

# **Brief History of *Natural Resources Research* and EMD Involvement in That Journal**

by

Douglas C. Peters, EMD Deputy Editor on NRR

The Energy Minerals Division of AAPG (EMD) participates with the International Association for Mathematical Geology (IAMG) in publishing the journal *Natural Resources Research* (NRR), which is produced quarterly. Douglas C. Peters currently serves as Deputy Editor for NRR as part of EMD involvement in the journal. NRR has a very short turnaround from initial submission of an article until acceptance and publication. Typically, this time is only 6 months, sometimes less if an approved article needs little or no editing.

EMD's main forms of support for the journal take the form of 1) subscriptions by EMD members, at the same cost as IAMG members, and 2) solicitation and submission (directly and indirectly) of papers for potential publication in NRR. All subscriptions are handled through IAMG and do not involve any financial action by EMD. All paper submissions go directly to the Editor-in-Chief rather than through EMD leaders. EMD has no financial exposure on this journal, making it essentially a no-cost endeavor for EMD beyond any volunteer time involved.

Some background on why NRR became a joint project between IAMG and EMD. Back in the mid-1990s, there was considerable discussion in EMD about starting a new journal to highlight EMD topics, especially the area of commodity economics which was not receiving much if any play in the *Bulletin*. EMD topics in general seemed to be under-published in the *Bulletin*, but that was hard to say if it was a matter of lack of submissions or lack of acceptance of EMD topics by *Bulletin* editors. A new journal was investigated and was shown to be a costly endeavor on the production and shipping sides even if all of the rest of the editorial and pre-press work was done by volunteers. EMD's finances were not in the best of shape at that time, so new and expensive projects were not supportable. Therefore, a separate journal for EMD purposes was put aside to the wish list.

In addition, the *Bulletin* went through a change of format and content focus in the 1990s with most of the AAPG news items being shifted to the Explorer or dropped completely. Among those topics dropped completely due to not fitting the new *Bulletin* scheme were the annual EMD commodity reports! I do not recall if there was an attempt at that time to include such articles in the Explorer instead or not. However, the normal combination of detailed technical content and current events format of the commodity reports was not really conducive to inclusion in the Explorer due to differences in editorial emphasis and potential length of such articles (which could be significantly longer than usual for Explorer articles). The EMD website also was in its infancy and had very limited usage by members, the majority of which had not started regularly accessing the Web if they even had such access (remember that the mid-late 1990s was the startup and expansion time for world Web use and development). This left EMD without any regular, widely used outlet for the commodity reports.

About this same time, EMD was approached by IAMG to join in on their resources-oriented journal, the original name being *Nonrenewable Resources*, which they had been struggling to keep going due to limited distribution and submissions. IAMG also was considering changing the journal name and emphasis should they be able to bring in a partner in the publication. Because EMD did not have a journal of its own, and the new joint journal would not have any associated cost to EMD beyond encouraging member subscriptions (which would serve as a form of funding for the journal) and soliciting articles, it seemed to be a good fit for EMD efforts at the time and would allow EMD to get the benefits of a journal without shouldering the whole burden of keeping a journal going. About the time that EMD got formally involved with the journal (1998), it underwent a name change and change in emphasis, partly to accommodate EMD needs, and became *Natural Resources Research* as we know it today. Because I was the original point of contact with then Editor-in-Chief Daniel Merriam, and because nobody else clamored for the job, I became the NRR Deputy Editor and liaison with IAMG for EMD.

I should note that there was no opposition to EMD's involvement in NRR from any part of the AAPG hierarchy. In fact, I am not sure there was even any recognition of EMD efforts in this area even though the matter was included in EMD business meeting minutes, a below-the-radar state which was not unusual for AAPG cognizance regarding most things EMD was doing in those days. It wasn't until around the start of the new century that DEG and EMD and their efforts achieved recognition as full partners in AAPG's membership efforts.

