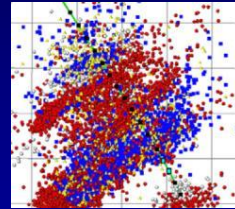
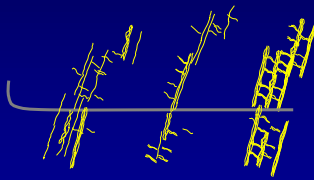
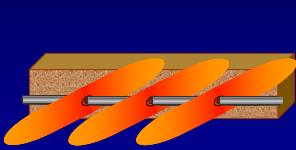


Confessions of a Frac Engineer:

Your Reservoir is Much More Productive than we Thought...

It's my Frac that is Failing



Mike Vincent
mike@fracwell.com



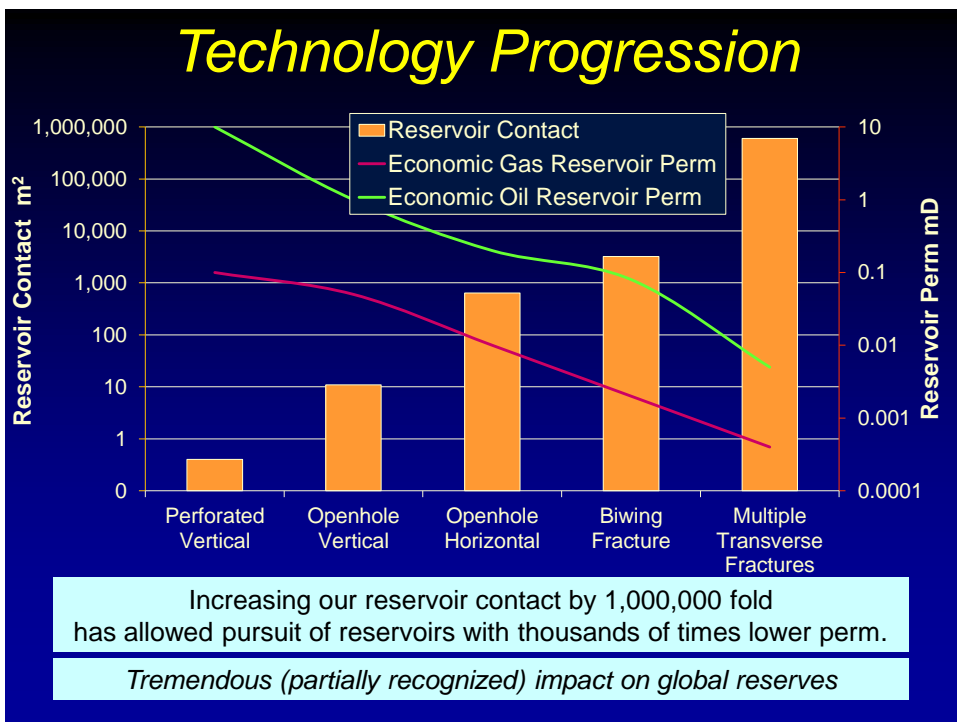
Microseismic image: SPE 119636

Outline

- Goals of fracturing and incredible industry achievements
- Shock and awe
 - Irrefutable field data we can no longer ignore
 - Fracs do NOT perform like we thought
- Plausible mechanisms responsible for underperformance
- Evidence we can do better
 - Field results – refracs & improved frac designs
 - We often *incorrectly* blame underperformance on insufficient reservoir quality.
 - It is now clear that the formations have greater potential than we thought! The fracs are not capturing well potential.

Two basic design goals for fracture treatment

- Adequate reservoir contact (frac length)
- Adequate flow capacity (conductivity)



Two basic design goals for fracture treatment

- Adequate reservoir contact (frac length)
- Adequate flow capacity (conductivity)

If a frac job were “optimized” the next dollar invested in frac length would provide the same return on investment as the next dollar invested in conductivity.

For the past 20 years, I’ve tried to examine the technical reasons that we have failed to balance these two challenges and we are not optimized.

Today, we will mostly examine **field** data.

How big is 10,000,000 ft² of contact?



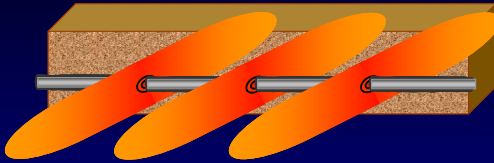
$290 \text{ yds} \times 215 \text{ yds} = \sim 560,000 \text{ ft}^2$

Architect claims 1.7mm ft² including all decks, concourses, stairs, etc

So maybe envision 18 NFL stadium footprints as the surface area of contact.

Images: ESPN, BSOblackspportsonline; Wikipedia, ticketini, turnerconstruction.com

How large are the connections between a transverse frac and the wellbore?



Cemented & Perfed:

Suppose we have four perfs in a cluster that are connected to the frac. Suppose they erode to $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter
Footprint of 4 dimes $\sim 1.6 \text{ in}^2$



Openhole, uncemented:

Suppose frac is $\frac{1}{10}$ " wide after closure. Suppose perfect full circumference connected around 6" hole (~ 18 " circumference). 1.8 in^2 About $\frac{1}{10}$ th of a \$5 bill



If I optimistically assume I successfully initiate and sustain 100 transverse fracs, I get a connection equivalent to 10 bills

Images: ebay, us-cash.info

Ratio: contact to connection?



Envision 18 NFL stadium footprints as reservoir contact.

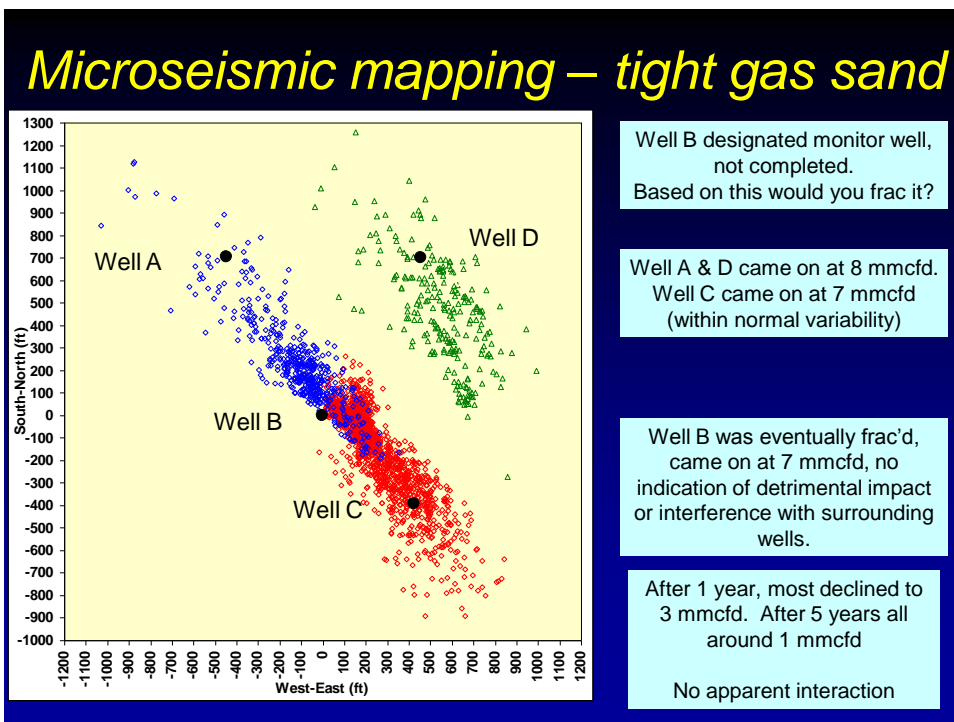
The cumulative area of connection of 100 perfectly executed transverse fracs is about the size of one hash mark

$10,000,000 \text{ ft}^2 : 180 \text{ in}^2$
 $8 \text{ million} : 1$

The frac conductivity may be a bottleneck!?!

