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1 **Overpressure generating mechanisms in the Peciko Field, Lower Kutai Basin, Indonesia**

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5

6 **Running title:** Overpressure generating mechanisms in the Peciko Field

7

8 **ABSTRACT:** The Peciko Field contains gas in multiple stacked reservoirs within a Miocene
9 deltaic sequence. In the deeper reservoirs, gas is trapped hydrodynamically by high lateral
10 overpressure gradients. We have analysed overpressure and compaction in this field by using
11 wireline log, pressure, temperature, and vitrinite reflectance data. The top of overpressure is
12 located below 3 km burial depth, below the depth range for transformation of discrete
13 smectite to mixed-layer illite/smectite. Density-sonic and density-resistivity crossplots for
14 mudrocks show reversals within the transition zone into hard overpressure below 3.5 km
15 depth. Vitrinite reflectance measurements indicate that the start of unloading coincides with
16 the onset of gas generation. Moreover, mudrock density continues to increase with depth in
17 the overpressured section to values above 2.6 g cm⁻³. We conclude that gas generation and
18 chemical compaction are responsible for overpressure generation, contradicting previous
19 interpretations that disequilibrium compaction is the principal mechanism for generating
20 overpressure in the Lower Kutai Basin. The particular circumstances which make our radical
21 interpretation plausible are that it is a warm basin with lateral reservoir drainage, so the
22 overpressured mudrocks are probably overcompacted as a result of diagenesis.

23

24 **KEYWORDS:** *Lower Kutai Basin, overpressure, unloading, gas generation, compaction*

25

26 **Introduction**

27 Overpressure in Cenozoic basins is commonly associated with the inability of fluid to escape
28 rapidly enough to remain in hydrostatic equilibrium during ongoing burial. As a consequence,
29 the sediments retain higher porosities than they would do if the pore pressure were
30 hydrostatic. This process is referred to as disequilibrium compaction (Swarbrick *et al.* 2002).
31 Disequilibrium compaction was recognized as a primary mechanism for generating
32 overpressure in the US Gulf Coast region over 40 years ago (Pennebaker 1968; Reynolds
33 1970). Since then, disequilibrium compaction has been diagnosed as the cause of overpressure
34 in many sedimentary basins worldwide, including the Neogene prodelta mudrocks of the
35 Baram Delta, Brunei (Tingay *et al.* 2009).

36

37 More recent work in overpressure analysis has shown the importance of other
38 overpressure generating mechanisms apart from disequilibrium compaction, even in Neogene
39 sequences. These overpressure generating mechanisms, such as gas generation, clay
40 diagenesis, aquathermal pressuring and pressure transference, can be classified as unloading
41 mechanisms (Bowers 1995). Some examples of basins where these mechanisms have been
42 shown to be active are Haltenbanken and the Northern North Sea (Hermanrud *et al.* 1998;
43 Teige *et al.* 1999, 2007), the Eugene Island area of the Gulf of Mexico (Bowers 2001), and
44 the inner shelf sequence of the Baram Delta (Tingay *et al.* 2009).

45

46 The Peciko Field is located within Miocene strata in the Lower Kutai Basin,
47 Kalimantan, Indonesia (Fig. 1). A transition zone into hard overpressure is encountered in the
48 field at depths of 11,000–14,000 ft (3350–4250 m). The primary mechanism responsible for
49 overpressure generation in this area has previously been interpreted to be disequilibrium
50 compaction (Bois *et al.* 1994; Bates 1996; Burrus 1998).

51

52 The principal objective of the work reported here was to determine whether
53 disequilibrium compaction really is the mechanism responsible for generating overpressure in
54 the Peciko Field. A secondary aim was to find a method which can be used during drilling
55 mudrock sections to estimate overpressure for wider application in the basin. By analysing
56 wireline log data in the mud-rich intervals, we show that overpressure is generated by
57 unloading mechanisms, probably including both gas generation and clay mineral diagenesis,
58 and not disequilibrium compaction. Our interpretation is radically different from that of
59 previous workers, who have all concluded that the principal mechanism for generating
60 overpressure was disequilibrium compaction.

61

62 In the following sections, we give background on the geology of the basin,
63 overpressure distribution, and wireline log responses to overpressure before presenting our
64 analysis of log, pressure, temperature, and vitrinite reflectance data. We then discuss the
65 implications for overpressure generation mechanisms and, in reaching our conclusions,
66 comment on the particular circumstances in the Lower Kutai Basin which make it a rewarding
67 basin to study for understanding overpressure generation and chemical compaction in mud-
68 rich sedimentary successions.

69

70 **Geological background and overpressure distribution**

71 Tectonically, the Lower Kutai Basin has experienced several episodes of rift, sag, and
72 inversion resulting from interaction between the Eurasia plate to the north, the Pacific Plate to
73 the east, and the Australian Plate to the south (Moss & Chambers 1999). The main inversion
74 episodes have occurred from the Middle Miocene to the present, and have been responsible
75 for the development of anticlinal structures (Chambers *et al.* 2004). The major structural

76 feature is the Samarinda Anticlinorium, consisting of a series of anticlines and synclines with
77 axes oriented approximately north–south. This anticlinorium is highly folded and faulted on
78 the onshore area, whereas dips are gentle in the shallow water and deep offshore areas. The
79 main north–south anticlinal folds are the Onshore Axis, Internal Axis, Median Axis, External
80 Axis, and Offshore Axis (Fig. 1). The Peciko Field is located on the Median Axis.

81

82 According to Allen & Chambers (1998), the thickness of the Neogene section in the
83 basin, which comprises deltaic sediment sourced by the Mahakam River in eastern
84 Kalimantan, may reach about 14 km in the depocentre. The Mahakam Delta is a fluvial-tidal
85 mud-dominated delta that has been prograding from the Early Miocene to the present day.
86 Stratigraphically, the productive interval in the Middle–Upper Miocene succession is the
87 Tunu Main Zone, and the hydrocarbons present are mainly gas. The Tunu Main Zone is sub-
88 divided into six intermediate stratigraphic units, of which only the uppermost five are present
89 in the Peciko Field. They have an average thickness of 300–400 m, based on the presence of
90 third-order maximum flooding surfaces. The intermediate stratigraphic units are further sub-
91 divided into several smaller stratigraphic units, based on the presence of local flooding
92 surfaces. The reservoirs in this field are dominantly distributary mouth bars (Samson *et al.*,
93 2005). The dimensions of individual mouth bars are 1–3 m thick and 1500–4000 m wide, and
94 stacked mouth bars attain thicknesses of 10–30 m (Fig. 2a). Figure 2b is a schematic cross-
95 section of the field which illustrates the stacked nature of the gas reservoirs and the tilted gas-
96 water contacts in the deeper overpressured accumulations.

97

98 The burial history of the Tunu Main Zone in this field (Fig. 3) shows that the
99 sedimentation rate during the last 8 My has been fairly constant at around 300 m My⁻¹. This
100 ongoing deposition of fine-grained sediment has previously been interpreted as being

101 responsible for the generation of overpressure by disequilibrium compaction in this area (Bois
102 *et al.* 1994; Bates 1996; Burrus 1998).

103

104 The inversion episodes have caused almost all of the Neogene sedimentary layers to
105 crop out in the onshore and coastal areas. Consequently, overpressure can bleed off laterally
106 on the basin scale, depending on the degree of reservoir connectivity. This process is known
107 as lateral reservoir drainage (O'Connor & Swarbrick 2008). The occurrence of lateral
108 reservoir drainage in the Peciko Field was identified by Grosjean *et al.* (1994) and Lambert *et*
109 *al.* (2003). The lateral overpressure gradients are sufficiently large to create hydrodynamic
110 traps for gas. For example, in stratigraphic unit 3 the lateral overpressure gradient reaches 150
111 psi km⁻¹ (Fig. 4a). Given a gas density of 0.2 g cm⁻³, the gas-water contact has a tilt of up to
112 7°. There is ample field evidence of tilted accumulations of gas in the deeper reservoir
113 intervals of the Peciko Field. In these reservoirs, the gas accumulations are displaced down-
114 dip on to the northern flank of the structure, as shown schematically in Fig. 2b, and the gas
115 column in crestal wells is either very thin or absent (Fig. 4b). A south–north cross-section
116 (Fig. 5) shows that both top of overpressure and the top of the pressure transition zone deepen
117 to the north, where the strata are more sand-rich.

