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HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION OF,
AUSTRA TEX NO. 1 RIO PUERCO
SEC. 7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

By G. S. Bayliss and R. R. Schwarzer

December 1987

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE
ROCK EVALUATION PROJECT

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL CO., NEW MEXICO
(Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)
NORTHWEST AREA
GEOCHEM JOB NO. 3594

Prepared

for

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

by

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NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

WELL NAME: AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
 API NO.: (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)
 AREA: NORTHWEST
 LOCATION: SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO SEC.7, T12N, R2W
 GEOCHEM JOB NO.: 3594
 TOTAL DEPTH: 6324 ft.
 INTERVAL SAMPLED: 3500-3540 ft.
 TOTAL NUMBER OF SAMPLES: 3

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	SAMPLE DEPTH	STRATIGRAPHIC INTERVAL	ANALYSES				
			TOC	LITHO	ROCK-EVAL	KEROGEN	OTHER
3594-001	3500-3520	Yeso	X	X	X	X	
3594-002	3520-3530	Yeso	X	X	X	X	
3594-003	3530-3540	Yeso	X	X	X	X	

TABLE I

RESULTS OF TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
(Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (feet)	TOTAL ORGANIC * CARBON (% of Rock)
3594-001	3500-3520	1.20
3594-002	3520-3530	0.98
3594-003	3530-3540	0.31/0.30

* SEE APPENDIX AT REAR OF REPORT

TABLE II

LITHOLOGICAL DESCRIPTIONS AND ORGANIC CARBON ANALYSES

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
 SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
 (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (feet)	LITHO DESCRIPTION	GSA NO.	ORGANIC * CARBON (wt.%)
3594-001	3500-3520			1.20
-A		50% Dolomite, limely, dark yellowish brown.	10YR-4/2	
-B		50% Mudstone, noncalcareous, pale reddish brown to grayish red. (Chinle CAVE) Trace walnut shells.	10R-5/4 to 10R-4/2	
3594-002	3520-3530			0.98
-A		30% Dolomite, limely, dark yellowish brown.	10YR-4/2	
-B		50% Mudstone, noncalcareous, pale reddish brown to grayish red. Trace walnut shells.	10R-5/4 to 10R-4/2	
3593-003	3530-3540			0.31/0.30
-A		30% Dolomite, limely, dark yellowish brown.	10YR-4/2	
-B		70% Mudstone, noncalcareous, pale reddish brown to grayish red. Trace walnut shells.	10R-5/4 to 10R-4/2	

* SEE APPENDIX AT REAR OF REPORT

TABLE III

SUMMARY OF ORGANIC CARBON AND VISUAL KEROGEN DATA

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
 SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
 (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (feet)	TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON	ORGANIC MATTER TYPE	VISUAL ABUNDANCE NORMALIZED PERCENT					ALTERATION STAGE	THERMAL ALTERATION INDEX
				Al	Am	H	W	I		
3594-001	3500-3520	1.20	H;-;-	0	0	100	0	0	1 to <u>1+</u>	1.3
3594-002	3520-3530	0.98	H;-;I	0	0	80	0	20	1 to <u>1+</u>	1.3
3594-003	3530-3540	0.31/0.30	H;-;W	0	0	80	20	0	1 to <u>1+</u>	1.3

LEGEND:

KEROGEN KEY

Predominant;	Secondary;	Trace
60-100%	20-40%	0-20%

Al = Algal
 Am = Amorphous-Sapropel
 Am** = Relic Amorphous-Sapropel
 H = Herbaceous-Spore/Pollen
 H* = Degraded Herbaceous
 W = Woody-Structured
 U = Unidentified Material
 I = Inertinite
 C = Coaly

TABLE IV

RESULTS OF ROCK-EVAL PYROLYSIS ANALYSIS *

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
 SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
 (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (Feet)	TMAX (c)	S1 (mg/g)	S2 (mg/g)	S3 (mg/g)	PI	PC*	T.O.C. (wt.%)	HYDROGEN INDEX	OXYGEN INDEX
3594-001	3500-3520	337	0.18	2.16	3.63	0.08	0.19	1.20	180	302
3594-002	3520-3530	337	0.07	0.98	3.87	0.07	0.08	0.98	100	394
3594-003	3530-3540	390	0.13	0.29	0.75	0.31	0.03	0.31	93	241

T.O.C. = Total organic carbon, wt.%

S1 = Free hydrocarbons, mg HC/g of rock

S2 = Residual hydrocarbon potential
(mg HC/g or rock)

S3 = CO₂ produced from kerogen pyrolysis
(mg CO₂/g of rock)

PC* = 0.083 (S1 + S2)

Hydrogen
Index = mg HC/g organic carbon

Oxygen

Index = mg CO₂/g organic carbon

PI = S1/S1 + S2

TMAX = Temperature Index, degrees C.