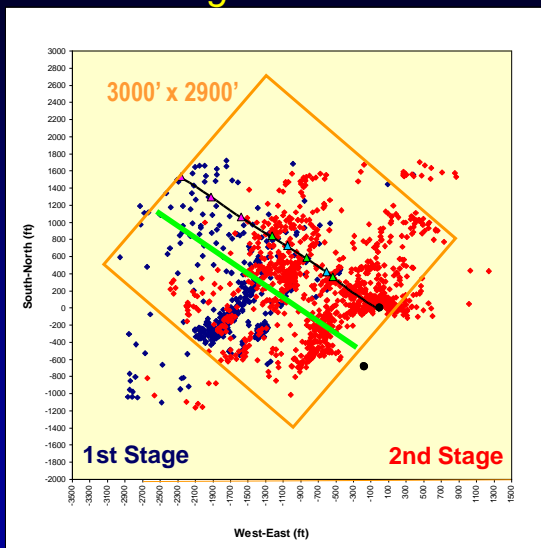
Images: ESPN, BSOblocksportsonline, Wikipedia, footballidiot.com

Some field examples that challenge our understanding



Fracs can have enormous reach

Two Stage Cemented Barnett Shale Lateral



- ▲ = First Stage Perf Clusters
- ▲ = 2nd Stage Initial Perf Clusters
- ▲ = Revised 2nd Stage Perf Clusters

Fracs can extend
>1500 feet

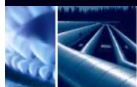
We know we can bash
offset wells with both
water and RA tracer

9 million square feet
>200 acres

What would happen
if we drilled an infill
well here?

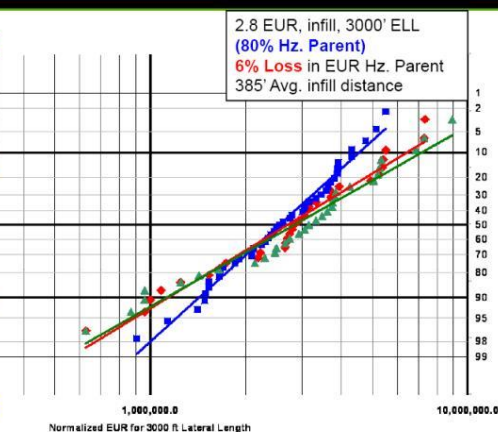
SPE 90051

How far do we drain? Barnett Infill Drilling



Fort Worth Basin – Barnett Shale Hz. Parent and Hz. Infill EUR Distribution

Parent Before EUR3000', mcf	
# of Data Points	31
P ₁₀	5,544.40
P ₅₀	2,636.08
P ₉₀	1,230.77
Statistical Mean (Trunc)	3,408.08
Parent, After EUR3000', mcf	
# of Data Points	31
P ₁₀	5,920.43
P ₅₀	2,705.67
P ₉₀	1,237.33
Statistical Mean (Trunc)	3,179.26
Infill EUR3000', mcf	
# of Data Points	43
P ₁₀	4,374.28
P ₅₀	2,546.19
P ₉₀	1,482.09
Statistical Mean (Trunc)	2,761.11



* ELL: Estimated
Lateral Length



When
operators
have infill
drilled on
**385' avg
spacing**

Infill wells
"steal" 6%
of parent
EUR

Infill wells
produce
80% of
parent EUR

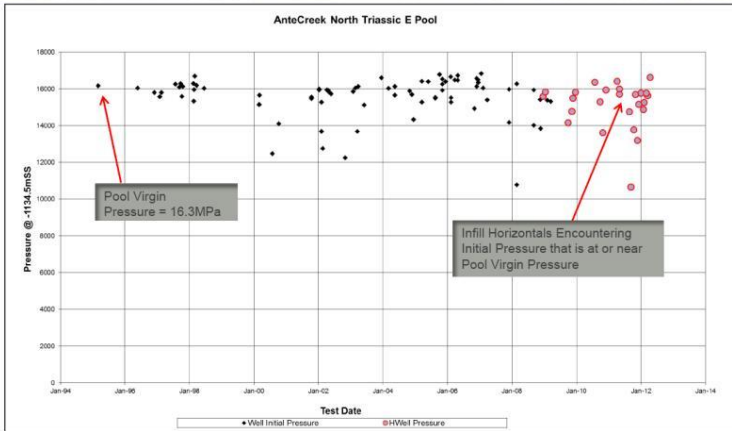
Source: Based on a statistical analysis of public data from wells in the Fort Worth Basin.

EnCana Corporation

Source: Brian Posehn, EnCana, CSUG April 28, 2009

How effectively do we drain? Ante Creek, Montney Oil

ANTE CREEK OIL OPPORTUNITY FOR DOWNSPACING



Infill Hz drilling is encountering High Pressure Reservoir – this implies substantial incremental reserves to be produced by the new wells.

16 years later
encountering
near-virgin
pressure.

**Demonstrates
that initial wells
were insufficient
to recover all
available
reserves.**

**Is this due solely
to reservoir
discontinuity?
Well locations?
Frac
insufficiency?**

**Similar findings in
Niobrara, Bakken,
many Permian
formations, etc**

Source: ARC Investor Presentation Nov 2012

Fractures Intersecting Offset Wellbores

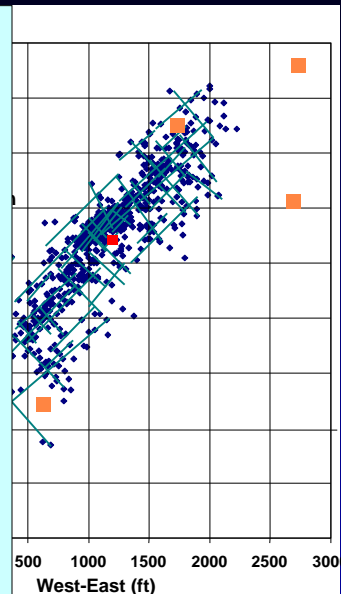
Evidence frac'd into offset wells (at same depth)

- Microseismic mapping
- Slurry to adjacent well
- Increased watercut
- Solid radioactive tracer (logging)
- Noise in offset monitor well

Documented in

- Tight sandstone (Piceance, Jonah, Cotton Valley, Codell)
- High perm sandstone (Prudhoe)
- Shale (Barnett, Marcellus, Muskwa, EF)
- Dolomite (Middle Bakken)
- Chalk (Dan)

Often EUR, “pulse tests” “interference tests” fail to indicate sustained hydraulic connectivity!



SPE 77441

Fractures Intersecting Bakken Laterals

- Sometimes adjacent wells are *improved* by bashing!

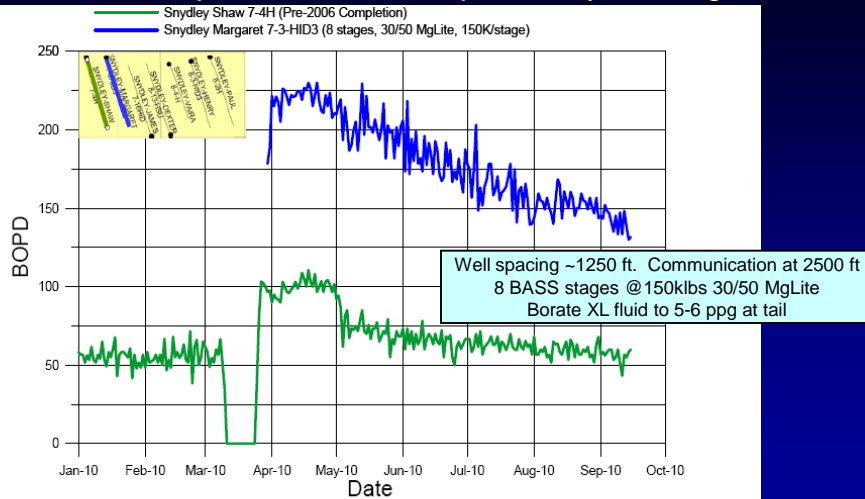
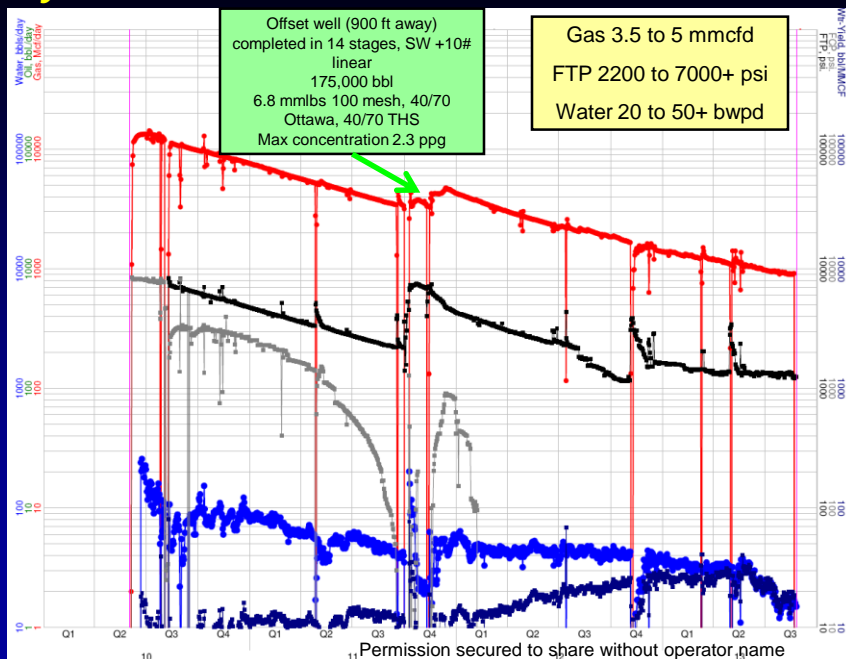


