

# A Tale of Two Shales

## Marcellus and Utica Mudrocks

Geoscience Contributions to Well Architecture  
Key Parameters to  
Evaluate and Optimize Productivity

Timothy Carr, Guochang Wang and Taylor McClain





# Successful Mudrock Plays

- Function of Drilling Intensity and Cost Reductions
- Technology can reduce cost and increase production
  - ★ Steerable Rotary Bits
  - ★ Length and Optimal Placement of Wellbores
    - Direction and Spacing
  - ★ Number and Placement of Stages and Clusters
  - ★ Better Definition of Most Productive Core Areas
    - Concentrate Drilling Effort Then Push Beyond
  - ★ Better Definition of Target Zones
    - Ability to Stay in Zone
- Geoscience Contribution to Well Architecture



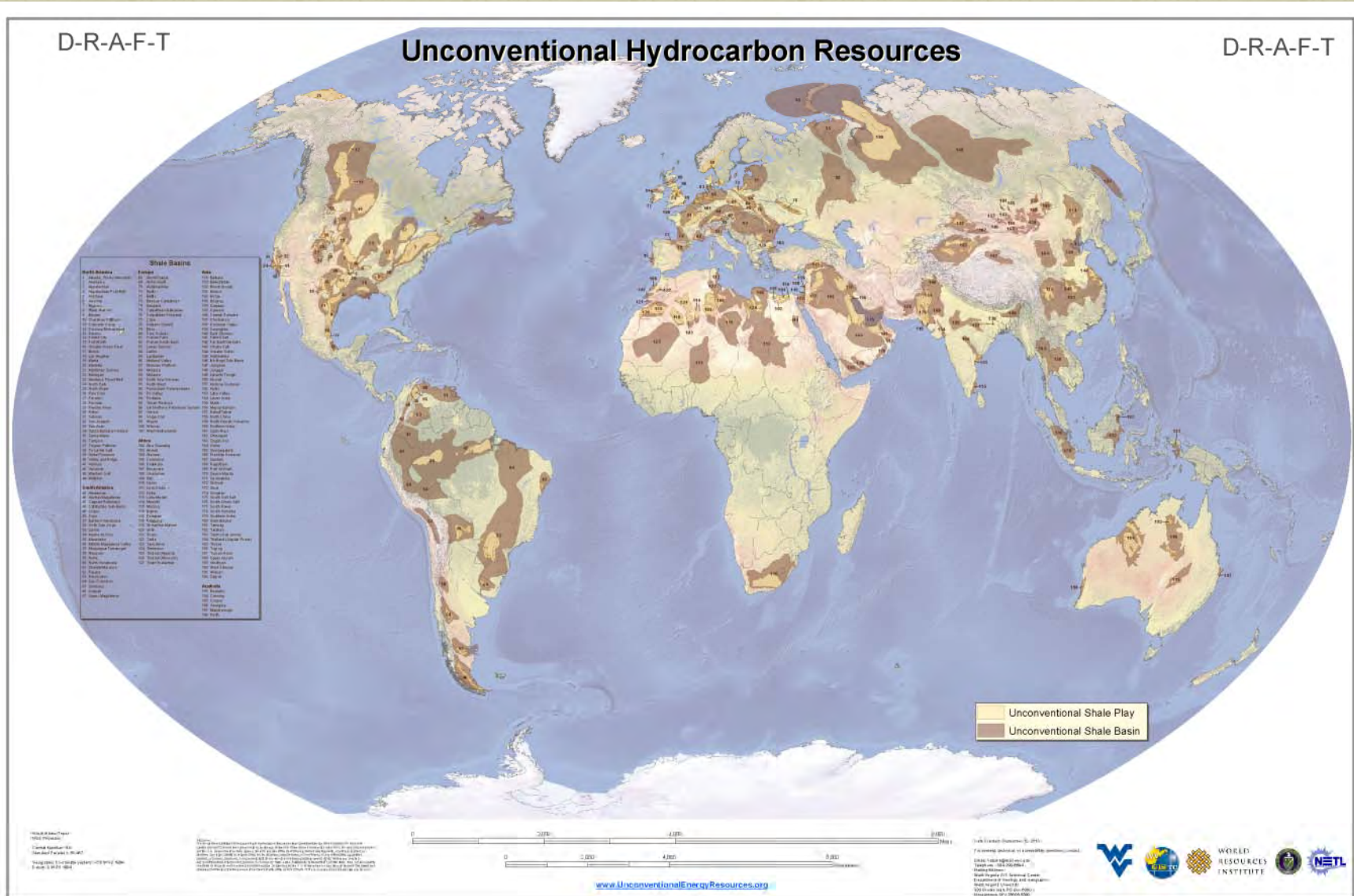
# Successful Mudrock Plays

## Key Geologic Parameters

- 🔹 Understanding Resource, Reserves & Productivity
- 🔹 Subtle Changes Mudrock Reservoir Properties
  - ★ Distribution of Organic Content
  - ★ “Fracability”
    - Mineralogy
    - Containment
  - ★ Structural Discontinuities
    - Faulting and Geosteering
  - ★ Present Stress Regime / Past Stress Regimes
    - Stimulated Reservoir Volume
  - ★ Maturity
    - Fluid/Gas Type
    - Influence on Reservoir Porosity and Permeability



