energy Minerals papers from the *Bulletin* has recently been distributed. The accumulation of papers for both the Unconventional Uranium and Geothermal volumes continues. Work done by Jet Propulsion Laboratory on remote sensing may become available for publication by AAPG and the Geosat Committee, Inc. This work is done under contract to NASA and is not scheduled for publication by NASA.

Membership continues to increase slowly after a very limited drop at the end of the fiscal year. The limited loss is encouraging in view of the severity of employment conditions in the extractive resources field generally, and the mining and mineral exploration field specifically.

EMD is maturing into a worthwhile entity for its members but we still have problems. In my opinion our greatest problem is bringing the membership together to build a cohesive group able to work together effectively. Our membership is composed of small groups working on diverse commodities which, to date, have remained submerged within the broader geologic profession. Hope for the division in the immediate future is to broaden the outlook of our members through more participation in EMD activities and through their participation in the activities of their local societies. While there are considerable differences in the business aspects of the energy minerals and petroleum, there is a great deal in common geologically. In our effort to better serve our members we hope to identify a member in each local society to be a liaison between the society and the EMD council, have an EMD icebreaker at the Dallas convention in lieu of a president's reception, and have a major meeting with several field trips at the Rocky Mountain Section meeting in Salt Lake City in 1984.

## Lawrence Livermore Oil Shale Research Briefing

The 4th briefing on oil shale research was conducted at Lawrence Livermore laboratory on Sept. 22 and 23, 1982, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), Livermore, California. The briefing was designed for professionals with a technical background and interest in oil shale properties, processes and research in this field,

and was intended to inform the attendees of up-to-date research being conducted by LLNL scientists.

The subject matter included information on experimental research done in the LLNL pilot retorts, the mathematical retort model for MIS, surface and fluid-bed retorts, sulfur chemistry studies, geological markers in oil shale, fluidized-bed experiments and research, instrumentation studies, and other topics of varying research areas. All presentations were given by LLNL Oil Shale Project scientists and engineers. A tour of the facilities was provided.

## Second Call For Papers — AAPG BULLETIN

As a first step in establishing a strong and regular EMD publications program, the Publications Committee has begun to solicit technical papers for collections that could be part of, or periodical special issues of, the regular AAPG BULLETIN. The first collection is scheduled to be published in the BULLETIN during the first quarter of 1983.

Contributions should relate to the occurrence, discovery, evaluation, or development of any earth materials, other than conventional oil and gas, capable of being used for energy production. These include coal, uranium, oil shale, tar sands, and geothermal fluids, as well as other minerals required for their production or use (catalysts, fuel rod cladding, etc.).

Contributions should be sent to Hugh Douglas, Editor, Hugh Douglas & Co., Ltd., 534 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94133; William L. Chenoweth, Associate Editor, Department of Energy, P.O. Box 2567, Grand Junction, Colo. 81502; or John W. Gabelman, Chairman Publications Committee, Utah International Inc. 550 California Street, San Francisco, Calif. 94104.

## Request For Papers 16th Oil Shale Symposium, April 1983

Purpose and Scope

This 3-day seminar presents up-to-date information with respect to development of an oil shale program in the United States. Generally, the first day of the seminar is devoted to papers on

policy and process development issues, the second day on mining and research topics, and the third day on environmental and socioeconomic aspects of oil shale development. Papers will be presented by specialists actively working in these areas. Time is left on the schedule for questions and discussions. A preliminary program will be available in February.

Abstracts of papers to be submitted by January 5, 1983 to:

Dr. James H. Gary  
Professor of Chemical and Petroleum-Refining  
Engineering  
Colorado School of Mines  
Golden, Colo. 80401

Address requests for information to:

Janice C. Hepworth, Ph.D.  
Director to Continuing Education  
Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colo. 80401

## **EMD/DREGS Fall Business Meeting — All Welcome!**

The Fall Business Meeting of the Energy Minerals Division will be held at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, 1982, in the Guv'nors Room of the Regency Inn, Denver, Colorado. This meeting follows the first day's technical sessions of a symposium on "The Genesis of Rocky Mountain Ore Deposits," sponsored by Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society. This two-day symposium has strong appeal to many of the division members and was considered the best meeting available this fall to hold our business meeting.

## **EMD Meeting — Calgary**

Thanks are in order to all of those who made the AAPG/EMD annual meeting in Calgary a success. J. Henri N. Wennekers organized an interesting coal program. Unfortunately a significant number of papers were cancelled at the last minute, causing some disappointment. This may have been due in part to employer austerity programs.

## **Meetings Of Interest**

The 1982 Eastern Oil Shale Symposium, sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Energy and

the University of Kentucky Institute for Mining and Minerals Research, was held Oct. 11-13, in Lexington, Ky. Topics included geochemistry resource evaluation, analytical characterization, process technology, environmental studies, mining and reclamation technology and regional stratigraphy of eastern oil shale.

Another meeting of note was an EMD Coal Symposium held on October 7, 1982 in Buffalo, New York, in conjunction with the Eastern Section meeting of AAPG. The title of the symposium was "Applications of Geology in Coal Mining." The papers delivered at the symposium covered the full spectrum of current scientific applications in coal mine geology, from remote sensing to the use of vitrinite to determine stress in coal-bearing strata.

## **Publications Of Note**

A recent publication of particular interest is "An Assessment of Development and Production Potential of Federal Coal Leases." This is a cooperative effort conducted by the Office of Technology Assessment Materials Program, 473 pages — Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 81-600178.

"**Acid Rain: Commentary on Controversial Issues and Observations on the Role of Fuel Burning,**" prepared by Pedco Environmental, Inc., and P.W. Spaite of Cincinnati, Ohio, has recently been issued by the Energy Department. This 200 page report is very comprehensive and can be obtained from Departments Office of Fossil Energy in Washington, D.C., or from the Energy Technology Center, Morgantown, West Virginia. Samuel E. Friedman, assisted by K. C. Sawyer of the Oklahoma Geological Survey, recently issued a "**Map of Eastern Oklahoma Showing Locations of Active Coal Mines, 1977-79, Map GM-24.**"

The Energy Minerals Division membership should particularly appreciate the efforts of Edward A. Beaumont for compiling the special publication, "**Energy Minerals, Selected Energy Mineral Papers,**" reprinted from the AAPG BULLETIN, AAPG Reprint Series No. 25. This is a valuable reference volume for those interested in coal geology.

A new AAPG publication, AAPG Studies in Geology No. 12, titled, "**Energy Resources of the Pacific Region,**" and edited by Michel T. Halbouty, contains several papers of interest to EMD members. There are five papers on geothermal energy, three on uranium and one on coal. Cost of the publication is \$24.00 for members and \$28.00 for non-members, and can be purchased from: AAPG, P.O. Box 979, Tulsa, Okla., 74101.