* SEE APPENDIX AT REAR OF REPORT

TABLE V
VISUAL KEROGEN ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

GEOCHEM No. DEPTH		INDIGENOUS POPULATION (INTERPRETED)										GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS					CAVED AND/OR REWORKED POPULATION(S)					SUMMARY ORGANIC MATTER TYPE			
		TYPE OF ORGANIC MATTER					MATURATION INDEX					COLOR OF ORGANIC MATTER	STATE OF ORGANIC MATTER	%	TYPE OF ORGANIC MATTER					MATURATION INDEX					
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5				1	2	3	4	5	1	2		3	4	5
AUSTRA TEX 1 RIO PUERCO SEC. 7, T12N, R2W SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)																									
REMARKS																									
3594-001	3500-3520																					Resin? - MA	H;-;-		
3594-002	3520-3530																					Resin? - MA	H;-;I		
3594-003	3530-3540																					Resin? - MA	H;-;W		

APPENDIX

*NOTE: All three samples contained a minor amount of walnut shells. The samples were washed and the fines were decanted in an attempt to remove as much of the walnut shell material as possible. However, the anomalously high TOC values reported indicate that these samples were contaminated with "walnut shell flour" which could not be removed in this manner.

These samples were mixtures of caved red mudstones and indigenous material. The picking of an indigenous sample was impractical so the sample was analyzed without picking. An "Adjusted TOC" value for indigenous material was calculated as follows:

$$(F_I)(TOC_I) + (F_C)(TOC_C) = (1)(TOC_T)$$

$$TOC_I = \frac{TOC_T - (F_C)(TOC_C)}{F_I}$$

Where F_I = fraction of indigenous sample TOC_I = TOC of indigenous sample
 F_C = fraction of CAVED material TOC_C = TOC of CAVED material
 TOC_T = TOC of Total sample

The data are presented in Appendix A.

In like manner, adjusted values have been computed for the Rock-Eval data. These are shown in Appendix B. The very high S_2 and, in particular, S_3 responses clearly reflect the "walnut flour" contamination referred to above.

No adjustments would normally be needed for the visual kerogen data since red beds do not contain any kerogen of any significance; however, in this case it is probable that almost all the kerogen seen on the slide is in fact "walnut flour". Not the "mud additive" and "resin" remarks in Table V - Kerogen Assessment worksheet.

APPENDIX A

ORGANIC CARBON VALUES CORRECTED FOR CAVED MATERIAL

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (feet)	TOTAL ORGANIC CARBON (% of Rock) (Total Sample Analyzed)	BRIEF LITHOLOGIC DESCRIPTION	ADJUSTED TOC* Value allowing for non separated caved material
3594-001	3500-3520	1.20	50 Dol, 50 Red Mdst	2.40
3594-002	3520-3530	0.98	30 Dol, 70 Red Mdst	2.98
3594-003	3530-3540	0.30	30 Dol, 70 Red Mdst	0.72

3594-004	Composite of caved red mudstone taken from all 3 samples	0.12		

APPENDIX B

ROCK-EVAL PYROLYSIS ANALYSIS CORRECTED FOR CAVED MATERIAL

NEW MEXICO HYDROCARBON SOURCE ROCK EVALUATION

AUSTRA TEX NO.1 RIO PUERCO
 SEC.7, T12N, R2W, SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO
 (Resampling of Yeso Formation - Job 3578)

GEOCHEM SAMPLE NUMBER	DEPTH INTERVAL (Feet)	TMAX (c)	S1 (mg/g)	S2 (mg/g)	S3 (mg/g)	PI	PC*	T.O.C. (wt.%)	HYDROGEN INDEX	OXYGEN INDEX
3594-001	3500-3520	337	0.36	4.32	7.26	0.07	0.39	2.40	180	302
3594-002	3520-3530	337	0.21	2.98	11.76	0.06	0.26	2.98	100	394
3594-003	3530-3540	390	0.31	0.69	1.80	0.31	0.05	0.72	93	241

T.O.C. = Total organic carbon, wt.%

S1 = Free hydrocarbons, mg Hc/g of rock

S2 = Residual hydrocarbon potential
(mg HC/g or rock)

S3 = CO₂ produced from kerogen pyrolysis
(mg CO₂/g of rock)

PC* = 0.083 (S1 + S2)

Hydrogen
Index = mg HC/g organic carbon

Oxygen

Index = mg CO₂/g organic carbon

PI = S1/S1 + S2

TMAX = Temperature Index, degrees C.

APPENDIX A

Brief Description of Organic Geochemical analyses Carried Out by GeoChem

C₁-C₇ Hydrocarbon

The C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon content and composition of sediments reflects source type, source quality and thermal maturity.