118

119 Information about source rocks in the Lower Kutai Basin generally, and in the Peciko
120 Field specifically, has been provided by Oudin & Picard (1982), Schoell *et al.* (1985), Burrus
121 *et al.* (1992), Paterson *et al.* (1997), Duval *et al.* (1998), and Lambert *et al.* (2003). The main
122 source rocks in the area are organic-rich mudrocks, coal beds, and even sandy facies
123 deposited in fluvial, deltaic top, tidal plain, and delta front settings. They are mostly classified
124 as Type III source rocks. Although the organic-rich mudrocks are gas prone, Lambert *et al.*
125 (2003) reported that the oil-generative potential of the Type III organic matter is unusually

126 high. The contribution to hydrocarbon generation from marine mudrocks, located in the
127 deepwater Makassar Straits and in the deeper part of fields surrounding Mahakam Delta, is
128 thought to be negligible because their organic content is low. Interestingly, isotopic analysis
129 performed by Lambert *et al.* (2003) showed that the threshold for both gas and oil maturation
130 corresponds to a vitrinite reflectance of 0.6%.

131

132 **Wireline log responses to overpressure**

133 There are several candidate mechanisms for generating overpressure in the Lower Kutai
134 Basin, including disequilibrium compaction, clay diagenesis, gas generation, and lateral
135 pressure transfer. Wireline log analysis can help to distinguish between these mechanisms
136 (e.g. Bowers 2001; Katahara 2006).

137

138 When a mud-rich sedimentary succession cannot dewater rapidly enough for the pore
139 pressure to remain hydrostatic during burial, its porosity is greater than that it would be if the
140 pore pressure were hydrostatic, and the overpressure is said to be caused by disequilibrium
141 compaction. Where overpressure has been generated by disequilibrium compaction in a
142 uniform mudrock succession, with virtually no loss of pore fluid, the porosity remains
143 constant and the pore pressure-depth profile becomes parallel to the vertical stress-depth
144 profile.

145

146 Where overpressure has been generated by an unloading mechanism such as clay
147 diagenesis, gas generation or lateral transfer, the pore pressure can increase more rapidly with
148 depth than the vertical stress (Fig. 6). In such circumstances, the density usually continues to
149 increase with depth through the overpressured mudrocks, while the sonic log trend reverses,
150 moving towards higher sonic travel time with increasing depth. The resistivity log trend also

151 reverses, moving towards lower resistivity with increasing depth. These responses can be
152 explained by the concept of storage pores and connecting pores (Bowers & Katsube 2002).
153 When pore pressure in a mudrock increases due to fluid expansion, the unloading response is
154 essentially elastic and results in only a very small increase in porosity. Because the density
155 log measures the bulk porosity of the mudrock, it is barely affected by the fluid expansion.
156 The increase in porosity that does occur during fluid expansion is predominately due to the
157 opening of flat connecting pores, because they are more compliant than the storage pores. The
158 sonic and resistivity log responses are sensitive to the opening of connecting pores because
159 their opening reduces the bulk modulus and rigidity and increases the conductivity.

160

161 **Data analysis**

162 The Peciko Field was developed using the concept of hydrodynamic trapping (Grosjean *et al.*
163 1994; Lambert *et al.* 2003), and a campaign of reservoir pressure measurements for
164 hydrodynamic analysis purposes has resulted in an excellent pressure database. On average,
165 there are around 70 RFT points in each well. These pressure data are very useful for
166 overpressure analysis because they can be used both to determine overpressure distribution
167 and to calibrate methods of pore pressure estimation.

168

169 We have analysed data from the discovery well, PEC-1, and 16 appraisal wells in the
170 Peciko Field, most of which have terminated at the pressure transition zone into hard
171 overpressure. Here, we present data from three wells, PEC-1, NWP-9, and NWP-16 (Fig. 2a),
172 to illustrate our findings. PEC-1 was chosen as a typical example of a well on the crest of the
173 structure and because source rock maturation data are available from it, although it does
174 contain a relatively small number of RFT points and no density log was run in this early well.
175 NWP-9 was chosen because it encounters the highest overpressure value in the Peciko Field

176 and shows a clear unloading response on density-sonic and density-resistivity crossplots.
177 NWP-16 is located downflank in the northern part of the field where the top of overpressure is
178 deeper and the geothermal gradient is slightly lower (Fig. 3). It is the deepest well in the field
179 and was chosen to make a comparison of the wireline log responses with those from well
180 NWP-9.

181

182 Prior to analysing the wireline response to overpressure, it is necessary to discriminate
183 mud-rich intervals from more silty and sandy intervals from the given set of wireline logs.
184 Discrimination was done by cross-plotting density against the difference between neutron
185 porosity and the porosity estimated from the density logs (Fig. 7), as done by Katahara
186 (2006). To infer porosity from the density log, a matrix density of 2.75 g cm^{-3} and a fluid
187 density of 1.05 g cm^{-3} were arbitrarily assumed. An arbitrary threshold value of 0.18 was
188 chosen (i.e., $\text{NPHI} - \text{DPHI} > 0.18$) to ensure that our pressure analysis was consistently
189 performed in the mud-rich intervals, although tests showed that estimated pore pressures in
190 the mudrocks had low sensitivity to the choice of threshold value.

191

192 The pressure-depth plot for well PEC-1 (Fig. 8a) is typical of wells in this field, except
193 that the top of overpressure is located at slightly greater depths further north (Fig. 3). The
194 overpressure initially increases slowly with depth below the top of overpressure at ~9500 ft
195 (~2900 m) and then more rapidly through a transition zone into hard overpressure. The top of
196 the transition zone is at ~11,300 ft (~3450 m). The top of transition zone is picked at the depth
197 where vertical effective stress starts to decrease as depth increases.

198

199 According to Lambert *et al.* (2003), the maturity threshold for gas generation
200 corresponds to a vitrinite reflectance value of 0.6%. Well PEC-1 is the only well in the

201 Peciko Field from which vitrinite reflectance data are available (Fig. 8b). There is a
202 correlation between the top of the transition zone into hard overpressure and the vitrinite
203 reflectance value of 0.6%. Four data points in the interval 10,000–12,000 ft (3050–3650 m)
204 have vitrinite reflectance values below the general trend. There is no other available
205 information to indicate whether they are reliable, but there is a possibility that these values
206 were obtained from fragments due to caving, and not cuttings from the drill bit.

207

208 The pressure-depth plot for well NWP-9 (Fig. 9) indicates that the top of overpressure
209 is at a depth of ~11,000 ft (~3350 m), although there is a good RFT measurement showing
210 ~300 psi (~2 MPa) of overpressure in an isolated sand body at ~10,000 ft (~3050 m) depth.
211 The top of the transition into hard overpressure is around 12,000 ft (3650 m) depth, where
212 reversals can be seen in the trends of both the sonic and resistivity logs through the mudrocks.
213 The density log, by contrast, shows no obvious reversal, but it shows consistently high values
214 of density, around 2.6 g cm^{-3} , in the depth interval 11,000–13,000 ft (3350–3950 m).