# North America Mudrock Basins



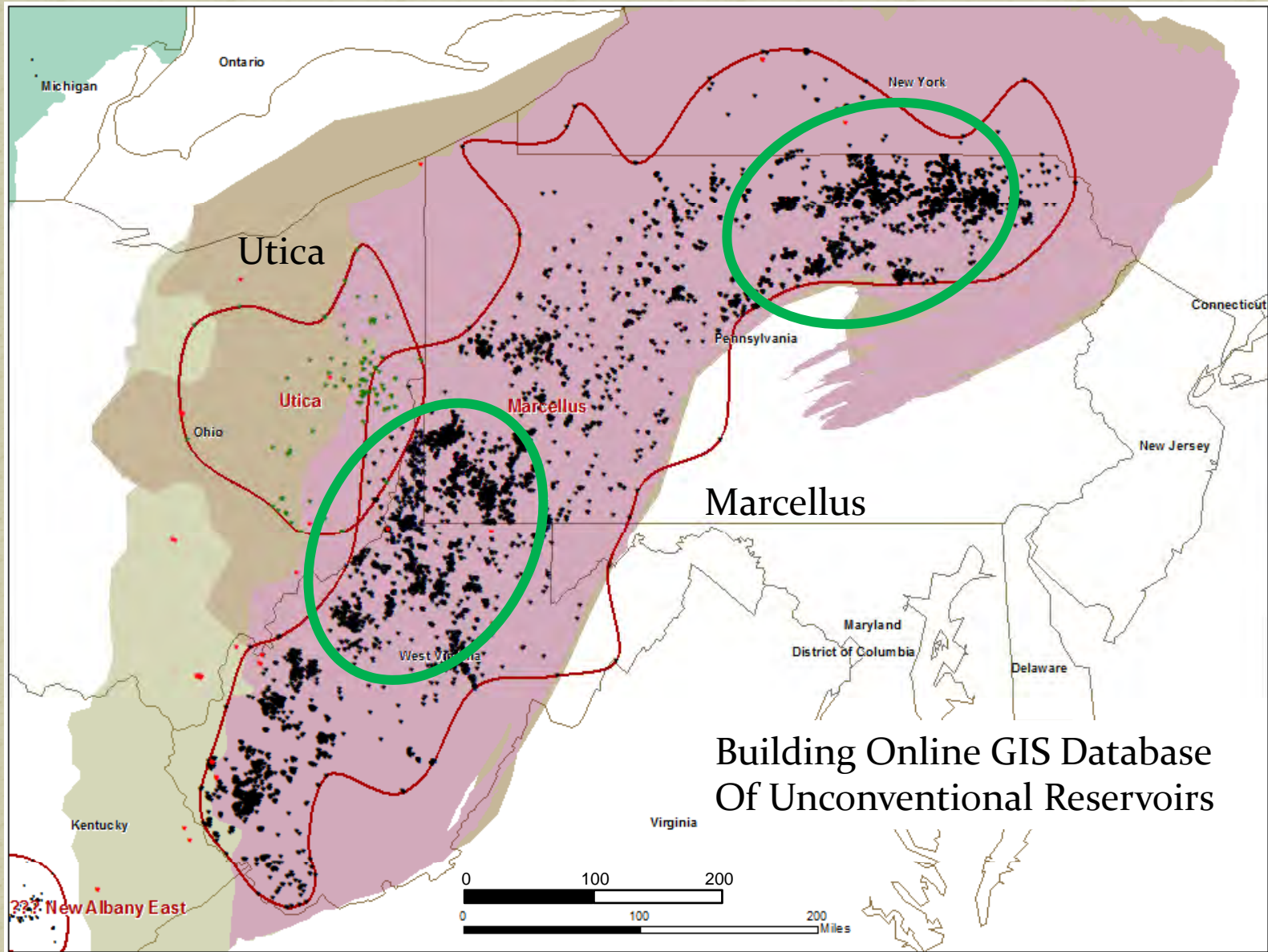


# North America Mudrock Basins





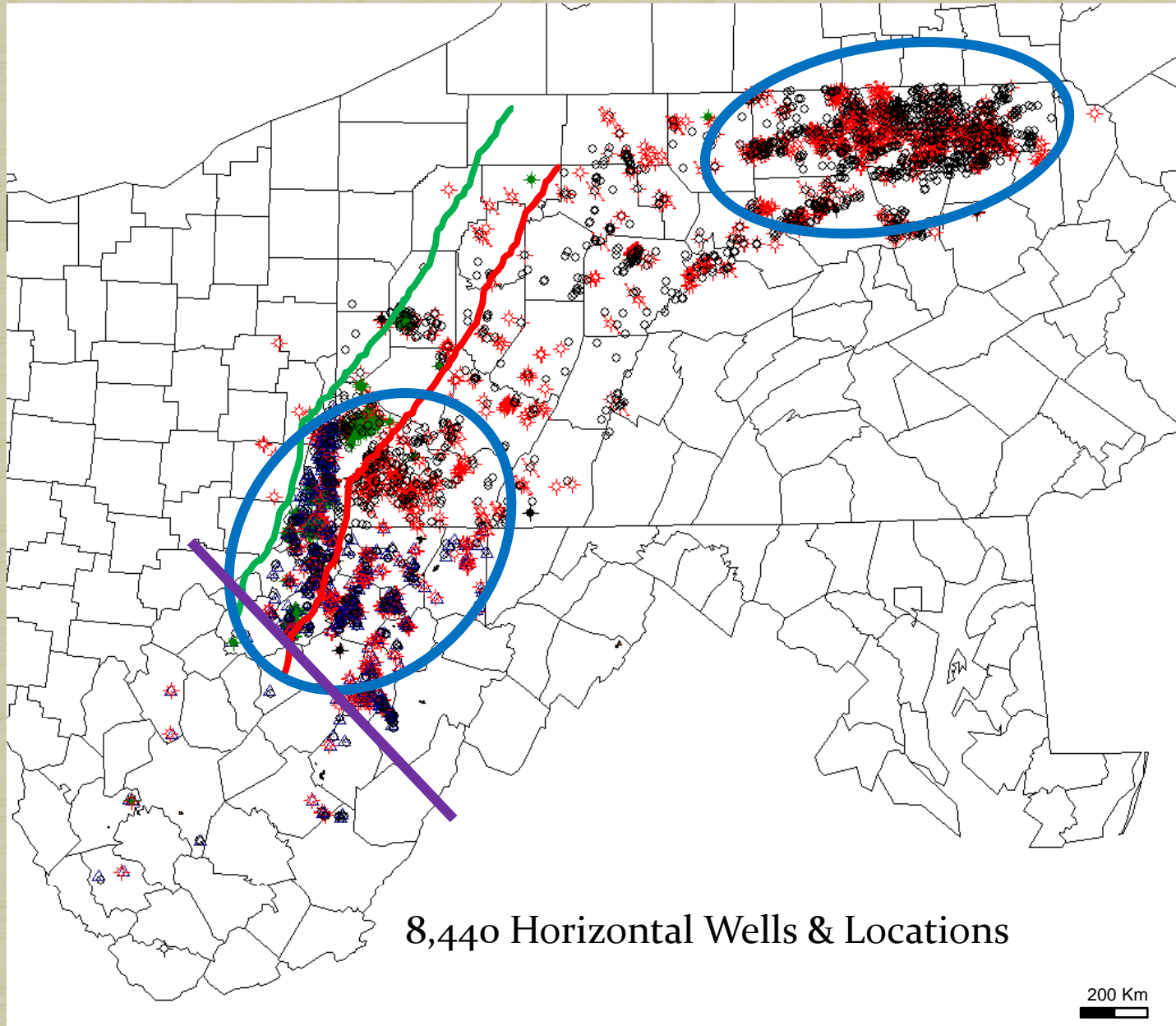
# North America Mudrock Basins



Building Online GIS Database  
Of Unconventional Reservoirs

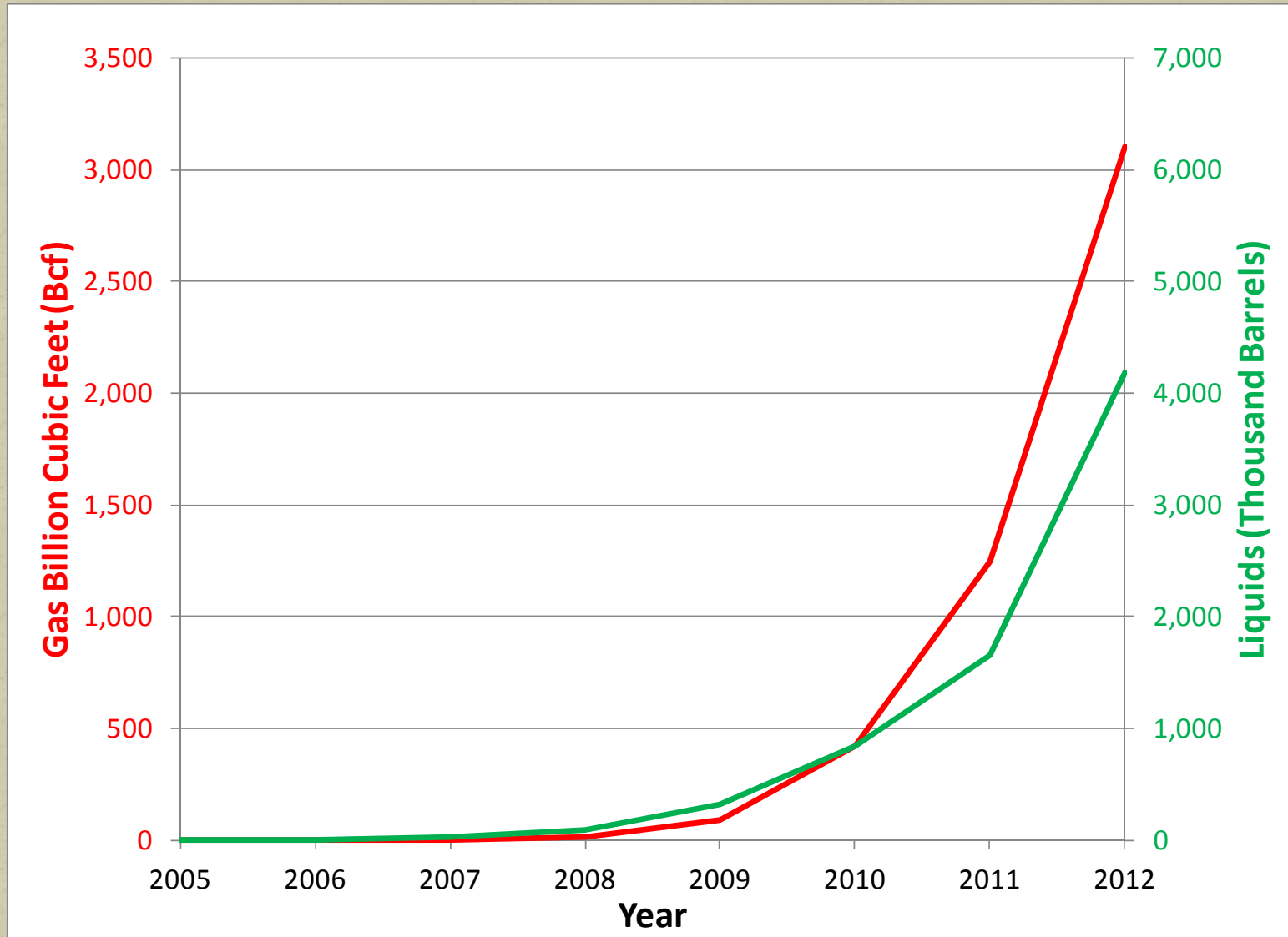


# Marcellus Horizontal Wells Through 2012



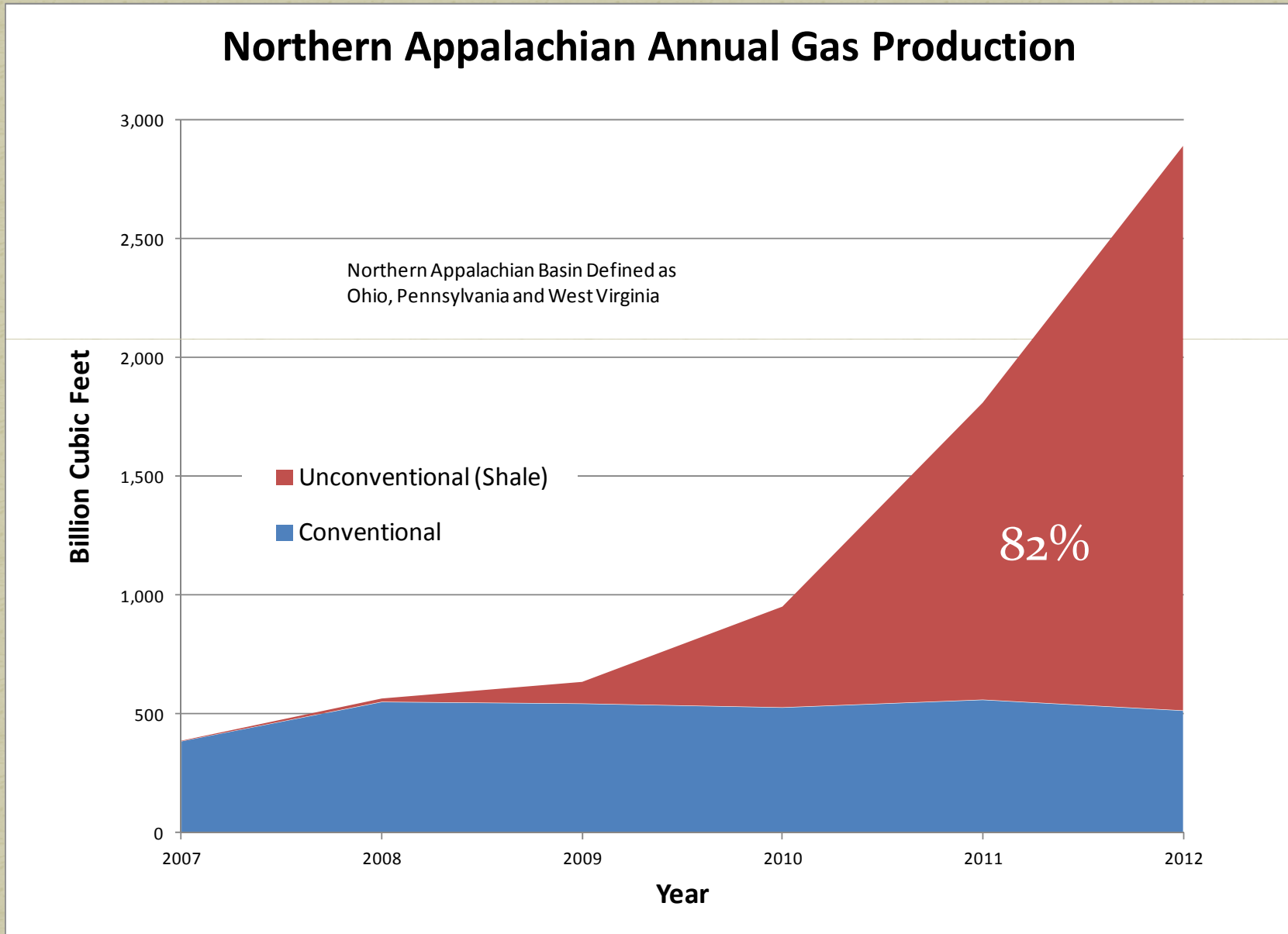


# Marcellus and Utica Production





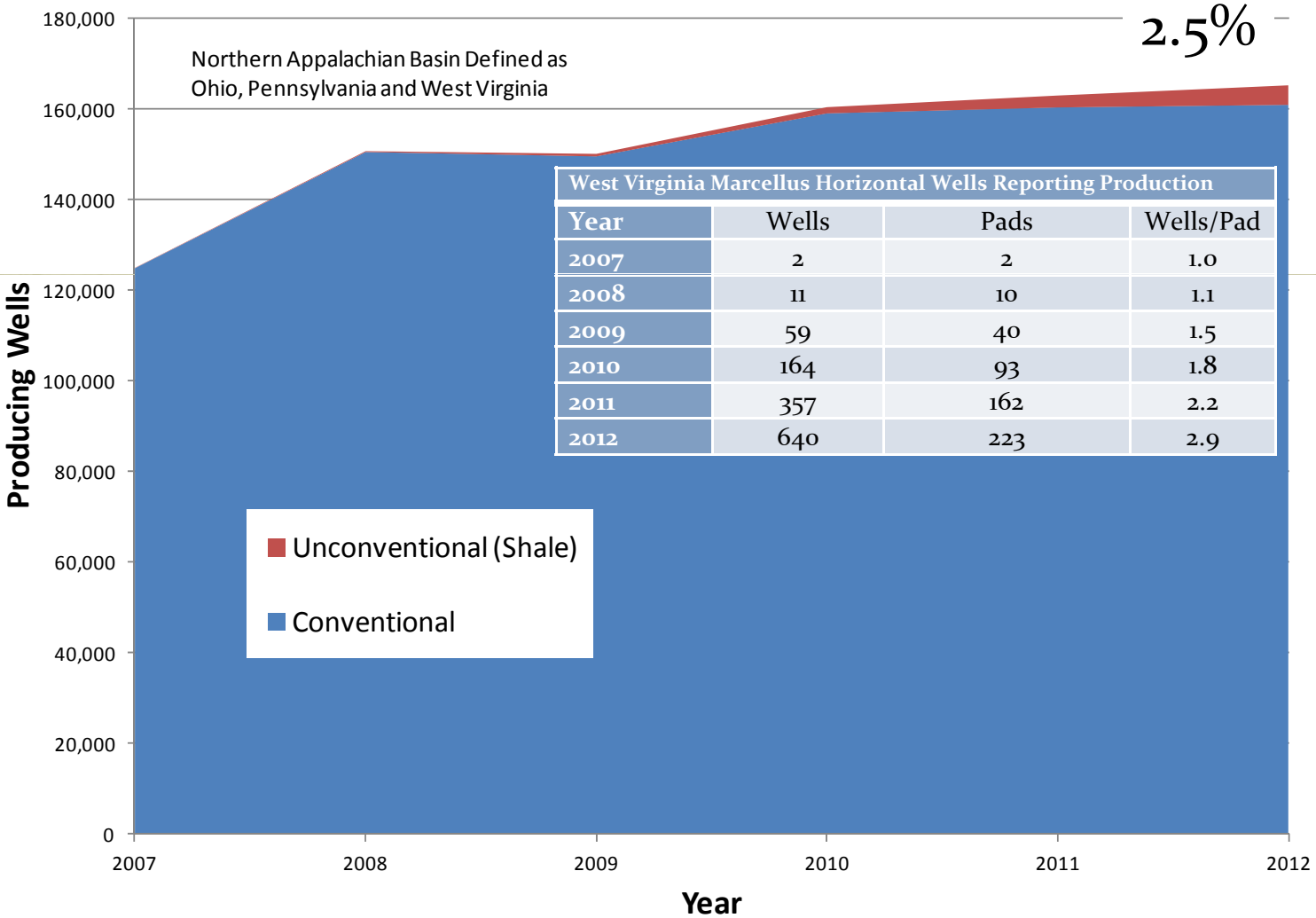
# Marcellus and Utica Production





# Marcellus and Utica Production

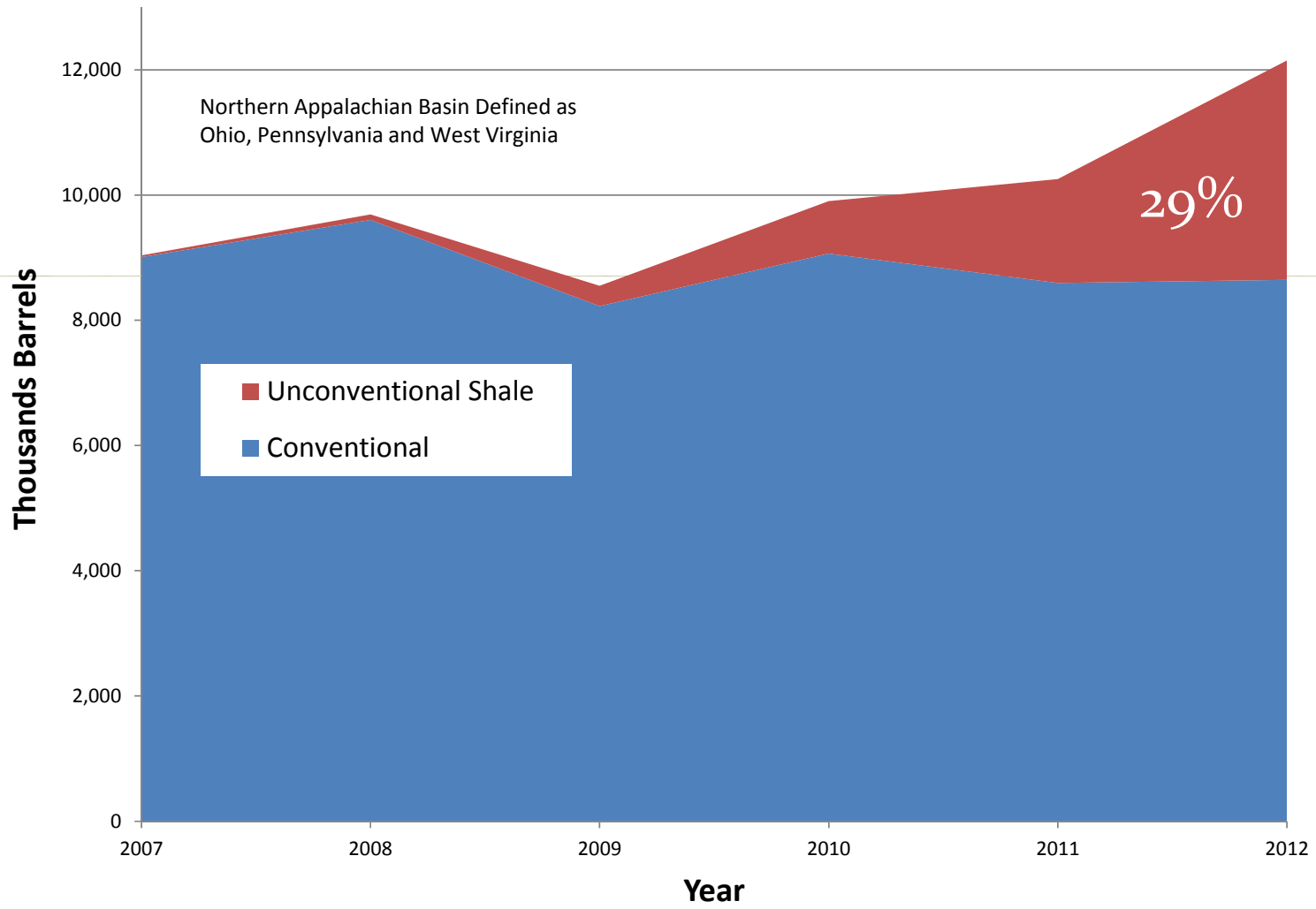
## Northern Appalachian Producing Gas Wells