Figure 17. Comparison Production Plot of Snyderly-Margaret 7-3-HID3 to Snyderly-Shaw 7-4H (40 BOPD Gain)

Enerplus SPE 139774 – Jan 2011

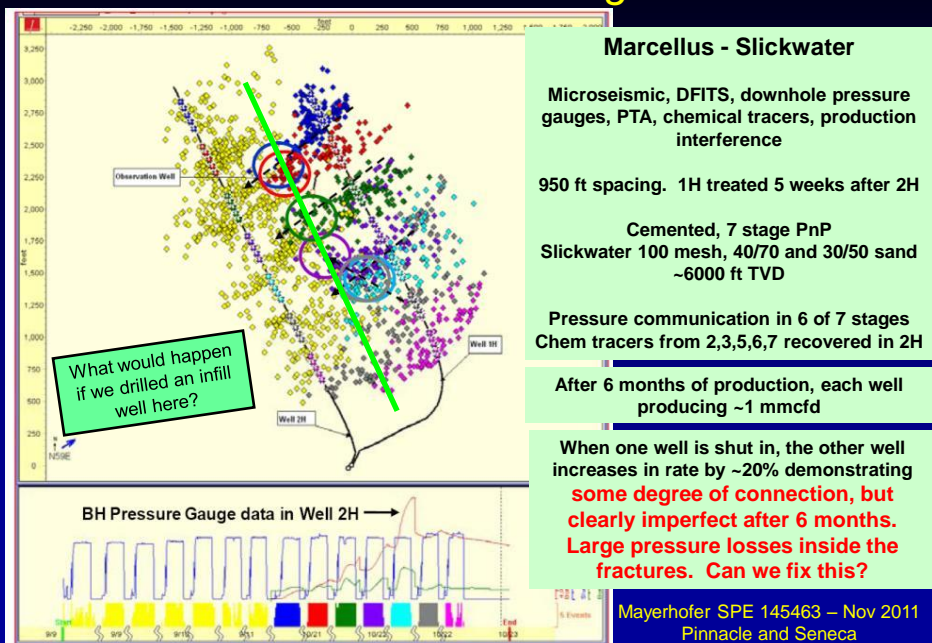
Haynesville Beneficial Interference Example



These examples are perhaps subject to interpretation . . .

- Are there irrefutable examples that demonstrate fracs may not be highly conductive, durable conduits as traditionally implemented?

Marcellus Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals



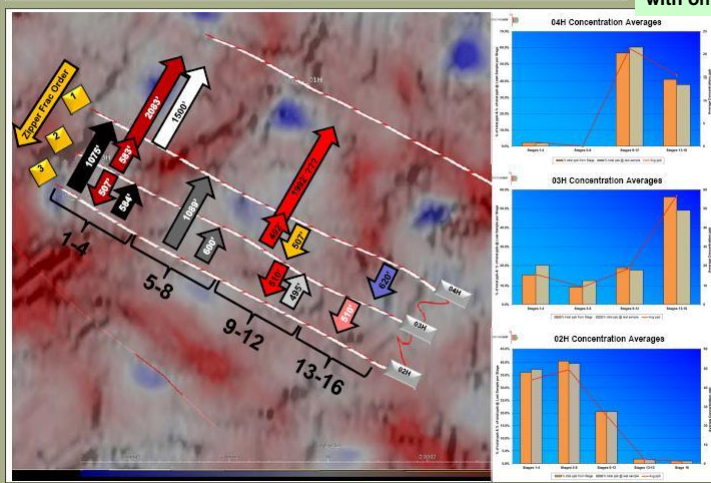
Marcellus – Wells on 500 ft spacing do not appear to share reserves

- SPE 140463 – Edwards, Weisser, Jackson, Marcotte [EQT&CHK]
 - All diagnostics (microseismic, chemical tracers, surface pressure gauges, etc) indicate fracturing treatments interact.
 - Well-to-well connection while the reservoir is diluted with frac fluid.
 - Microseismic suggests lengths >1000 ft
 - Production analysis estimates ~150 ft effective half length after 6 months
 - However, wells drilled on 500 ft spacing are similar in productivity to those on 1000 ft spacing, suggesting they are not competing for reserves

Similar findings in Niobrara, Eagle Ford, Barnett, Bakken, Wolfcamp, Spraberry, etc.
 We can infill drill on much closer spacing that anticipated.
 We are leaving reserves behind!

Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

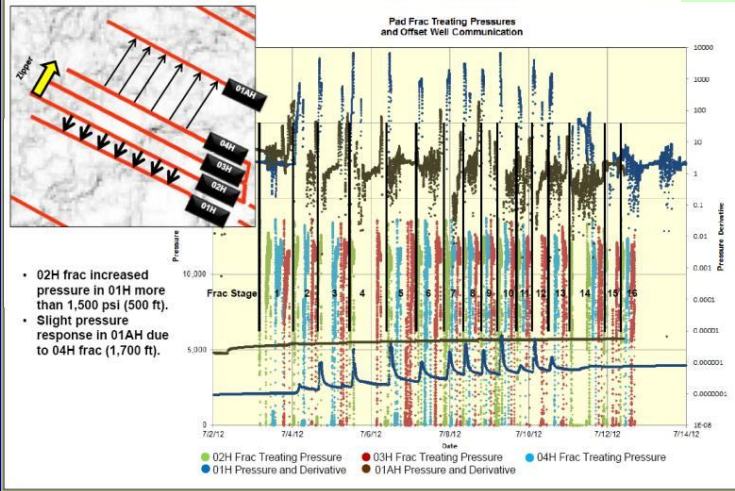
Chemical Tracers to Identify Communication



Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

Frac Treatment Pressure Response

Communication during frac evident from treating pressures

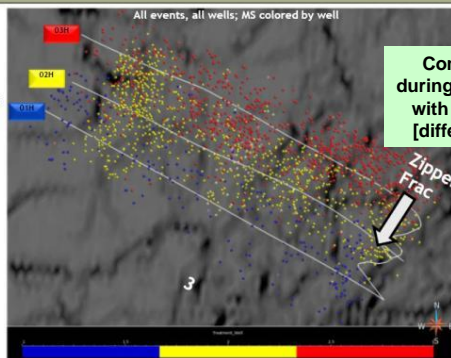


Murray, Santa Fe ATW, Mar 2013, and URTeC 1581750

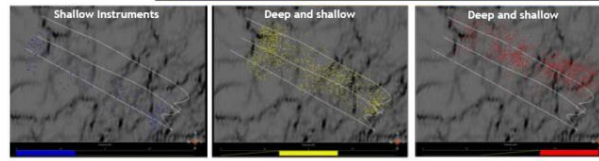
Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

Micro Seismic Data Collection

- Well 01H used for deep monitoring for wells 02H and 03H zipper fracs.
- Well 01H frac'd after zipper frac of wells 02H and 03H.
- Limited micro seismic data collected on well 01H because no deep instruments.
- Zipper frac order
 - 03H
 - 02H



Communication during frac confirmed with microseismic [different well set]



Murray, Santa Fe ATW, Mar 2013

Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

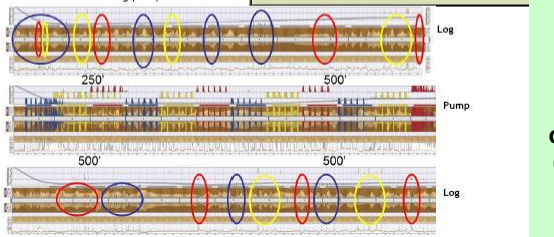
Radioactive Tracers (RA Tracers)

Basics:

- Tracer material is a resin coated grain of ceramic proppant that is irradiated in a reactor
- 3 isotopes
 - Iridium
 - Scandium
 - Antimony
- RA usually last ~12 months

Work flow:

- Pump Radioactive Tracer in one or more wellbores.
- Ran GR log in all wells to analyze proppant transport between laterals as well as along pumped wellbore.



