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WORLDWIDE PETROLEUM CONSULTANTS

Well Spacing and Reserves Impacts

SPEE – Houston Chapter
November 6th, 2019
Neil H. Little, P.E.

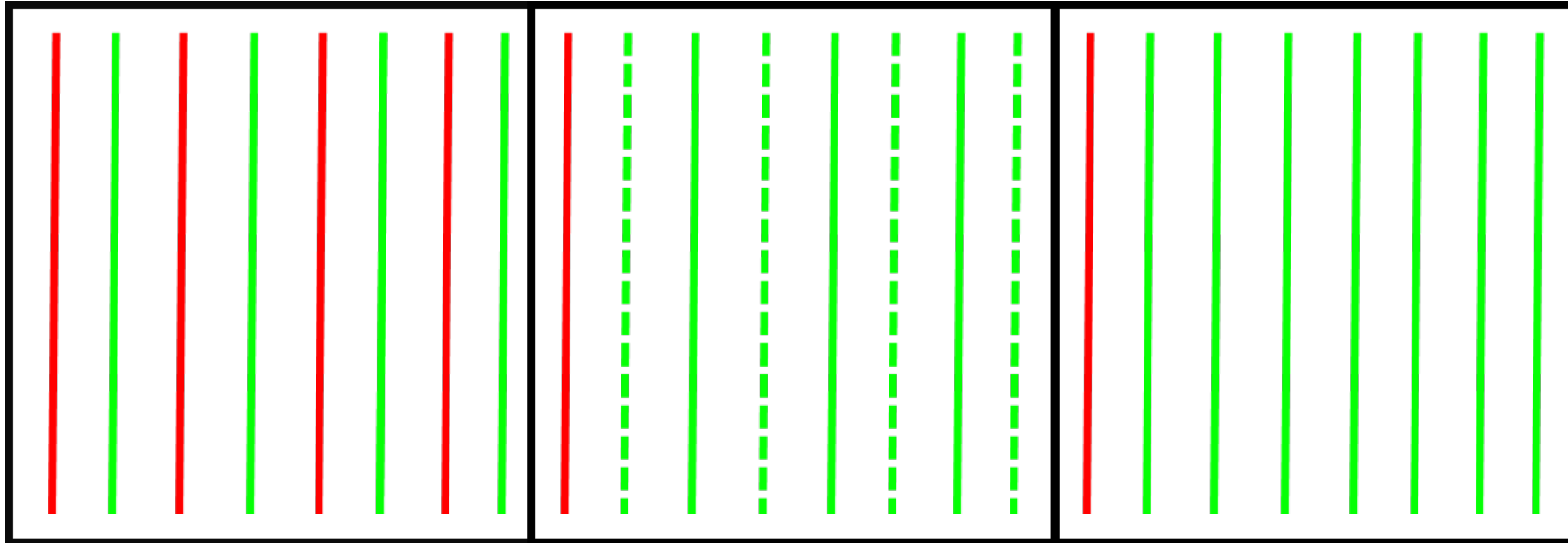





NSAI's Role and Point of View

- Typically engaged by an E&P company or investor
- Product: independent evaluation or audit of resources
 - For company-internal assurance purposes
 - For external disclosures (e.g. SEC reporting)
 - For investment due diligence
 - For financial purposes (e.g. reserves-based lending)
- Typical technical data received and analyzed
 - By well: production data, completions details, location
 - Geologic information, including well logs
 - Forward development plan



How are Well Interactions Defined?

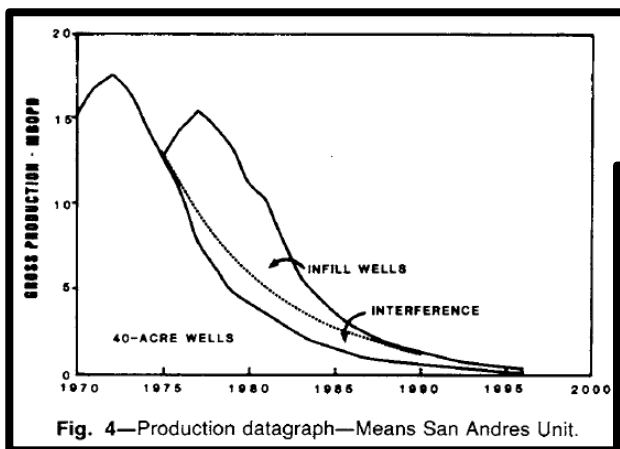


-  Producing Horizontal Well (PDP)
-  Initial Infill Drilling Horizontal Location
-  Second Infill Drilling Horizontal Location