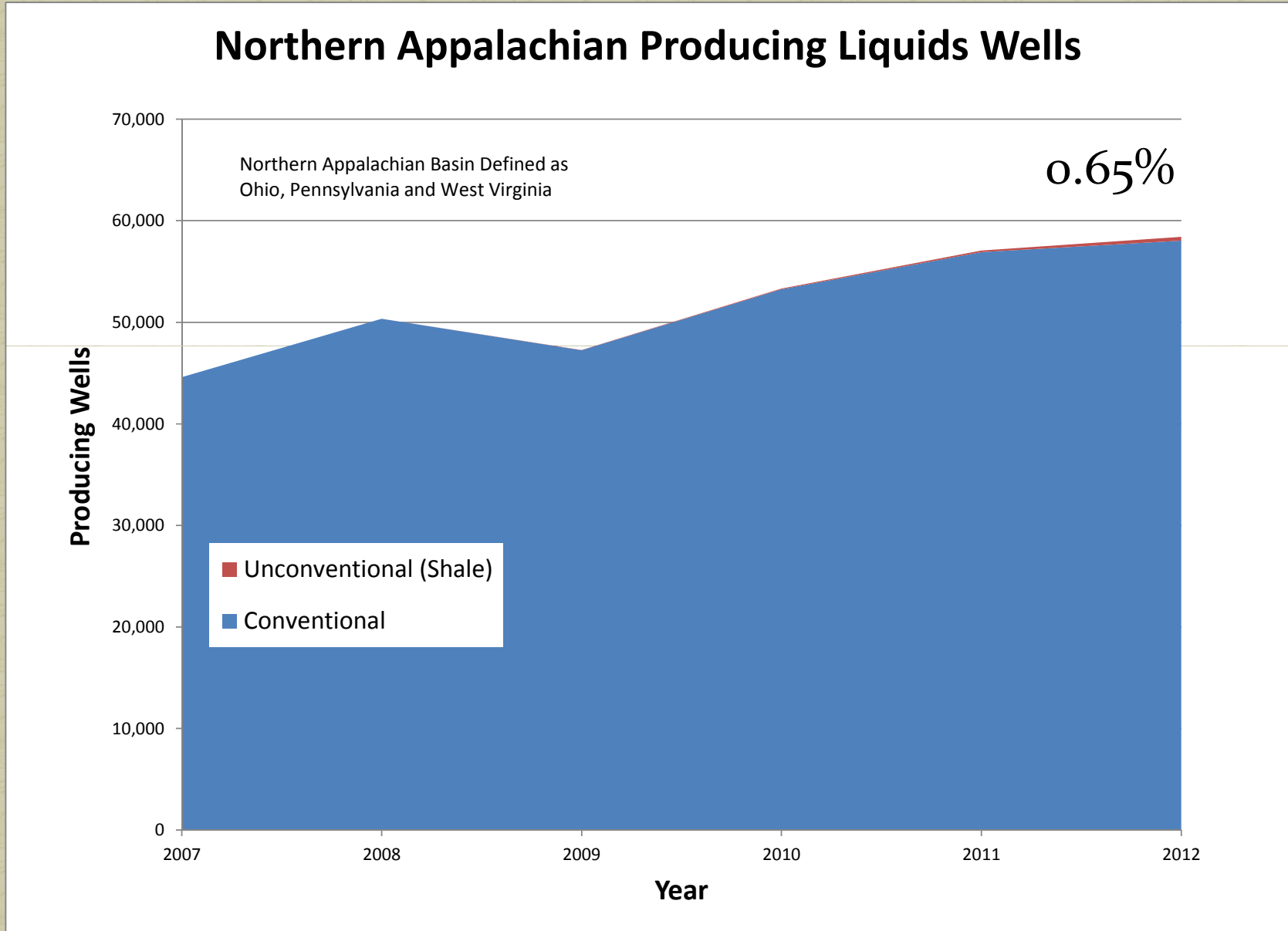


# Marcellus and Utica Production

## Northern Appalachian Annual Liquids Production

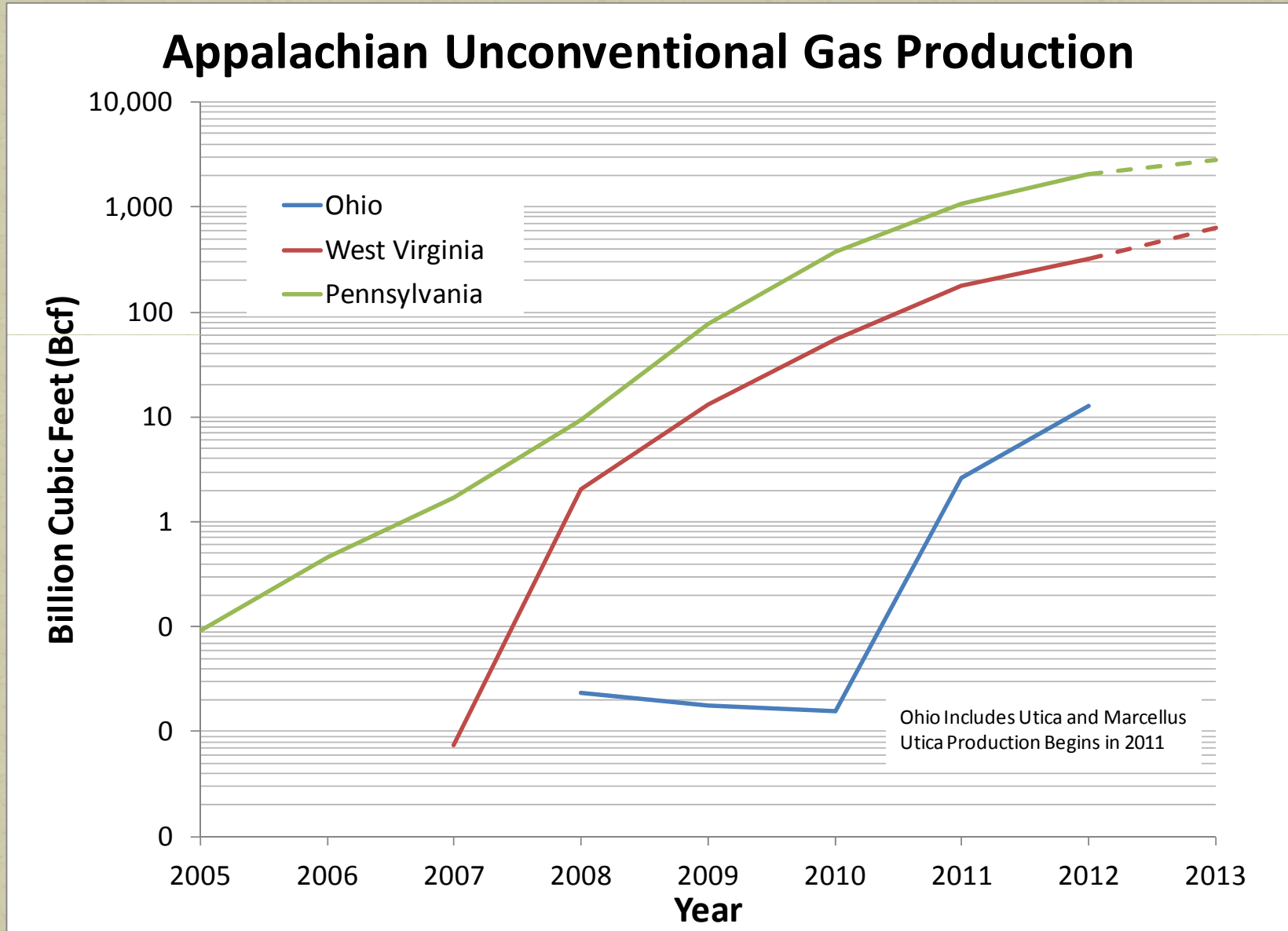


# Marcellus and Utica Production

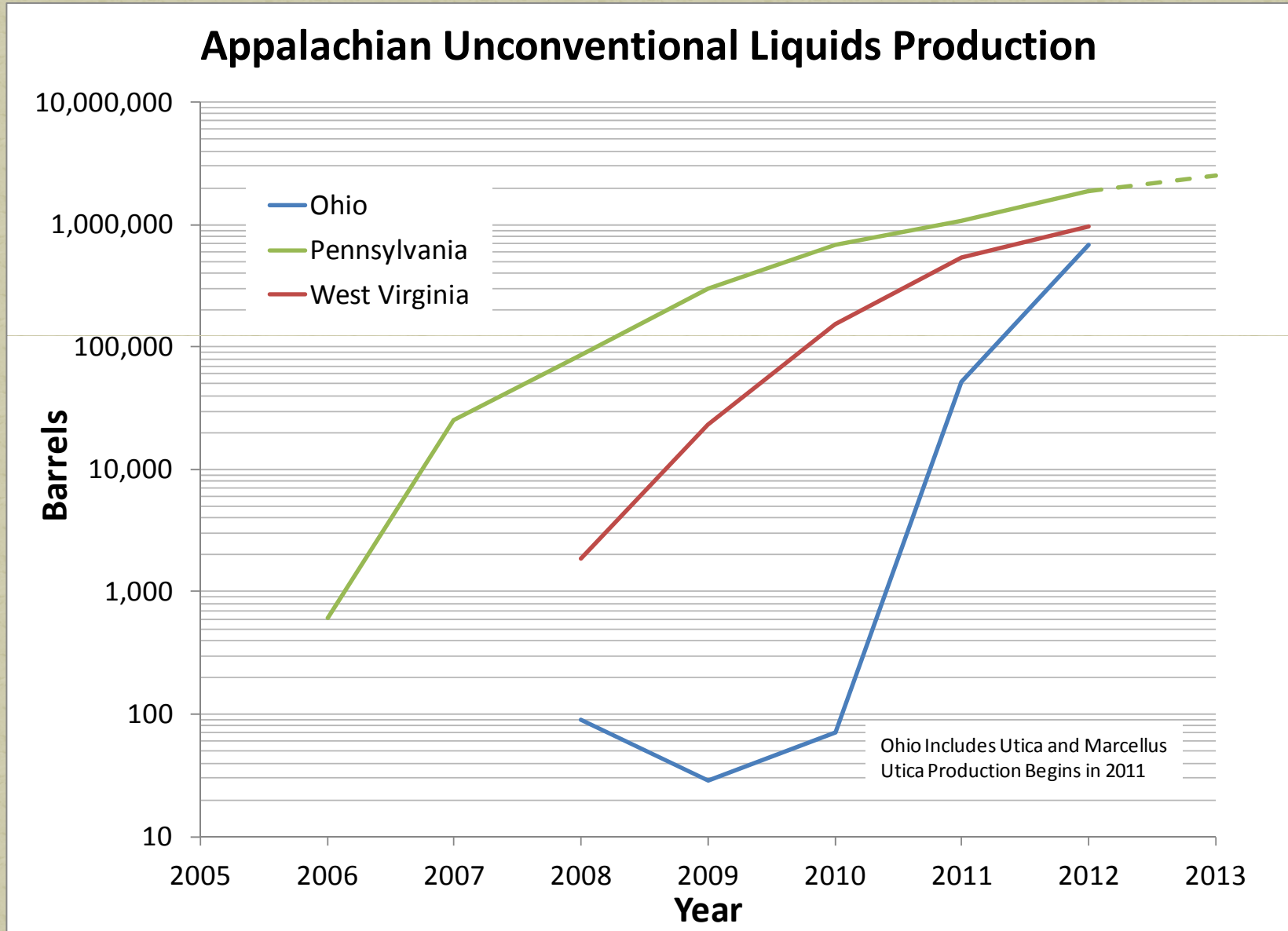




# Marcellus and Utica Production



# Marcellus and Utica Production

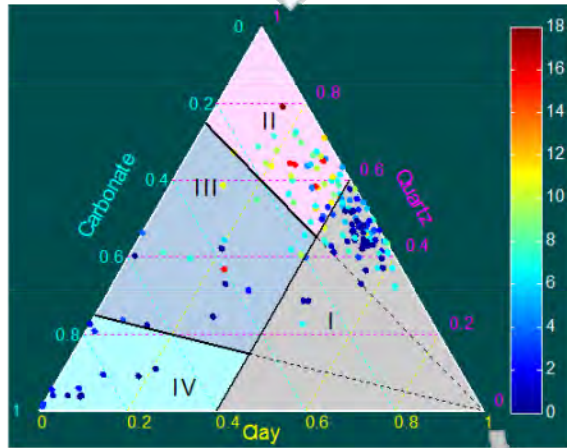
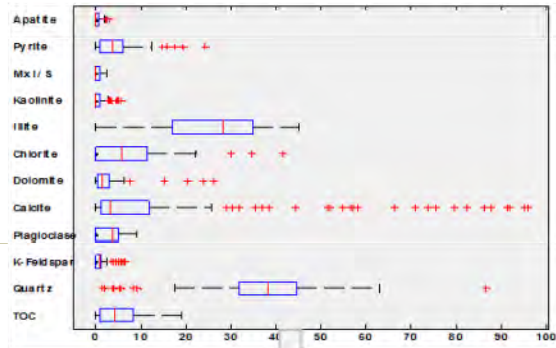




# Predicting Mudrock Lithofacies

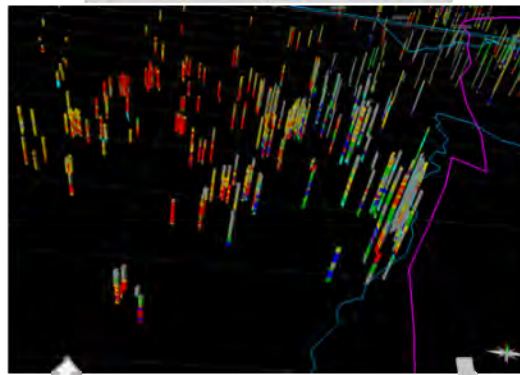
## Shale Lithofacies

### Core Scale



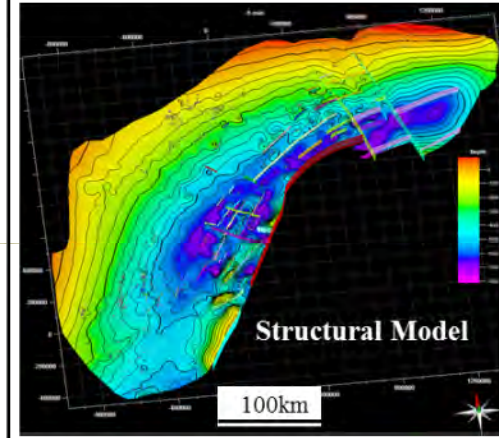
Log Data in Cored Wells

### Well Scale

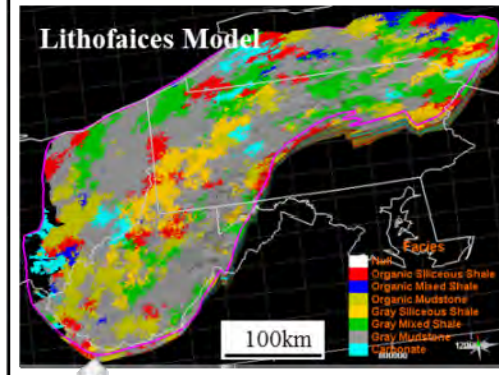


Seismic Data  
Geologic Knowledge

### Regional Scale



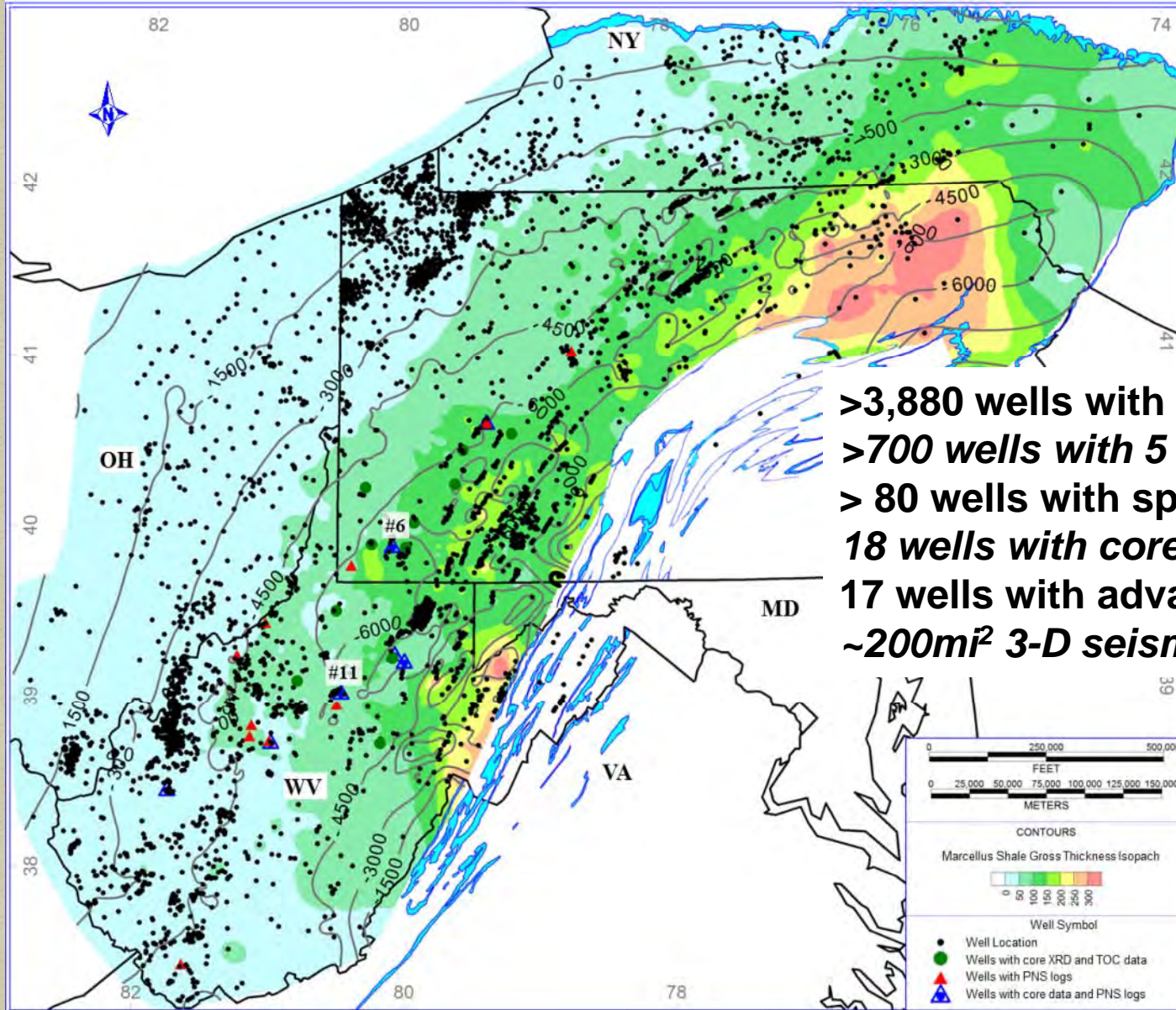
Structural Model



Lithofacies Model



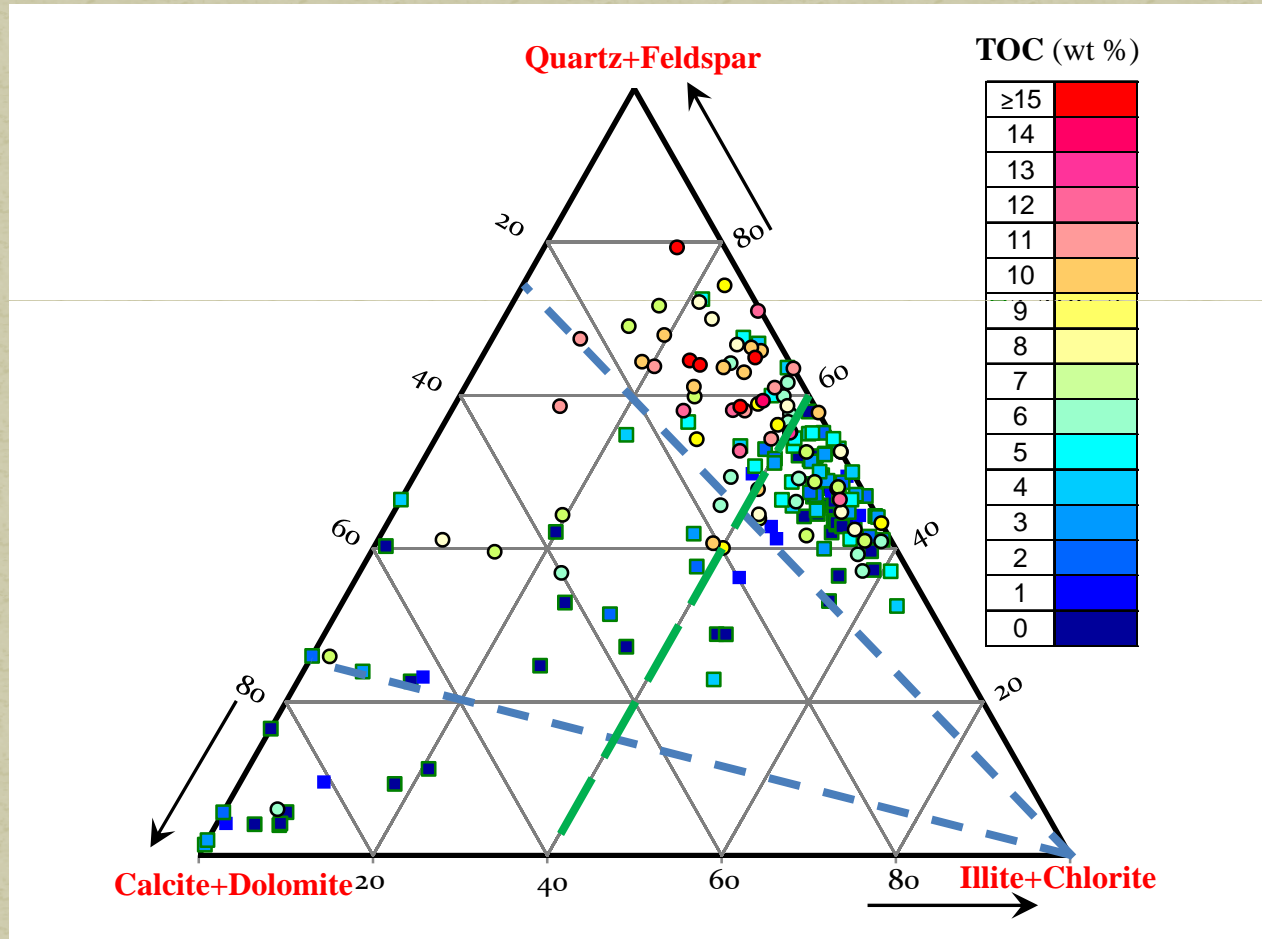
# Geologic Setting and Database



**>3,880 wells with logs**  
**>700 wells with 5 common logs**  
**> 80 wells with spectral GR**  
**18 wells with core data**  
**17 wells with advanced logs**  
**~200mi<sup>2</sup> 3-D seismic**