Nonetheless, EMD supported NRR as much as possible and managed to convert some annual meeting technical sessions into special issues along with encouraging individual papers to be submitted to NRR. About late 2005, discussions began at Pete Warwick's initiation concerning reviving the EMD annual commodity reports as one or more articles to be published in NRR or another journal. We then approached Dan Merriam about including it in NRR, and received his go-ahead to pursue that avenue. There had been no interest by the *Bulletin* in publishing such articles since the change in *Bulletin* format, and the lead time for the *Bulletin*, in the 12-16 month range for most articles, was too long for keeping relevance of the timely information that would be included in such commodity articles. Therefore, Pete Warwick began the process of pulling together as many commodity reports as possible for an NRR article. The goal was a single article rather than a separate shorter article for each commodity. The first publication turned into two articles when it became clear that the Energy Economics part of the compilation was going to be long enough for a separate article. Since then, the compilation has been done once more as a single article and has been well received by NRR readers and editors.

The general history of NRR within EMD also is presented as excerpts from past EMD business meeting minutes for 1998-2007 in the next 3 pages of this document. This excellent timeline was prepared by AAPG staff member Norma Newby and her assistant. EMD continues to encourage authors to submit to NRR from various sources including AAPG technical meetings.

## **Extracts from EMD Business Meeting Minutes Regarding NRR**

Compiled by Norma Newby and Staff

### **EMD Mid-Year Leadership Meeting, November 14, 2007, DeGoyler and McNaughton office in Dallas, TX**

#### **Old Business, Pages 5&6:**

- **Natural Resources Research and Annual EMD commodity review article:** Doug Peters would like members to submit articles for the next compilation for NRR either in person at the meeting or immediately following the meeting via e-mail to Doug Patchen and Pete Warwick. Doug has suggested that we take committee reports and turn them into one article. Fran Hein agreed this would be a good idea. Peter Warwick has offered to compile them again. Fran made a formal motion that committee chairs should agree to participate in the next compilation for NRR. Michael Campbell seconded the motion, which passed. Neil Fishman suggested that we need to have a structure to make sure this compilation article will happen annually. Consensus is that this will continue.

### **EMD Annual Leadership Meeting, March 31, 2007, Hyatt Regency, Long Beach, CA Committee Reports, Pages 4&5:**

- **Natural Resources Research:** Peter Warwick: This committee covers a lot of commodities. EMD will solicit and then compile one large article. Peter will get the articles in hand, compile them, write an introduction, and then try to get them published early next year. Bill Ambrose volunteered to help with editing after the articles are compiled by Peter.

### **Energy Minerals Division, April 8, 2006, Houston, TX**

#### **Committee Reports, Pages 7&8**

#### **Publications & Natural Resources Research (NRR) Journal – Doug Peters**

- See written report on NRR.
- Fran Hein's edited Oil Sand papers are being submitted to NRR.
- Warwick: How to include commodity summaries in NRR? Peters talked to NRR editors, suggestion is to condense and publish a summary in fourth quarter of each year. Visualize several paragraphs of each committee's summary report, combined into one paper at the end of year. NRR needs 3-4 months of lead time from acceptance to final revision.
- Pashin: EMD used to publish annual commodity summaries in AAPG Bulletin until 10 years ago. Need a standard format so all contributors have same goals & objectives, e.g., summary of activity (including reserves & resources) & technology advances.
- Warwick: there is a formal USGS review process for any publication, so these summaries would have to be reviewed. Need an EMD chairperson to compile this and submit to NRR editor. Warwick volunteered to do this.

- Pashin: suggest we provide a standard format and have it be part of the November conference call report.
- Warwick: Discussion on authorship, since the report will have multiple authors for each section. The entire product will need to be USGS-approved, which adds some time. Ambrose volunteered to help Warwick with this task. Jenkins suggested using a template.