Downspacing – We've Been There Before

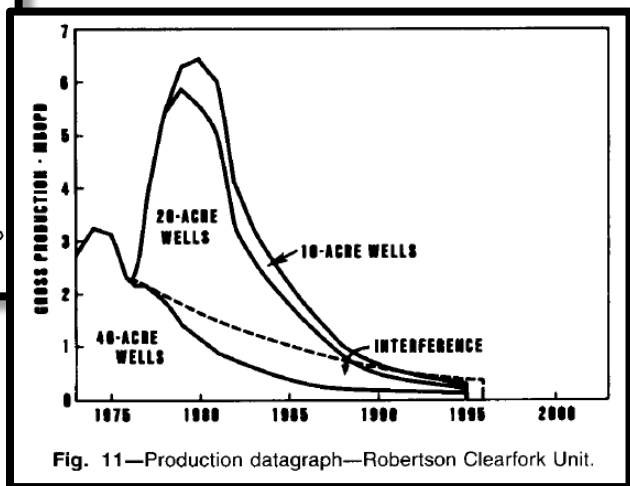
"Tolerate" interference while capturing profitable incremental hydrocarbons

Similar Impact: True infill vs Close proximity step-outs

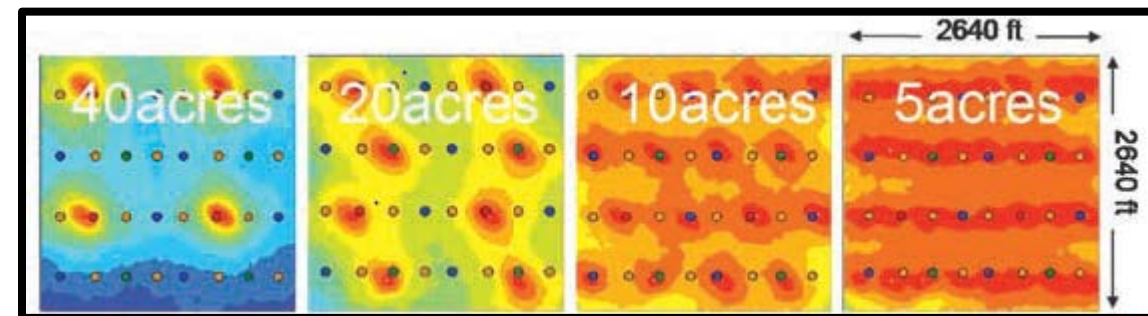


SPE 11023: Infill Drilling to Increase Reserves – Actual Experience in Nine Fields in Texas, Oklahoma, and Illinois; Barber, George, Stiles, and Thompson, 1983

