

**EMD-AAPG Mid-Year Progress Report 2005  
Oil Sands Section**

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Things have been quite busy, even after the end of the Oil Sands/Heavy Oil Sessions at the AAPG in Calgary. On behalf of the Oil Sands Section, the following things have been done this year, since the end of June, 2005.

**PowerPoint Slide Show of Oil Sands/Heavy Oil in North America**

- Preparation of a set of powerpoint slides (about 30) dealing with an overview of Oil Sands/Heavy Oil & Seeps in North America, which was sent to Laura Wray, to extract selected slides for a presentation she was giving.

**Field Guide to Athabasca Oil Sands, Canada**

- Sending a field guide to the Athabasca Oil Sands, Canada, to Brian Cardotte for posting on the EMD-Members only site. Apparently the files were not easily transferable electronically, due to formatting issues. I think this was resolved since I have not heard back from Brian in this regard.

**Dedicated Volumes on Oil Sands/Heavy Oil in NRR**

- Solicitation of papers and short notes for upcoming dedicated volumes on oil sands/heavy oil with Natural Resources Research (NRR), with Doug Peter's and Dan Merriam's (Ed in Chief) encouragement. Three mailouts were sent to participants at the 2004 Dallas and 2005 Calgary AAPG annual meetings, on talks, posters, or core presentations concerning oil sands and/or heavy oil. As a result of this effort, we at present have enough confirmations for two issues. The statistics from the 38 mailouts are as follows:

Response Type	Number of Respondees	Per Cent
Yes, Short Note or Paper	12	32%
No, Declined	16	42%
Unknown, Not Sure Yet	10	26%

The tentative outline is as follows:

Hein	Overview of North American Heavy-Oil/Oil Sands Deposits & Summary of Contributions	Yes - Full Paper
Adams, Huang, Bennet, Fustic, Larter	Basin models, bugs, bioreactors and bitumen-charge and degradation controls on the composition and fluid properties of the Canadian oil sands	Yes – Short Note or Full Paper
Cotterill, Hein & Berhane	Regional Geologic Framework: Athabasca Oil Sands, NE AB	Yes – Full Paper

Gingras and Ranger	Ichnology and Sedimentology, McMurray Fm, NE AB	Yes – Short Note
Buschkuehle & Grobe	Grosmont Bitumen Deposit	Short Note
Schroder-Adams & Tu	The Cretaceous Colorado Group in the Cold Lake Heavy Oil Area, East-Central Alberta: The Role of Microfossil Analysis in Sea-Level Reconstruction	Short Note or Full Paper
Fustic	Stratigraphic dip analysis – A novel application for detailed geological modeling of point bars, and predicting bitumen grade, McMurray Fm, NE AB	Yes – Full Paper
Gray	Prediction of Shale Plugs Between Wells in the Heavy Oil Sands at Long Lake, Alberta, Using Seismic Attributes	Yes – Full Paper
Ren et al.	Reservoir characterization of McMurray Formation by 2-D geostatistical modeling	Yes – Full Paper
McLennan et al.	SAGD Well Optimization	Yes – Full Paper
Turta	Screening criteria for field application of short-distance oil displacement methods	Yes – Full Paper
Ewing	The Southwest Texas Heavy Oil Province – A Ten Billion Barrel Resource	Yes – Short Note w/ Figures

Most of the declined invitations related to various issues, most notably lack of time, not able to get permission from companies, or respondees mainly interested in making submissions to a ‘higher profile’ journal, if they were going to go to the effort of getting company permission and writing the paper(s) (mainly people from Imperial-Exxon and Suncor, in Canada).

I am hoping to get more submissions outside of Canada and am still awaiting responses from people who gave presentations about occurrences in the States, including Wyoming (Jim Bunger, talk in 2005; Al Fischer, talk in 2004); California (Jon Schwalbach, poster 2004; Mike Clark, talk 2004; Jaime Piver, talk, 2004), Missouri (Shar Dunn-Norman, talk, 2004); Kentucky (Patrick Gooding, talk 2005) and Alaska (Albert Holba & Lisa Wright, talk 2004).

I have three submissions, which have already been sent out for review (my overview paper; Ren et al. & McLennan et al.). The deadline for submissions is mid-January, 2006. All in all, I am quite encouraged by the responses and so far have had success in finding reviewers who can take on the task.

L. Michaela Smith, who gave a poster with others on Alaska in 2005, has decided not to make a submission, but has agreed to be a reviewer. I am always looking

for others, especially since Merriam does not want people who are making submissions to review each others' papers, so if anyone knows of someone who may be willing and able to help with the reviews, please send me the contacts name and email. I need two reviewers for each submission.

### *Upcoming Initiatives for Oil Sands Section*

- Most of my effort over the next few months will be in writing my own regional overview paper with Cotterill & Berhane (given as a talk in 2005), and coordinating the editing and reviews of the submissions.
- I have also agreed to update quarterly the oil sands/heavy oil reference compilation on the EMD-Members only site with the next deadline to Brian Cardotte is January 2006. I would like to thank Brian for his efforts in emailing me oil sands/heavy oil references that I may not come across in our library here – so I can get them on interlibrary loan. This helps tremendously in trying to get current with literature in the States, that is not always readily available in Canada.

### *Outstanding Issues*

- I had difficulty returning an inquiry that came as a voice mail from someone who got my name through the EMD-Members Only website (the contact information was unclear on the phone), and I was unable to track down the person to respond to his request for information. It may be best to ask people on the website if they are making inquiries by voicemail to also send a copy by email, so there is a backup on the contact information.
- I am still trying to get more people involved with the Oil Sands Section, but am having difficulty finding people who have the time. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested please have them contact me directly by [email: fran.hein@gov.ab.ca](mailto:fran.hein@gov.ab.ca).

It has been great working on the Oil Sands Section of the EMD-AAPG, and I find that it is a good avenue for dissemination of information. I am getting contacts of one every one or two weeks through the AAPG website, and this avenue certainly makes my job more interesting.

Fran Hein