**EMD Mid-Year Leadership Meeting, June 18, 2005, Annual Leadership Meeting Minutes, Calgary, Alberta, Canada**

**Page 7:**

**Natural Resources Research Journal (Doug Peters)**

- EMD has been contributing to the Natural Resource Research Journal (NRRJ) published by the IAMG. Issues are coming out slowly due to the lack of submitted articles.
- Contacted EMD oral & poster session chairs regarding having a special NRRJ issue on EMD topics.
- Rebecca Dodge has contacted some student AAPG student chapters (or professors) to submit articles.

**EMD Mid-Year Leadership Meeting, November 13, 2004, Conference Call Minutes**

**Other Business, Page 8:**

- Doug Peters reported that the Natural Resource Research Journal needs articles from EMD. He has talked to Rebecca Dodge about getting some students from AAPG student chapters (or professors) to submit articles. Forty pages (distilling down to 10-12 pages in journal) and black and white figures are the norms for submission. Brian Cardott suggested that session chairs from AAPG convention be contacted about having a special NRRJ issue on EMD topics.

**EMD Annual Leadership Meeting, Dallas, TX, April 21, 2004**

*(On page 1 of the report Doug Peters is added to the agenda with the following comment, but there is no report in the minutes of his report.)*

- The following items were added to the agenda: "Doug Peters: contributions from EMD to NRR Journal.

**ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION REPORT, AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM GEOLOGISTS, Leadership/Business Meeting, Saturday, April 17, 2004, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Dallas, TX**

**Program Highlights for 2003-2004**

- EMD continues to co-sponsor the scientific quarterly journal "Natural Resources Research" with the International Association of Mathematical Geologists (IAMG). This represents a great opportunity for EMD members to submit papers in the EMD areas of

interest. Daniel F. Merriam is the editor-in-chief of this publication and Douglas Peters serves on the board as the EMD representative.

**ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION MEETING, Saturday, May 10, 2003, Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT**

**Page 4:**

- **NATIONAL RESOURCE RESEARCH JOURNAL** is linked from EMD Website.

**ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION – AAPG, MINUTES OF LEADERSHIP MEETING, Dallas, TX, November 17 & 18, 2001**

**Page 2:**

**EMD Special Publication IAMG:**

- An Associate Editor for the Natural Resources Research Journal approached Andrew regarding the development of a series of EMD papers to be collated into a single NRRJ volume. This project could broaden EMD's exposure. In addition, a free copy of the volume could be a benefit to our members.

**ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION – AAPG, MINUTES OF LEADERSHIP MEETING, Denver, CO, June 2, 2001**

**Page 4:**

- 6) Reports of Future Meetings
  - d) IAMG 2001 – IAMG 2001 will be held in Cancun, September 2-12, 2001. EMD participation is planned to be on a zero cost basis with passive sponsorship. The group required no further action.

**ENERGY MINERALS DIVISION – AAPG, MINUTES OF LEADERSHIP MEETING, Dallas, TX, November 18 & 19, 2000**

**Page 3:**

- 5) Reports of Future Meetings
  - e) IAMG 2001 – IAMG 2001 will be held in Cancun, September 6-12, 2001. Looking for more sponsors.

**Page 5:**

- c) Natural Resources Research – Doug Peters mentioned that the NRR needs financial support to sustain publication efforts and are looking for alternatives to increase distribution. Further discussions are found in Attachment 19.

**Minutes of EMD Fall Leadership Meeting, November 7-8, 1998, Doubletree Hotel, Tulsa, OK**

**Page 3:**

5) Publications

d) Proposal to AAPG/EMD from the IAMG (attachment 8, 3 pages)

The International Association for Mathematical Geology requests that EMD be co-sponsors of "Natural Resources Research" (formerly "Nonrenewable Resources"). It would not cost EMD anything, but may not provide us with income. They want permission to use the EMD logo. The journal is @ \$49.50. Motion (by Friedman, seconded by Dyni) to table decision for further discussion with IAMG. Publications Committee will review first copy of Journal; Jack Pashin will provide details in report at 1999 AAPG Annual Convention. Vote result was 15 in favor, 1 abstention. Motion carried.

xxx