San Andres/Clearfork



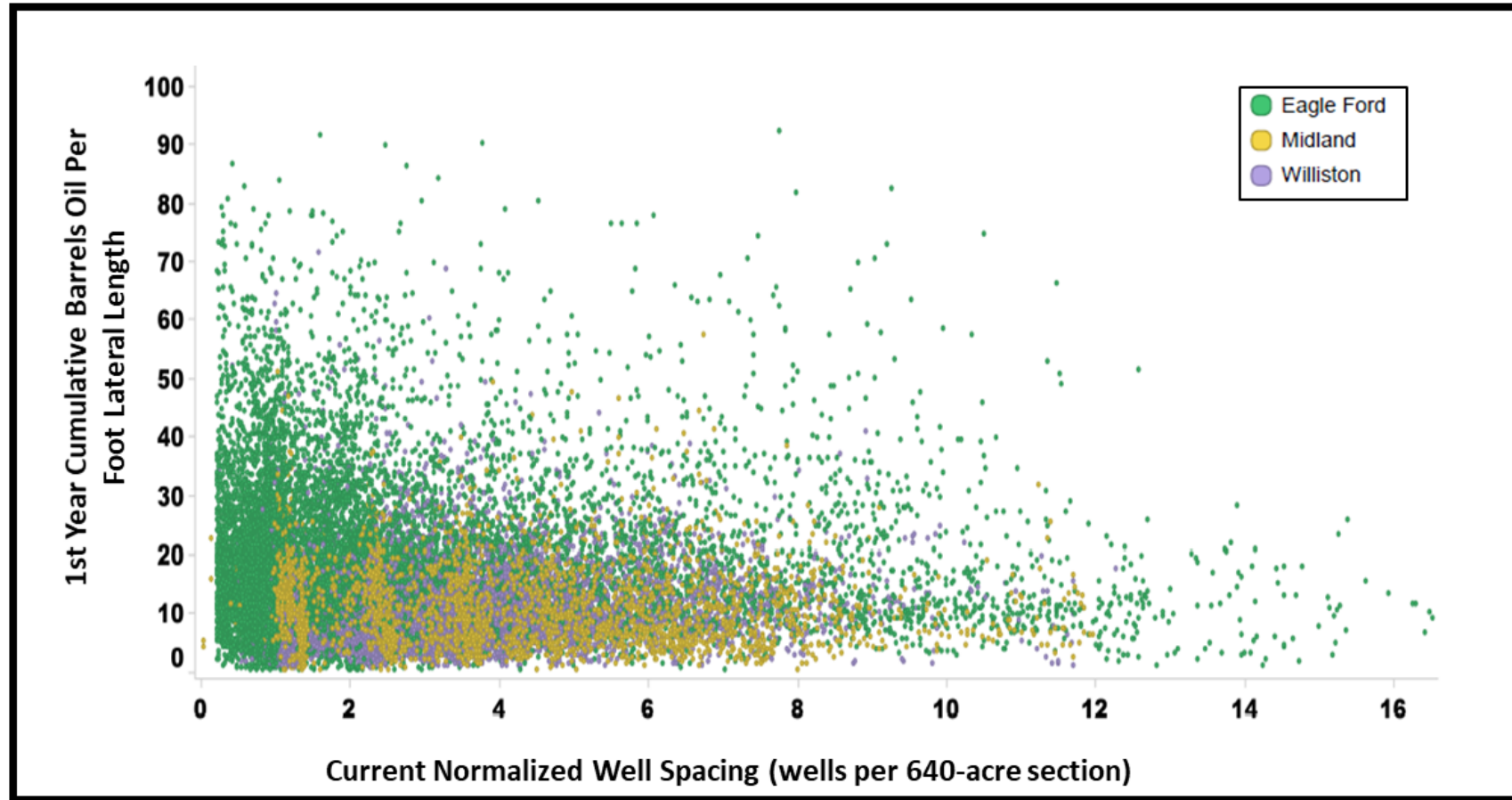
Jonah/Pinedale



Infill well evaluations of Jonah Field tight gas: characterization and simulation of complex architectural elements; Michelena, Gilman, Angola, Uland, Pasternack; First Break, Vol 27, April 2009