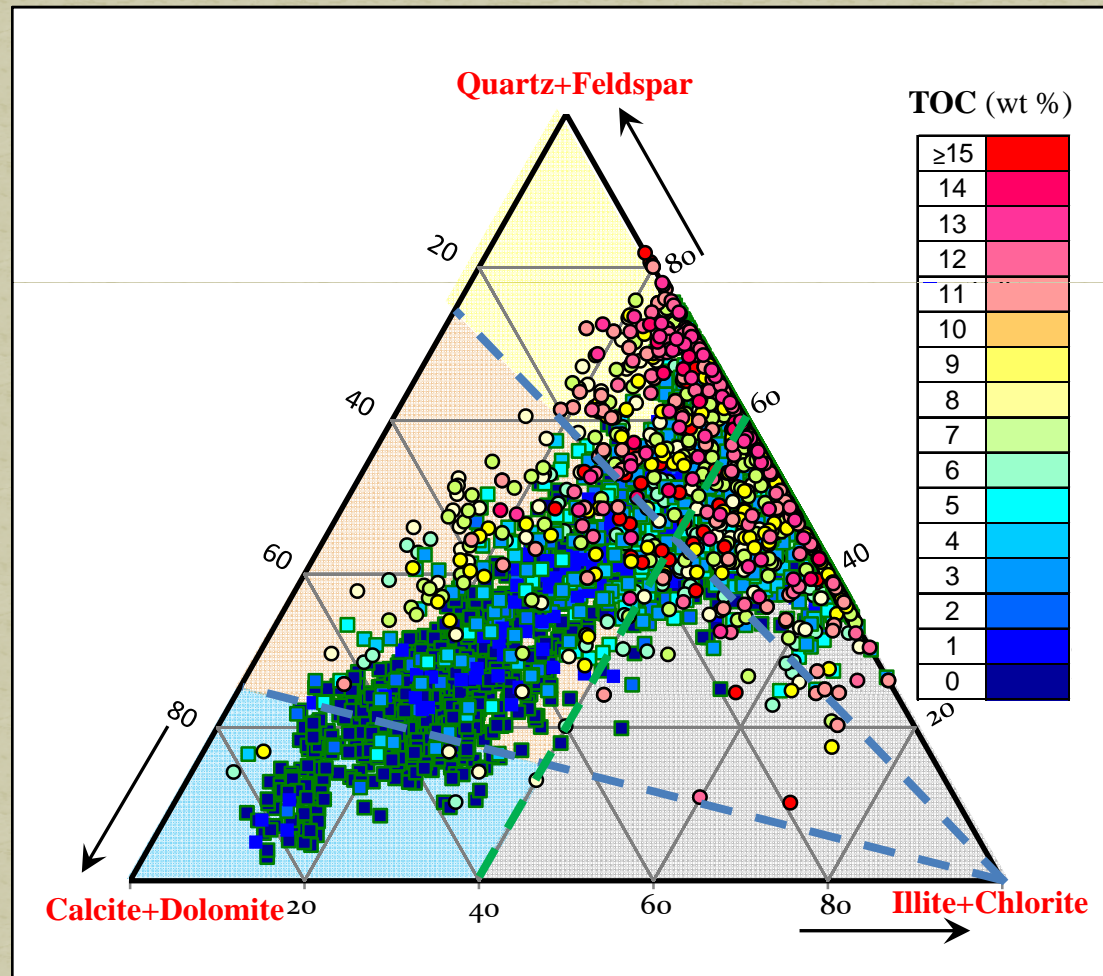


# Lithofacies Identification - Core



# Lithofacies Identification - PNS

## Pulsed Neutron Spectroscopy Log Suite (PNS Log)





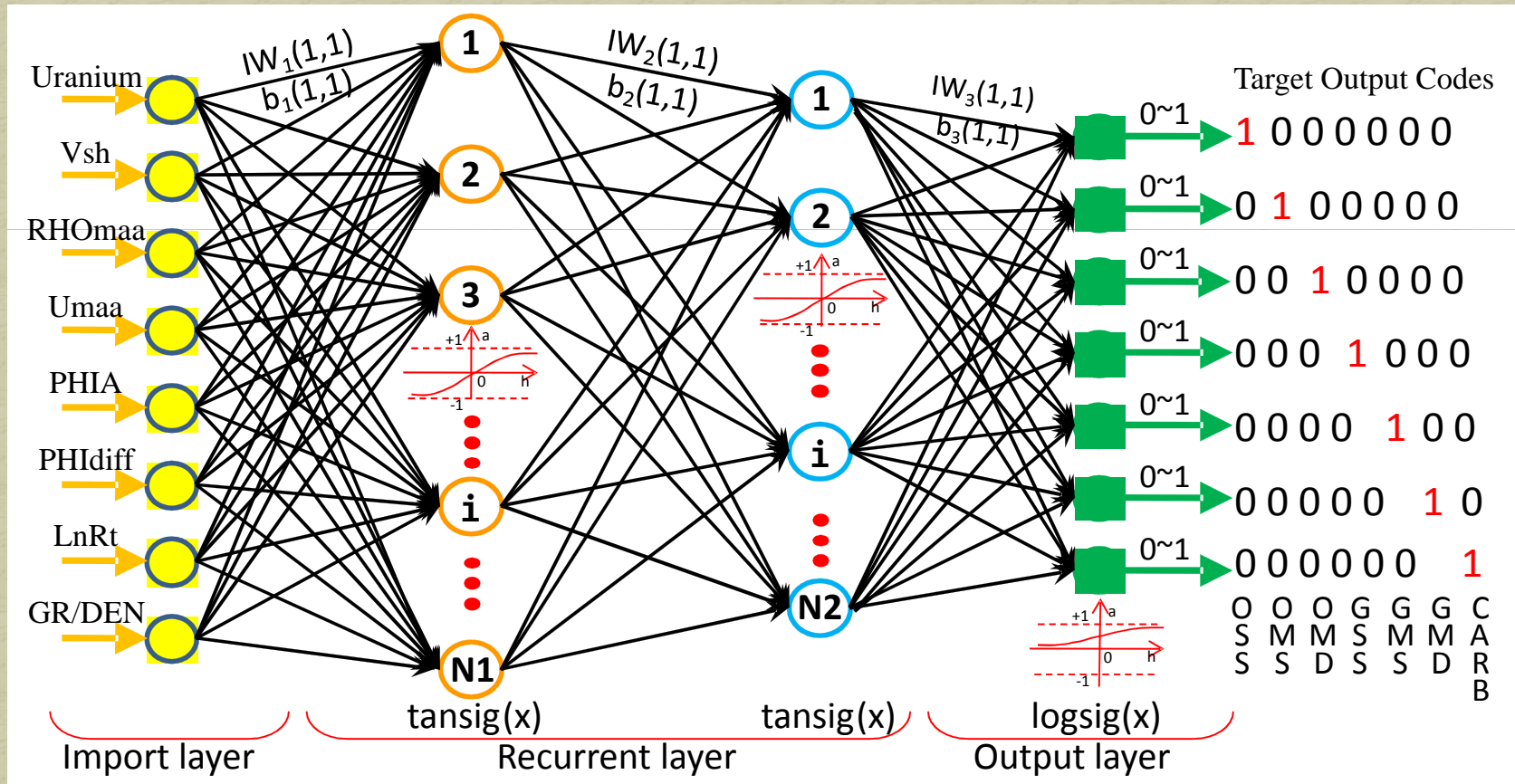
# Lithofacies Identification

## Derived Input Log Parameters

- Uranium Concentration: Spectral Log
- Shale Volume:  $V_{sh}$
- $RHO_{maa} - (RhoB - \Phi_t) / (1 - \Phi_t)$
- $U_{maa}: (PE * RhoB - 0.5) / (1 - \Phi_t)$
- $\Phi_t$ : Average of DPFI and NPFI
- $PHI_{diff}$ : DPFI - NPFI
- $LnRt$ : Natural Log of Deep Resistivity
- $GR/RhoB$

