# Horizontal Well Planning Within the Woodford and Other Gas Shales Within the Mid-Continent, USA



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## Hz Well Planning within Gas Shales – Key Topics

Lateral placement, based on mineralogy

Design

Execu

**Production** 

Drilling direction, based on local stresses

Staying in the zone, based on LWD/MWD

and show the second second

Stimulation

Completion plan, based on borehole images or sonics

Production Log – did it work?

GAS

# This is what we're seeing on production logs....

#### Woodford Shale Hz PL example



#### Flow Scanner\* observations:

- > contribution to gas production varies between perforation clusters
- > 75% of water production is from 4 toe perforations (stage one)
- > 20% of gas productions is from 4 toe perforations (stage one) Solution:

Wouldn't it be nice to have geologic information to explain these results?

> operator plugged the four toe perforations and eliminated 80-85% of water production (1000 bwpd) with a minimal drop in gas production



#### Intro to Horizontal Well Planning in Gas Shales

<u>The key to success in horizontal well projects within gas shales is to</u> <u>set up, plan and execute an effective completion design</u>

#### Step 1: Lateral placement – pilot hole evaluation

- Geochemical log (ECS) to quantify mineralogy and play potential
- Borehole images for structural dip, fracture, fault and stress analysis

#### Step 2: Drilling direction depends on local stress regime

- Borehole images or advanced sonic tools for stress orientations
  - Drilling fractures form parallel to present day maximum horizontal stress direction
  - Fast shear azimuth is parallel to present day maximum horizontal stress direction

#### Step 3: Completion planning – Hz well evaluation

- Borehole images or advanced sonic tools for rock stiffness
  - Resistive vs. conductive mineralogy on borehole images
  - Rock mechanical properties for fracture closure stress
- Borehole images for structural dip, fracture, fault and stress analysis
  - Dip changes may indicate folding or faulting (higher stresses)
  - Natural fractures enhanced system perm, may be related to faulting, can be good or bad
  - > Drilling fractures help us predict hydraulic fracture initiation and geometry



## Shale Minerals

#### **Gas Shales**

Quartz Rich Frequent Carbonates Illite Dominant Clay Chlorite Common Periodic Swelling Clays Pyrite Common Variable Kerogen



## **Reservoir Evaluation for Lateral Placement**



# Geochemically (ECS)-enhanced formation evaluation

- Quantitative mineralogy
  - High silica, low clay = better reservoirs and higher modulus
  - Swelling clays = big problems

#### Borehole images → FMI/OBMI/UBI

- Natural fractures
- Drilling-induced fractures
- Faults
- Bed orientation





![](_page_7_Figure_0.jpeg)

### Pilot Hole Example – Orienting the well

#### Drilling-Induced Fractures

- ENE-WSW
- Maximum horizontal stress

![](_page_8_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### **Natural Fractures**

ENE-WSW

Important for natural completions

![](_page_8_Figure_8.jpeg)

# 3D View of Horizontal Well – WellEye

Bedding has high apparent dip and fractures have low apparent dip

Bedded Pyrite (conductive)

**Resistive Bed** 

Ν

Open fractures (both induced and natural)

1.44

S

GAS

![](_page_10_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Stress Information in Horizontal Wellbores → Induced Fractures: Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

Overall low stress & isotropic stresses Low maximum stress, high minimum stress (higher isotropic stress)

Longitudinal only

![](_page_11_Figure_4.jpeg)

**Transverse only** 

Low minimum stress, Max >> Min stress (stress anisotropy)

![](_page_11_Picture_7.jpeg)

None

Overall high stress

![](_page_11_Picture_10.jpeg)

#### Stress Information in Horizontal Wellbores → Induced Fractures: Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

Short & wide fracture fairway

#### Stress Information in Horizontal Wellbores $\rightarrow$ Induced Fractures: Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Stress Information in Horizontal Wellbores $\rightarrow$ Induced Fractures: Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Horizontal Woodford Example

![](_page_15_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Impact of Mineralogy on Mechanical Properties and Stress

Assume:

![](_page_16_Figure_1.jpeg)

Anisotropic shale properties increases stress in argillaceous intervals

Large stress contrast between beds -

### 

Argillaceous Shale: Isotropic:  $\sigma_h = 5,288 \text{ psi} = 0.705 \text{ psi/ft}$ Anisotropic:  $\sigma_h = 6,573 \text{ psi} = 0.876 \text{ psi/ft}$ Cherty Shale: Isotropic:  $\sigma_h = 4,568 \text{ psi} = 0.609 \text{ psi/ft}$ Anisotropic:  $\sigma_h = 4,605 \text{ psi} = 0.614 \text{ psi/ft}$ 

![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

570

\$75

380

385

Much smaller Mechanical Properties Contrast than in Woodford Shale

![](_page_17_Picture_2.jpeg)

## Natural Fractures:

## Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

gl.

#### **Completion considerations:**

- as natural fracture spacing decreases, perf spacing can increase
- isolate intervals with significant differences in natural fracture spacing

![](_page_18_Figure_5.jpeg)

## Horizontal Image Interpretation Examples

![](_page_19_Figure_1.jpeg)

## Horizontal Woodford Example

![](_page_20_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Horizontal Image Interpretation Examples

Sub-seismic faults

# **Potential Issues:** wasted frac energy and inefficient reservoir stimulation can guide hydraulic fractures to water-bearing zones GAS

## Wrap Up: Completion Planning/Prediction Summary Variable Characteristics = Variable Treatments

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

# Conclusions

 Geochemically-enhanced formation evaluation, advanced sonic measurements and/or borehole image analysis optimize horizontal well placement

 Borehole image and/or advanced sonic analyses define local stress regime and determine the optimal horizontal well azimuth

Borehole image analysis can optimize the completion design

![](_page_23_Picture_4.jpeg)

# Thank You!

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)