

resource

Online Monthly RPSEA Member Resource

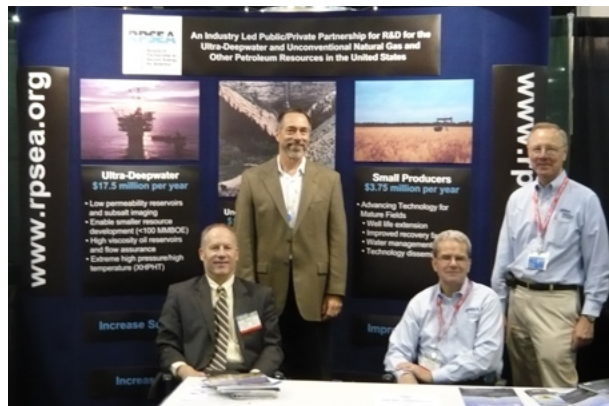
Table of Contents

President's Perspective
 Ultra-Deepwater Environmental Forum Rescheduled
 Federal Advisory Committee Meetings Update
 Member Receptions and Meeting Update from Washington, D.C. and Denver
 Fellowship/Scholarship Program Recipient Spotlight
 Ultra-Deepwater Technical Advisory Committees Moving Forward
 What is the Small Producer Regional Advisory Group?
 Calendar of Events

President's Perspective

September and October have been busy months for RPSEA outreach and events, but most importantly has been kicking off many of our 2007 research projects, pushing our program from potential to reality. And in this vein, RPSEA has submitted its 2008 program request for proposals (RFP) to NETL for final approval to start the process of another round of proposals and selections. If you are considering proposing in the 2008 program, now is the time to get your project idea and team solidified. If you have questions regarding any of the specific program elements, please contact us, but keep your eye on the website or your e-mail for notices of this imminent release. You can find the final 2008 Annual Plan on our website at this link: <http://www.rpsea.org/en/art/?95>.

RPSEA was especially pleased to serve as a host organization for IPAMS' inaugural Rocky Mountain Energy Technology Conference in Denver September 4 and 5. The event highlighted environmental technologies and is part of a larger effort by RPSEA in this area. This was a logical follow on to RPSEA interactive member forums in May at the Colorado School of Mines and at Texas A&M University to gather regional input for the development of our 2009 Draft Annual Plan (DAP). Continuing this effort, RPSEA will hold an ultra-deepwater forum November 20.



RPSEA's booth at the ATCE SPE Conference. Left to right are Mike Ming, Steve Beach, Kent Perry and Bob Siegfried.

Following our Washington, D.C. Board of Directors meeting and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) meetings came a small speed bump called Hurricane Ike. As the storm continued to change paths and move north, several folks made early flight arrangements to get back to Houston to batten down the hatches for what turned out to be a very damaging storm. While the Sugar Land office weathered the storm fairly well with no blown out windows and a minimal loss of power, many on the RPSEA team experienced significant personal disruption or property damage, and several are still not back in their homes and won't be for some time. Electricity outages lasted for many days and complicated everyone's activities. Fortunately, our virtual capabilities helped minimize the effects on our members, and we are mostly back to normal operations.

We finished the month with most of the technical team in Denver at the ACTE 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference & Exhibition followed by a member reception and a semi-annual RPSEA member meeting. IPAMS Director Marc Smith and COGA conference founder Fred Julander kicked off the RPSEA member meeting with opening welcomes, and Dr. John Poate, the Vice President of Research at Colorado School of Mines, and Dirk McDermott, managing partner at the Altira Group and RPSEA board member, gave luncheon talks and then sat on a very informative panel discussion with Fred Julander regarding the direction of oil and gas research and development (R&D).

continued

Finally, the full UDW team and I traveled to Aberdeen, Scotland in early October to participate in a three-day global technology summit we've been working on for some time regarding the coordination of global technology efforts with Norway, Canada, and the U.K. This exciting effort with Demo2000, PRAC, and ITF hopefully will lead to more global communication on R&D projects, especially in UDW and, hopefully, will help generate leverage on finite funding sources.