The C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon content of well cuttings is determined by analyzing both a sample of the cuttings and the air space at the top of the can. The results of the two analyses are summed to give an inventory of the C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon content of the well cuttings prior to any losses from the cuttings during the lapsed time period between collection at the wellsite and laboratory analysis.

The air space C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon analysis involves taking a measured volume of the air space gas out of the can with a syringe and injecting same into a gas chromatograph. GeoChem uses a Varian Aerograph Model 1400 instrument equipped with a Porapac Q column. The gas sample is taken through the column by a carrier gas and before reaching the detector is separated into its various C₁ (methane), C₂ (ethane), C₃ (propane), iC₄ (isobutane), nC₄ (normal butane), and C₅, C₆, C₇ hydrocarbon components.

This particular analysis gives a complete separation of the C₁-C₄ gas-range hydrocarbons and a partial separation of the C₅-C₇ gasoline-range hydrocarbons. (A detailed C₄-C₇ analysis, to be discussed later, involving a capillary column, effects a complete separation of this molecular range into its several individual molecular species.)

The electrical response of the various hydrocarbons as they reach the detector is recorded on a paper strip chart as a peak. This response is simultaneously fed to an integrator which computes the area of each peak. The concentration of C₁-C₇ hydrocarbons in the air space, expressed as volumes of gas per million volumes of cuttings, is determined by a calculation involving the volume of cuttings, volume of air space in the can, volume of sample injected, volume of standard gas sample used in the calibration, calibration factor for C₁, C₂, C₃, etc. determined by gc analysis of a standard gas sample, and the gc peak response.

The C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon content of the cuttings is determined by degasification of a measured volume of cuttings (in a medium of a measured volume of water) in a closed blender, sampling of the air space at the top of the blender, and injection of a measured volume of gas into the gas chromatograph.

The C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon data from the air space and cuttings gas analyses are summed to give a "restored" C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon content of the cuttings.

Sample Washing and Hand-Picking of Uncaved Lithology Samples

The cuttings samples are washed to remove all drilling mud from the cuttings. Care is taken in the washing procedure not to remove any soft clays, claystones, etc. and any loose fine sand and silt. The washed cuttings are usually kept under water cover until picked, to prevent loss of any gasoline-range hydrocarbons. Using the C₁-C₇ hydrocarbon data profile and the electrical well log supplied to us and our visual examination of the cuttings material under the binocular microscope, we carefully hand-pick and describe a suite of uncaved lithologies representative of the various stratigraphic zones penetrated by the well. The lithological data is used to compile a gross litho percentage log which is shown on all Figures. The 2-4 gram picked lithology samples are stored under water in small glass vials in those instances where we wish to run detailed C₄-C₇ hydrocarbon analyses. This sample set is used not only for the C₄-C₇ hydrocarbon analysis, but also for the visual kerogen and total organic carbon analyses. All remaining cuttings material is dried and packaged in labelled plastic bags for possible C₁₅₊ soxhlet extraction and/or eventual return to the client. Sample material from this study will be retained at GeoChem until advised of disposition.

Detailed C₄-C₇ Hydrocarbon

The C₄-C₇ gasoline-range hydrocarbon content of sediments reflects source quality, thermal maturation and organic facies. Compositional data can be used in crude oil-parent rock correlation work.

The C₄-C₇ hydrocarbon content and detailed molecular composition of hydrocarbon, in hand-picked lithologies, is determined by a gc analysis of the light hydrocarbon extracted from 1-2 gram cuttings samples macerated in a microblender. A measured volume of sample is placed in a sealed microblender along with a measured volume of hot water. The rock sample is pulverized by the blades of the blender. A sample of the liberated light hydrocarbons which collect in the air space at the top of the blender is injected into our Varian Aerograph 1400 gc unit which is equipped with a capillary column. Data recording, computations, etc. are comparable to those used for the C₁-C₇ analysis discussed previously in this report. Hydrocarbon concentration is expressed as volume gas per million volumes of cuttings.

Organic Carbon

The total organic carbon content of a rock is a measure of its total organic richness. This data is used, in conjunction with visual kerogen and C₁-C₄, C₄-C₇ and C₁₅₊ hydrocarbon content of a rock, to indicate the hydrocarbon source quality of rocks.

The procedure for determining the total organic carbon content of a rock involves drying the sample, grinding to a powder, weighing out 0.2729 gram sample into a crucible, acidizing with hot and cold hydrochloric acid to remove calcium and magnesium carbonate, and carbon analysis by combustion in a Leco carbon analyzer.

We run several blank crucibles, standards (iron rings of known carbon content) and duplicate rock samples in this analysis at no additional charge to the client for purposes of data quality control.

