



# Carbonates vs Clastics

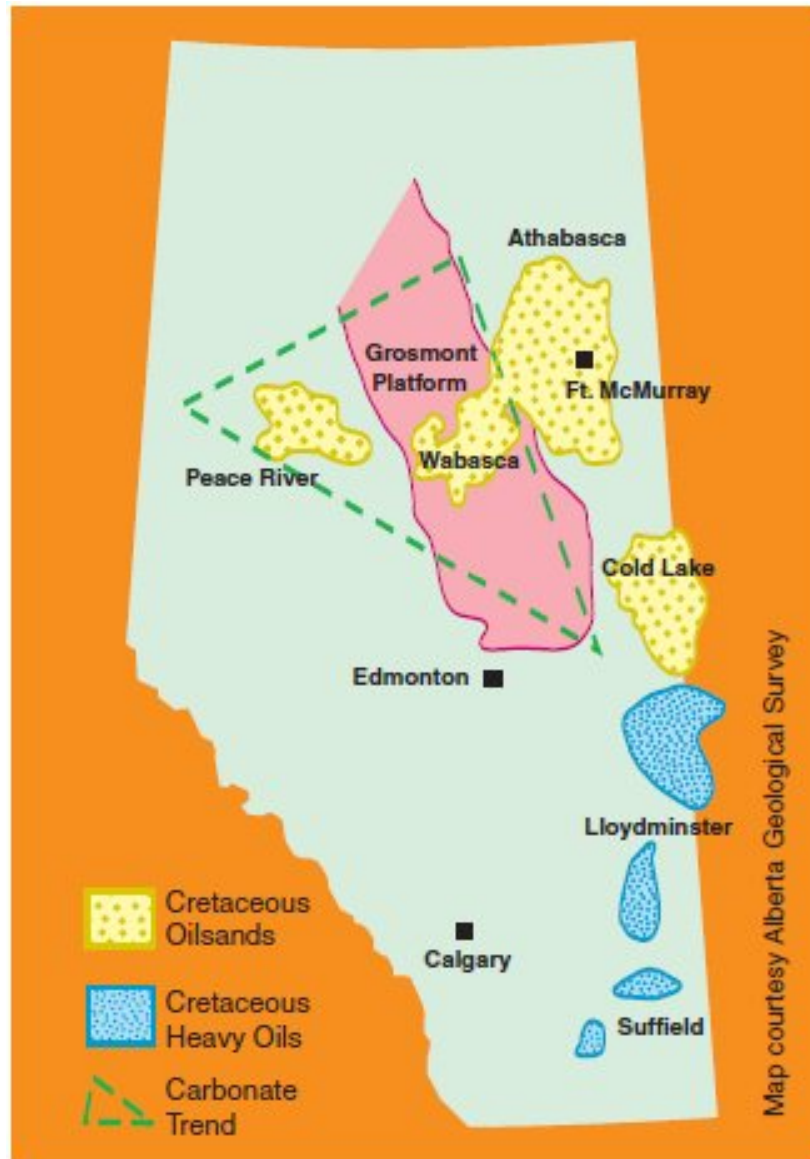
How the Differences Impact our SAGD Assessments

