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Julie A. LeFever North Dakota Geological Survey



Stratigraphy

Mississippian	Lodgepole Formation	"False Bakken" Pelmatozoan limestone
	Bakken Formation	upper
evonian		middle
		lower
		"Sanish"
Ŏ	Three Forks Formation	





Stratigraphy Central Bakken Basin in North Dakota



Stratigraphy Bakken Limit in North Dakota





Lithofacies of the Middle Member

Upper Shale

Lithofacies 7 - Siltstone

Lithofacies 4 – Interbedded Dark Grey Shale and Buff Silty Sandstone

Lithofacies 3 - Sandstone

Lithofacies 2 – Interbedded Dark Grey Shale and Buff Silty Sandstone

Lithofacies 1 - Siltstone

Lower Shale

(From LeFever and others, 1991)



Upper Shale Lithofacies 5

Lithofacies 4

Lithofacies 3

Lithofacies 2

Lithofacies 1

Lower Shale







Conoco, Inc. #17 Watterud "A"

Shell Oil Co. #32-4 Young Bear

Upper Shale Lithofacies 5

Lithofacies 4

Lithofacies 3

Lithofacies 2

Lithofacies 1

Lower Shale





Shell Oil Co. #32-4 Young Bear



Meridian Oil, Inc. #44-27 MOI



Duncan Petroleum Corp. #1 Rose SENE Sec. 2, T.153N, R.94W.

Three Forks Formation

- Apple-green & tan
- Interbedded shales, dolostones, siltstones, and sandstones
- 250 feet thick
- Subtidal to supratidal



Duncan Petroleum Corp. #1 Rose SENE Sec. 2, T.153N, R.94W.

"Sanish Sand"

- medium brown, highly burrowed argillaceous siltstone to very fine-grained sandstone
- pyrite is common near lower shale
- dolomitic cement
- 0 24 ft thick
- mappable on wireline logs

Three Forks Formation-Lower Bakken Shale Contact

Oryx Energy Co. - #1-27 Stenejhem HD NESE Sec. 27, T150N, R97W



AHEL - Nevins #1 H8 SESW Sec. 13, T23N, R56W



Duncan Petroleum Corp. #1 Rose SENE Sec. 2, T.153N, R.94W.



10575.5 ft

Lower Bakken Shale



10575.5 ft



Lower Bakken Shale - Lithofacies 1

- Contact
 - unconformable
 - lags
 - conformable



- Argillaceous siltstone
- Massive with scattered fossils
 - crinoids and brachiopods
- Abundant pyrite
- 1.5 to 6 ft thick



- Argillaceous siltstone to very-fine grained sandstone with small clay drapes
- Burrowed with scattered crinoids and brachiopods
- Calcite cement
- 0 to 33 ft thick



Upper Lithofacies 2 Porosity Zone

- Argillaceous siltstone to very-fine grained sandstone with rare clay drapes
- Heavily burrowed
- Calcite cement
- Mappable on wireline logs







Oryx Energy Co. #1-27 Stenejhem HD NESE Sec. 27, T150N, R97W

- Very fine- to fine-grained sandstone
- Massive, cross-bedded, to thinly laminated
 - may have load or channel features
- Calcite cement (occasionally pyrite)
- 0 to 15 ft thick



Exeter Exploration Company #8-30 Schmitz SENE Sec. 30, T.152N, R.85W.

- Very fine- to fine-grained sandstone
- Massive, cross-bedded, to thinly laminated
 - may have load or channel features
- Calcite cement, in some cases pyrite



Conoco Oil Company #17 Watterud "A" SESW Sec. 11, T.160N, R.95W.

- Argillaceous siltstone to very finegrained sandstone
- Thinly laminated, irregularly or wavy laminated
- Not cemented or dolomitic
- 0 to 6.5 ft thick





Oryx Energy Company #1-27 Stenejhem HD NESE Sec. 27, T.150N, R.97W.

Central Basin Lithofacies

- Sequence of argillaceous siltstones, finegrained sandstones, and dark grey shales
- Laminated, cross-bedded, to highly disturbed
- Not cemented or dolomitic
- 0 to 16 ft thick



Conoco Oil Company #17 Watterud "A" SESW Sec. 11, T.160N, R.95W.

- alternating sequence argillaceous siltstone, fine-grained sandstone, dark grey shale laminae
- thinly laminated, parallel or slightly undulatory
- local dolomite cement
- 2 to 3.5 ft thick



Conoco Oil Company #17 Watterud "A" SESW Sec. 11, T.160N, R.95W.

- alternating sequence of grey siltstone, brown/black shale, and very fine-grained sandstone
- basal beds thinly laminated with burrows
- argillaceous content varies locally
- 3 to 10.5 ft thick



- medium to light grey argillaceous siltstone
- massive to wispy laminated
- brachiopods through entire section, crinoids and bryozoan fragments in the central basin
- pyrite increase toward contact with upper shale
- 2 to 6 ft thick



Meridian Oil Company #4-27 MOI SESE Sec. 27, T.143N, R.102W.

Upper Bakken Shale - Lithofacies 5

- Contact
 - conformable
 - unconformable
 - lag



Texaco, Inc - #1-5 Thompson



Shell Oil Co. - #32-4 Young Bear



Upper Bakken Shale



Conclusions

- Lithofacies are present basinwide
- Multiple potential pay sections within the middle member
 - Additional productive sections
 - "Sanish" section Three Forks Formation
 - Lower Lodgepole
- Primary reservoir porosity may be enhanced by diagenesis, tectonic fractures, and/or fractures from HC generation

• Porosity enhancement is not restricted to a single lithofacies within the Middle Member



- Fractures enhance the potential for production
- Numerous subtle changes in lithology