Guidelines for Field Collection of Coal Data for CBM Projects

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ABSTRACT

Good data collection techniques and field observations are important elements to a successful coalbed methane (CBM) project. MGV Energy's CBM exploration program is targeting coals from the Scollard Formation to the Mannville Group. We have been involved in cutting more than 2 kilometres of core in wells located over a large area of the Alberta Plains.

There are many types of data collected in the field that provide information about the CBM reservoir and coal properties; these include core, cuttings, gas detection and petrophysical logs. In the field the geologist is most involved in the collection of core data. Core data provides information about coal quality, gas content and cleat characteristics. The field objectives are to obtain a good visual core description, sample coals over different stratigraphic and depth intervals, and to canister the coals as quickly as possible in order to maximize the chances of measuring meaningful in-situ gas contents.

In our presentation we will outline practical guidelines on designing a field program and field procedures. These ideas will assist the working geologist in meeting the objective of obtaining complete and useful results from the data collected in the field.