C₁₅₊ Soxhlet Extraction, Deasphaltening and Chromatographic Separation

The amount and composition of the organic matter which can be solvent-extracted from a rock reflects source quality and source type. C¹³/C¹² carbon isotopic, high mass spectrometric and gc analyses of the paraffin-naphthene and aromatic hydrocarbon fractions of the soluble extract gives data which is used in crude oil-parent rock correlations. This analysis involves grinding of a dry rock sample to a powder and removal of the soluble organic matter by soxhlet extraction using a co-distilled toluene-methanol azeotrope solvent. Where the amount of available sample material permits, we like to use at least 100 grams of rock for this analysis.

The extracted bitumen is separated into an asphaltene (ASPH) and a pentane soluble fraction by normal pentane precipitation. The pentane soluble components are separated into a C₁₅₊ paraffin-naphthene (P-N) hydrocarbon, C₁₅₊ aromatic hydrocarbon (AROM) and C₁₅₊ nitrogen-sulfur-oxygen containing fraction (NSO) by adsorption chromatography on a silica gel-alumina column using pentane, toluene and toluene-methanol azeotrope eluants.

GC Analysis of C₁₅₊ Paraffin-Naphthene (P-N) Hydrocarbons

The content and molecular composition of the heavy C₁₅₊ paraffin-naphthene (P-N) hydrocarbons of rocks, as determined by gc analysis, reflects source quality, source type and degree of thermal maturation.

In this analysis, we subject a very small fraction of the total amount of the P-N fraction extracted from a rock sample to gc analysis. The gas chromatograph is a Varian Aerograph Model 1400 equipped with a solid rod injection system and a eutectic column.

The calculated C. P. I. (carbon preference index) values for the normal paraffin data is defined as the mean of two ratios which are determined by dividing the sum of concentrations of odd-carbon numbered n-paraffins by the sum of even-carbon numbered n-paraffins. The C. P. Indices A and B were obtained by the formulas:

$$C. P. Index A = \frac{C_{21}+C_{23}+C_{25}+C_{27}}{C_{22}+C_{24}+C_{26}+C_{28}} + \frac{C_{21}+C_{23}+C_{25}+C_{27}}{C_{20}+C_{22}+C_{24}+C_{26}}$$

$$C. P. Index B = \frac{C_{25}+C_{27}+C_{29}+C_{31}}{C_{26}+C_{28}+C_{30}+C_{32}} + \frac{C_{25}+C_{27}+C_{29}+C_{31}}{C_{24}+C_{26}+C_{28}+C_{30}}$$

Visual Kerogen

A visual study of kerogen, the insoluble organic matter in rocks, can indicate the relative abundance, size, and state of preservation of the various recognizable kerogen types and thereby indicate the hydrocarbon source character of a rock. The color of the kerogen can be used to indicate the state of thermal maturity of the sediments (i.e. their time-temperature history). Thermal maturation plays an important role in the generation of hydrocarbons from organic matter, and also affects the composition of reservoir hydrocarbons.

Our procedure for visual kerogen slide preparation involves isolation of the organic matter of a rock by removal of the rock material with hydrochloric and hydrofluoric acid treatment and heavy liquid separation. This procedure is comparable to that used by the palynologist except it does not include an oxidation stage. (The oxidation treatment is deleted from our procedure because it removes a great deal of kerogen and bleaches any remaining kerogen to an extent whereby it is useless for our kerogen color observations.) The kerogen residue is mounted on a glass slide and is examined visually under a high power microscope.

Vitrinite Reflectance

Measurement of the reflectivity of vitrinite particles (%R_o) present in the kerogen isolated from sedimentary rocks provides a method of determining the state of maturation, and the diagenetic (time-temperature) history of the organic matter present in the sediments.

The kerogen, obtained from a 25 gram aliquot of crushed rock by the acid procedure previously discussed, is dried and embedded in a Bioplastic plug. The surface of the plug is polished using 0.05 micron alumina and the reflectivity determined under oil using a Ziess high resolution microscope. A minimum of 40 values are required to adequately determine the Maturation Rank.

Fluorescence Spectrophotometric Analysis

Fluorescence spectrophotometry can be used to characterize and fingerprint crude oils, establish crude oil-source rock relationships, and to measure the hydrocarbon source potential of fine-grained sediments.

A one (1) microliter aliquot of either (i) a crude oil or (ii) the solvent extractable rock bitumen, is passed through an alumina/silica gel micro column and the C₁₀₊ aromatic hydrocarbons isolated. The aromatic hydrocarbon is diluted and the emission and excitation spectra determined at 240 nm and 420 nm using a Perkin-Elmer Model 512 Double Beam Fluorescence Spectrophotometer.

GEOHERMAL DIAGENETIC CRITERIA

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