

Petroleum Geology of Saskatchewan

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Abstract

Saskatchewan is a province rich in petroleum resources and is the second largest oil producing province in Canada. In 2012, over 3200 wells were drilled which targeted oil and gas prospects along the western half and in the southeast corner of the province. The accumulation of oil and gas in these areas requires hydrocarbons to be generated from organic rich rocks and then subsequently migrated into reservoir rocks that have an effective trapping barrier to capture the hydrocarbon. This presentation will explain to the layman how geology plays a major role in the conditions that control the distribution of the oil fields in Saskatchewan, and the quality of the oil and gas reservoirs found within.

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Melinda Yurkowski is currently the Assistant Chief Geologist, heading up the Petroleum Geology Branch in the Saskatchewan Geological Survey at Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy. She has worked in both the private and public sectors and has been with the Saskatchewan Government since 1998. Since 2002 she has been a Senior Research Geologist with the Saskatchewan Geological Survey where she has worked on the geology of the shallow and unconventional gas deposits of Saskatchewan. Melinda graduated from the University of Regina in 1984 with a Bachelor's Degree in Geology. She has also completed her Master of Science degree in Geology (University of Regina), which focused on the Winnipegosis pinnacle reefs of southeast Saskatchewan. Melinda's current geological project is directed towards understanding the helium deposits of Saskatchewan.