215

216 The pressure-depth plot for well NWP-16 (Fig. 10) appears to converge slightly
217 towards the lithostatic gradient with increasing depth, but it is not clear whether the well has
218 entered the expected transition zone into hard overpressure. The wireline logs appear to
219 display asymptotic trends towards the bottom of the well, without any clear indication of
220 reversals, although it is possible that the trends of both sonic and resistivity logs are on the
221 point of reversing at the bottom of the well.

222

223 Crossplots of density against sonic and resistivity log values for mudrocks in well
224 NWP-9 are shown in Fig. 11, with data points colour-coded at intervals of 1000 ft (305 m).
225 The smectitic and illitic compaction trends, introduced by Dutta (2002) and adopted by

226 Katahara (2006), are shown on the density-sonic crossplot for reference. The smectitic
227 compaction trend is followed by mudrocks with a high proportion of discrete smectite. The
228 illitic compaction trend is followed by mudrocks in which all the discrete smectite has been
229 transformed into mixed-layer illite/smectite. Both crossplots show clear unloading responses
230 starting at a depth of ~12,000 ft (~3650 m). The data points coloured red in the deepest
231 interval show changes in trend, with increased sonic transit time and decreased resistivity but
232 no decrease in density. These observations provide clear evidence that the generating
233 mechanism for hard overpressure is an unloading process. Data points in the depth range
234 5000–12,000 ft (1500–3650 m) on the density-sonic crossplot fall on, or close to, the illitic
235 compaction trend. The average geothermal gradient is around $0.0094\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C ft}^{-1}$ ($0.031\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C m}^{-1}$)
236 with a surface temperature of $30\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$, giving an estimated temperature of nearly $80\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ at 5000 ft
237 (1500 m) depth, sufficient for discrete smectite to have disappeared (Hower *et al.* 1976; Boles
238 & Franks 1979).

239

240 Clauer *et al.* (1999) investigated clay mineralogy in the Tunu Field, which is located
241 on the Median Axis north of Peciko (Fig. 1) so the clay mineralogy in the two fields may be
242 expected to be similar. At sampling depths below 7700 ft (2350 m), they found that the clay
243 fraction consists of mixed-layer illite/smectite, kaolinite/dickite, detrital illite and chlorite.
244 This clay mineral composition is consistent with the illitic compaction trend observed below
245 ~5000 ft (~1500 m) (Fig. 11). The fact that the density-sonic crossplot follows an illitic
246 compaction trend over the hydrostatically pressured depth interval of 5000–11,000 ft (1500–
247 3350 m) indicates that excess water which may have been released by the transformation of
248 discrete smectite to mixed-layer illite/smectite has dissipated and does not contribute to
249 present-day overpressures. However, clay diagenetic reactions that continue to be active at
250 higher temperatures, including ongoing illitization of mixed-layer illite/smectite and the

251 conversion of kaolinite to illite (Bjørlykke 1998), and also quartz dissolution and precipitation
252 (Bjørkum 1995), probably do contribute to present-day overpressures.

253

254 Composite density plots for mudrocks in all 16 NWP wells (Fig. 4a) are shown in Fig.
255 12, without and with the data points from the overpressured intervals in each well. The
256 density continues to increase smoothly below the top of overpressure, even though the vertical
257 effective stress reaches its maximum value at the top of overpressure in each well. Thus,
258 compaction appears to continue with increasing depth, independent of the vertical effective
259 stress. This plot constitutes strong evidence for ongoing chemical compaction below the top
260 of overpressure, and for discounting disequilibrium compaction as a mechanism that
261 contributes to the generation of overpressure in this field. Given the high average density, in
262 excess of 2.6 g cm^{-3} below 12,000 ft in all wells (Fig. 12), our preferred interpretation is that
263 the mudrocks in the overpressured intervals have become overcompacted by diagenetic
264 processes, i.e. overcompacted in a mechanical sense due to the chemical compaction
265 processes.

266

267 **Implications for overpressure generation**

268 Pressure-depth plots show that the top of overpressure is at depths of 9500–12,000 ft (2900–
269 3650 m), corresponding to estimated temperatures of 120–140°C, and that there is a transition
270 zone into hard overpressure at depths of 11,500–14,000 ft (3500–4250 m), corresponding to
271 estimated temperatures of 140–160°C. These depths to the top of overpressure are relatively
272 large in comparison to other Neogene basins worldwide, as summarized by Swarbrick *et al.*
273 (2002). For example, in the Malay Basin where the sedimentation rate is around 800 ft My^{-1}
274 (240 m My^{-1}), about 20% less than the sedimentation rate over the last 8 My in the Lower
275 Kutai Basin, the top of overpressure is around 3200 ft (975 m) depth. Presumably, the top of

276 overpressure in the Lower Kutai Basin is so deep because of lateral reservoir drainage
277 (Grosjean *et al.* 1994; Lambert *et al.* 2003). Inversion started in Middle Miocene times and
278 has continued to the present day with uplift centred on the onshore area (Chambers *et al.*
279 2004). Unpublished net-to-gross (NTG) maps for the Median Axis region of the Lower Kutai
280 Basin show a progressive upward increase in NTG at the Peciko Field from stratigraphic unit
281 5 up to stratigraphic unit 3 (Figs 2b and 5), which is consistent with effective lateral drainage
282 above the overpressured zone.

283

284 Within the transition zone into hard overpressure in well NWP-9, both density-sonic
285 and density-resistivity crossplots show clear unloading responses (Figs 9 and 11). Clay
286 diagenesis may contribute to the present-day overpressure in the Peciko Field. In the
287 hydrostatically pressured succession, data on the density-sonic crossplots lie on the illite-rich
288 compaction trend below ~5000 ft (~1500 m), and remain on this trend in the zone of low
289 overpressure (Fig. 10). Although discrete smectite is likely to have disappeared by 5000 ft
290 (1500 m) burial depth, where the temperature approaches 80°C, illitization of mixed-layer
291 illite/smectite is ongoing at greater depths to much higher temperatures (Hower *et al.* 1976;
292 Boles & Franks 1979). Kaolinite transforms to illite at temperatures ~130–140°C in basin
293 settings (Bjørlykke 1998) and can contribute to overpressure both through the release of free
294 water by the reaction and by transferring load from the grains to the pore fluid as mineral
295 grains are dissolved (Bjørlykke & Hoeg 1997). This temperature range roughly corresponds
296 to that estimated at the depth of the transition zone into high overpressure. Furthermore, the
297 dissolution of kaolinite and precipitation of illite may reduce porosity and permeability at this
298 depth, and thereby help to maintain high overpressure in the deeper strata.

299

300 Gas generation seems likely to be another unloading process responsible for the hard
301 overpressure, generated both directly from kerogen and from oil cracking to gas. According to
302 Lambert *et al.* (2003), gas generation starts at a vitrinite reflectance of 0.6%. We have one set
303 of vitrinite reflectance data in the Peciko Field, i.e. in PEC-1 where there is a correlation
304 between high overpressure and vitrinite reflectance values above 0.6% (Fig. 7). Oudin &
305 Picard (1982) found that there is a good correlation between the top of hard overpressure and
306 the increase in vitrinite reflectance in the Handil Field (Fig. 13), and Bates (1996) found a
307 similar correlation in the Nilam Field (Fig. 14). However, they did not draw any conclusions
308 about overpressure generation mechanisms from the vitrinite reflectance data. We note that
309 the data in each of those two wells show a strong correlation between the depth of transition
310 into hard overpressure and the onset of gas generation, assuming that the threshold for gas
311 generation corresponds to a vitrinite reflectance of 0.6%.

312

313 To the south and east of the Peciko Field, the sands within the Tunu Main Zone peter
314 out as the depositional environment changes from the shelf break setting to deep marine.
315 Since the organic carbon content of the deep marine sediment is low and its potential for
316 hydrocarbon generation is negligible, there is unlikely to be significant lateral transfer of
317 overpressure generated by gas generation in the synclinal area to the southeast, but there may
318 be lateral transfer of overpressure generated by diagenetic reactions.

