

Horn River Past, Present and Future

Mark Taylor GPAC/PJVA 17th Annual Joint Conference November 3, 2010



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Outline

- What is Shale and Shale Gas?
- What and Where is Horn River?
- Challenges... Opportunities
 - Efficient reservoir development strategy
 - Reducing the development footprint
 - Horn River Producers Group
 - Multi-well pads with long horizontals
 - Water for fracs... a sustainable model
 - Protecting Groundwater





- Geothermal energy converts organic material in shales into oil and gas.
- Some gas migrates to conventional traps



- Conventional drilling targets these accumulations
- Large amounts of gas still exist within the shale source rock
- However, shale doesn't have enough permeability to allow gas to flow to a wellbore.



- Horizontal Drilling allows one wellbore to access much more reservoir than vertical wells.
- Fracture stimulations (fracs) are required to allow the gas to access the wellbore.



- Large volumes of water are pumped into the formation at high pressure, creating a fracture network (SRV)
- Sand is pumped in with water to prop the fractures open once the pressure is released
- Gas can now flow out of the formation to the wellbore



Quartz-rich and Clay-rich Shales



Quartz-rich and Clay-rich Shales



Quartz Brittle



http://www.stockvault.net/watermark.php?i=2139



Clays (Mica Minerals) Flexible



http://twenty1f.com/2005/09/

Which Shales Work for a Shale Gas Project?



- Brittle
 - Dominantly quartz grains
- Thick (180m)
 - More rock holds More gas
- Porosity (4%)
 - More holes to hold gas (pore spaces)
- Highly pressured (40 MPa)
 - Pack more gas into pore spaces
- Thermally Mature (T_{max} 600°C)
 - All organic material converted to gas
- Carbon Content (5% Organic Carbon)
 - More material for gas to adsorb to
- No Faulting
 - Open faults and fractures cause frac energy loss and decrease SRV





Paleogeography: Where in the World was Horn River?



- Devonian Period
- 380 million years ago
- "Age of Fishes"
- Equator ran through North America
- Tropical climate over most of continent
- Western Canada covered by water



Deposition



 Mud sized particles are small

- Stay suspended in water column for a long time
- Shale basin receives only mud





How big is Horn River?

- Horn River is the third largest gas deposit discovered in North America
- As much as 500 Tcf OGIP
- More than 70 trillion cubic feet of gas recoverable in Horn River
- 1.5 million homes in B.C. (2006 Census)
- Enough gas to heat all B.C. homes for more than 500 years



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/archive/8/8a/20071020121107!Markham-suburbs_aerial-edit2.jpg

Where it began...

Gib -

Trail B-48-A Well

EnCana well drilled in 2003 targeting a deeper formation. Took Gas Kick from Muskwa / Otter Park Shale section

The evolution of a development strategy

	Stimulation			Production	
Year	# Stages	Avg/Stage		Avg/Stage	Total
		$H_2O(m^3)$	Sand (tons)	(mmcf/d)	(mmcf/d)
2005	2	400	10	0.2	0.5
2006	2	2000	110	0.4	0.8
2007	3	2300	100	0.5	1.4
2008	9	3500	230	0.7	5.9
2009	13	4000	200	0.7	9.1
2010	21	5000	200	-	-

- More wells/pad
- Longer wells
- More fracs per well
- More water per frac



Encana 63-K Pad October 2010

Water Volume + Stages = Gas Rate



Optimizing the fracs

- Well and Frac Spacing
 - What is the optimal spacing?
 - What is the optimal volume?





Too Small

Stranded reserves



Too Big

- Interference
- Over capitalized



Reducing the Development Footprint The Horn River Producers Group

• Horn River Basin Producers Group (HRBPG)

- Currently 11 companies
- Formed in November 2007
- Working Together
 - Facilitate cooperation and communication between companies and key community groups concerning development activities
 - Ensure a coordinated approach to long-term development of the Horn River Basin
- Structure:
 - Steering Committee provides strategy and direction
 - Subcommittees comprised of specialists to address specific areas



Horizontal multi-well pad vs. Vertical wells Reducing the surface impact Gaining operational efficiency

Horizontal multi-well pad vs. Vertical (same volume of rock disturbed)



- 16 Horizontal wells from one 285m x 225m pad (16 acres)
- Total of 420 fracs over 3300 acres
- Each frac stimulation stage in hz well is equiv. to a vert. well

The 16 well Hz pad has <5% of the disturbed area of the comparable vertical well scenario

 Vertical wells each on a separate 100m x 100m pad

Water Usage in Horn River

Ability to source water is a key to development

- Primary frac water source until 2010 has been Two Island Lake
 - B.C. Oil & Gas Commission allows a maximum withdrawal of 600,000m³ or 10cm drop in lake level
- Surface water was used to prove feasibility of play, but is not a long term solution
- Encana continuously strives to reduce environmental impact
- Exploration for a subsurface, non-potable source of water identified the Debolt Formation



Debolt Water Resource

- Shallower, high-perm, carbonate horizon
- 65 ppm H₂S concentration
- Sufficient water to frac more than 2000 wells
 - Assume 1% RF of 1.87 x10¹⁰ m³ total water & 4000m³/stage & 20 stages/well



calculated for HRB inside heavy line.



Volume

Past – Pilot Phase

- Pilot test March 2009
- Innovative solution to reduce dependence on surface water by treating Debolt
- First in industry
- Flow test 600 m³/d
 - Debolt reservoir a viable long term water source
 - Test water chemistry
 - Monitor reservoir characteristics
- Verify scaling tendencies
- Establish effectiveness of process to remove H₂S



Present Strategy

Proved Debolt water as a viable source

- Complete removal of H₂S
- Irreversible removal of H₂S
- No Solids
- Fast and selective
- Meets spec requirements
- Closed system
- Debolt treatment plant
 - Process 16 000 m³/d
 - Stripping, degassing and polishing
- Water source/disposal wells
 - Three electric submersible pumps
 - 5000 8000 m³/d
 - Two disposal wells

Installing an ESP



Water – Process Flow



Debolt Water Plant



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Isolating the Ground Water

Horizontal Shale Well



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Drilling and Completions

How do we protect groundwater?

- Cement used to seal casing to formation
- Cement prevents fluid (gas/water/oil) movement outside the casing



