

Bakken in Saskatchewan: An Update

Erik Nickel¹

The Bakken in Southeast Saskatchewan has been a very important oil producer since 2005. There have been numerous talks and papers given on the nature of the deposition of the Bakken and how it relates to production. The sum of this work indicates that there are two distinct Bakken trap types in southeast Saskatchewan. There are those that are more traditional, such as the structural traps related to Prairie salt dissolution at Roncott or the sand play at Rocanville. There are also the unconventional traps related to subtle stratigraphic relationships such as the Viewfield pool. Using both of these trap types as models for exploration, new potential plays can be suggested in areas previously devoid of Bakken production.

¹Saskatchewan Geological Survey, Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resource, 201 Dewdney Ave. East, Regina, Canada S4N 4G3

Erik Nickel Graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a degree in Geology in 1994 and obtained his Master's from the University of Regina. After spending 4 years doing well site consulting he began a career as a research geologist with the Saskatchewan Geological Survey. Erik's Master's thesis work was on the geological characterization of the sealing units in the Weyburn Field, as part of the Weyburn CO₂ sequestration and EOR study. His current research interests are the study and promotion of Mississippian strata in southeastern Saskatchewan, CO₂ sequestration studies, the Bakken, and the new Torquay/Three Forks in the province.