319

320 In all wells with density logs, NWP-1 to NWP-16, the logged density values continue
321 gradually to increase downwards through the zone of low overpressure (Fig. 12), which is
322 consistent with ongoing chemical compaction. The top of overpressure is located deep within
323 the chemical compaction zone, where the effective stress appears to have no influence on
324 compaction and the mudrocks are likely to be stiffened by chemical compaction so that they

325 are overconsolidated (Bjørlykke & Hoeg 1997; Bjørlykke 1998, 1999). Consequently, we
326 attribute the origin of the low overpressures, above the transition zone into hard overpressure,
327 to passive transmission of pore fluid from the highly overpressured zone below.

328

329 **Conclusions**

330 Hard overpressure in the Peciko Field is generated by unloading mechanisms. The top of
331 overpressure is much deeper than the depth range where transformation of discrete smectite to
332 mixed-layer smectite/illite occurs, so the disappearance of smectite does not contribute to the
333 observed overpressure. The causes of the hard overpressure in the Peciko Field are likely to
334 be gas generation, illitization of mixed-layer illite/smectite, conversion of kaolinite to illite,
335 and dissolution and precipitation of quartz. We suggest that expulsion of fluid resulting from
336 gas generation and diagenesis in the zone of high overpressure maintains the hydrodynamic
337 flow through the reservoir layers containing gas accumulations.

338

339 Compaction continues below the top of overpressure, independent of vertical effective
340 stress, in all 16 wells where density logs have been run. This observation is clear evidence of
341 ongoing chemical compaction. The origin of the low overpressure above the transition zone
342 into high overpressure is probably due to vertical transfer from below. The transition zone
343 into hard overpressure can be recognized from sonic and resistivity log reversals, whether by
344 direct inspection of the logs or by crossplotting their responses against the density log.

345

346 The high mudrock densities, greater than 2.6 g cm^{-3} , at the top of overpressure indicate
347 that the mudrocks are overcompacted. Therefore, our preferred interpretation is that
348 disequilibrium compaction does not contribute to the overpressure. This conclusion is
349 radically new because all other studies of overpressured Neogene basins have suggested that

350 disequilibrium compaction has contributed to the overpressure, either directly or indirectly by
351 pressure transference. The particular circumstances in the Lower Kutai Basin which make our
352 interpretation plausible are that it is a warm basin with lateral reservoir drainage.
353 Consequently, the top of overpressure is unusually deep for a mud-rich sequence that has
354 undergone rapid burial over the last 10 My.

355

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361

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494

495 **Figure captions**

496

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498 are indicated by the outlines of known hydrocarbon accumulations.

499

500 Figure 2. Schematic sections through the Peciko Field at different vertical scales: (a) stacked
501 mouth bars in a stratigraphic interval between two local flooding surfaces (after Samson et al.,
502 2005); and (b) gas accumulations (red) with tilted GWCs in the Tunu Main Zone. SU1–SU5
503 are stratigraphic units of the Tunu Main Zone. A simplified lithological column for SU3 is
504 shown on the right: yellow denotes sand-rich intervals and green mudrock intervals.

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507 *al.* 2003).

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510 3 in the Peciko Field before production started. Pressure data were taken from the discovery
511 well, PEC-1, and the 16 NWP appraisal wells. Overpressure contours are at intervals of 50
512 psi. The outline of the field indicates the lateral extent of gas accumulations in all units. (b)
513 Pore fluid distribution in the same stratigraphic unit showing that the gas accumulation is
514 located on the north flank of the structure. Red line: limit of the gas accumulation in this
515 stratigraphic unit. Red circles: wells where the reservoir is gas-bearing. Blue circles: wells
516 where this reservoir contains only water. Circle diameter is proportional to reservoir layer
517 thickness in each well. Structural contour interval is 82 ft (25 m).

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520 4a showing the general trend of overpressure with depth.

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523 mudrock succession where overpressure is generated by an unloading process. Below the top
524 of overpressure, the reversal in the trend of sonic transit time does not indicate abnormally
525 high porosity because density continues to increase with depth.

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528 estimated from wireline logs in well NWP-9. $NPHI - DHPI = 0.18$ was arbitrarily chosen as
529 the mudrock cut-off.

530

531 Figure 8. (a) Pressure-depth plot for well PEC-1. (b) Vitrinite reflectance data showing that
532 the threshold value of 0.6 % for gas generation, as determined by Lambert *et al.* (2003),
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534 are outliers from the trend and so may contain errors.

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536 Figure 9. Pressure-depth plot for well NWP-9 with density, sonic, and resistivity log data for
537 the mudrocks.

538

539 Figure 10. Pressure-depth plot for well NWP-16 with density, sonic, and resistivity log data
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543 Data points on unloading trends are encircled in blue.

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547 the density log data.

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550 Handil Field (location in Fig. 1). After Oudin & Picard (1982).

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553 After Bates (1996).