Downspacing – Unconventionals

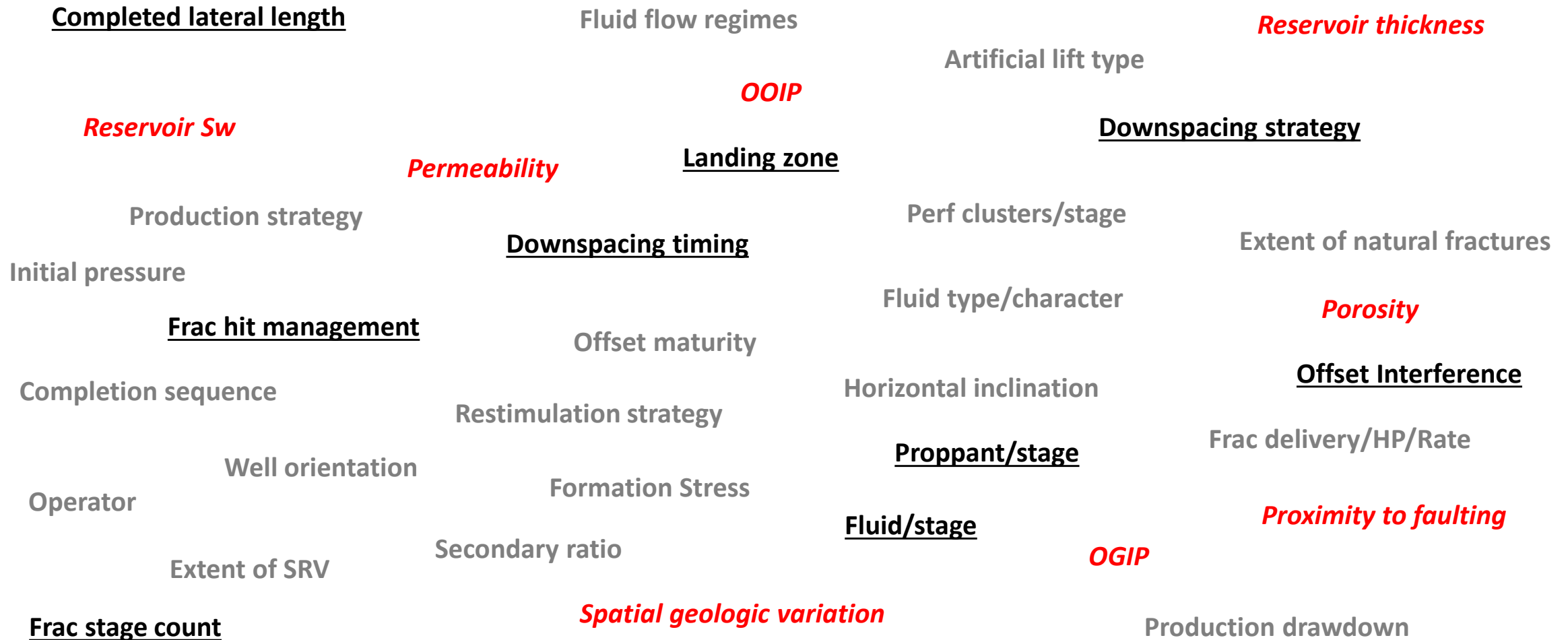


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Similar outcome, but more variance in spacing and timing of development