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July 6, 2011



Source:  
Alberta Geological Survey



# Formations Prospective for Oil Sands

Carbonates

Clastics

Grosmont

Leduc

Cooking Lake

Nisku

Upper Ireton

McMurray-Wabiskaw

Clearwater

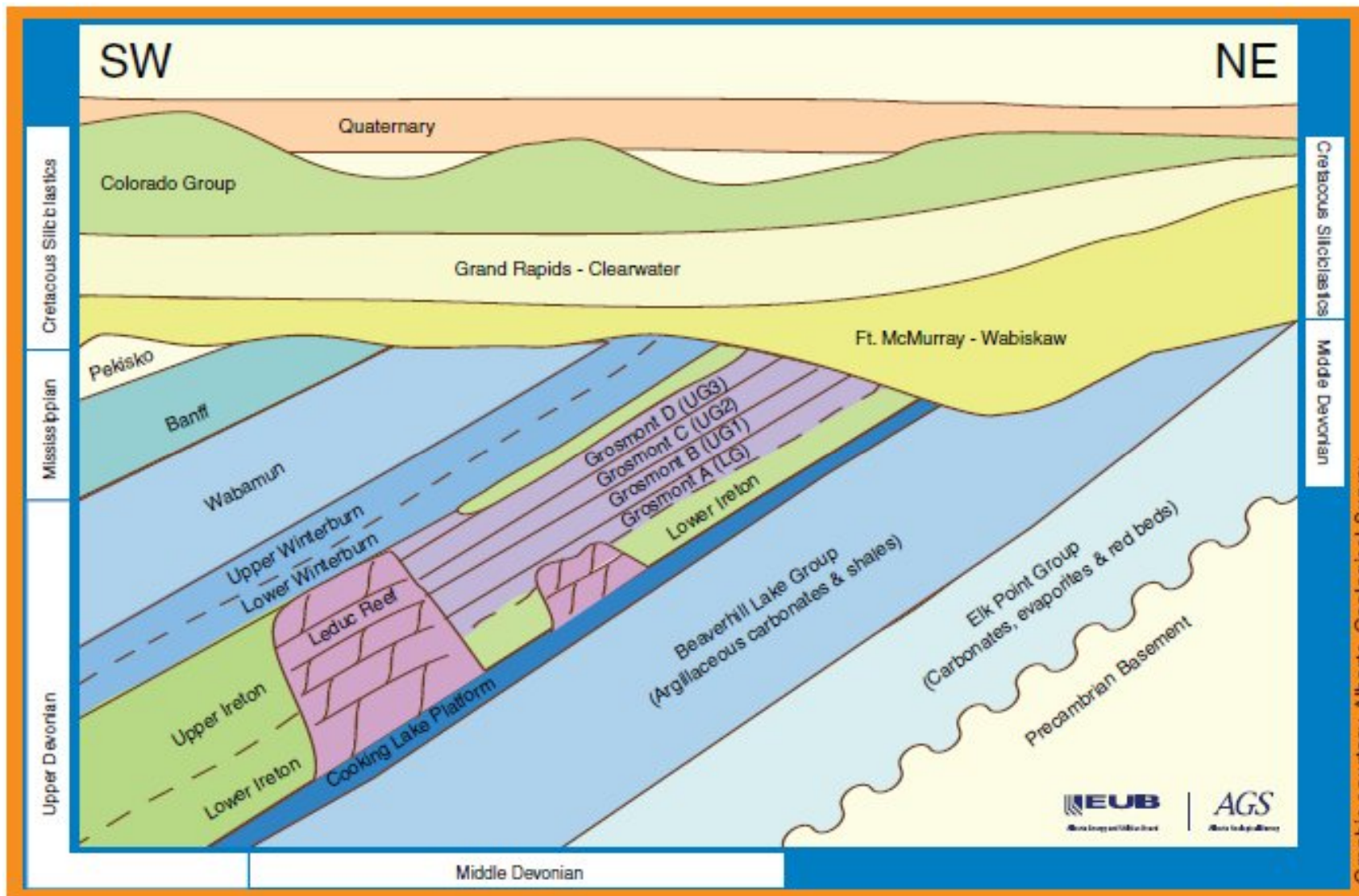
Grand Rapids

# Carbonates in Perspective

Alberta OBIP	1812 BBbbls
Athabasca OBIP	1493 BBbbls
Athabasca Insitu OBIP	1362 BBbbls
Athabasca Insitu Clastics OBIP	890 BBbbls
Athabasca Insitu Carbonates OBIP	472 BBbbls

OBIP = Original Bitumen In Place

Source: ERCB 2010



Graphic courtesy Alberta Geological Survey



# Clastics - Core Photos



clean sand



IHS



breccia

# Carbonates - Core Photos



vuggy & fracture



intercrystalline  
dolo-fudge



laminated





# Distinguishing Characteristics

**Complex** geological model and phi – k relationships :  
chemically formed via a series of processes

Deposits tend to be **laterally continuous**

**Multiple porosity types** : intercrystalline matrix, moldic-vuggy, fractures, solution breccia, interparticle

**Fractures** – bed-bound or larger scale regional stress induced fractures : rock is generally consolidated, competent and brittle