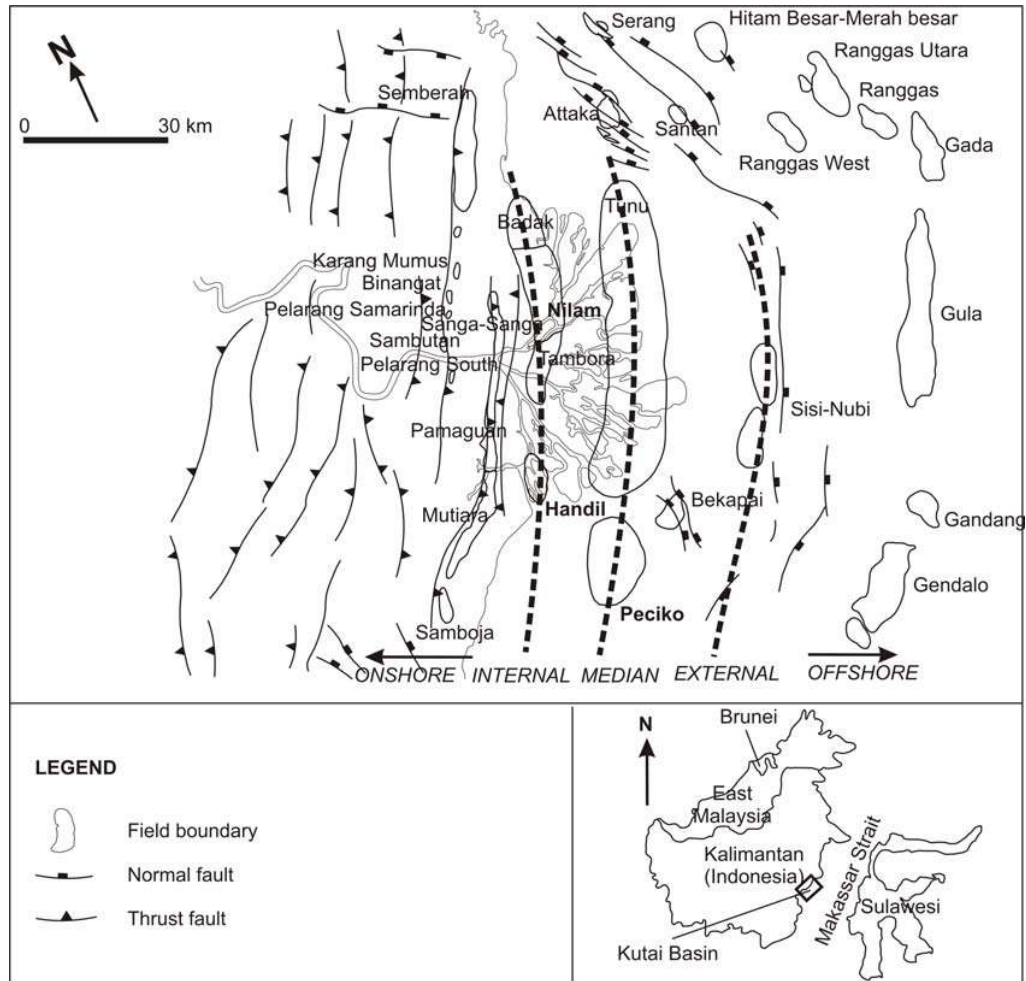


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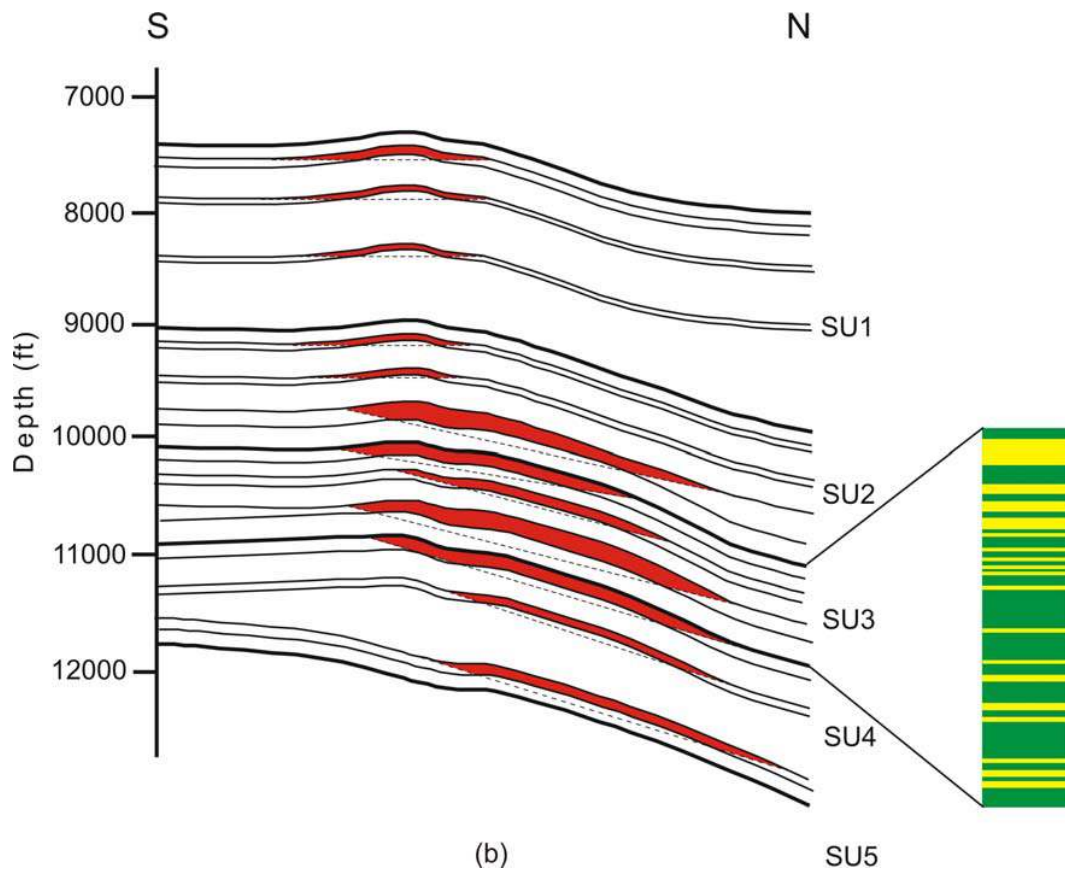
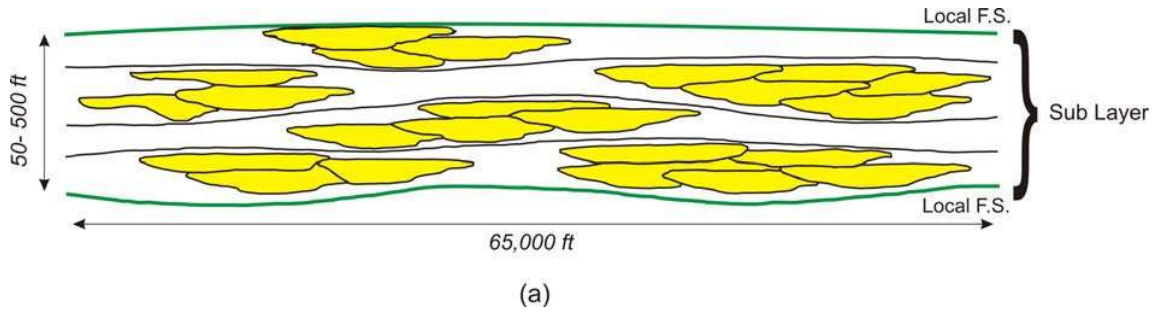


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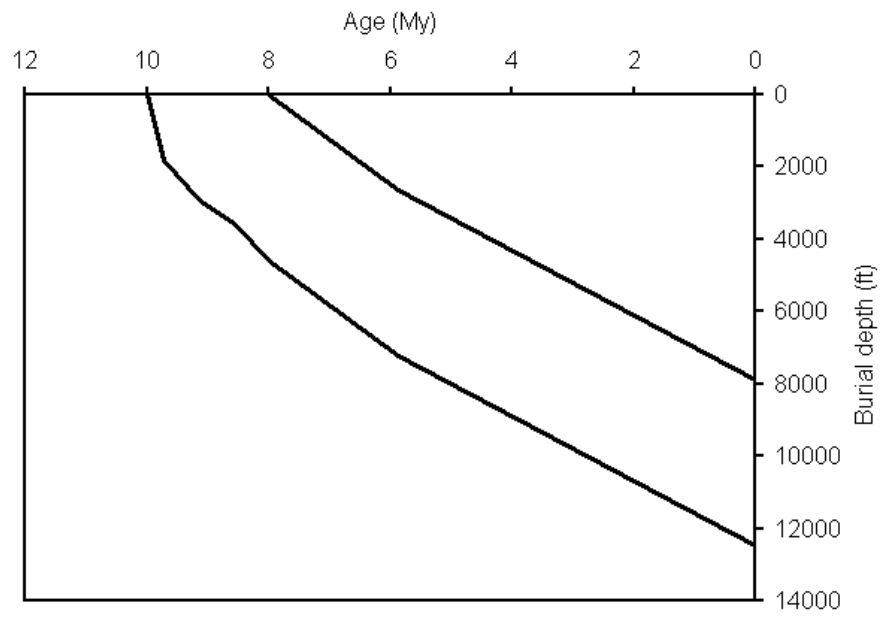
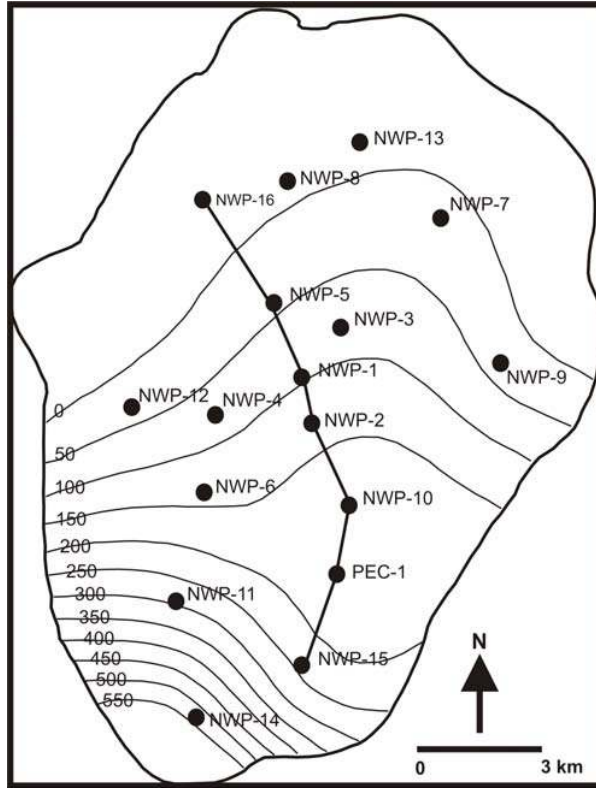
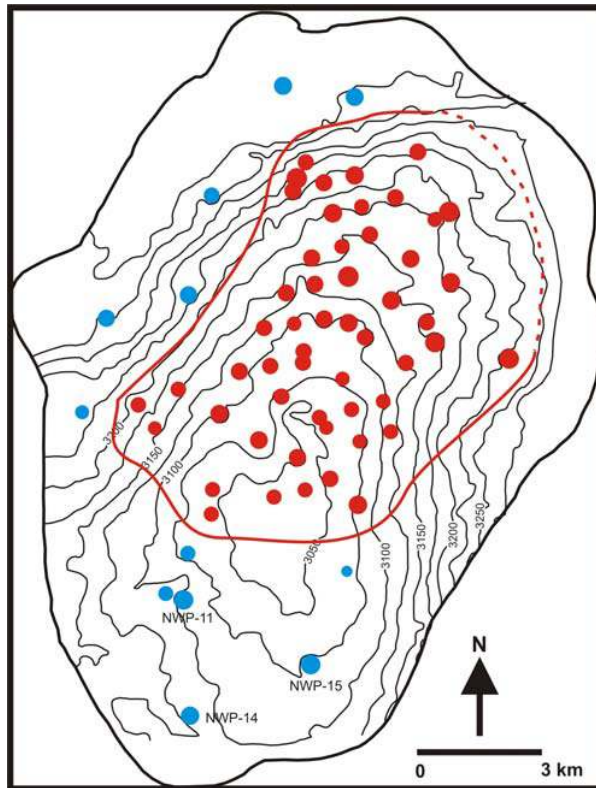