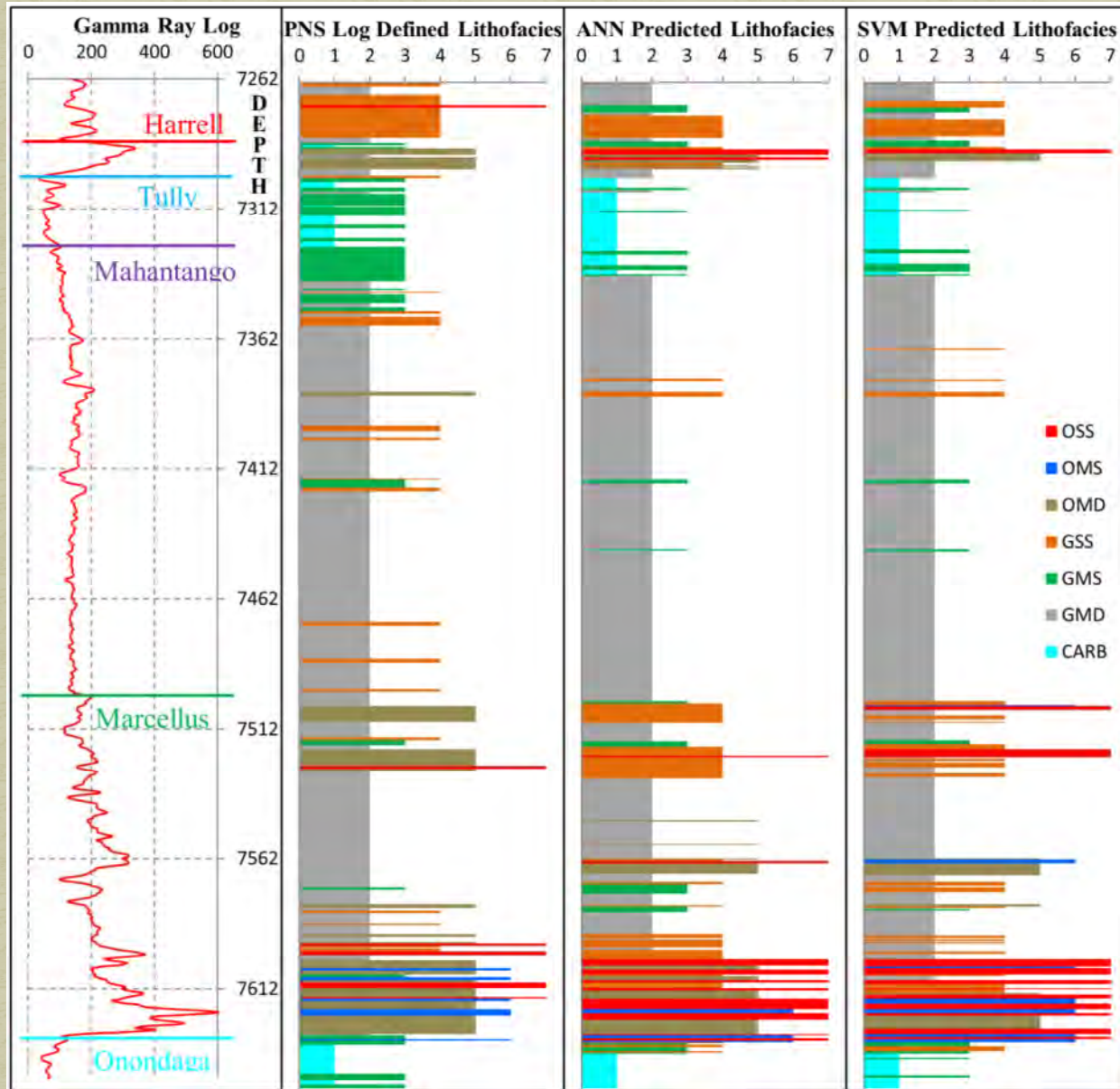


# Lithofacies Identification Artificial Neural Network - ANN



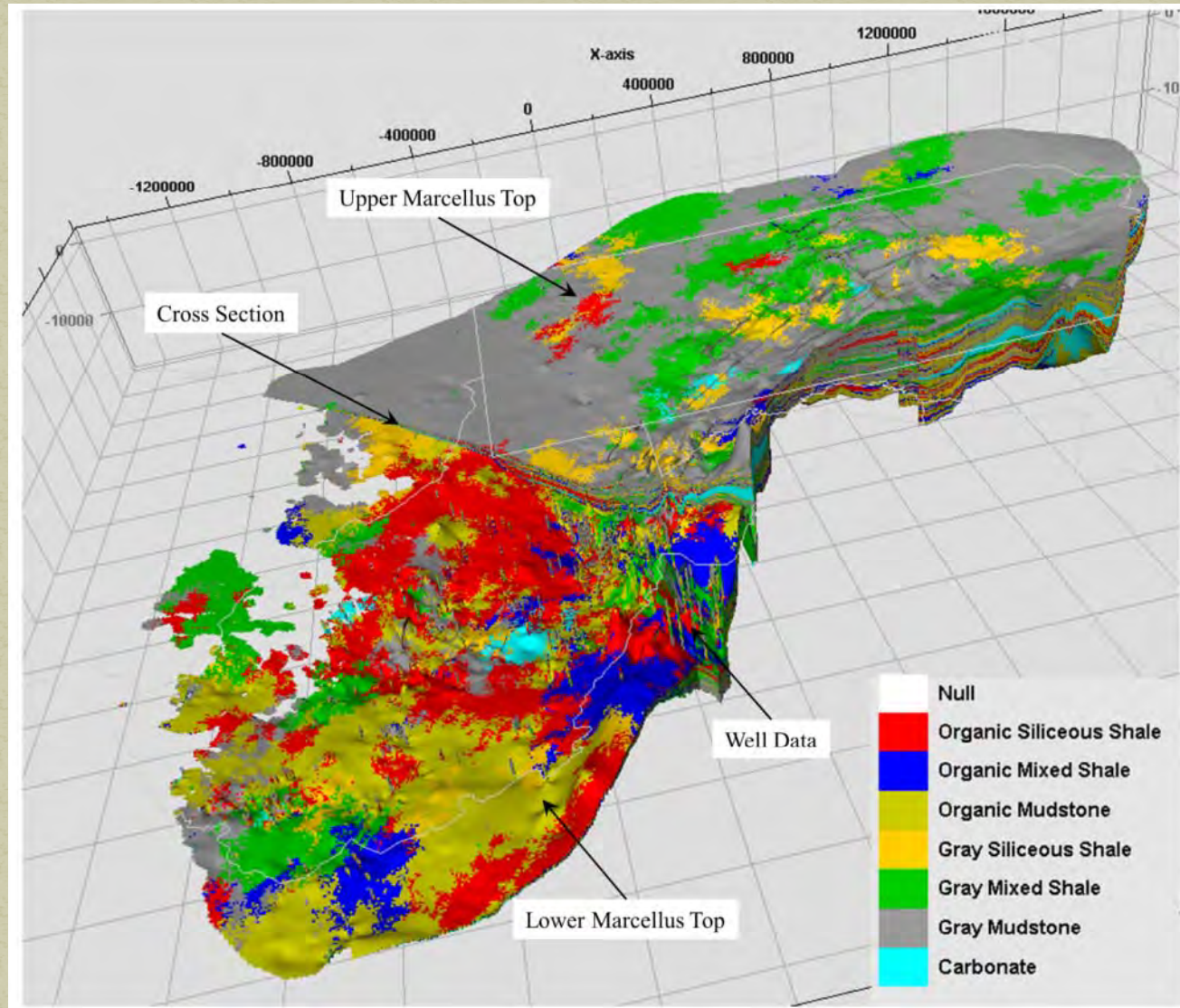


# Lithofacies Identification



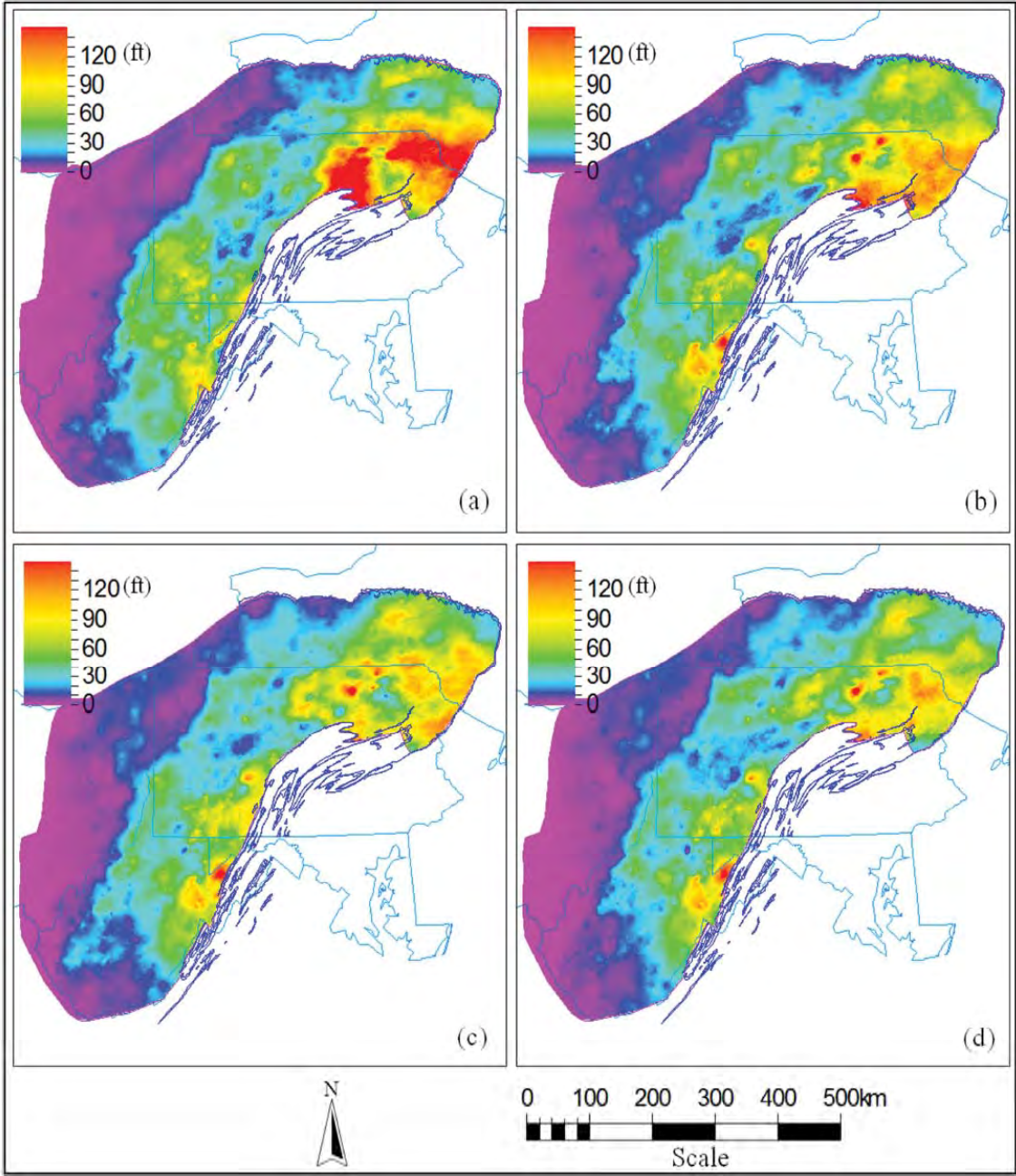


# Lithofacies 3D Modeling





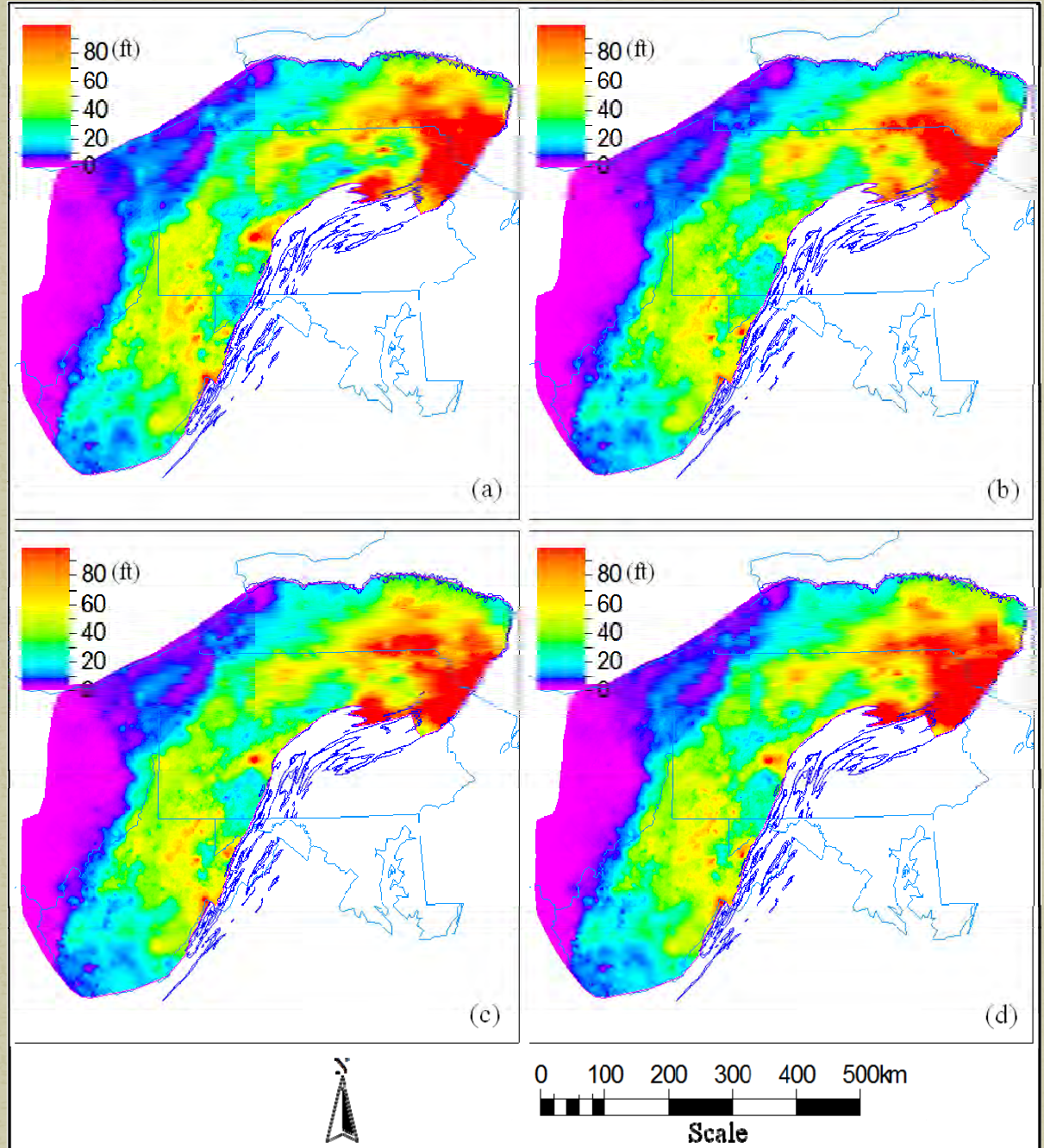
# Marcellus Brittle Lithofacies



Wang, 2012



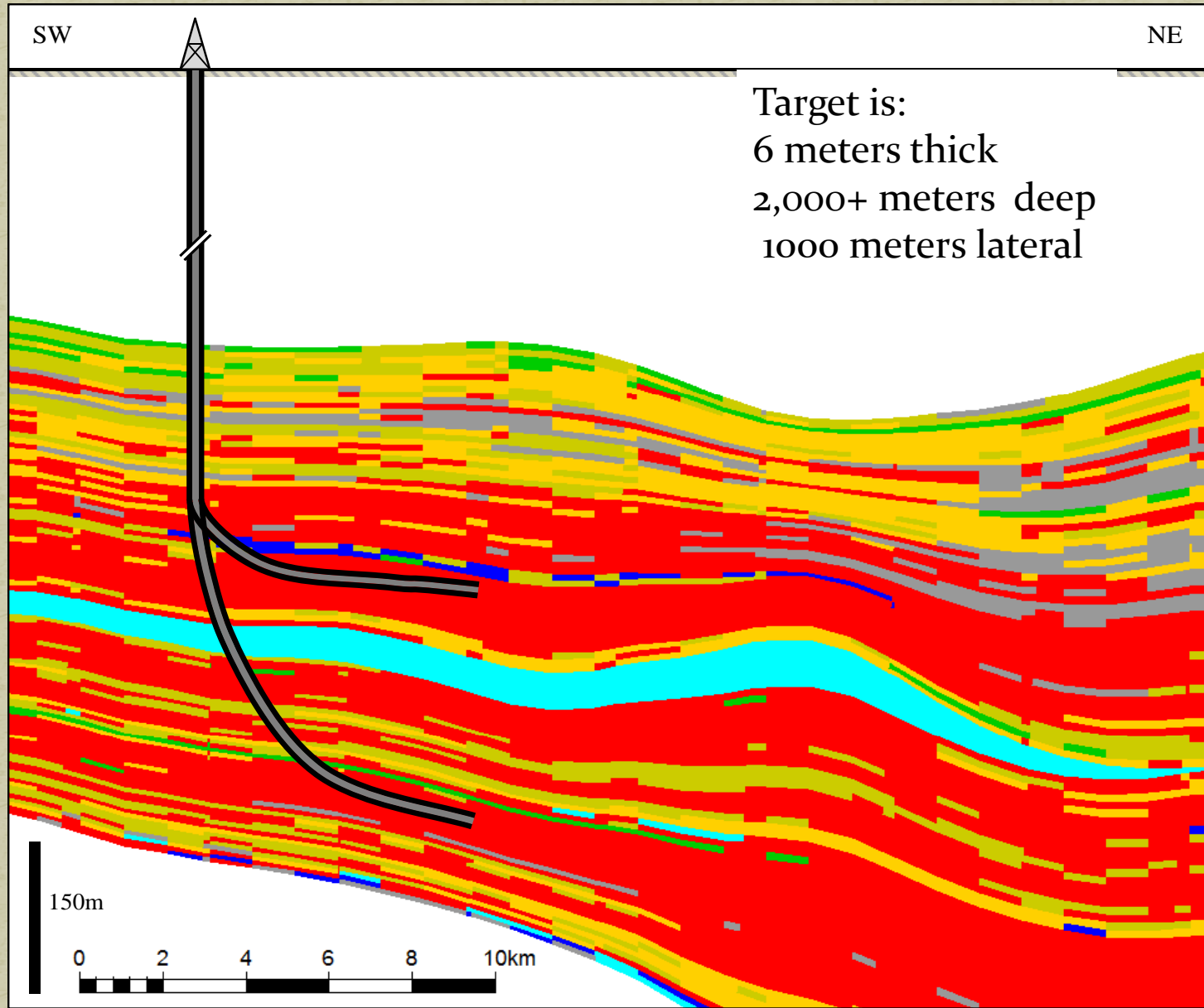
# Marcellus Organic- Rich Lithofacies



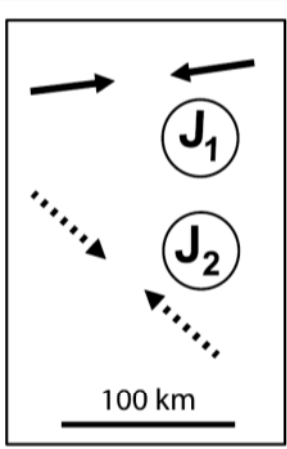
Wang and Carr, 2012



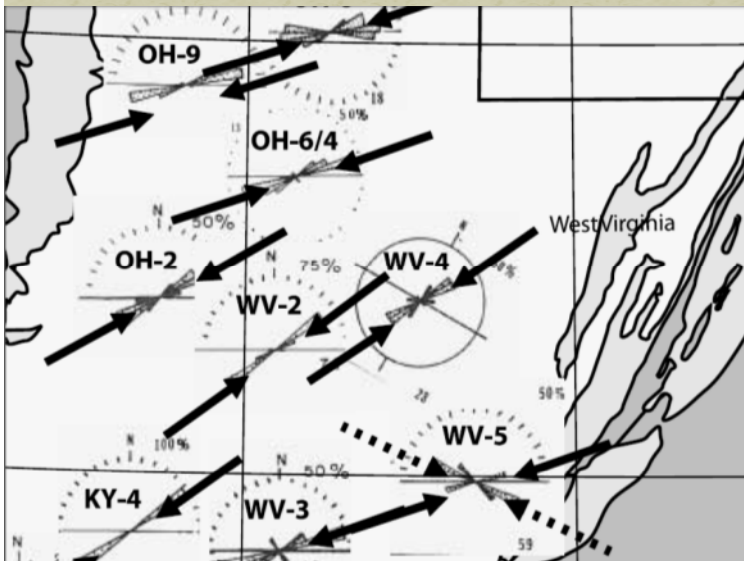
# Productive Horizon Distribution



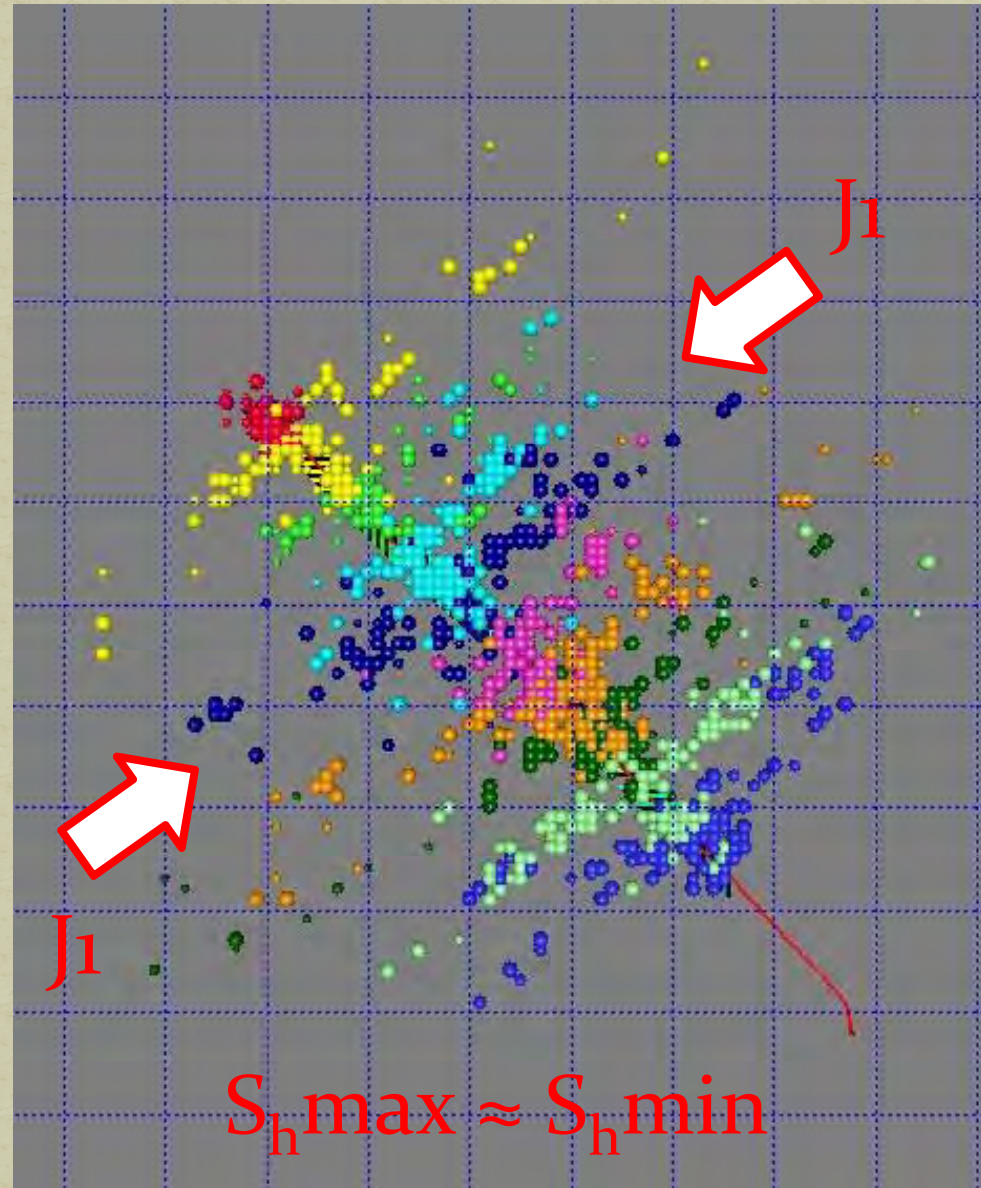
# Treatment Efficiency



Engleder et al., 2009



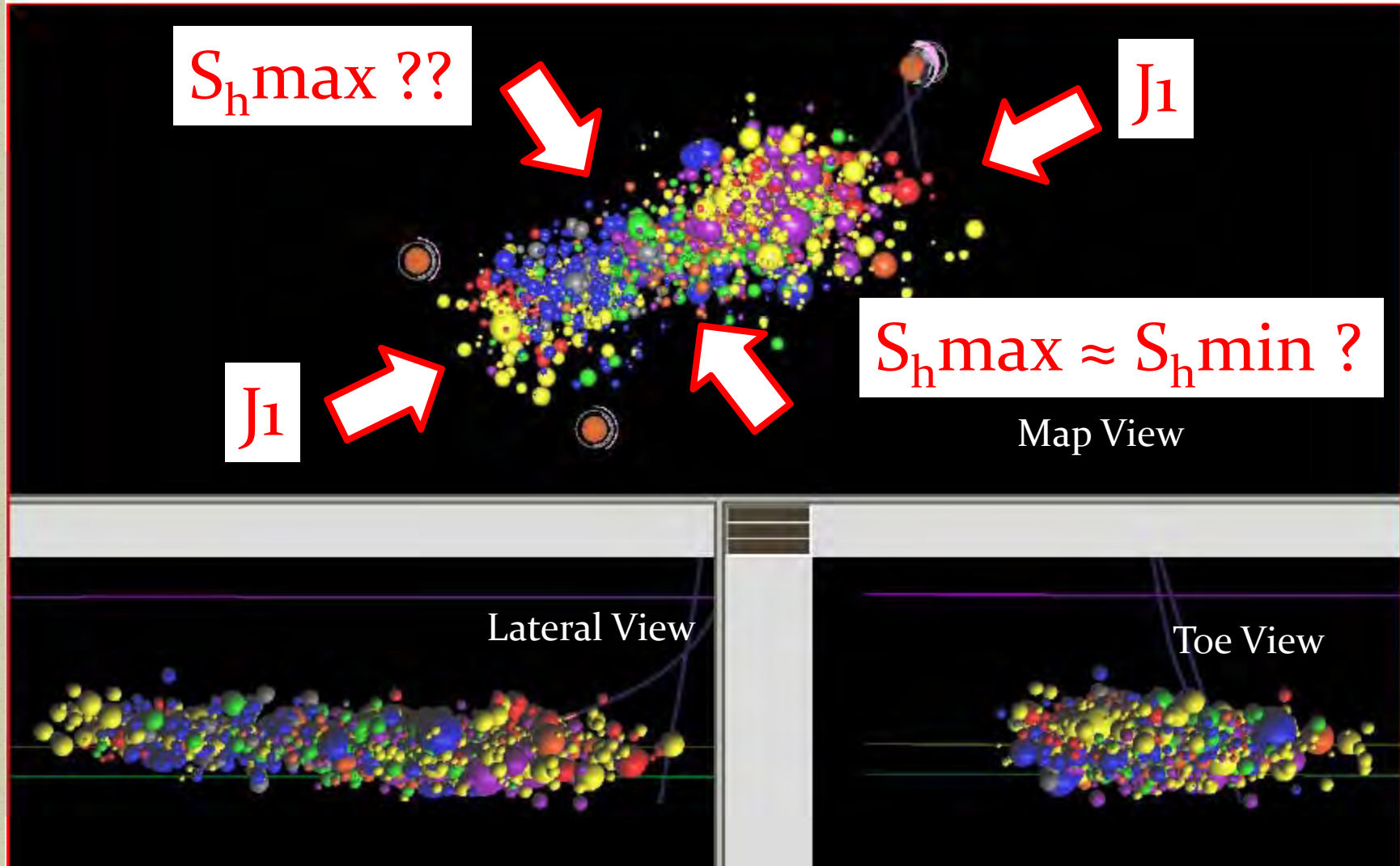
Each square 500 feet



Microseismic, Inc.