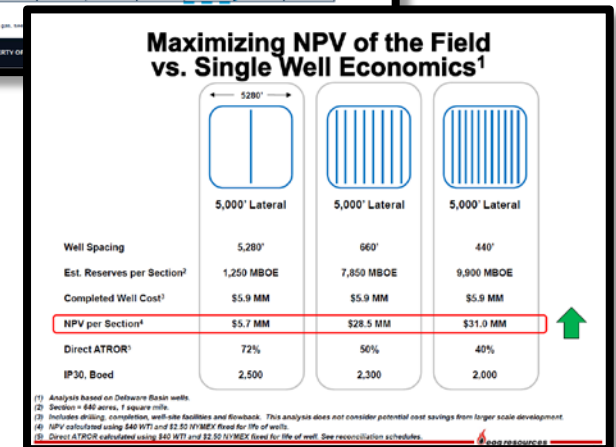
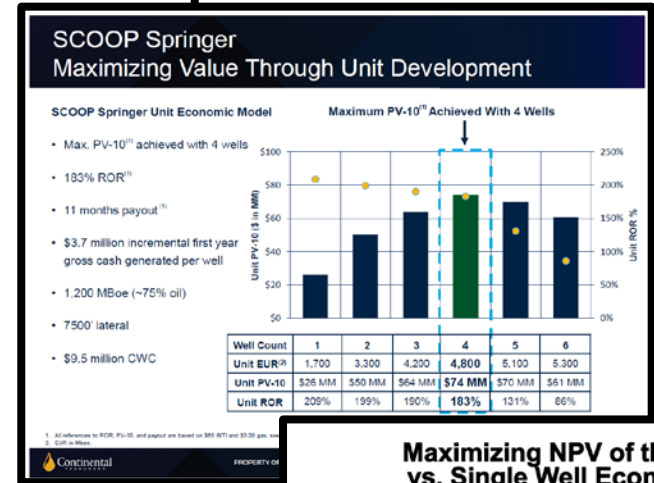
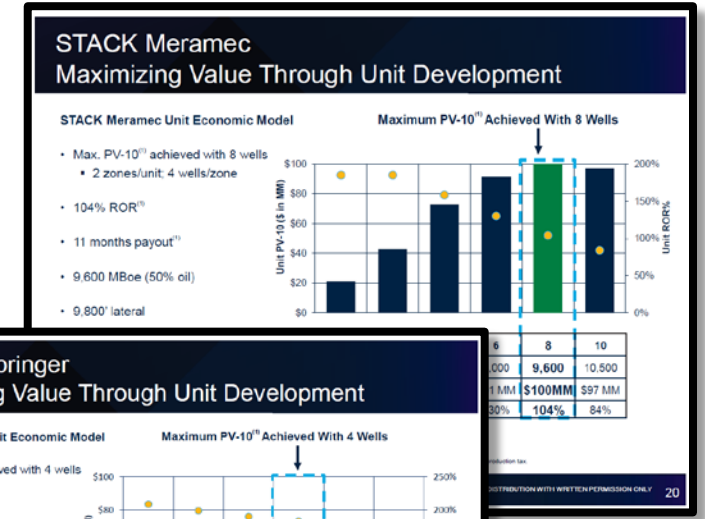
Potential Determinants of Performance





Well Interference

- Optimization controls for well economics
 - Well length
 - Completion / stimulation
 - **Well spacing / Wells per section**
- Particularly with well spacing: Maximum value usually achieved at stage of diminishing returns per well
- Goal - "Tolerate" interference while capturing profitable incremental hydrocarbons



Continental

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EOG



Toolbox for Unconventional Analysis

- Performance analysis

- Performance / Decline Curve Analysis

- Analogy / Type well profiles

- Transient versus Boundary Dominated Flow (BDF)

- BDF Analysis

- Transient Flow Analysis

- Analytical models

- Flowing Material Balance

- Productivity Index

- Volumetrics

- Numerical simulation

$$q = q_i(1 + bD_it)^{-1/b}$$

$$P_p = \left(\frac{\mu_{gi}z_i}{P_i}\right) \int_0^P \frac{P}{\mu_g z} dp$$

and

$$t_a = (\mu_{gi}c_{ti}) \int_0^t \frac{1}{\bar{u}_g \bar{c}_t} dt$$

Material Balance Equation

$$C_t = -\frac{1}{V} \times \frac{\Delta V}{\Delta p}$$

$$p_i - \bar{p} = m_{pss} N_P$$

$$\bar{p} - p_{wf} = b_{pss} \times q_{oil}$$

$$\frac{q}{p_i - p_{wf}} = \frac{1}{m_{pss} MBT + b_{pss}}$$

$$\frac{m(p_i) - m(p_{wf})}{q_g} = \frac{1.632 \times 10^6 T}{kh} \left[\log\left(\frac{kt}{\phi \mu c_t r_w^2}\right) - 3.23 + 0.87s \right] \dots \text{gas}$$