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(a)



(b)

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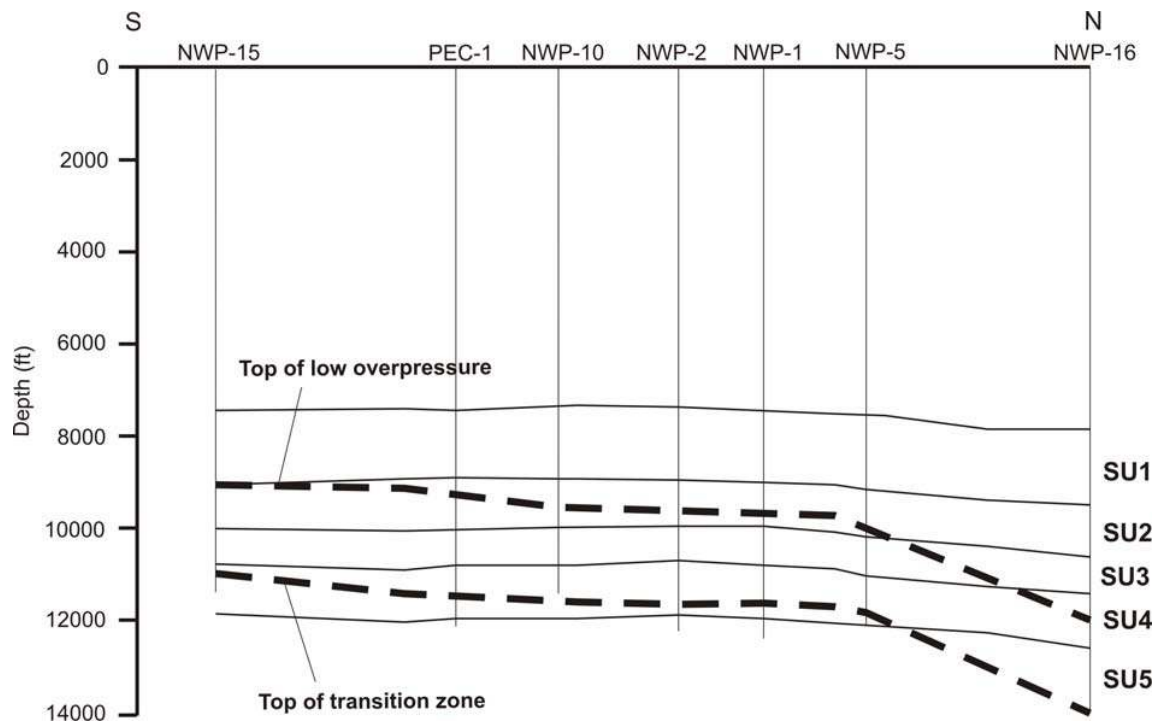


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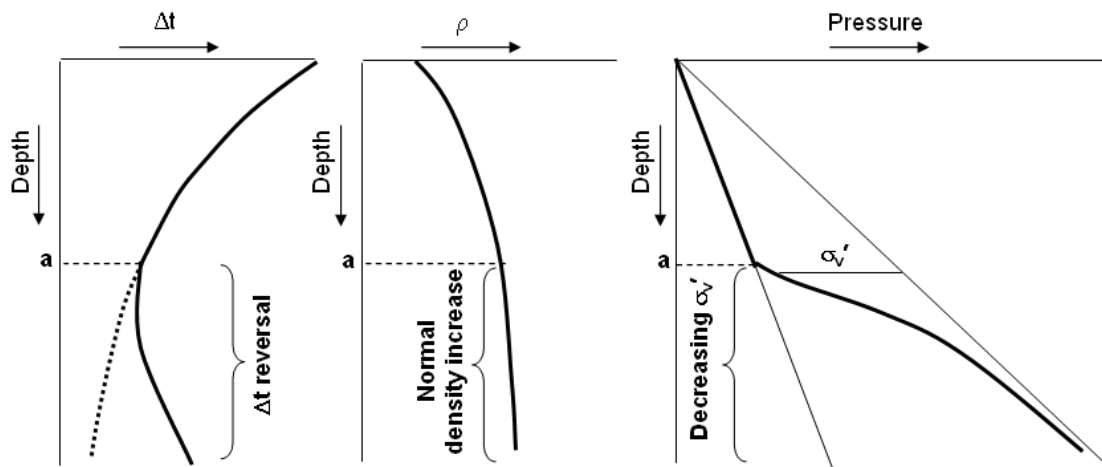


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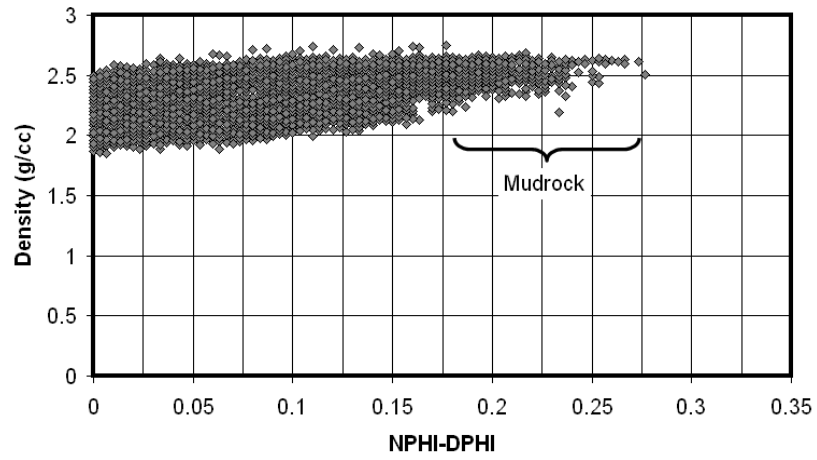