I hope you are able to attend some or all of our upcoming meetings and events, beginning with the final 2009 FACA meeting this week in Houston, the November 6 UDW/NETL meeting where NETL will present their Complementary Plan, the November 20 UDW forum at Houston Advanced Research Center, and the upcoming UDW Technical Advisory Committee meetings. Other upcoming RPSEA presentations are also listed on the website, including the IOGCC meeting November 16 in Santa Fe, N.M. where I will present along with board member Tom Williams. Check out our calendar on the website.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Ultra-Deepwater Environmental Forum Rescheduled

The Long-Term Environmental Vision for Ultra-Deepwater Exploration and Production Research Forum and Reception has been postponed due to Hurricane Ike. The forum, originally set for October 2 in Galveston, Texas, has been rescheduled for November 20 at the Houston Advanced Research Center in The Woodlands, Texas. The forum is sponsored by Texas A&M University, Houston Advanced Research Center and RPSEA. Topics of discussion include: What Is It Like on the Ocean Floor?; What's the Environmental Cost for Ocean Surface Stability?; and, What Happens at the End of Life of Subsea Equipment?

To attend this event, you must register for the forum by November 18. If you registered previously, please register again so that we have an accurate head count. Click here to register: <http://www.rpsea.org/en/cev/118>.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Federal Advisory Committee Meetings Update

RPSEA completed its 2009 Draft Annual Plan (DAP) this summer and submitted it to the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory. The next step in the process is to attend the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) Meetings, which review the DAP.

The federal advisory committees, Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee (UDAC) and Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee (URTAC), met to review the DAP in September in Alexandria, Va. The committees will reconvene at the Crowne Plaza Houston North Greenspoint Hotel in Houston on October 15, 2008 (UDAC) and October 16, 2008 (URTAC) to hear and discuss the subcommittee reports and to determine their final recommendations. A final teleconference meeting will be held on October 23, 2008 to review and finalize their recommendations report and to adjourn work on the 2009 Annual Plan.

The Department's UDAC was established to advise on the development and implementation of programs related to ultra-deepwater natural gas and other petroleum resources and review and comment on the program's annual plan.

The Department's URTAC was established to advise on the development and implementation of programs related to onshore unconventional natural gas and other petroleum resources and review and comment on the program's annual plan.

The UDAC and URTAC meetings are open to the public. RPSEA encourages all members to attend these meetings for more insight into the 2009 DAP and FACA process.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Member Receptions/Meeting Update from Washington, D.C. and Denver

The RPSEA Washington, D.C. member reception and the Denver reception and member meeting were well received. The reception in D.C. at the Rayburn House Office Building on the Hill included many RPSEA board members, Congressmen Nick Lampson and Ralph Hall, and RPSEA staff. The D.C. events also included a RPSEA Executive Committee meeting and Board of Directors meeting, in conjunction with the first set of Federal Advisory Committee Act meetings for the 2009 DAP.



The member meeting and reception in Denver followed a great ATCE 2008 SPE Annual Technical Conference and Exhibition show. RPSEA was happy to see many of our members over the week. Great conversation was had by many and several members walked away with an update on RPSEA programs, the contract process and an update on our 2009 Draft Annual Plan, to name a few. We hope you can join us at our next reception or meeting.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Fellowship/Scholarship Program Recipient Spotlight



RPSEA created the Fellowship/Scholarship Program to establish long-term industry/education partnerships. RPSEA members Schlumberger and Strata Production designate financial resources through RPSEA to award multiple scholarships to the following member universities: Colorado School of Mines, Louisiana State University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Stanford University, Texas A&M University, The University of Texas at Austin, University of Oklahoma and West Virginia University. The most promising graduate students with studies relevant to the oil and gas industry are competitively awarded fellowships to help with their education and/or research activities. Through private funding from these two members, \$240,000 is established for these member universities to provide much needed support for 16 students per year for three years.

Recent Texas A&M University graduate Sara Old was awarded a fellowship through the Fellowship/Scholarship Program for the 2007-08 school year. RPSEA spotlights Old this month in the following interview, while wishing her success in her new position with Chevron.