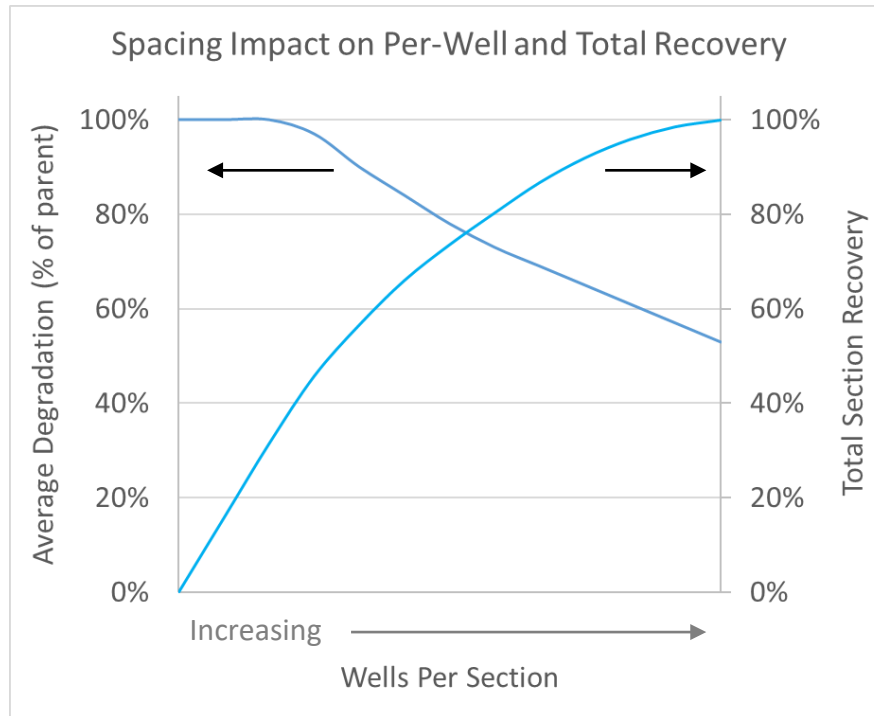
Dealing with Well Interactions

The Evaluators' Approach

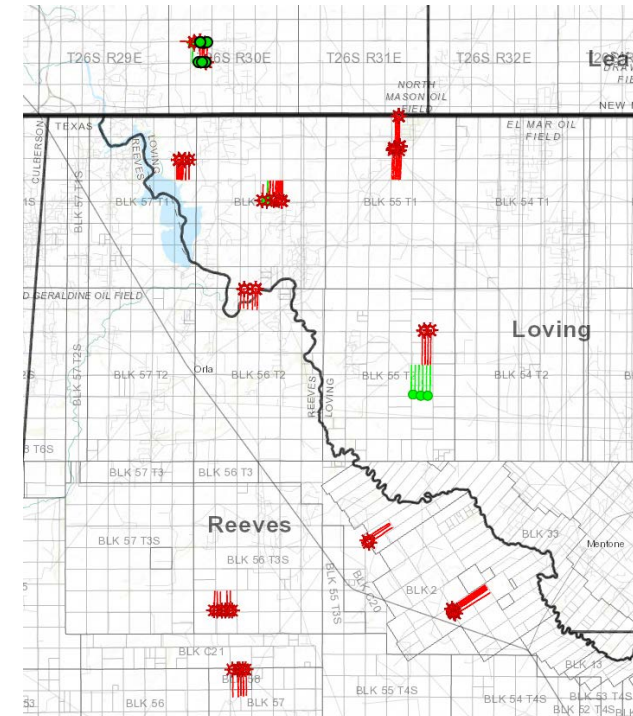
- Boundary conditions/limitations
 - Existing development
 - Operator's plan of future development (POD)
 - OHIP/Recovery factor
 - Levers available
 - Reserves categorization
 - Volume adjustment – degradation factors against “parent” well
 - Timing
 - Pre-drill - Parents kept whole, volume adjustment to undrilled children
 - Some Time Post-drill – Impact inherent in performance of parent and child
- } In between – transition to shared impact
- Complications
 - Frac hits on parents
 - Pad/Batch drilling
 - POD more dense than analog spacing
 - Public allocated data