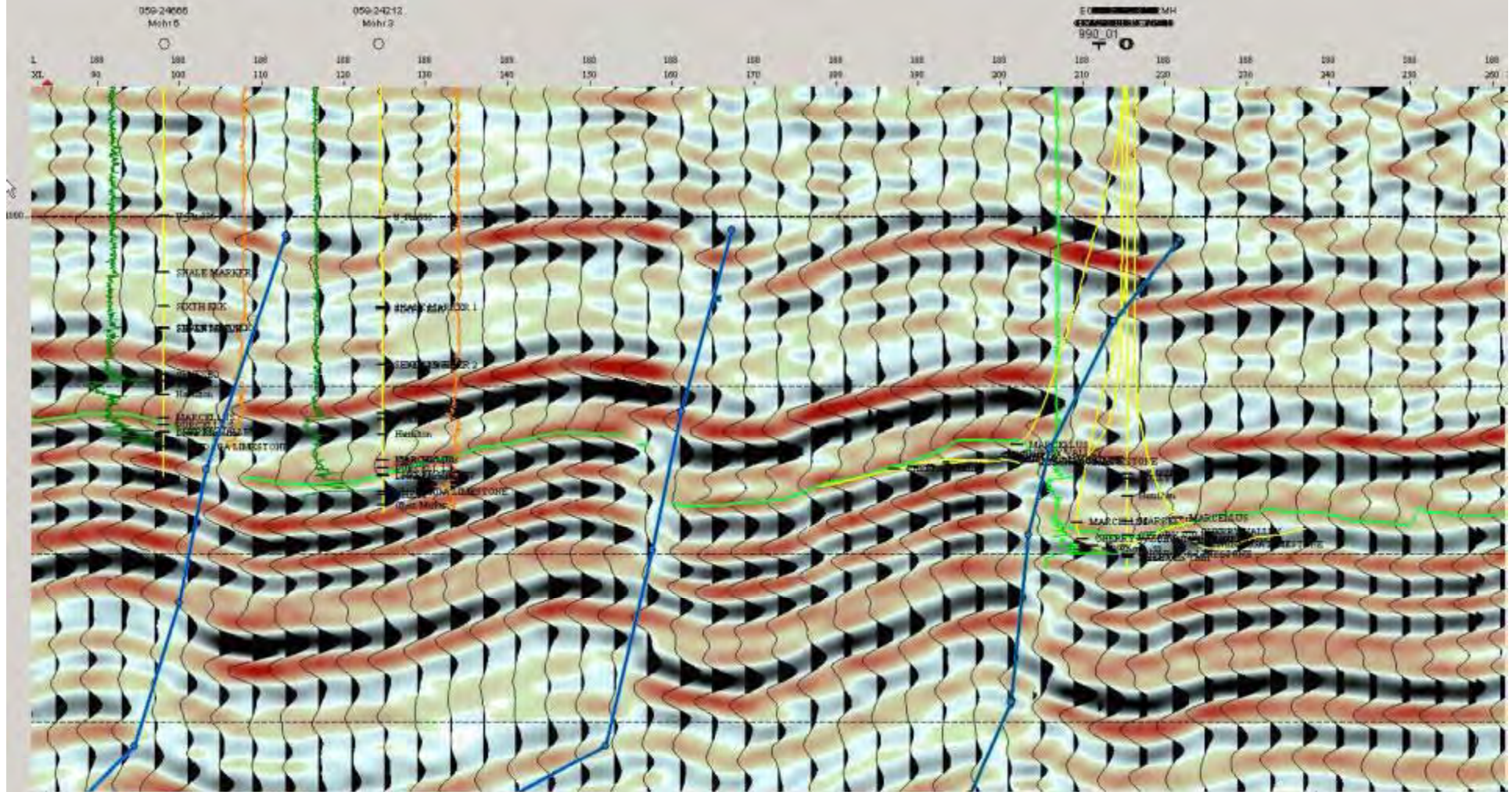


# Treatment Efficiency





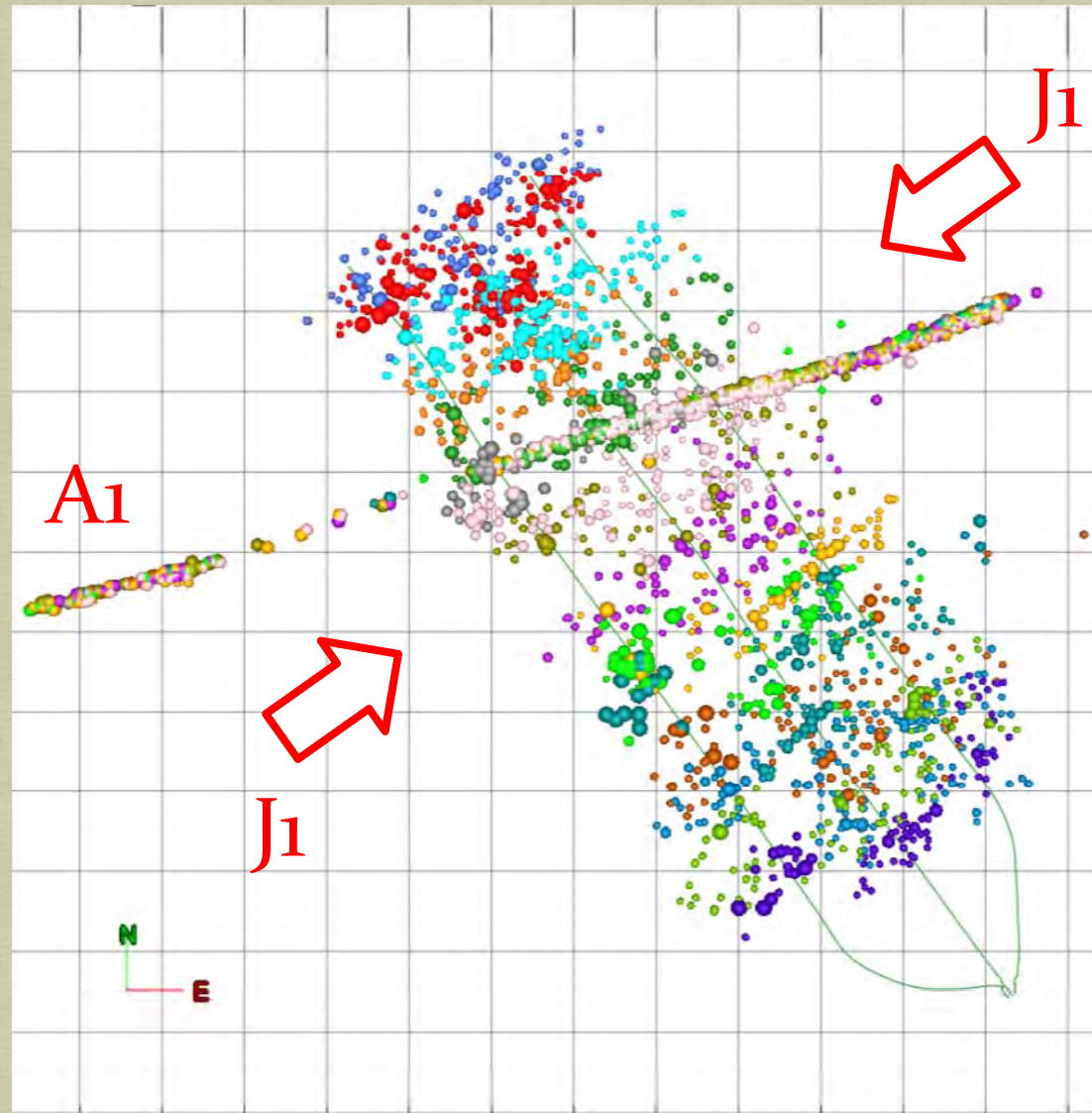
# Marcellus Shale – Structural Discontinuities



Faults from Arcadian Orogeny



# Geologic Failure

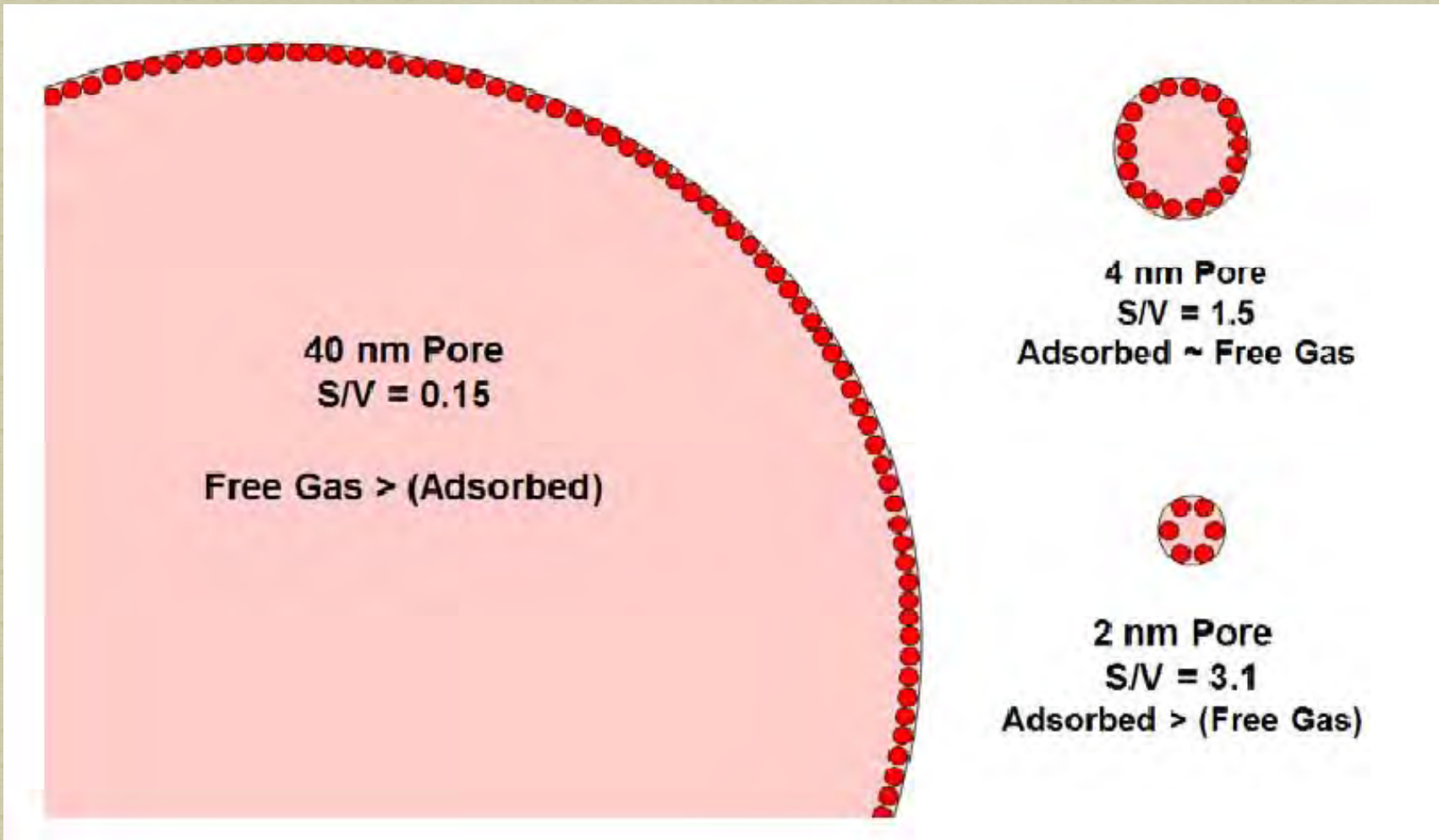


Each square 500 x 500 feet

Microseismic, Inc.

