

Welcome, New DEG Officers!

We are pleased to introduce the members of our 2015-16 DEG Executive Committee:

President – Jeffrey B. Aldrich, MHA Petroleum Consultants, Denver.

Vice president – Bruce D. Smith, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver.

Secretary-treasurer – Sean Kimiagar, C&C Reservoirs, Houston.

President-elect (2016-17) – Timothy Murin, AECOM Corp., Pittsburgh.

Past president – Jeffrey G. Paine, Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

Editor-in-chief – Michele L. Cooney, Pennsylvania Geological Survey, Pittsburgh.

The next few issues of Spheres of Influence will acquaint you with our new officers. In this issue, we present the biography of DEG president-elect, Timothy M. Murin and Sean Kimiagar, Secretary-Treasurer.

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

Mission Statement and Purpose

- **EDUCATING** the membership of AAPG and the general public about important issues that affect petroleum energy minerals exploration and production.
- **COMMUNICATING** to the general public and government agencies the Association's commitment to protect the environment while developing the world's natural resources in a responsible manner.
- **APPLYING** the expertise developed in the petroleum/energy minerals industries and hydrogeology to resolve environmental problems.
- **PROMOTING** environmental self-regulation within the petroleum/energy minerals industries.
- **PROVIDING** relevant educational opportunities and services for professional development of the AAPG membership through seminars and conferences in environmental geosciences, hydrogeology, and related fields.

MEET TIMOTHY M. MURIN, DEG PRESIDENT-ELECT



Timothy M. Murin

Timothy Murin graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Waynesburg College in 1977, and a Master of Science degree in geology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1988. He is currently a senior principal scientist – geology, with AECOM in Pittsburgh, involved with unconventional reservoirs and offshore Gulf of Mexico research with the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory's Office of Research and Development. Studies focus on developing assessments in the petroleum industry that address safety and environmental concerns.

Previously, Murin spent 32 years in the upstream sector of the petroleum industry where his work focused primarily on unconventional reservoirs in Pennsylvania, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Illinois and Romania. His responsibilities involved prospect generation, field operations, and serving as the president and a director of a public exploration and production company.

Murin joined AAPG in 1978, and has held several positions with the Division of Environmental Geosciences, the Division of Professional Affairs and the House of Delegates.



MEET SEAN KIMIAGAR, SECRETARY-TREASURER



Sean Kimiagar

Sean Kimiagar is a young professional passionate about the energy industry and professional societies. He has contributed to AAPG through his involvement with the Student Chapter Committee and the AAPG-SEG Student Expo in Houston, Young Professionals Committee and Division of Professional Affairs. He has chaired Houston Geological Society's Finance and NeoGeos committees and is the recipient of the prestigious HGS Rising Star Award in 2014. Kimiagar has earned his Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in petroleum geology. He has worked with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company, BHP Billiton Petroleum, Halliburton and currently C&C Reservoirs in various geosciences and business development positions.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Jeffrey B. Aldrich

What Should Your DEG Look Like?

The AAPG Executive Committee has commissioned an Ad-Hoc Committee to evaluate the structure of the AAPG organization and make recommendations on how we can improve the way we deliver value to our members. One of the ideas that emerged from this process is for each of the current four AAPG Divisions to consider dissolving and reforming as a Technical Interest Group. A TIG has no formal structure and with the intent of reducing the amount of 'governance' that is spent with a Division, a TIG can spend more time focusing on technical content. At the request of AAPG President John Hogg to consider this idea, I asked the DEG Advisory Board (AB) to consider this question. There were some strong arguments on both sides with valid points raised concerning bureaucracy and also the purposes of the DEG. Ultimately, the AB recommended to the Executive Committee to remain a Division. The Executive Committee then reviewed the AB's recommendation and agreed, for now. I will ask many of the AB and EC members who wrote strong opinions one way or the other to post them on the DEG blog site. I think it is good to take a fundamental review of an organization and ask the questions:

- Why should we exist?
- How can we be most effective?
- What are we doing well and not doing well?

During my time as president-elect and now as president, I have seen how the formal structure of the DEG actually is used to move programs along by enforcing timelines, meetings, committee deadlines, publications and committee appointments. Thus, I believe there is great value in the Division structure that could be lost in the TIG format. However, in our review I have found that several

FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK

Michele L. Cooney

The December issue of Environmental Geosciences gives our readers a snapshot of the work being done to study water use, disposal and monitoring in the energy industry.

While research is being undertaken on various conventional and unconventional energy sources across the globe, this Special Issue uses the shale gas production in the Appalachian Basin and the oil sands of Alberta, Canada, as case studies for the larger body of energy production.

Joel Sminchak provides a geologic characterization of the various rock intervals used for brine disposal injection in the Appalachian Basin. Katherine Schmid and David Yoxtheimer examine how wastewater from hydraulic fracturing is being recycled in the same region and how this may be benefiting companies.

Jon Fennell then discusses disposal by injection of liquid wastes produced during oil sands development in Alberta and outlines a process developed to identify potential disposal targets. Finally, Daniel Soeder addresses why it has been so difficult to monitor groundwater near shale gas wells, providing suggestions for how to expand such research.

Thank you all for another wonderful year of continued enthusiasm and interest in energy and our environment.

of our standing committees do not appear to be meeting their charter, and I have begun a review of all of the DEG committees to see which ones, if any, can be eliminated and which ones can be improved.

What do you think the DEG should look like? Should we become a TIG – or something more like a TIG? What is right and what is wrong with the DEG? How would you change or improve your DEG? The Executive Committee and I want to hear from you. Please write me at jaldrich@mhausa.com and send a post to our DEG blog site online.



THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY – THE CLEAN POWER PLAN

The Obama Administration announced the Clean Power Plan on Aug. 3, 2015. The intent of this plan is to facilitate cleaner American energy while remaining fair and flexible to power plants as they reduce their carbon footprints. The Plan has widespread implications not only for the environment but also our national economy. The Clean Power Plan becomes effective Dec. 22, 2015. Read more about the pros and cons on the following websites:

The U.S. EPA's website for the Clean Power Plan: <http://www2.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan>

The Union of Concerned Scientists address the Clean Power Plan: http://www.ucsusa.org/our-work/global-warming/reduce-emissions/what-is-the-clean-power-plan#.Vji_4MbbKUK

U.S. News and World Report opinion piece on the Plan: <http://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2015/01/26/obamas-epa-clean-power-plan-has-a-dirty-secret>

The U.S. Department of Energy's take on the Plan: <http://energy.gov/articles/epas-clean-power-plan-fight-climate-change-and-build-clean-energy-economy>

The Wall Street Journal Commentary on the Plan: <http://www.wsj.com/articles/laurence-tribe-the-epas-clean-power-plan-is-unconstitutional-1419293203>

BEAUTY IN GEOLOGY – LAKE LOUISE AND VICTORIA GLACIER, ALBERTA, CANADA

Lake Louise was formed due to the retreat of glaciers during the Holocene warming period. This deposited a terminal moraine that created a dam for the melt water to form Lake Louise. The glacial silt suspended in the melt water absorbs and reflects light, which gives the lake its emerald green color. Victoria Glacier sits on top of Mount Victoria more than 11,350 feet high.

Photographed by Catherine Bert, University of Pittsburgh student, summer 2015.



FEEDBACK?

We welcome your articles, comments and feedback for the quarterly newsletter publication.

Kristin Carter, Managing Editor

1st Quarter 2016 submissions deadline is Feb. 1, 2016

Please submit to kr Carter@pa.gov