# Distinguishing Characteristics

**Heterogeneous** on multiple scales : rock properties harder to determine and extrapolate, more uncertainty – less predictability

**Higher permeability** in certain regions or beds : barriers less likely

**Lower porosity** : range 14-24%, typically 18%

**Higher average residual oil saturation** ( $S_{or}$ ) + greater uncertainty in estimates : range 25-35% best estimate, 15-20% high estimate



# Distinguishing Characteristics

Deeper deposits, 5-9 degrees API and higher viscosity

Higher development costs – drilling and completions more challenging, deeper, steering through caverns, issues with lost circulation, cementing, coring and borehole instability

Maximum net pays >100 m in reefal build-ups - thicker

# Impact of Lower Porosity

Porosity	14%	18%	22%	24%	30%	34%
OBIP (MSTB/wp)	1900	2443	2986	3257	4072	4614
RF	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%
Recoverable (MSTB/wp)	1108	1425	1742	1900	2375	2692
Peak Rate (BOPD)	650	725	800	850	950	1000
CSOR	4.3	3.6	2.9	2.7	2.3	2.0

Carbonate porosity 14-24% vs sandstone porosity 30-34%

Carbonate has 30-55% less OBIP

Carbonate CSORs are 35-85% higher – more rock to heat

SAGD development with all else equal as follows :

pay 30m – well length 800m – spacing 100m –  $S_o$  80% – k 4D – operating P 2000 kPa

# Impact of Higher $S_{or}$

$S_{or}$	10%	15%	20%	25%	30%	35%
OBIP (MSTB/wp)	4343	4343	4343	4343	4343	4343
RF	58%	54%	50%	46%	42%	38%
Recoverable (MSTB/wp)	2533	2352	2171	1991	1810	1629
Peak Rate (BOPD)	975	950	900	875	825	775
CSOR	2.2	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.9	3.2

Carbonate  $S_{or}$  15-35% vs sandstone  $S_{or}$  10%

Carbonate has 20-35% less recoverable BE & 5-15% less recoverable HE

Carbonate CSORs are 20-45% BE & 5-15% higher HE – more heated bitumen left insitu

SAGD development with all else equal as follows :

pay 30m – well length 800m – spacing 100m – phi 32% –  $S_o$  80% – k 4D – operating P 2000 kPa



# Impact of Higher k

k (D)	2	3	4	5	8	10
OBIP (MSTB/wp)	4343	4343	4343	4343	4343	4343
RF	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%	58%
Recoverable (MSTB/wp)	2533	2533	2533	2533	2533	2533
Peak Rate (BOPD)	700	850	975	1100	1375	1550
CSOR	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.0

Fractured carbonate k 5-10 D vs sandstone k 2-5 D  
 Higher perms increase peak rates 40-55%  
 CSORs are reduced due to faster extraction

SAGD development with all else equal as follows :

pay 30m – well length 800m – spacing 100m – phi 32% –  $S_o$  80% –  $S_{or}$  10% – k 4D – operating P 2000 kPa

# Impact of Heterogeneity

Conformance Factor	60%	70%	80%	90%
OBIP (MSTB/wp)	4343	4343	4343	4343
RF	44%	51%	58%	66%
Recoverable (MSTB/wp)	1900	2217	2533	2850
Peak Rate (BOPD)	975	975	975	975
CSOR	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2

Carbonate BE conformance factor 70% vs sandstone 80%  
Recoverable reduced by 12% BE

SAGD development with all else equal as follows :  
pay 30m – well length 800m – spacing 100m – phi 32% –  $S_o$  80% –  $S_{or}$  10% – operating P 2000 kPa

# Other Economic Impacts

**Core hole costs higher** by 25% to >100%  
500-1000M\$ for carbonates vs < 500M\$ for sandstones

**Well-pair drilling and completion costs higher** by 15-25%  
4000-5500M\$ for carbonates vs 3500-4500M\$ for sandstones