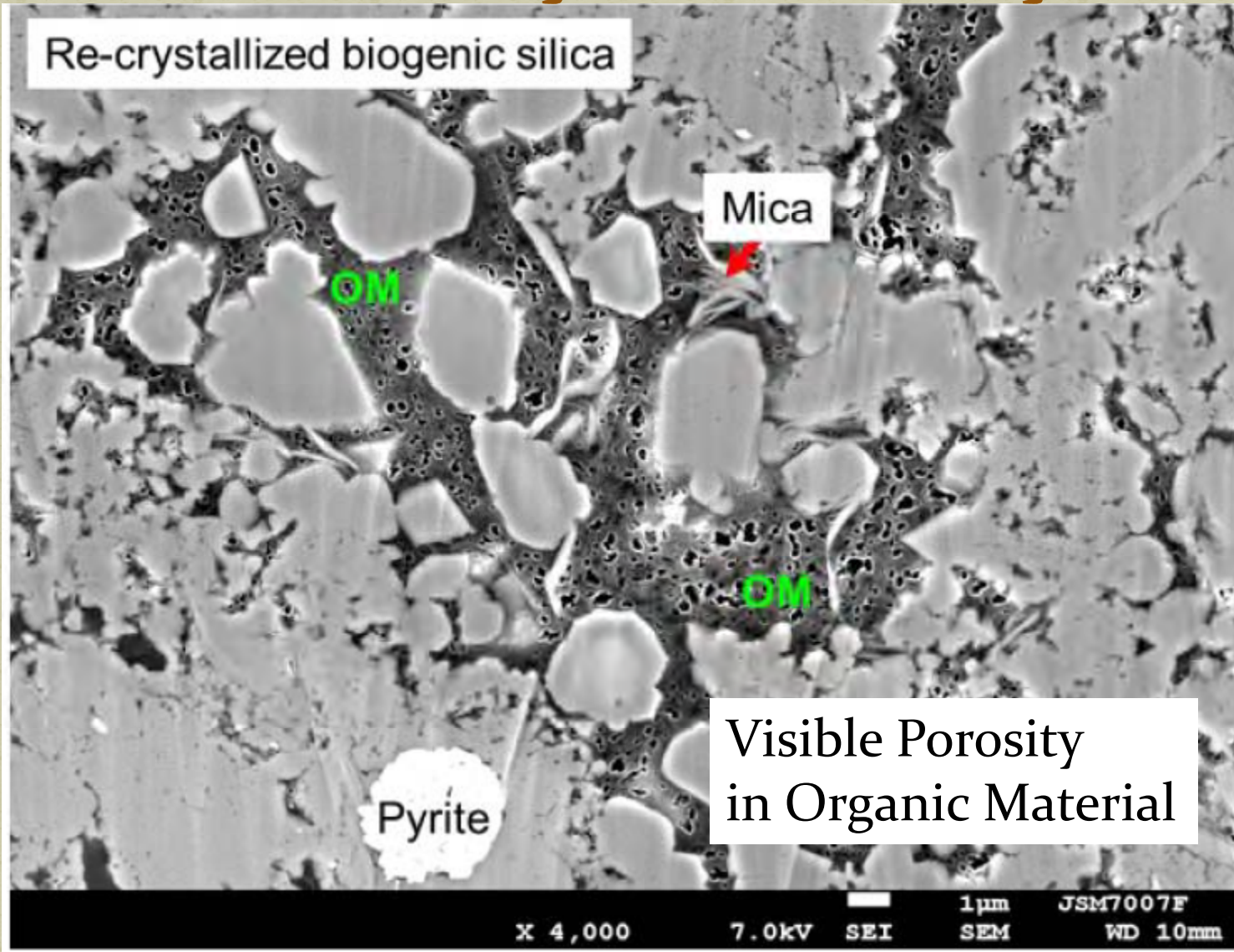
# Maturity - Porosity

## Nanometer Pores and Methane Molecules





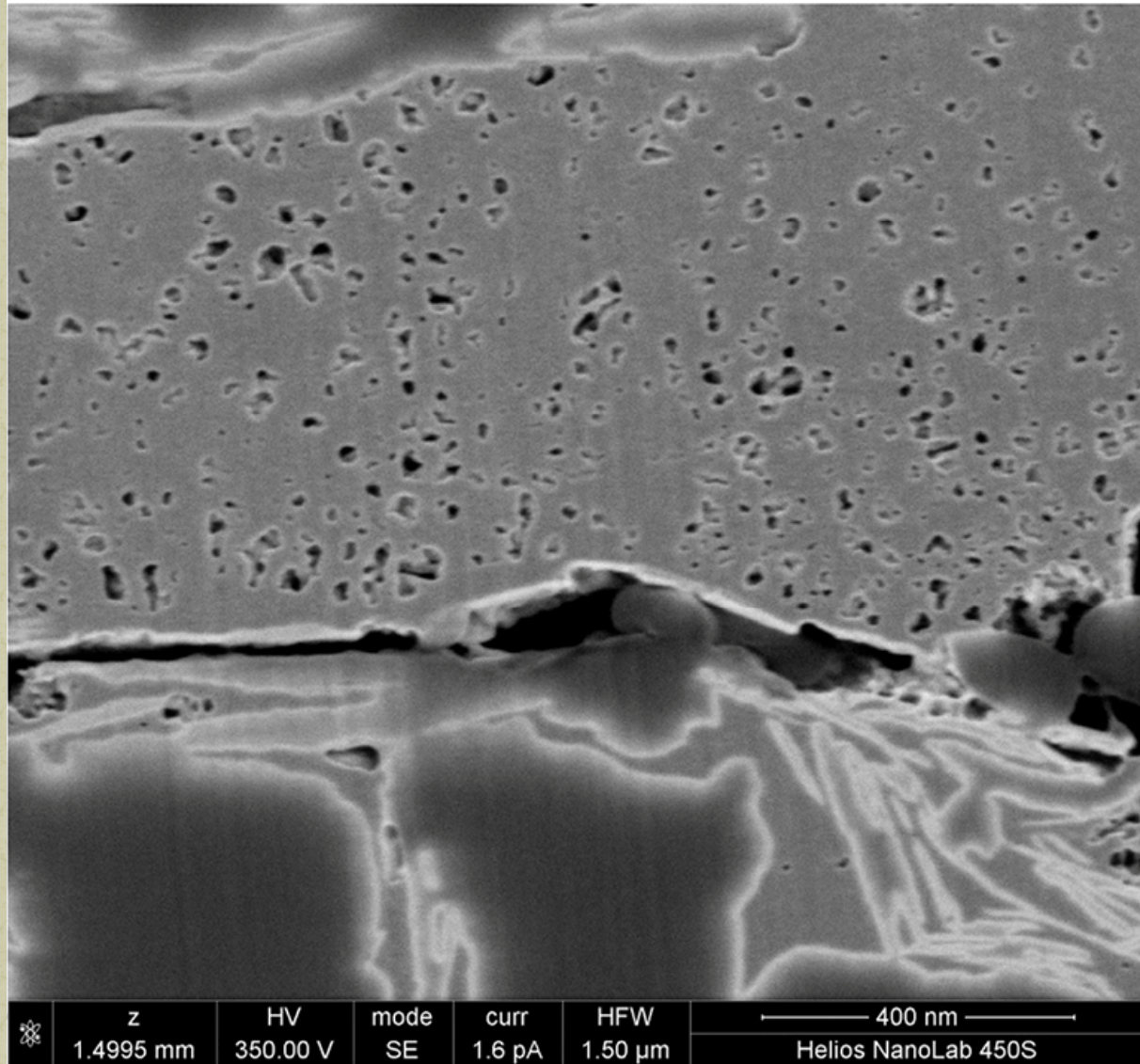
# Maturity - Porosity



Barnett Shale from the Gas Window



# Marcellus Shale

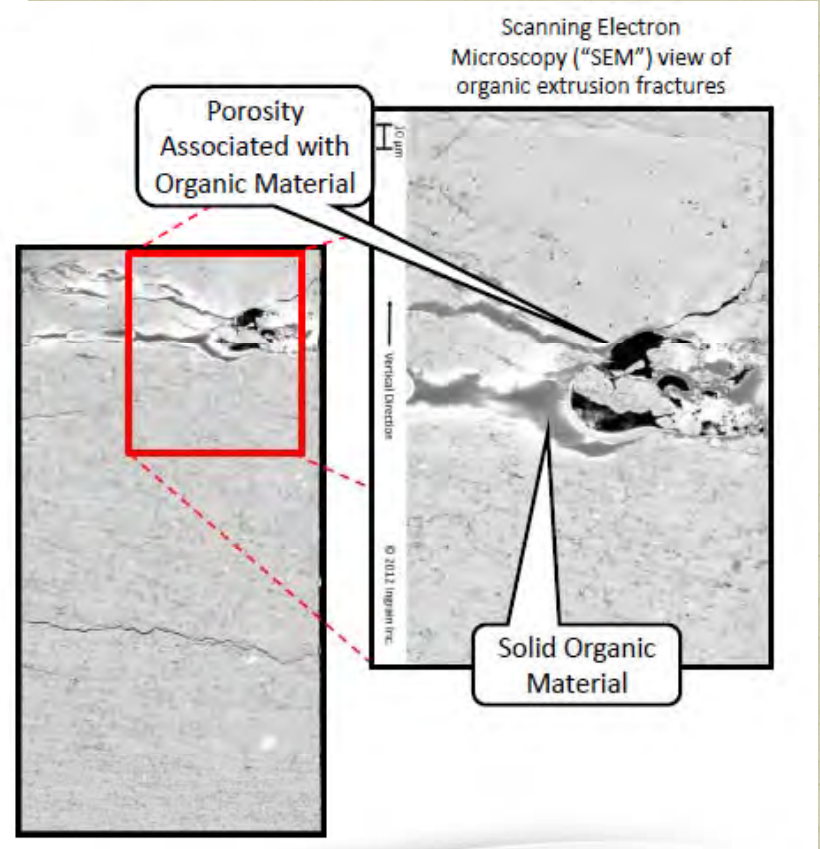
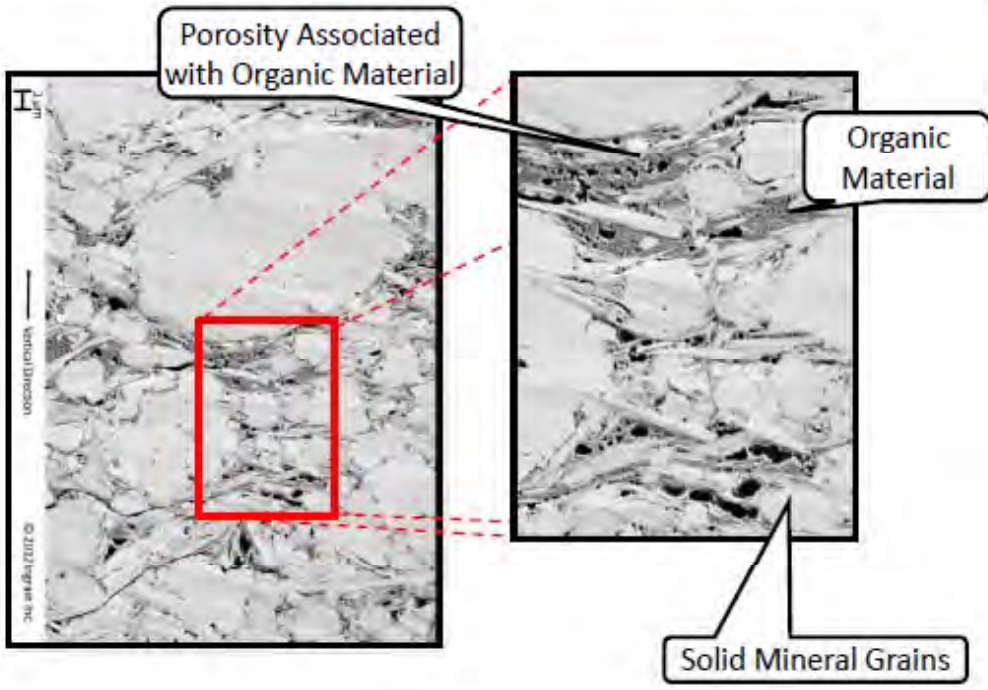


Marcellus Shale from the Gas Window



# Utica – Point Pleasant Interval Wet Gas Window

## Utica Shale – Point Pleasant Interval

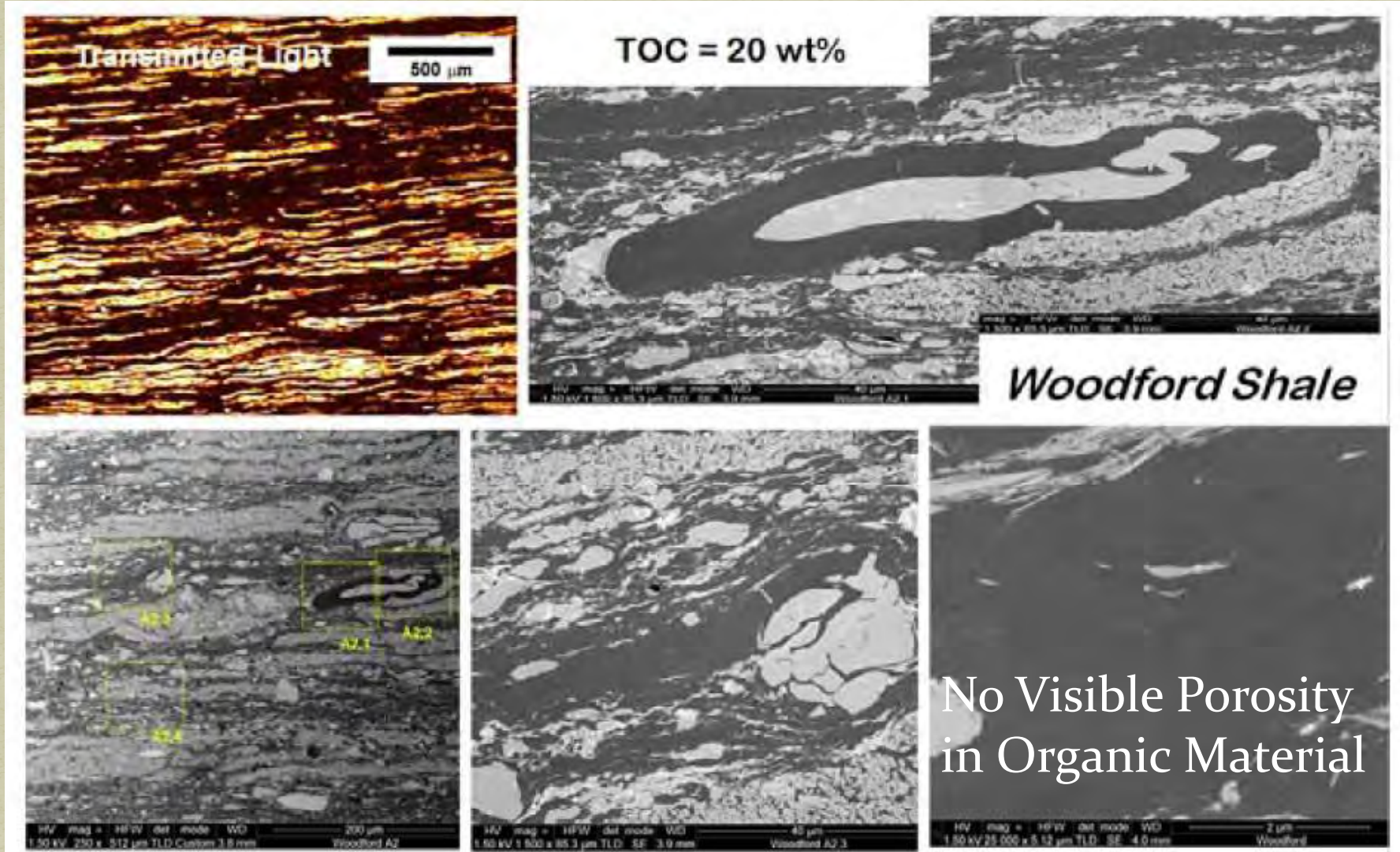


Utica from the Wet Gas Window

Source Ingrain Study for Gulfport – November 2012



# Maturity - Porosity

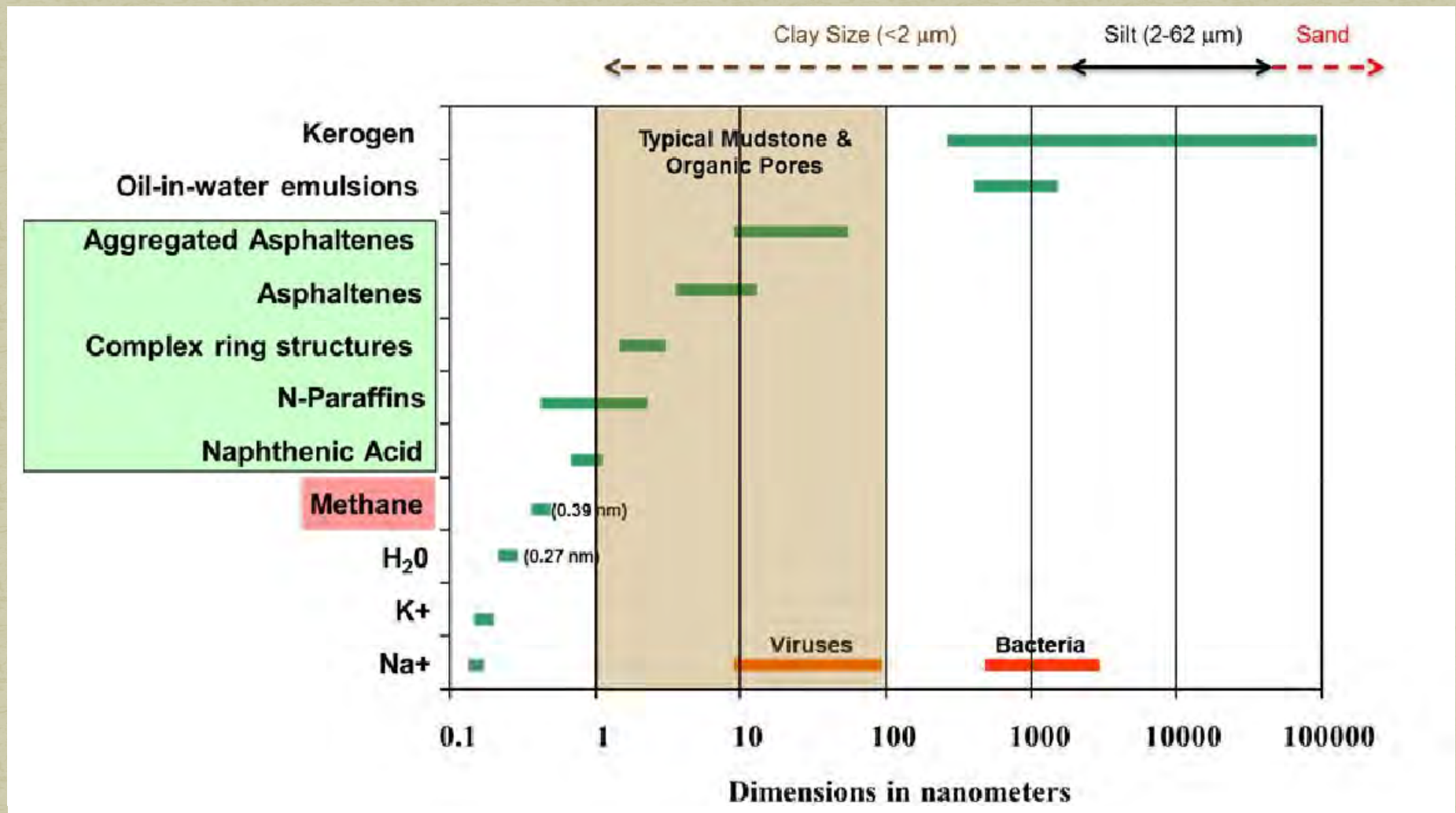


Woodford Shale from the Oil Window

Bohacs et al. 2013, IPTC 16676

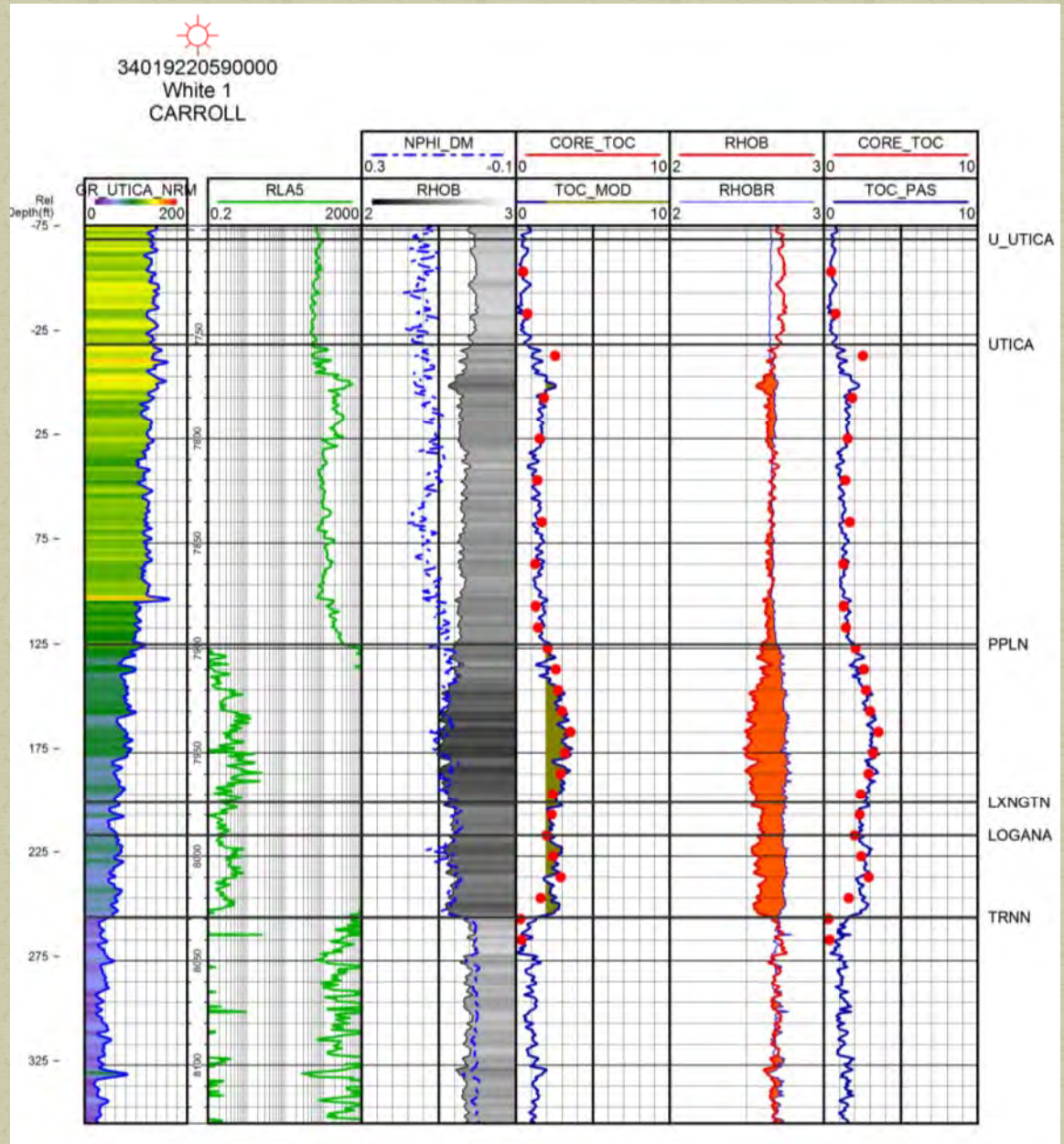


# Size of Cations and Hydrocarbon Molecules



From Bohacs et al. 2012 and after Momper, 1978

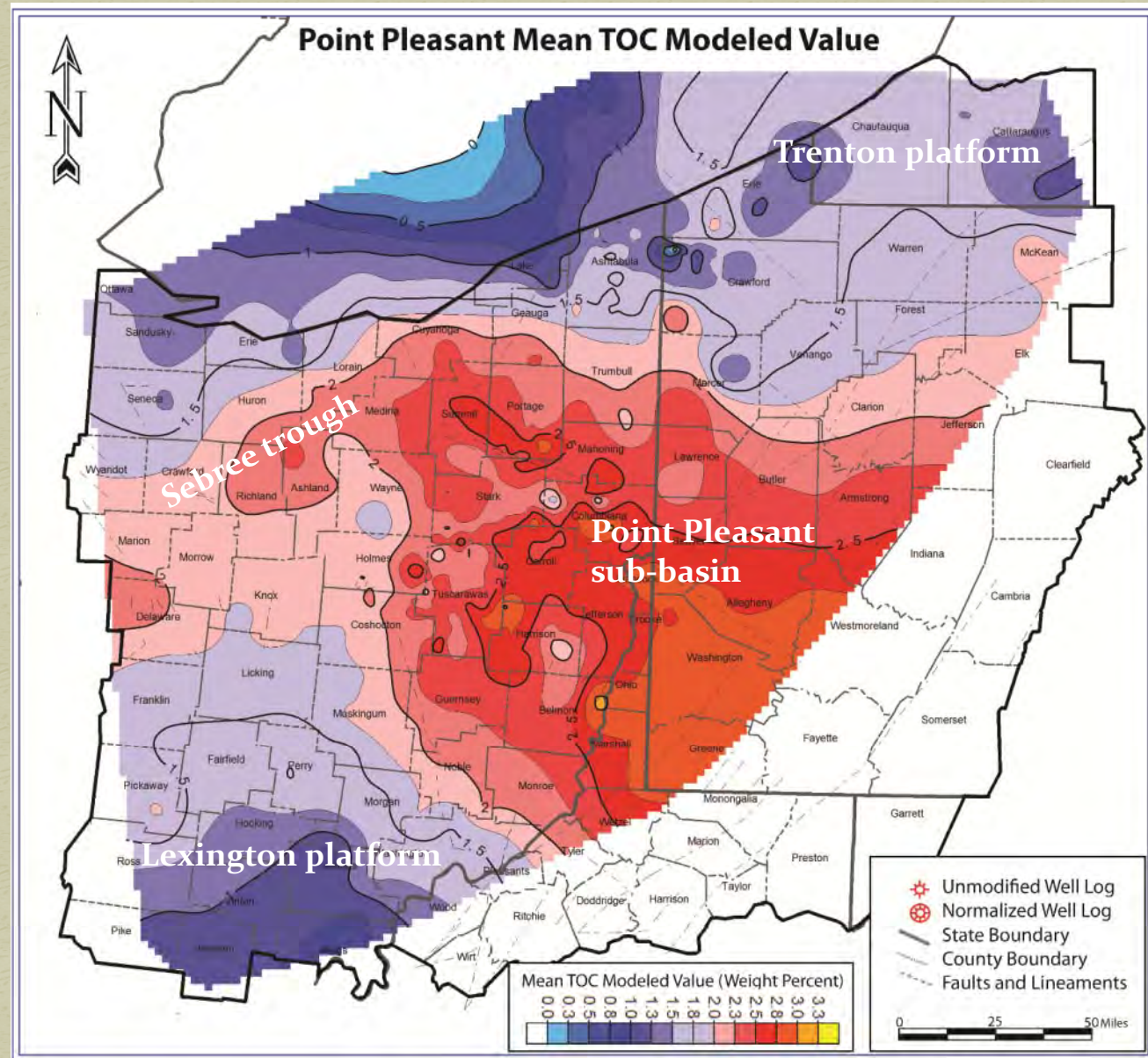
# Utica-Point Pleasant Organic-Rich Interval