Eagle Ford

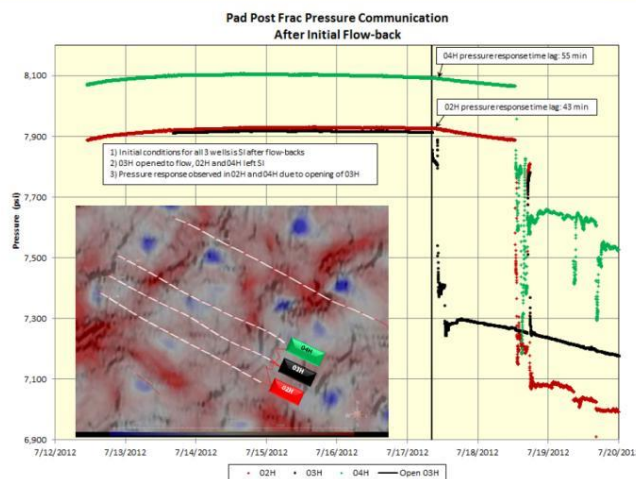
Communication during frac confirmed with solid RA tracers in most stages

Cool.
All diagnostics showed we "communicated" during the treatment. Can we measure the effectiveness and durability of the connecting fractures?

Murray, Santa Fe ATW, Mar 2013, and URTeC 1581750

Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

Post Frac Pressure Communication



Eagle Ford

Some degree of connection. Black well is able to lower pressure in adjacent wells shortly after stimulation

If the fracture were an infinitely conductive open pipe, we would see a pressure pulse at the speed of sound (less than one second) instead of 50 minutes lag time

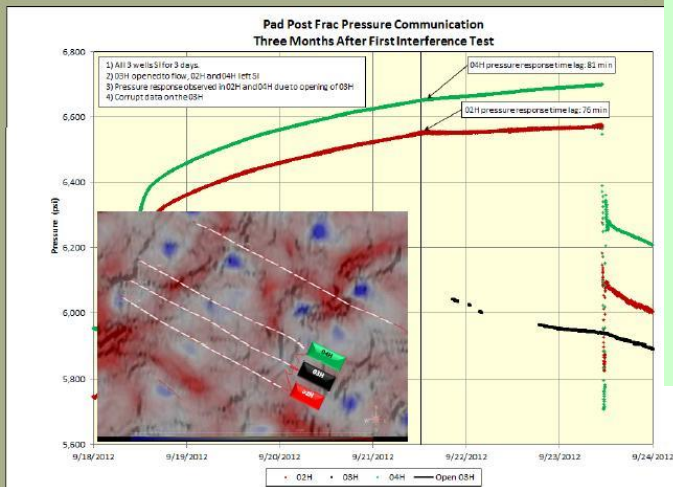
If they were infinitely conductive fracs, all pressures would overlay

Clearly, the fracs should not be envisioned as infinitely conductive pipes.

Murray, Santa Fe ATW, Mar 2013, and URTeC 1581750

Eagle Ford: Fractures Intersecting Offset Laterals

Post Frac Pressure Communication



3 months later, the black well is incapable of draining gas from offsets as fast as the reservoir can deliver hydrocarbons!

Lag time increased.

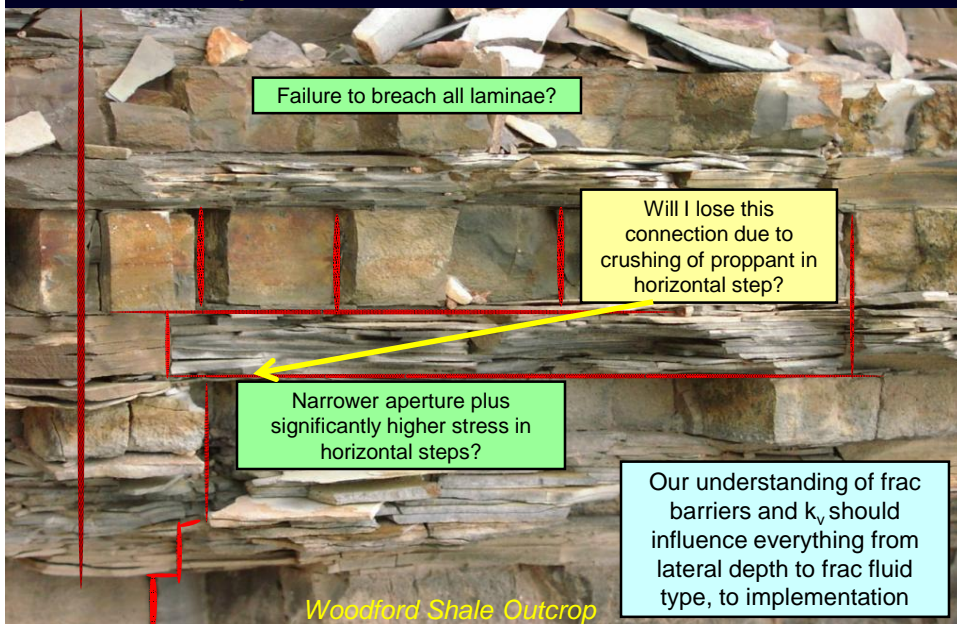
The wells are not redundant.

Frac connection between wells is constraining productivity, clearly not behaving like an infinitely conductive frac.

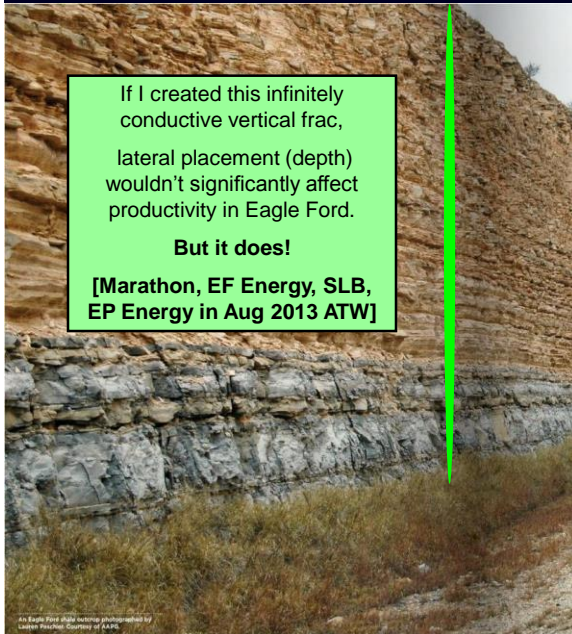
Where did the created fracture heal? Near wellbore void? At laminations? At some distance between wells?

Murray, Santa Fe ATW, Mar 2013, and URTeC 1581750

If I cannot sustain lateral continuity with conventional frac designs, what about VERTICAL continuity?



Logic: Can I be creating highly conductive vertical fracs?