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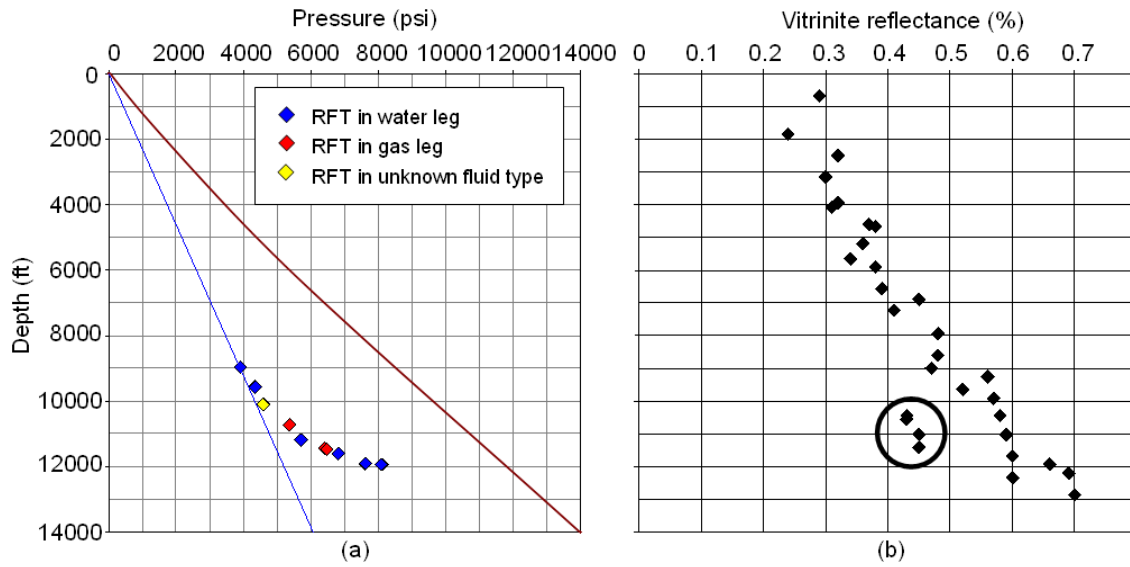


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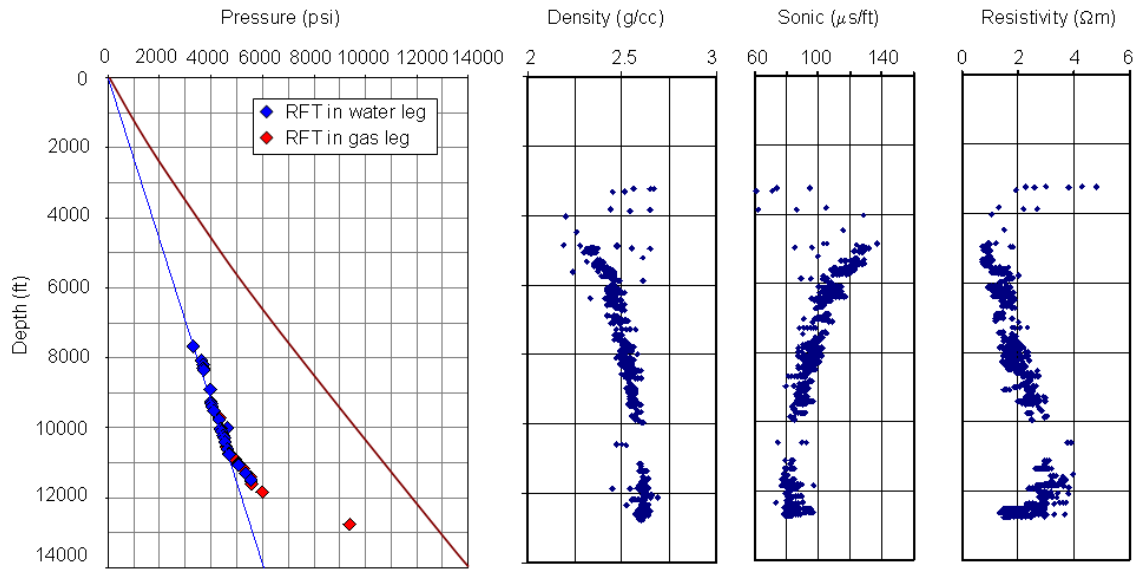


Figure 9. Pressure-depth plot for well NWP-9 with density, sonic, and resistivity log data for the mudrocks.