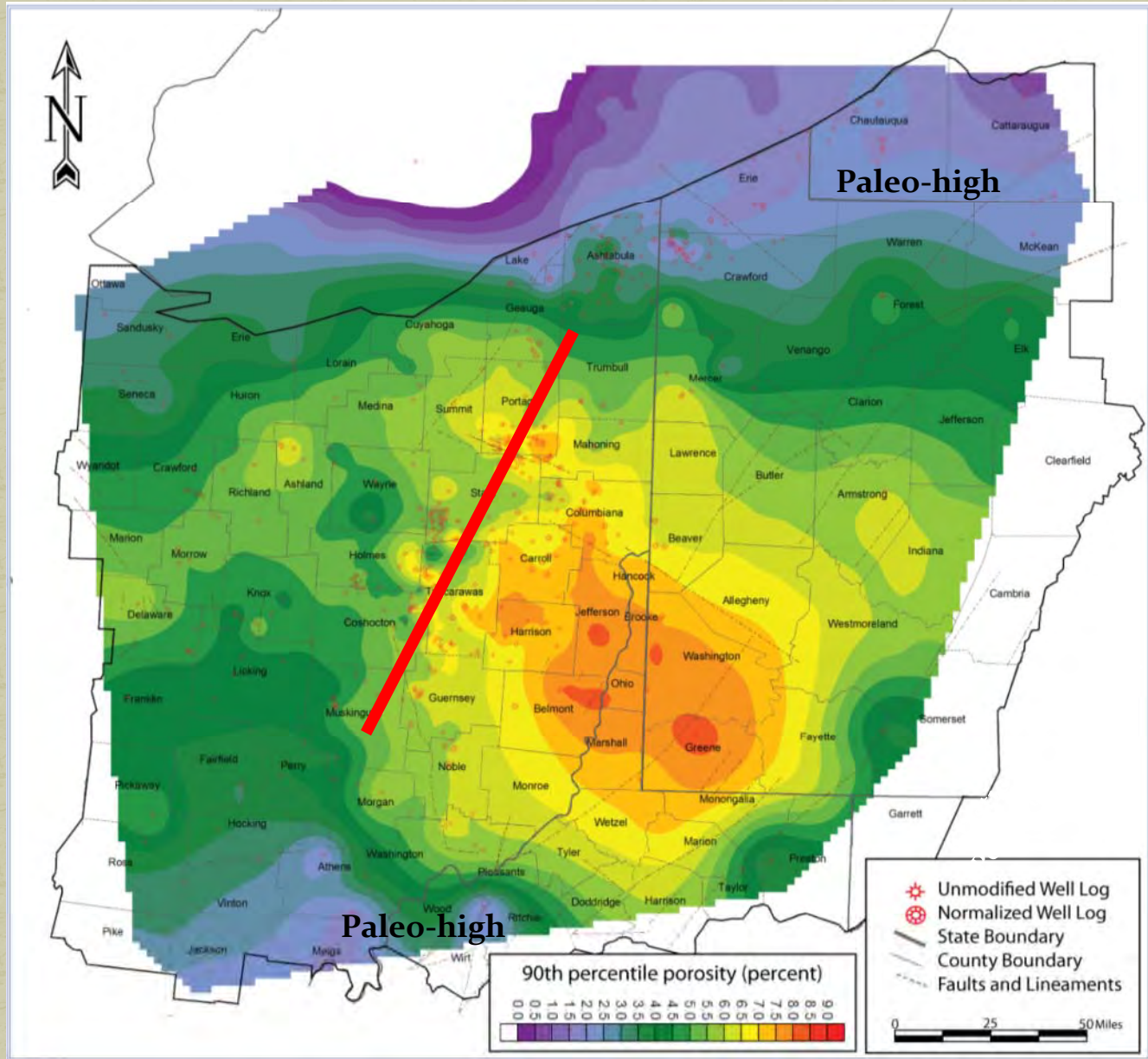
# Utica-Point Pleasant Organic-Rich Interval

- Organic-rich strata focused in sub-basin
- Clean carbonates on platforms





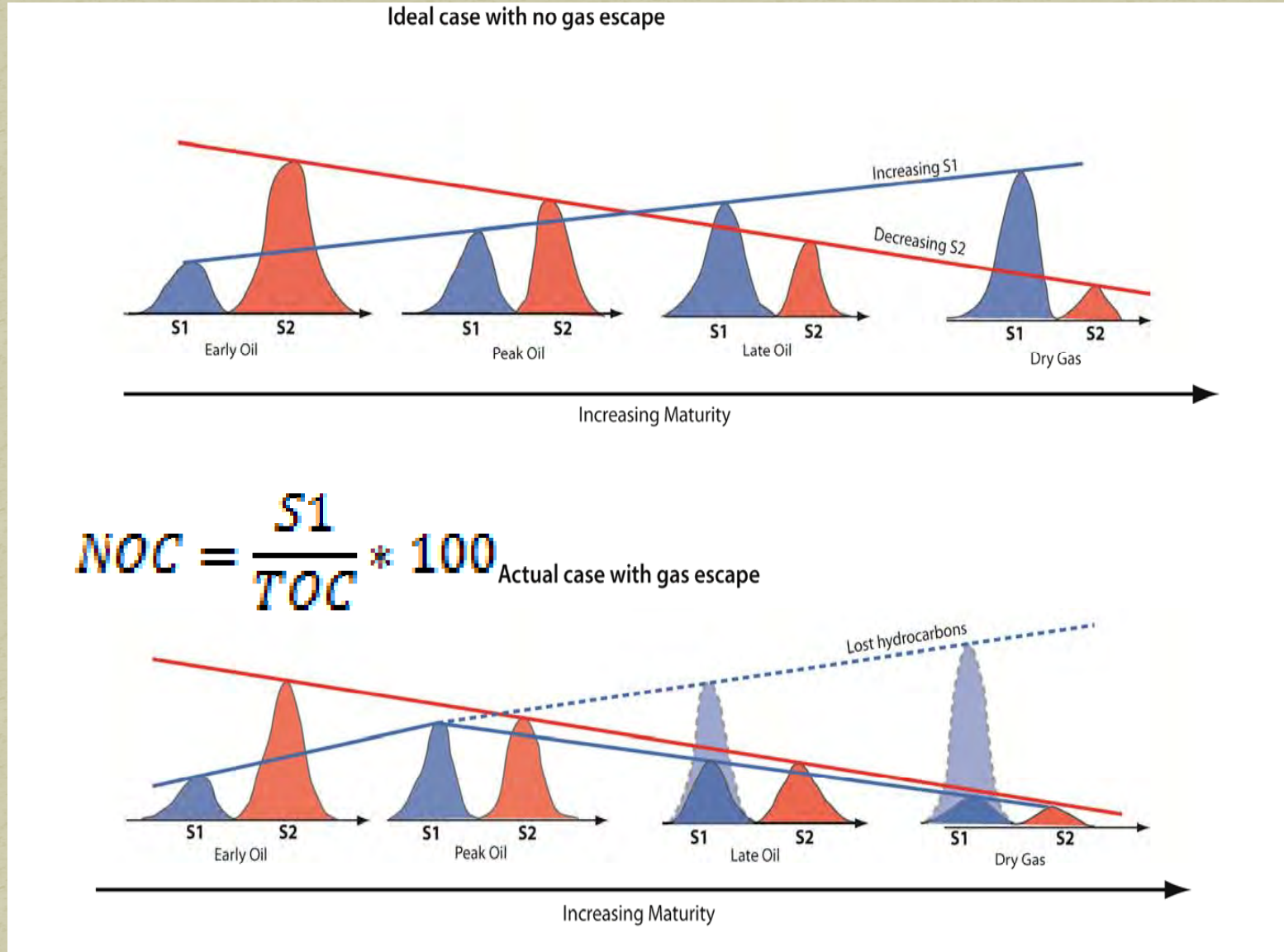
# Utica Porosity and Maturity



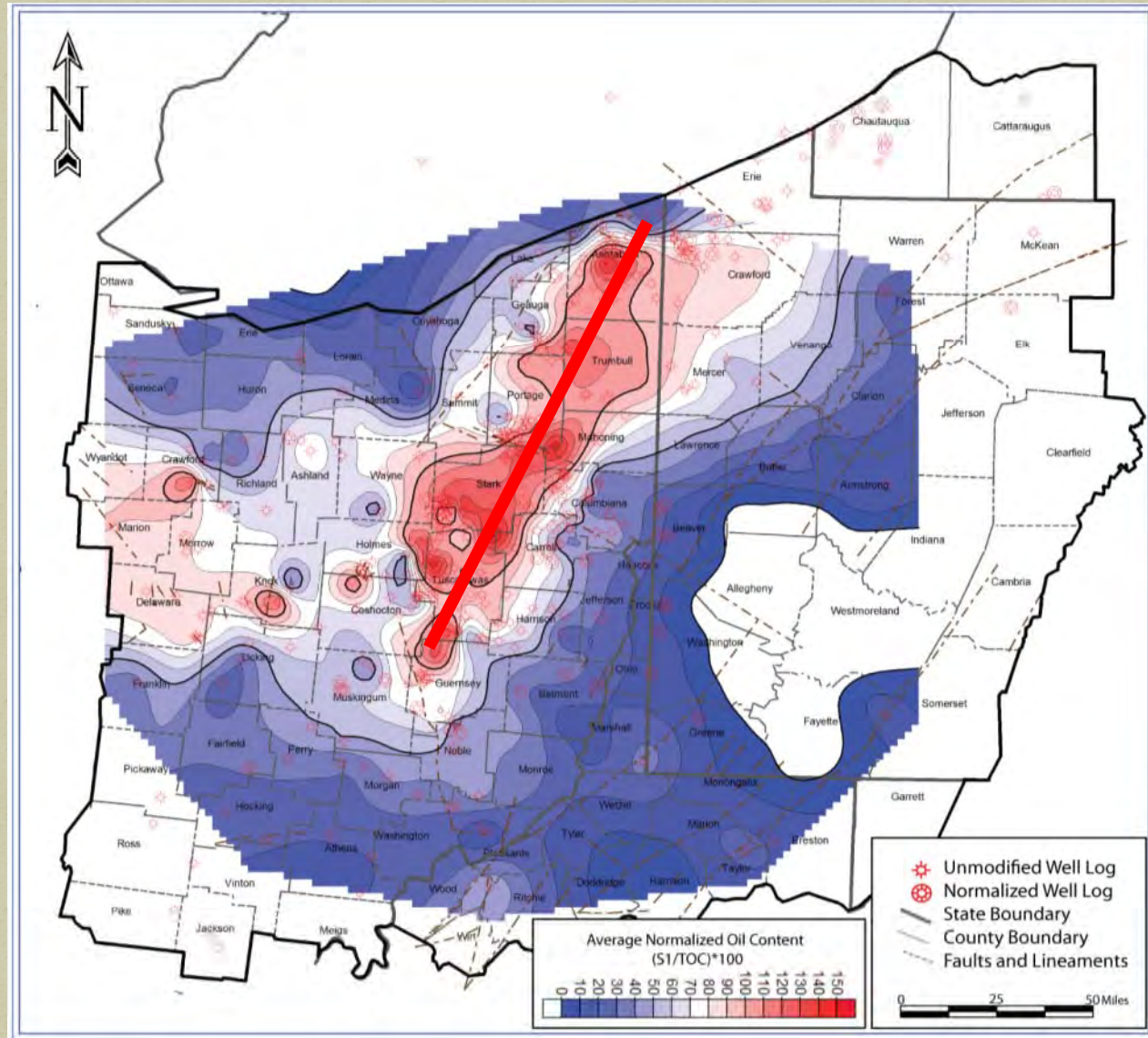
Modified from McClain, 2013



# Maturity - Normalized Oil Content



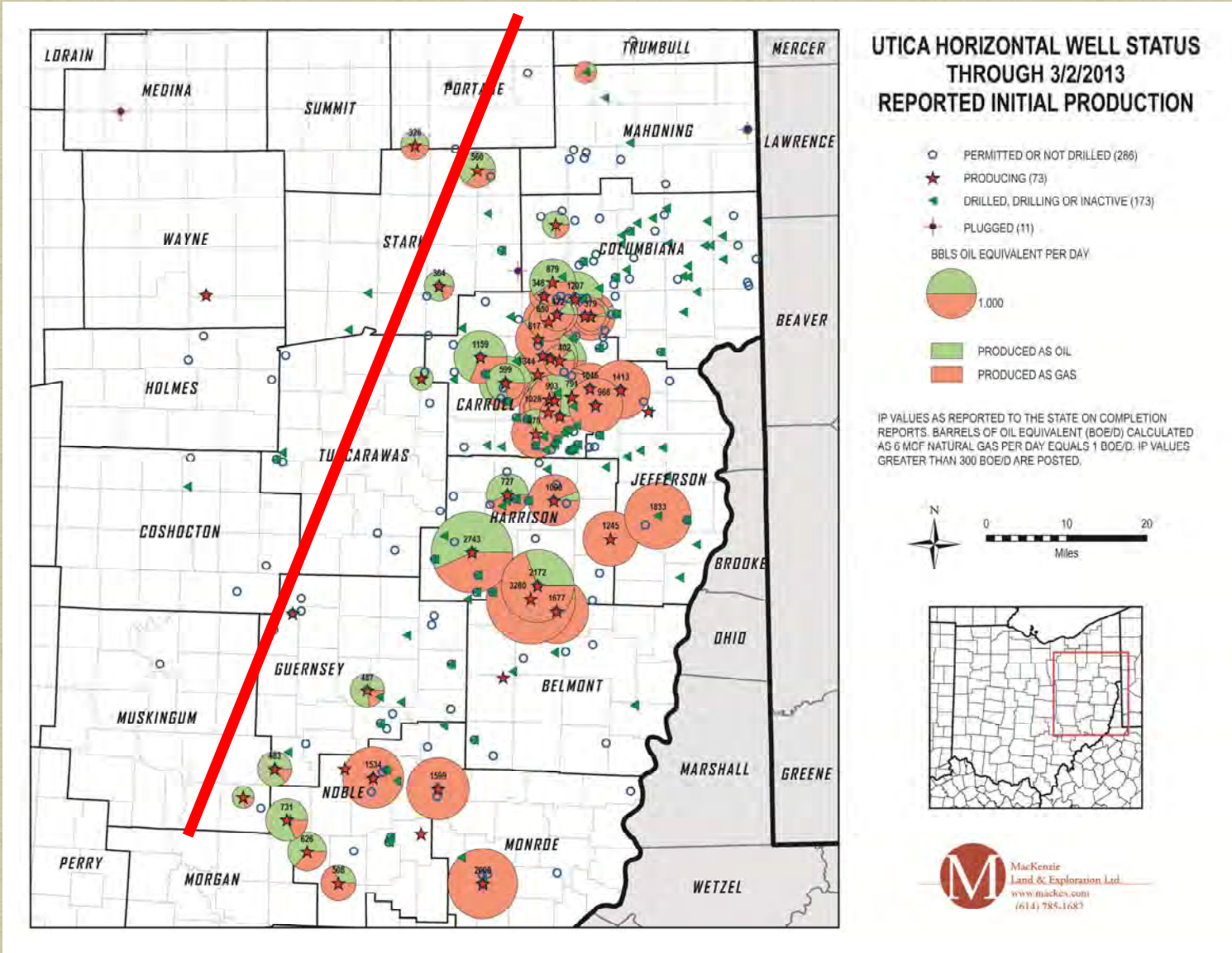
# Utica Maturity Normalized Oil Content



Modified from  
McClain, 2013



# Utica Activity and Production





# Successful Mudrock Plays

## Key Geologic Parameters

- ◆ Understanding Resource, Reserves & Productivity
- ◆ Subtle Changes Mudrock Reservoir Properties
  - ◆ Distribution of Organic Content
  - ◆ “Fracability”
    - Mineralogy
    - Containment
  - ◆ Structural Discontinuities
    - Faulting and Geosteering
  - ◆ Present Stress Regime / Past Stress Regimes
    - Stimulated Reservoir Volume
  - ◆ Maturity
    - Fluid/Gas Type
    - Influence on Reservoir Porosity and Permeability



# Thank You



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