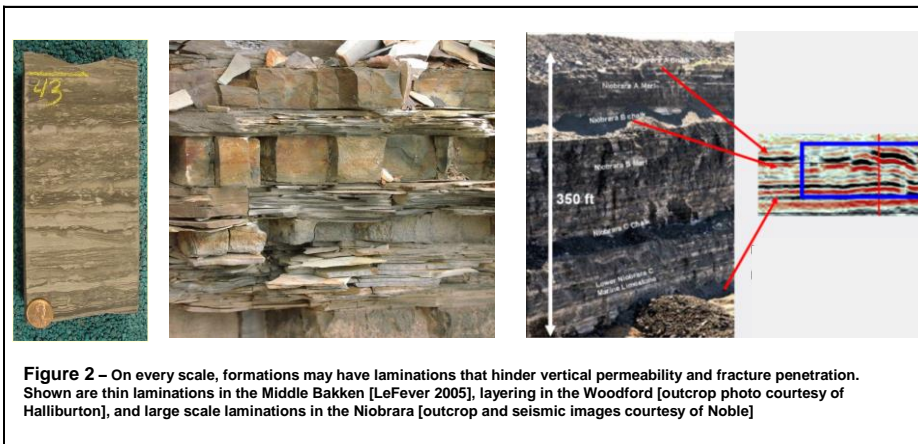
Either my fracs:

1. fail to penetrate all the pay, or
2. pressure losses are very high in my fracs, or
3. I'm losing continuity
4. Other mechanisms (liquid banking, etc.)

There are logical adjustments to frac design to attempt to address each mechanism

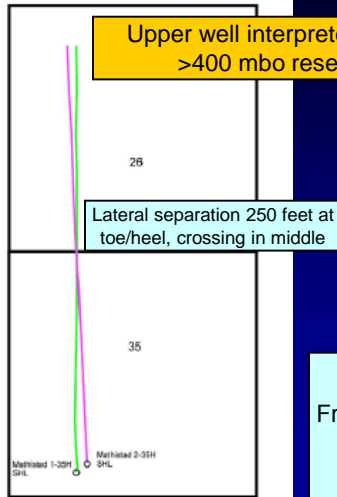
Eagle Ford Shale Outcrop
Peschler, AAPG

Laminated on every scale?

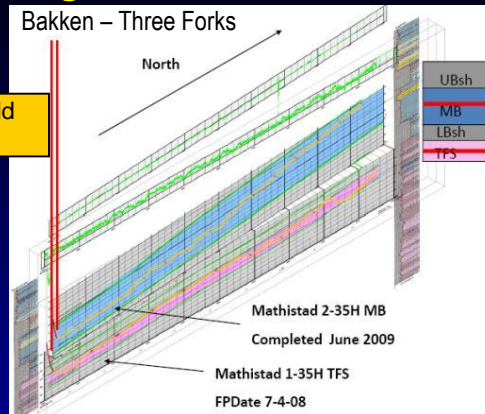


Fractures Intersecting Stacked Laterals

Mathistad 1-35H and 2-35H wells
McKenzie Co., North Dakota
T150N R96W



Bakken – Three Forks



23 ft thick Lower Bakken Shale

Frac'd Three Forks well ~1MM lb proppant in 10 stages

1 yr later drilled overlying well in Middle Bakken;

$K_v < 0.000,000,01D$ ($< 0.01 \mu D$)

$k_v/k_h \sim 0.00025$

40

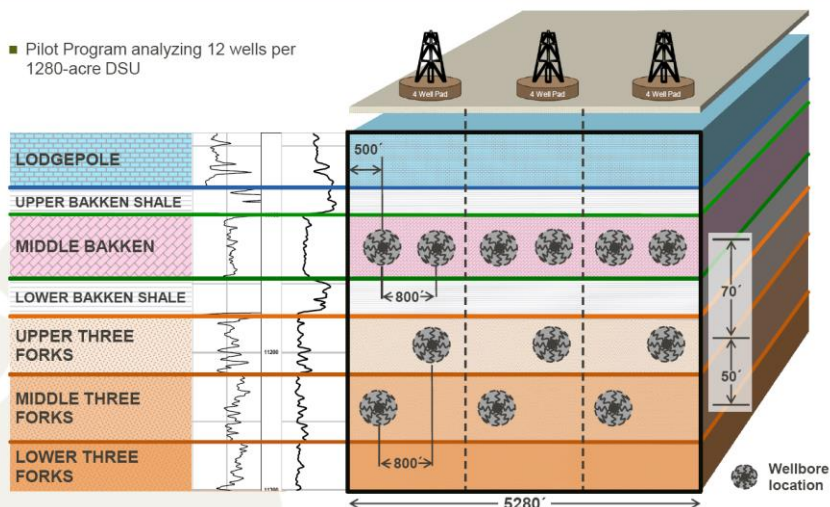
Modified from Archie Taylor SPE ATW – Aug 4 2010

Other Bakken Operators – Well Spacing Pilots

**Polar & Smokey Pilot Projects:
Reservoir Well Spacing Pattern**



■ Pilot Program analyzing 12 wells per
1280-acre DSU



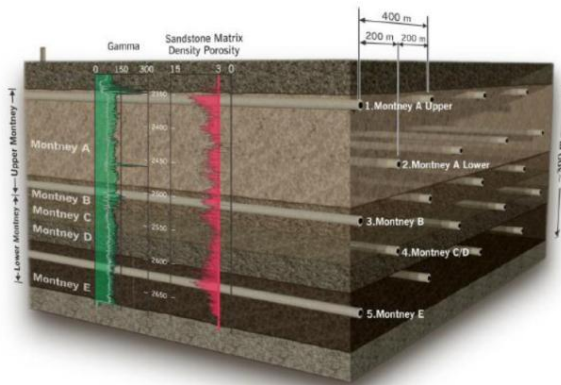
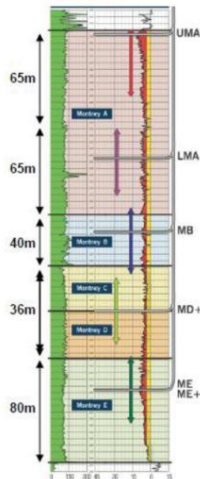
42

Kodiak O&G Sept 2013 Barclays Energy Conference

Same Challenge in Montney?

Sunrise 02-25
Model Vertical Frac. Offset

Montney Depositional Schematic XY and Vertical Offset Pattern



West Montney

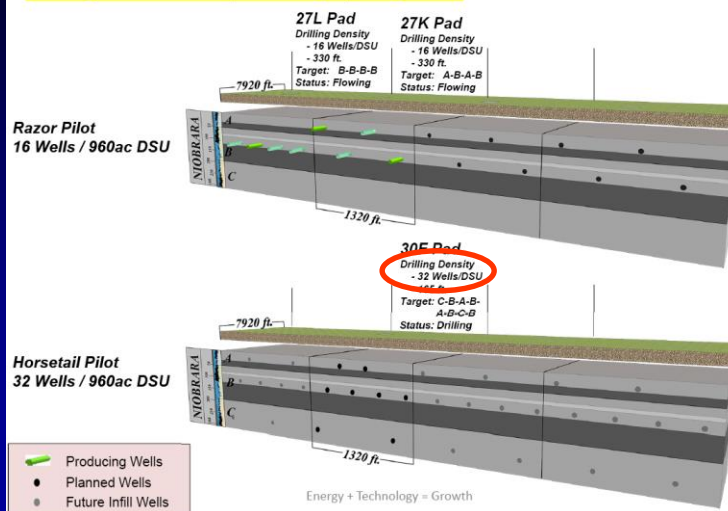
45

ARC Investor Presentation, April 2013

Same Challenge in Niobrara?

Redtail High Density Pilots

Testing 16 & 32 Wells per Drilling Spacing Unit



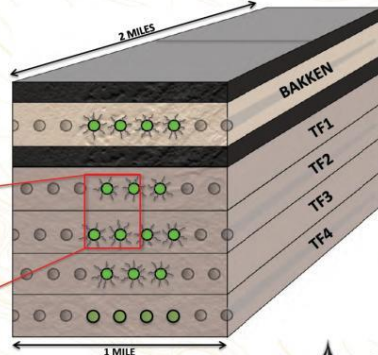
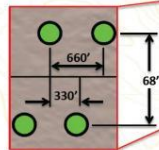
49

Source: Whiting Corp Presentation, Mar 2014

Continuity Loss Necessitates vertical downspacing?

First Full Pattern 160-Acre Development Pilot

- 14 wells drilled in one 1280 (Mar 2013-Mar 2014)
- 4 MB, 3 TF1, 4 TF2, 3 TF3
- 660' inter-well spacing between same-zone wells



A number of operators are investigating "vertical downspacing" in the Bakken petroleum system. Similar efforts underway in Niobrara, Woodford, Montney and Permian formations.