Spacing Tests – Delaware WCA



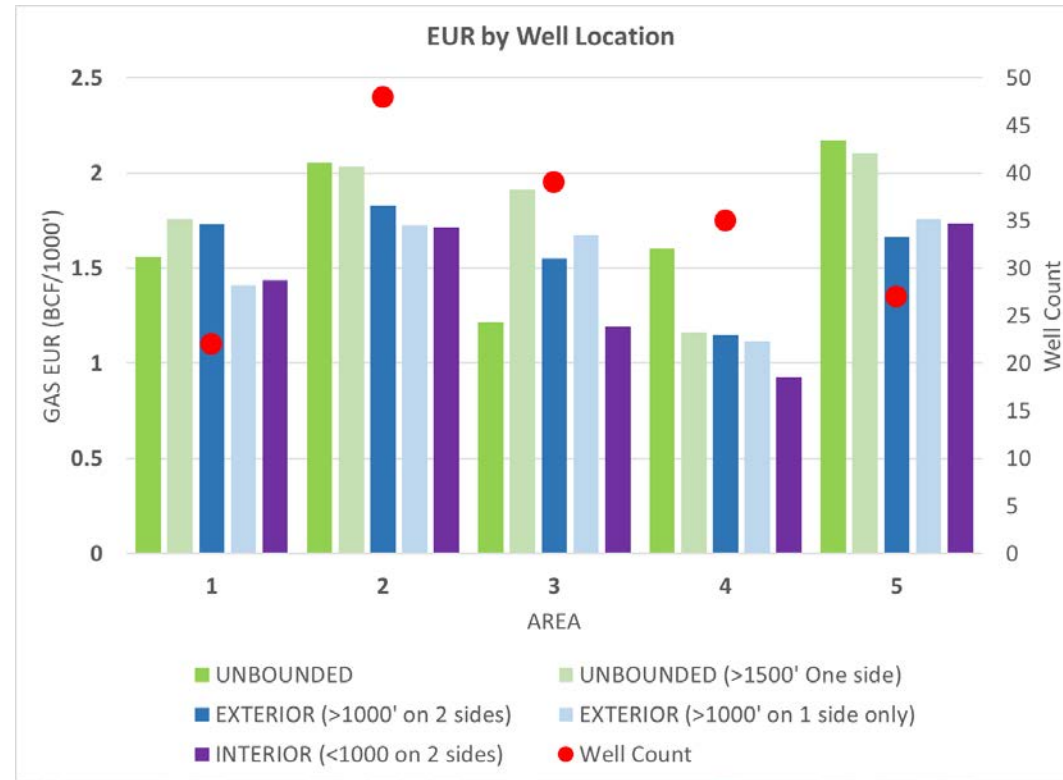
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- Demonstrated results to assign EURs at operator's planned development spacing – single zone
- Adjust for local well performance and geology
- Confirm total section EUR increases as well count increases with assigned degradation factor