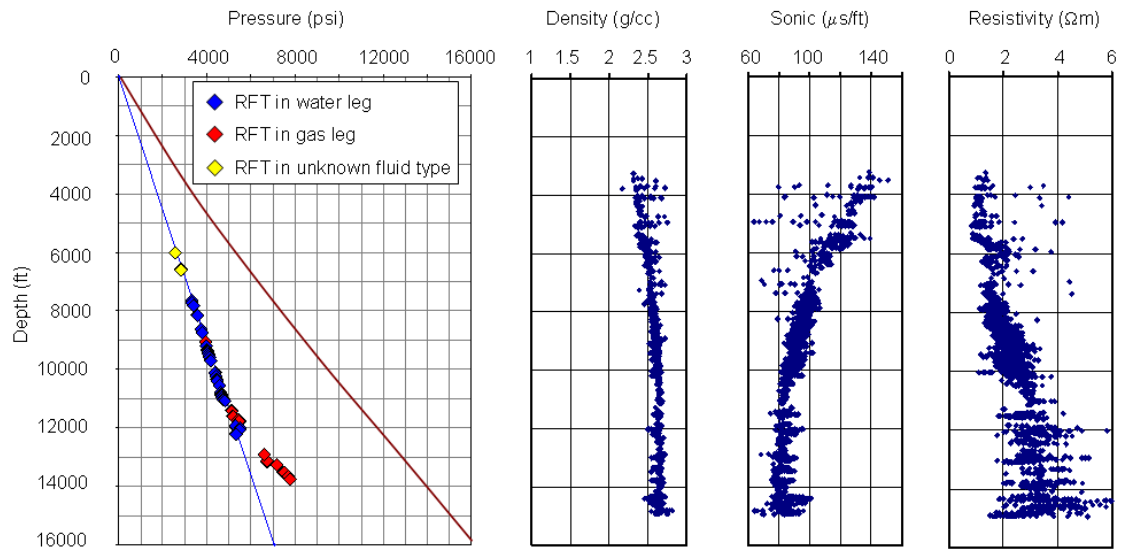


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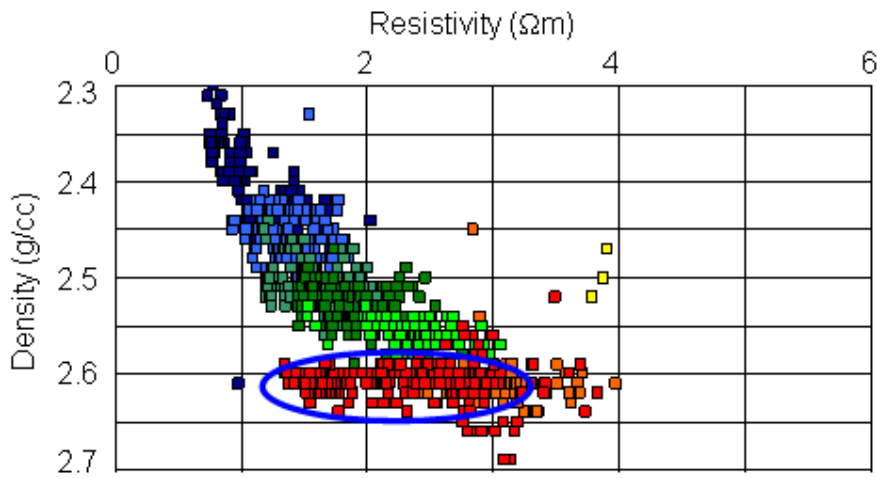
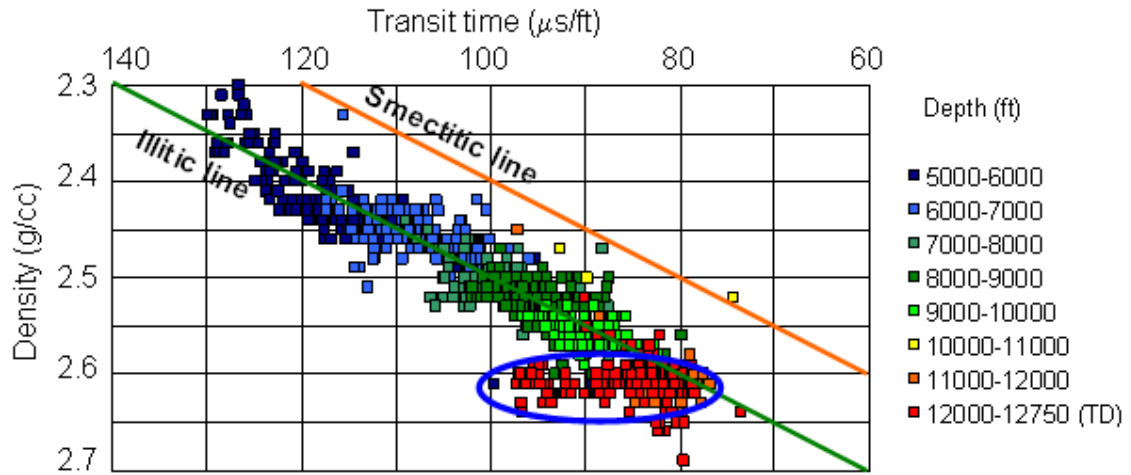


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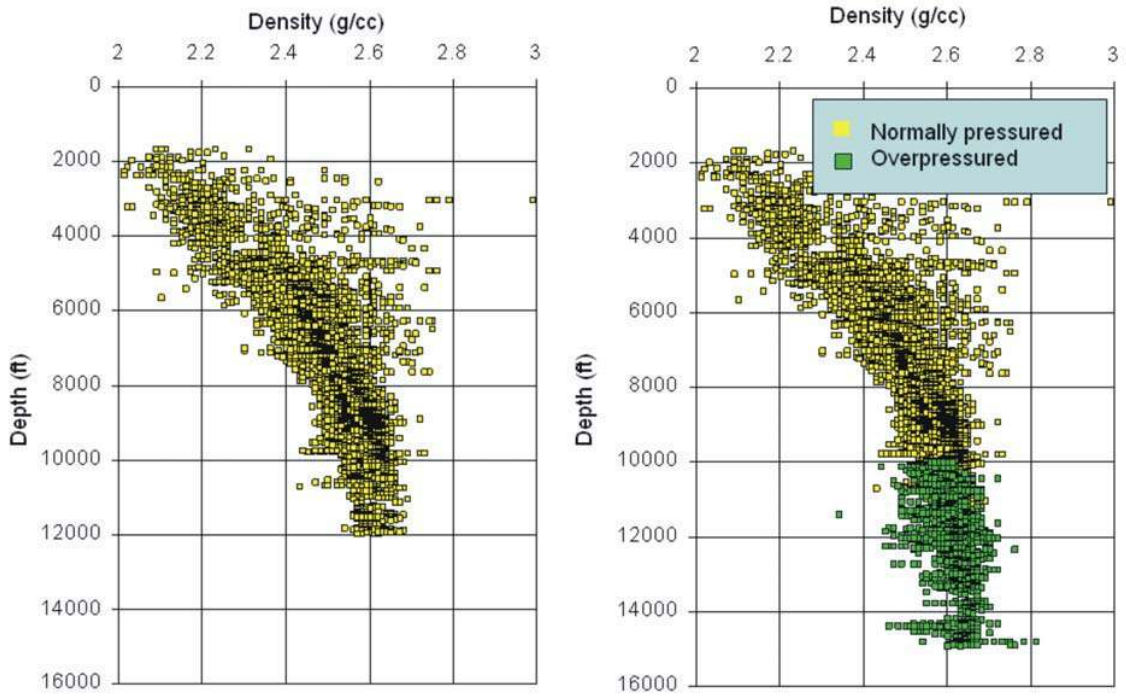


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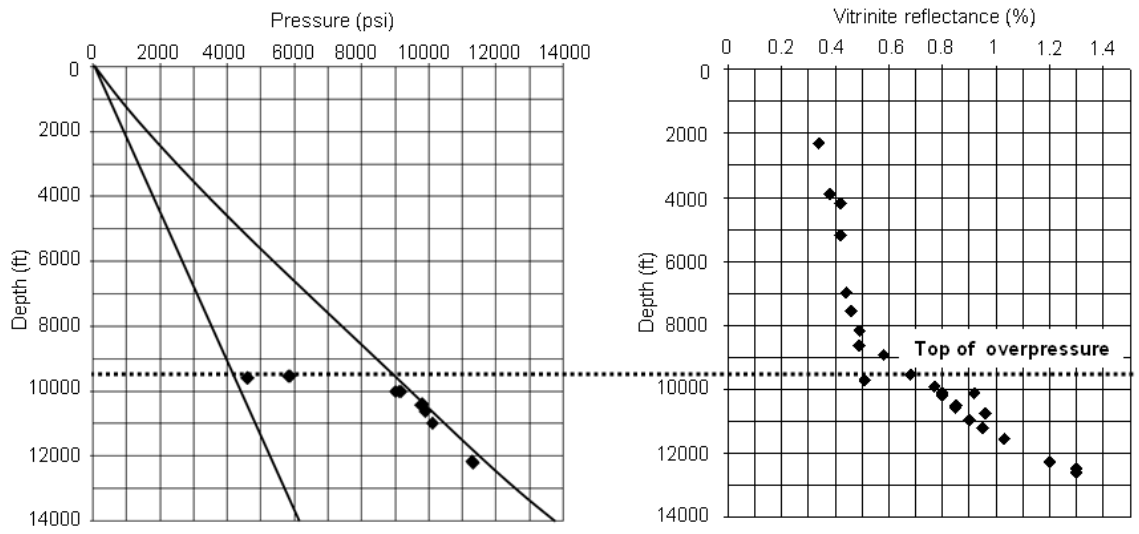


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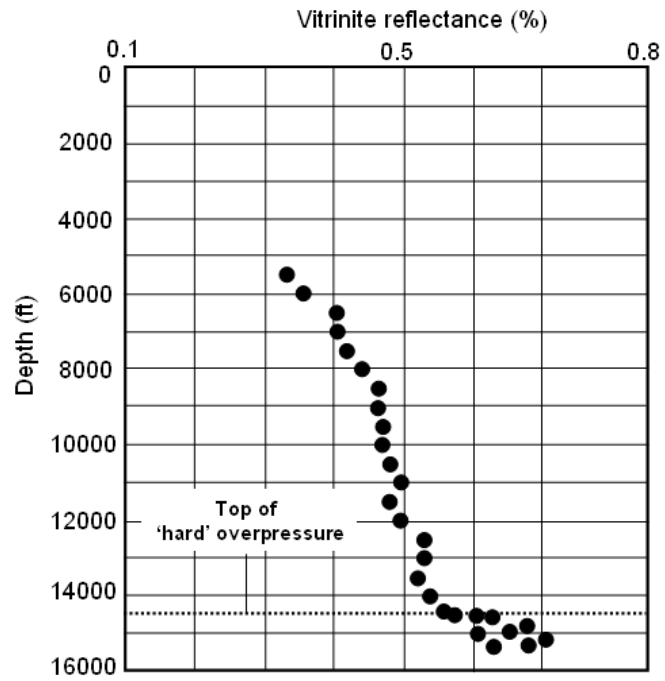


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