Is it **possible** that some number of these expensive wells could be unnecessary if fractures were redesigned?

"Array Fracturing" or "Vertical Downspacing" Image from CLR Investor Presentation, Continental, 2012

Wow

1. We know we have pumped proppant from one wellbore into another.
2. We can directly interrogate the conductivity and durability of the fracs.
3. The results are not pretty.

So what are some of the culprits that cause fracs to not perform as we modeled?

Portions of the following list are discussed in URTeC 1579008

Potential Mechanisms – Frac Collapse (1 of 2)

- Degradation of proppant over time
- Overflushing of proppant from the near-wellbore area in transverse fracs
- Flowback of proppant from near-wellbore area in transverse fracs
- Failure to place sufficient proppant concentrations throughout the created network (both lateral and vertical placement)
- Insufficient conductivity to accommodate high velocity hydrocarbon flow due to convergence near-wellbore, especially in liquid-rich formations
- Embedment of proppant
- Thermal degradation of sand-based proppants
- Introduction of extremely low quality sand and low quality ceramic proppants during past decade
- Complex frac geometry requiring stronger or more conductive proppant in the turns and “pinch points”. Inability to push proppant through tortuous network.
- Perf design, poor alignment with frac or other issues
- Losing/wasting proppant out of zone – poor contact with “pay”. Or poor transport.
- Insufficient proppant concentrations, resulting in discontinuous proppant packs after frac closure. This problem is compounded when operators specify intermediate or high density ceramics but pump the same mass concentration, resulting in reduced fracture width and 20% to 30% smaller frac geometry.
- Wellbores plugged with frac sand somehow providing complete isolation

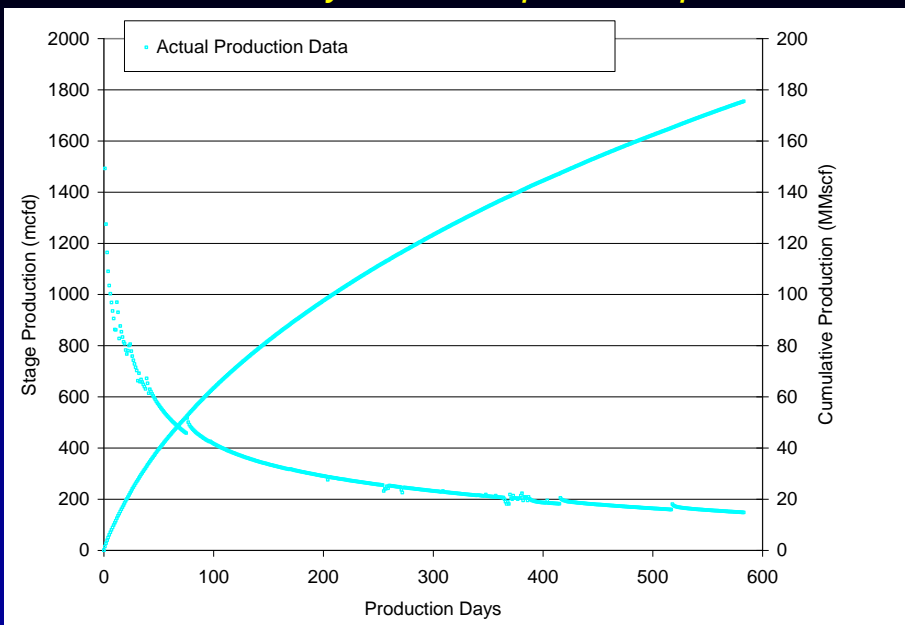
Potential Mechanisms – Frac Collapse (2 of 2)

- Fluid sensitivity – evidence that some frac fluids “soften” the formation allowing more significant embedment and/or spalling
- Gel residue or durable gel filtercakes deposited using crosslinked fluids that may completely occlude narrow propped fractures
- Precipitation of salt, asphaltenes, barium sulfate and calcium carbonate scales or migration of fines (formation fines or pulverized proppant). Bio-slime or induced corrosion?
- Potential for chemical diagenesis of proppant (controversial and conflicting laboratory studies). To date, proppant samples recovered from wells do not appear to indicate formation of zeolites
- Failure to recover water from liquid-submerged portions of the fracture below the wellbore elevation
- Aggressive production techniques to report high IPs (some fracs vulnerable to drawdown)
- Industry rush to secure acreage as “held by production” without adequate attention to completion effectiveness or optimization. Frenetic development pace has reduced many completion engineers’ primary responsibility to be scheduling and assuring materials are available, with less time devoted to optimization of well productivity
- Rel perm/condensate banking/capillary pressure/water block Emulsions
- Other unrecognized mechanisms
 - Stress shadowing causing unanticipated issues
 - Next stage “compresses” existing frac. Might move slurry in existing fracs containing XL gel
 - Continued slippage of frac faces after closure impacting continuity
 - Pore pressure depletion/subsidence/compaction “stranding” thin proppant ribbons
 - Others?

These direct measurements are compelling. Our fracs are NOT highly conductive and durable.

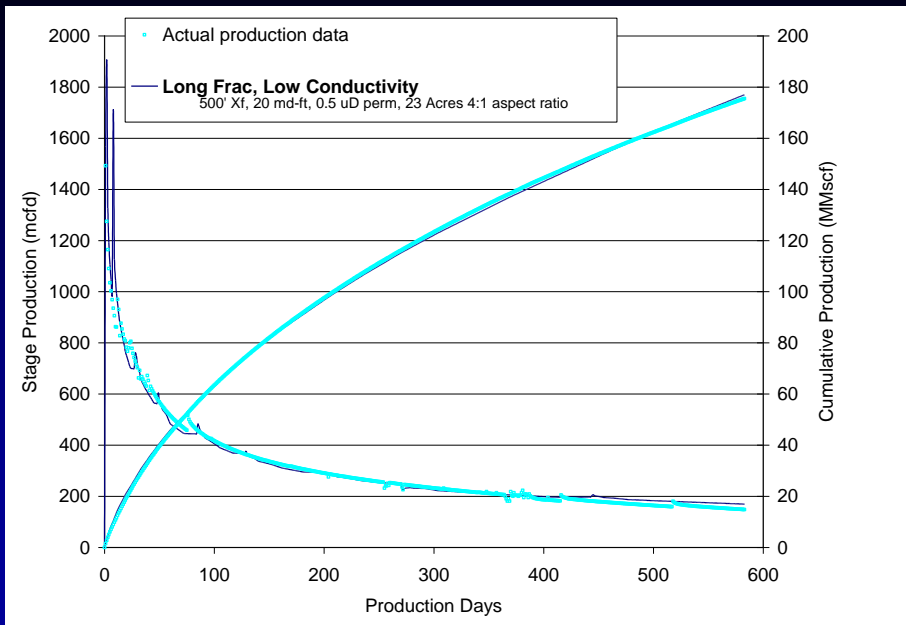
Why didn't the industry recognize many years ago that frac conductivity was insufficient?

With what certainty can we explain this production?



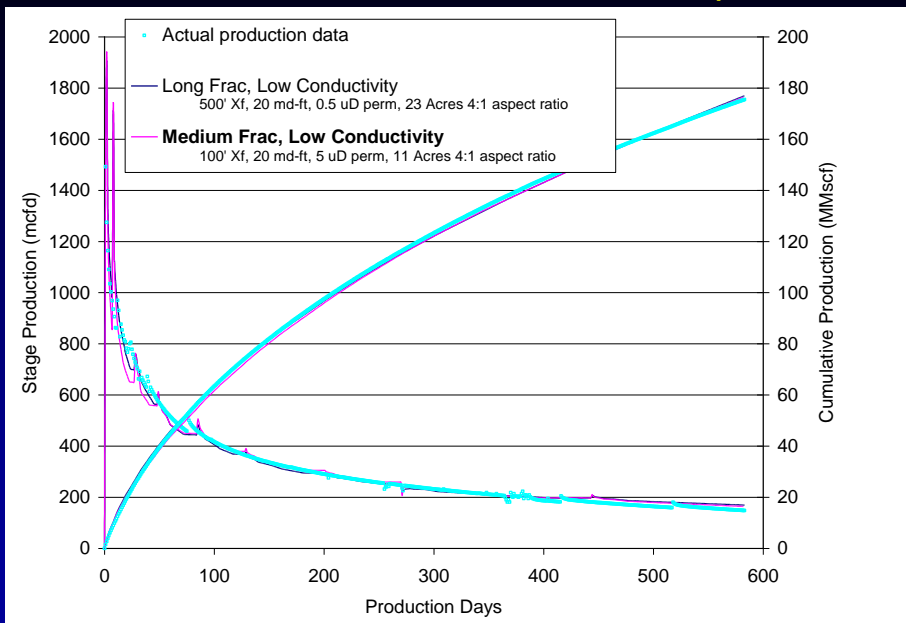
⁵⁶ SPE 106151 Fig 13 – Production can be matched with a variety of fracture and reservoir parameters

Nice match to measured microseismic, eh?