Impact of Well Location – Utica

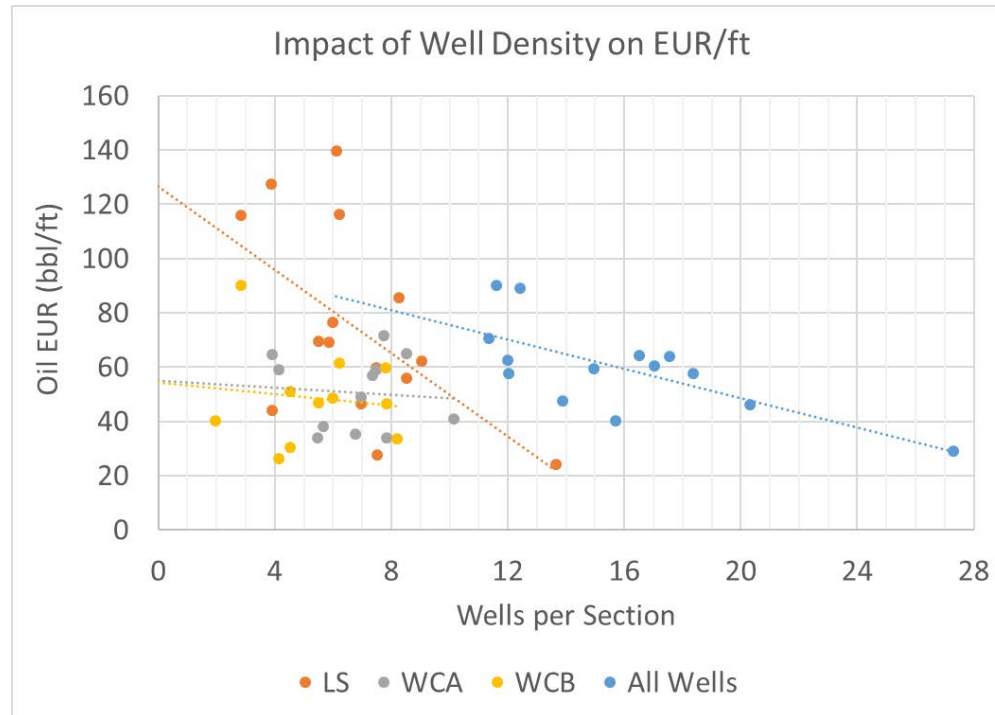


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- Expect unbounded or exterior well to have higher EUR than well interior to development
- Assign undeveloped reserves based on position relative to other wells



Multi-Zone Development – Midland Basin



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- Consider inter-zone interference for areas with multiple landing zones
- Projections at lease level can help mitigate allocation errors
- Assign reserves category based on data density and consistency



Early Time Can Be Deceiving

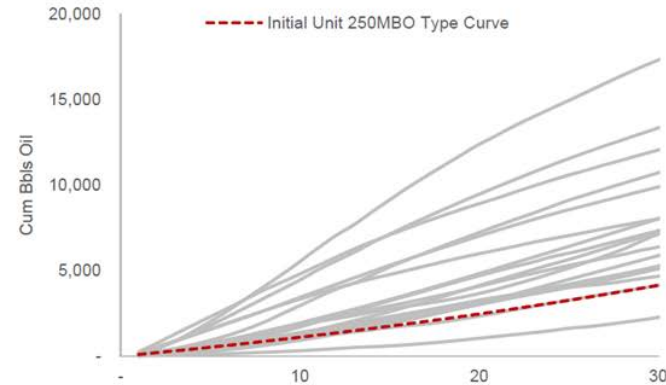
2018 PATTERN RESULTS DEGRADED OVER TIME



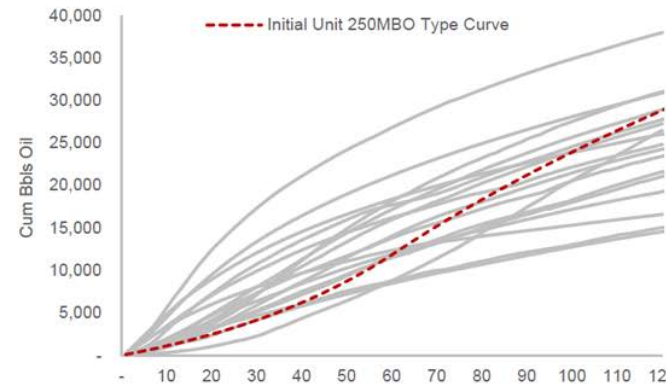
Summary of 2018 Drilling Program

- ❖ Drilled 175 wells and completed 174 wells in 2018
- ❖ At year-end 2018 we had 17 patterns with 6-10 wells per section density with meaningful production results
- ❖ While early pattern well results appear strong vs. the type curve, they have consistently degraded over time
- ❖ Oil EUR for the average 2018 pattern well is ~120 MBO in the YE 2018 reserve report
- ❖ 2018 results driving management focus in 2019 on improved infill economics through:
 - Upspacing and lateral placement
 - Lowering D&C costs
 - Lowering LOE and overhead

16 of 17 Patterns Above 250 MBO TC at 30 days



4 of 17 Patterns Above 250 MBO TC at 120 days



Alta Mesa



Dealing with Parent/Child and Well Spacing Incorporating Technology & Geology

- Know the play – no substitute for having seen many wells
- Be cognizant of completion types and lateral lengths
- Statistical analysis may be valuable, but
 - "Close-ology" and EUR trends are meaningful, and
 - Honoring geology (and volumetric in-place) is critical
- Analogy can be highly useful but verify applicability; every well is still unique
- Expect decreased EUR once density reaches some point, but it may not be immediately apparent
- Reasonableness check (and upper limit) involves OHIP/Recovery factor

Disclaimer

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