Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute

NEWSLETTER

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Coal seams in Mississippian age core from the Plantation Petroleum - Allen #1 test hole in Clay County, Mississippi.

MMRI ACCEPTS MEMBERSHIP IN THE GULF STATES COAL SEAM NATURAL GAS CONSORTIUM

The Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute (MMRI) has accepted membership in the Gulf States Coal Seam Natural Gas Consortium (GSCSNGC). The Consortium is one of three national consortia pursuing coal bed methane (CBM) research. Research will provide geologic, chemical, and economic information that will aid industry in developing the nation’s under-exploited CBM resources. Consortia members include: Mississippi Mineral Resources Institute, Arkansas Geologic Survey, Basin Research Institute-Louisiana Geologic Survey, Alabama Geologic Survey, and the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology. Keith Thomas, Interstate Oil & Gas Compact Commission, oversees the Consortium. Both the USGS and industry have partnered with the GSCSNGC to assess the CBM potential in the Deep South. A related program conducted by the Diagnostic Instrumentation and Analysis Laboratory (DIAL) will provide additional support to MMRI CBM research and other energy-related projects. DIAL oversees Mississippi’s program for the Southeastern Regional Carbon Sequestration Partnership (SERCSP), which supports technologies for sequestering process-generated CO2 in the state and region. MMRI is now seeking additional industry partners interested in exploring Mississippi’s CBM potential. Primary CBM targets are in the Wilcox Group, at depths of 1000-5500 feet below ground surface. Other CBM potential may be present in Mississippian and upper Cretaceous units. Contact Steve Ingram, Energy Program Coordinator at 662-915-5234 or sli@olemiss.edu for details. For further details on DIAL and the CO2 Sequestration Program, contact John Plodinec by phone at 662-325-8701, or by email at Plodinec@dial.msstate.edu.

In a related issue, the State Legislature passed legislation to reinstitute the CBM incentives during this legislative session.

And on a special note, MMRI wishes to express our appreciation to the Estate of Dr. Charles L. Neil for the donation of oil and gas data, maps, and information in support of hydrocarbon research at the University of Mississippi.
Energy to drill and place an array of sensors into a borehole in a region of gas hydrates in the Gulf of Mexico. The CMRET is responsible for the design and construction of the array which will remain in the hole permanently to observe conditions within the sub-bottom hydrate stability zone.

**POSTERS PRESENTED AT GSA CONVENTION**

Four MMRI/CMRET researchers (Bob Woolsey, Tom McGee, Carol Lutken and Erika Geresi) gave presentations at the Geological Society of America convention in Seattle during November. Posters can be downloaded from the MMRI website.

**CMRET HOSTS VISITING SCHOLAR**

Leonardo Macelloni, visiting scholar from Rome, returned home in December to teach two geology courses at the University of Rome. He will return to CMRET on April 4 for a second six-month visit to work on his Ph.D. dissertation (digital processing of very-high-resolution marine seismic data).

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