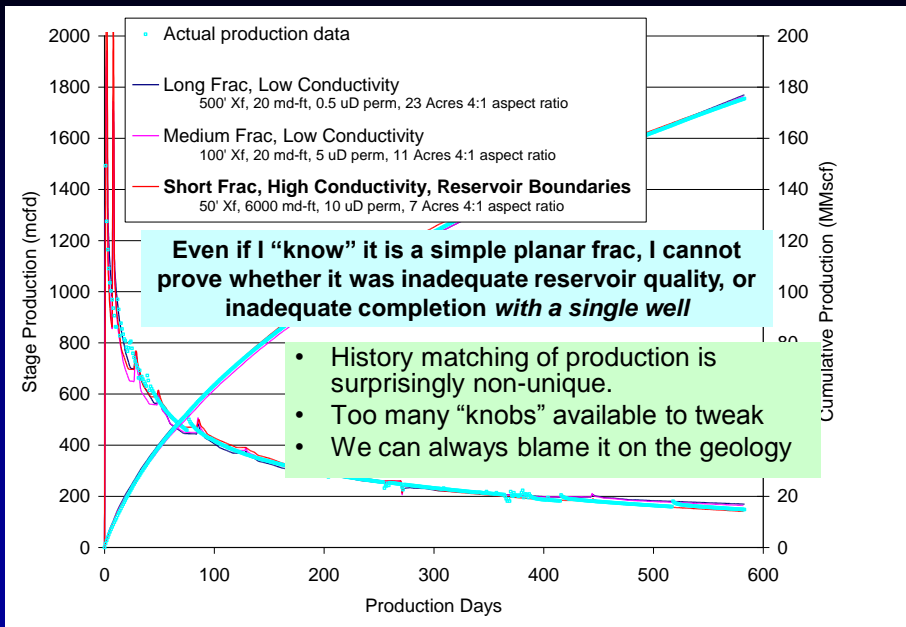
SPE 106151 Fig 13 – Production can be matched with a variety of fracture and reservoir parameters

Is this more accurate? Tied to core perm



SPE 106151 Fig 13 – Production can be matched with a variety of fracture and reservoir parameters

Can I reinforce my misconceptions?



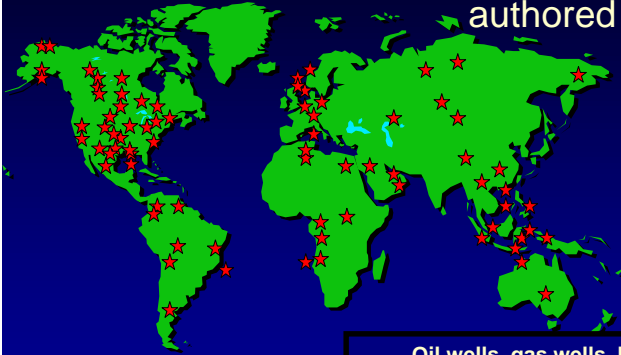
SPE 106151 Fig 13 – Production can be matched with a variety of fracture and reservoir parameters

Removing the Uncertainty

- If we require a production match of two different frac designs, we remove many degrees of freedom
 - lock in all the "reservoir knobs"!
- Attempt to explain the production results from initial frac AND refrac
 - 143 published trials in SPE 134330
 - 100 Bakken refracs 136757
- Require simultaneous match of two different frac designs in same reservoir!
 - 200+ trials in SPE 119143

Field Studies Documenting Production Impact with Increased Fracture Conductivity

>200 published studies identified,
authored by >150 companies



Oil wells, gas wells, lean and rich condensate
Carbonate, Sandstone, Shale, and Coal

Well Rates

1 to 25,000 bopd
0.25-100 MMSCFD

Well Depths

100 to 20,000 feet

SPE⁶² 119143 tabulates over 200 field studies 2009, dominated by vertical and XLG

Production Benefit

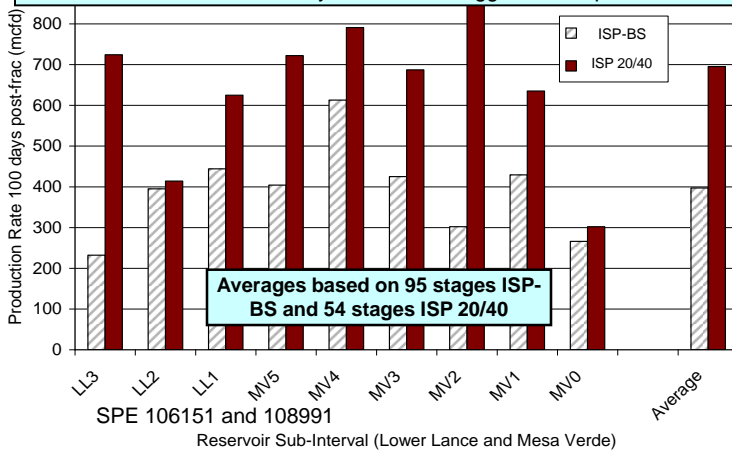
- In >200 published studies and hundreds of unpublished proppant selection studies,
- Operators frequently report greater benefit than expected using:
 - Higher proppant concentrations (if crosslinked)
 - More aggressive ramps, smaller pads
 - Screen outs (if sufficiently strong proppant)
 - Larger diameter proppant
 - Stronger proppant
 - Higher quality proppant
 - More uniformly shaped & sized proppant
- Frac conductivity appears to be much more important than our models or intuition predict!

We are 99.9% certain the Pinedale Anticline was constrained by proppant quality

The important takeaway is NOT that you need Proppant B versus Proppant A

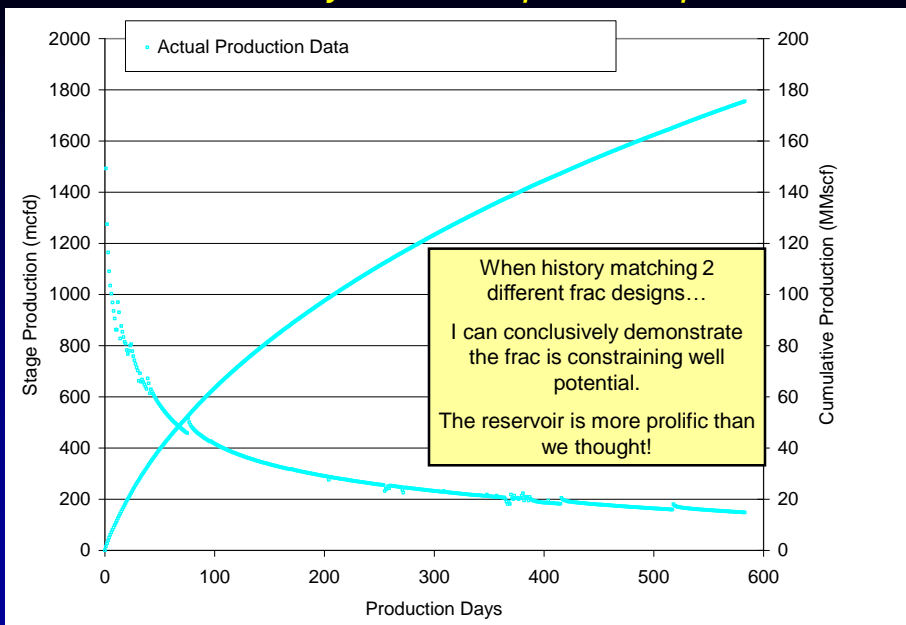
The critical learning is that you are NOT optimized and the reservoir is capable of significant increases in production

If you can make the wells 70% more productive with a modest design change, how much better would they be with more aggressive improvements?