**Wellhead pricing 1-2% lower**  
Carbonates : blend 0.46 BBL condensate for 1 BBL bitumen  
Sandstones : blend 0.43 BBL condensate for 1 BBL bitumen



# Aggregate Impact

Thicker pay needed for economic viability

Carbonates  
14 to 21 m

Clastics  
9 to 12 m

Compensate for  
lower porosity, higher  $S_{or}$ , greater  
heterogeneity, higher costs and  
lower wellhead price

# What About Categorization?

No commercial carbonate projects operating in Canada

Recoverable volumes are presently assessed by GLJ as  
**Contingent Resources** – **Technology Under Development**





“Contingent Resources are those quantities of petroleum estimated, as of a given date, to be potentially recoverable from **known accumulations** using **established technology or technology under development**, but which are **not** currently considered to be **commercially recoverable** due to one or more contingencies.”



“Reserves are estimated **remaining** quantities of oil and natural gas and related substances anticipated to be **economically recoverable** from **discovered resources**, from a given date forward, based on analysis of drilling, geological, geophysical, and engineering data; the use of **established technology**; and specified economic conditions, which are generally accepted as being reasonable”

# Established Technology

Methods proven successful in commercial applications

which means

repeated success  
technically  
economically

or

A successful pilot in the subject reservoir

# Technology Under Development

Technology developed and verified by testing as feasible for future commercial applications to the subject reservoir

which GLJ interprets as

Technology developed in other reservoirs  
Testing = field & lab work plus simulation &/or pilot  
Expectations adjusted for reservoir differences

ASC staff notice 51-327 differs from this interpretation  
COGEH and PRMS are issuing clarifying documents



# Current Operational Pilots

Laricina/OSUM Saleski SAGD 1800 BOPD Pilot

The 1st operational SAGD carbonate project

Designed to assess start-up strategy, conformance, thermal response, liner design and pump performance in Grosmont C & D

Injection begin December 23 2010

First trucking of sales oil occurred May 2011

Part 2 : assess a solvent cyclic-SAGD process



# Current Operational Pilots

## Sunshine Harper Vertical Steam Injection Pilot Q1 2011

Designed to assess bitumen mobility and reservoir response to steam in the Grosmont C

Two weeks steam injection at approximately 1500 BSPD, 2-3 MPa wellhead pressure in Jan – Feb 2011

Following a 2 day soak, the well produced approximately 440-535 BFPD with 1-3% oil cut

Maximum oil rate of approximately 65 BOPD was briefly achieved

# Current Experimental Tests

## AOSC Dover West Devonian Deviated Steam Injection Test Q1 2011

Designed to assess injectivity including conformance in the presence of fractures in the Leduc and Cooking Lake

Encouraging results with the demonstration of

- High steam injection rates
- Uniform injection along the length of the well, and
- Pressure buildup providing an indication of steam containment

# Current Experimental Tests

**AOSC Dover West Devonian TAGD Test Q2 2011** began 10 weeks ago in April 2011

Designed to acquire field data for calibrating in-house modeling of the TAGD process to better assess heat balance, drainage rates and recovery factors in the Leduc & Cooking Lake reservoirs

TAGD or thermal assisted gravity drainage uses conduction heating to warm the reservoir

200m electrical heaters have been run into two horizontal wells : 1 heater well is located 10m above a second heater-producer

Following 6-12 months of heating, the lower well will be produced

# Carbonates : Closer to Commerciality?

Given the lack of commercial carbonate projects, **successful pilots** (SAGD, CSS, solvent-cyclic SAGD, electric heating) **are required for specific project reserves bookings**.

**How long does it take to determine if a pilot is successful?** Demonstration of production is required. Reserves bookings will be risked early on pending ongoing response and verification of performance.

**What is the timing of generic carbonate commerciality?** The Laricina/OSUM Saleski project is the only current application for a commercial project (12,500 BOPD) with first production expected in 2014. Given the unique attributes of carbonates, numerous technologies are being considered and tested. Repeated commercial success of any one specific technology looks years away.



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