1. What was the title of your dissertation?

PRISE: Petroleum Research Investigation Summary and Evaluation

2. Where did your project take place?

College Station, Texas

3. What school were you attending during the fellowship?

Texas A&M University

4. What was your degree and major when you graduated while working on the fellowship?

Master of Science, Petroleum Engineering. I graduated in August 2008.

5. What was the time frame spent on the entire project?

I spent between 1.5 and 2 years working on *PRISE*. I began in September 2006 and finished in May 2008.

6. Why did you pick this focus for your project?

The idea of my project was to use identified quantities of recoverable oil and gas in North America to help estimate quantities of recoverable oil and gas in less developed basins throughout the world. I chose this because if we use what we know now as best practices and have an estimate of volumes of oil and gas resources in developing (target) basins, then industry can fast track through the development process.

7. What were the major accomplishments of your project?

I was able to quantify the technically total recoverable conventional oil and gas, as well as coalbed, tight sand, and shale resources in eight North American basins. I also developed software that used these volumes and outcomes from a geologic analog model to estimate technically recoverable volumes of oil and gas in target basins.

8. How did RPSEA help you achieve your project goals?

The fellowship support helped me focus on my research without worrying about funding to finish the project.

9. How have you grown both personally and professionally from your fellowship with RPSEA?

I have grown personally by witnessing the generous act of giving for the cause of contributing to science. To me, this is very noble, and I hope that I can do the same for somebody some day. Professionally, I learned what RPSEA is trying to accomplish from a national energy stand point. Our energy security is a concern, and I hope that I can be involved to make it less of a concern. I plan to get involved in the RPSEA organization and do my part for our country.

10. What is your role today?

I am a geologist for Chevron in Houston, and I am working coalbed methane assets in the San Juan Basin.

“Our energy security is a concern, and I hope that I can be involved to make it less of a concern.”

*Sara Old
Geologist, Chevron
RPSEA Fellowship Recipient*

Ultra-Deepwater Technical Advisory Committees Moving Forward

The Ultra-Deepwater (UDW) Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) provide subject specific technical advice on the development of our draft annual research plan and conduct the quantitative proposal reviews at the direction of the UDW Program Advisory Committee (PAC). Supporting the PAC are nine TACs, each of which is focused on a particular UDW technology area. These areas are: Drilling & Completion, Environmental, Safety & Regulatory, Floating Facilities, Flow Assurance, Geoscience, Metocean, Reservoir, Subsea Facilities and System Engineering & Architecture. The role of the TACs, with representation from subject matter experts who study and apply UDW technologies in real field situations, is to identify current technology gaps and define the specific research and development efforts needed to address these gaps. As such, the TACs provide a bottom-up, end-user-driven program.

TAC meetings have begun for the 2009 Annual Plan and are open to all members. Click here to learn more about RPSEA's Ultra-Deepwater Program and to review the TAC meeting minutes: <http://www.rpsea.org/en/cms/?1507>.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

What is the Small Producer Regional Advisory Group?

The Small Producer Program receives guidance from the Regional Advisory Group (RAG) consisting of industry and academic representatives, who are closely tied to the national small producer community. The RAG reviews proposals, makes project selection recommendations, and follows each selected project's progress, plans, results, and especially, technology transfer. All projects will be reviewed by the RAG annually. While the RAG will be responsible for directing the Small Producer Program, the Unconventional Resources Program Advisory Committee will remain responsible for oversight of the entire onshore program, which includes the Small Producer Program.

To learn more about RPSEA's Small Producer Program, click here: <http://www.rpsea.org/en/cms/?363>.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

Calendar of Events

- 10.15 FACA Ultra-Deepwater Advisory Committee Meeting, Houston, Texas
- 10.16 FACA Unconventional Resources Technology Advisory Committee Meeting, Houston, Texas
- 11.6 Ultra-Deepwater Program and National Energy Technology Laboratory Overview Meeting, Houston, Texas
- 11.20 Long-Term Environmental Vision for Ultra-Deepwater Exploration and Production Research Forum, The Woodlands, Texas

Click here for more information, to register and the complete calendar: <http://www.rpsea.org/en/calendarevents/monthly.asp>.

[Back to Table of Contents](#)