70% increase in productivity achieved with a more uniformly sized proppant!

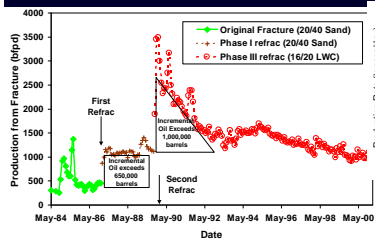
With what certainty can we explain this production?



SPE 106151 Fig 13 – Production can be matched with a variety of fracture and reservoir parameters

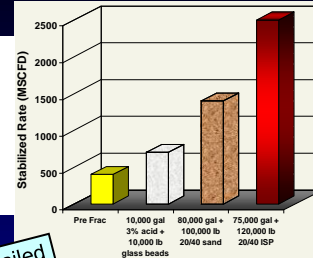
Increased Conductivity Refracs?

Dozens of examples in literature

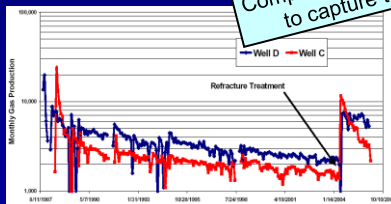


Dedurin, 2008, Volga-Urals oil

Compelling evidence that our initial fracs failed to capture the potential of the reservoir



Pospisil, 1992 – 6 years later, 20 mD oil

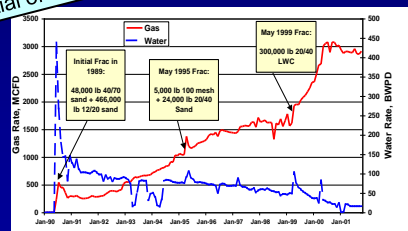


Shaefer, 2006 – 17 years later, tight gas

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See SPE 134330 and 136757

Annis, 1989 – sequential refracs, tight gas

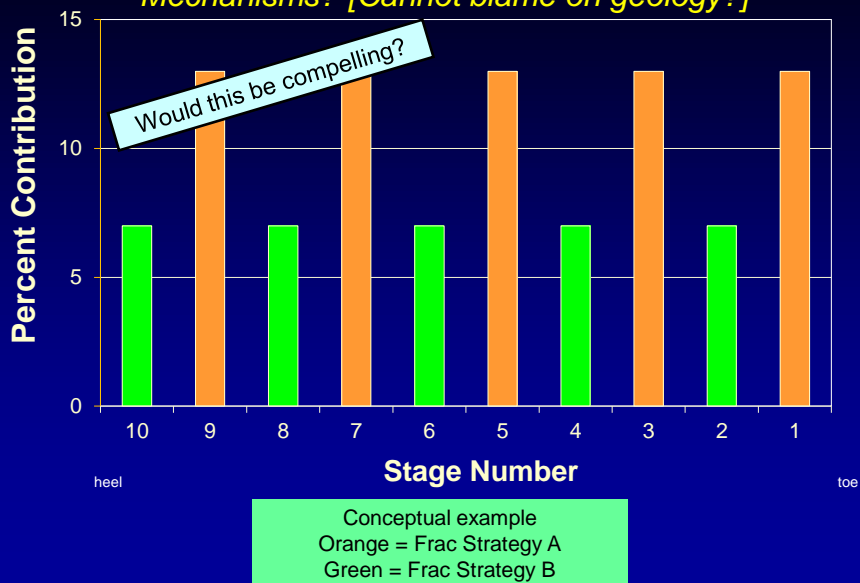


Vincent, 2002 – 9 years later, CBM

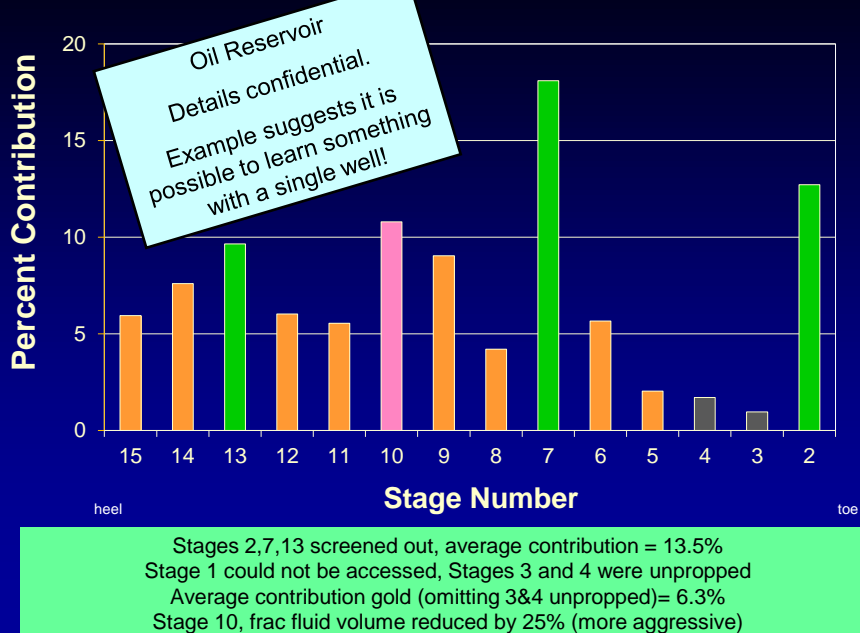
Successful refracs have been performed in Barnett, Eagle Ford, Bakken, Marcellus, Haynesville, Niobrara, Spraberry, Wolfcamp...

What did we miss the first time?

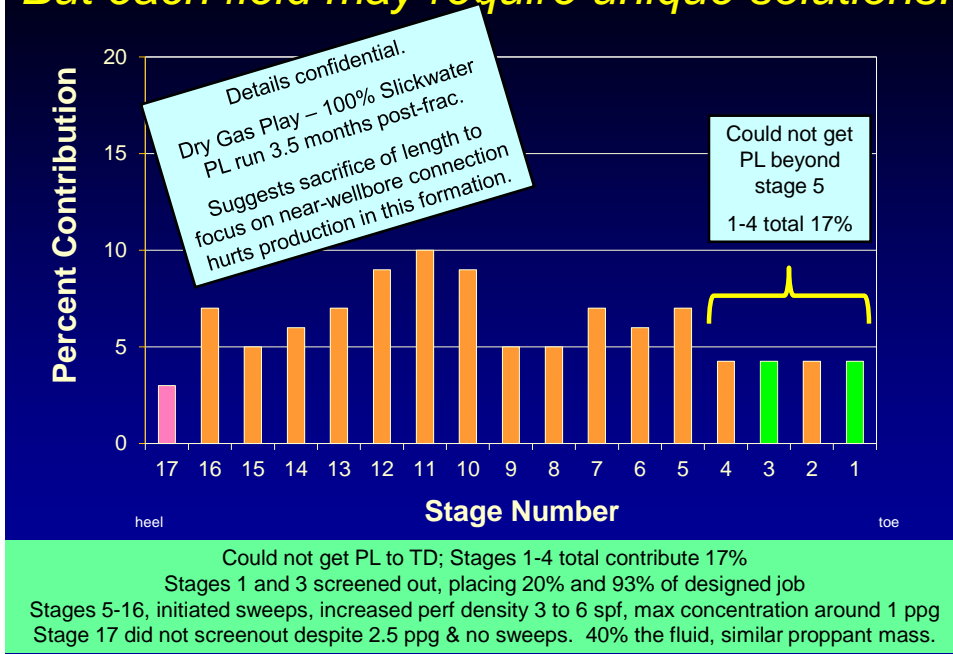
Horizontal Well – Unique Opportunity to Investigate Mechanisms? [Cannot blame on geology?]



Horizontal Oil Well - Production Log



But each field may require unique solutions!



Conclusions

- Hydraulic Fracs
 - The premier way to touch rock
 - We look like heroes even with poorly designed fracs
- Optimized?
 - Not even close
 - Perhaps 90% of the created frac volume is ineffective?
 - Traditional frac design logic is flawed, yielding non-optimal outcomes
- Ramifications
 - To recover the available reserves, you must either infill drill, refrac, or improve initial frac effectiveness
- Field Results
 - Demonstrate there is large potential to improve well productivity and profitability