

Light Oil Resource Plays in Western Canada

Alexei Belonogov*
AJM Petroleum Consultants, Calgary, Canada

abelonogov@ajmpc.com

and

Dave Russum
AJM Petroleum Consultants, Calgary, Canada

Summary

The relatively strong oil prices and advances in multi-stage fracturing of horizontal wells are triggering a light oil revolution in low-permeability resource plays which were previously uneconomic.

Most of these oil plays were discovered in the early 1950s, but due to the tight nature of the rock could not be produced economically at that time. Vertical drilling has allowed recovery of only a small fraction of the oil in the most porous and permeable rock leaving a huge volume of original oil in place still in the reservoir.

The advances in horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracturing completion techniques have been successful in unlocking potential of a number of such “new” plays. This started in the Bakken Formation in both North Dakota and Saskatchewan; it has since been spreading to formations like the Cardium in central Alberta, Viking in west central Saskatchewan, and others across the basin.

This presentation will look at where the activity is taking place with examples from the Bakken, Cardium, and Viking along with the identification of opportunities, and, how significant this activity could be for the oil industry in Western Canada.