"Update on Induced Seismicity Studies by the Kansas Geological Survey" December 9, 2015[‡] to the Kansas Geological Society [‡]revised 1-11-16

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Outline

• Seismicity

- Earthquakes and brine disposal
- Seismic monitoring
 - R. Miller, S. Petrie (KGS array),
 - G. Tsoflias, KU Geology, A. Nolte, Brandon Graham, J. Victorine,
 - J. (Raney) Hollenbach (Wellington Array)
 - J. Rubenstein, P.I., (USGS temporary array, ismpkansas)

Kansas Induced Seismicity Task Force

R. Buchanan, Ryan Hoffman, Mike Tate

Geoscience characterization and modeling

Mechanics of induced earthquakes

T. Bidgoli, C. Jackson, D. Schwab, M. Taylor (KU Geology), T. Birdie

- <u>Basement Geology Midcontinent Rift System &</u>
- Mississippian Lime Play & Arbuckle geology

J. Rush, M. Fazelalavi, J. Doveton, L. Watney

• Fluid flow simulation in the Arbuckle and basement – Y. Holubnayak along with

T. Bidgoli, C. Jackson, M. Fazelalavi, G. Williams, T. Hansen, P. Gerlach, J. Doveton, D. Newell, L. Watney

- Summary
- Ongoing and future studies



Total salt water injected by well (blue) and BOE (barrels of oil equivalent) by lease (green), and earthquakes (squares), 2014 Harper and Sumner Counties



Earthquakes and geology in south-central KS and north-central OK



Hollenbach, KGS

Oklahoma map - Public Justice lawsuit on behalf of the Sierra Club dated 10/29/2015

Seismic Trends in Southern Kansas



Location of KGS and USGS Temporary Seismometer Arrays

KGS presentation to House Standing Committee on Energy and Environment Rep. Dennis Hedke, Presiding



http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/Seismicity/2015/01-26-15 KGS Seismic Monitoring.pdf





Kansas Earthquake Magnitudes, 2013-2015

Few of the Kansas earthquakes have been strong enough to cause damage. Most haven't even been felt.

1.0 to 3.0 - Not usually felt.

3.0-3.9 - Can be felt by people indoors, especially on upper floors of buildings. May be mistaken for a passing truck.

4.0-4.9 - Strong enough to wake people at night. Dishes and windows can break. Unstable objects overturned.



Average Earthquake Magnitude



http://www.hutchnews.com/kansas_earthquakes/

Kansas Earthquakes included on USGS NEIC database January 1, 2015 to Jan. 11, 2016 →decrease in number and intensity



Kansas earthquakes as reported by NEIC

including first report on July 26, 2015 of new USGS temporary array "ismpkans" in Harper & Sumner counties



Action by KCC on March 19 to reduce disposal volumes

in Harper and Sumner counties



The Order further sets a maximum daily injection permit limit of 25,000 barrels of saltwater on all Arbuckle injection wells in Harper and Sumner counties that are not in these five areas.

There are currently more than 4,300 Arbuckle injection wells statewide and the formation has long been utilized for both production and disposal in different parts of Kansas. The wells impacted by today's action represent only a small fraction of the total active Arbuckle injection wells. Arbuckle injection currently occurs in many areas throughout Kansas without any recorded seismic activity.

A complete copy of the Order can be found by visiting the home page of www.kcc.ks.gov, or also by clicking on Docket Filings, and entering Docket No. 15-CONS-770-CMSC.



Induced Seismicity: The Potential for Triggered Earthquakes in Kansas

Rex C. Buchanan, K. David Newell, Catherine S. Evans, Richard D. Miller, and Shelby L. Peterie Kansas Geological Survey Revised August 2015

Introduction

Earthquake activity in the Earth's crust is known as seismicity. When linked to human activities, it is commonly referred to as "induced seismicity." Inductivities that have been associated with induced seismicity include oil and gas production, mining, geothermal energy production, construction, underground nuclear testing, and impoundment of large reservoirs (National Research Council, 2012).

In the early 2000s, concern began to grow over an increase in the number of earthquakes in the vicinity of oil and gas exploration and production operations, particularly in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Ohio, Colorado, and Texas. **Horizontal drilling** in conjunction with **hydraulic fracturing**, popularly called "fracking." has often been singled out for blame in the public discourse. The actual process of hydraulic fracturing, however, has been confirmed as the cause of felt earthquakes only a few times worldwide. More often, detected seismic activity associated with oil and gas operations is thought to be triggered when wastewater is injected into disposal wells. In Kansas, both conventional and hydraulic fracturing processes produce saltwater along with oil and gas. In the disposal process, waste products--including saltwater and recovered hydraulic fracturing fluids--are injected into deep and confined porous rock.

Linking a specific earthquake to a specific human activity, such as wastewater disposal at a single well, is difficult. Complex subsurface geology and limited data about that geology make it hard to pinpoint the cause of many seismic events in the midcontinent. However, an established pattern of increased earthquake activity in an area over time may indicate a correlation between human activity and seismic events.



Monitoring Earthquakes in Kansas

KGS testimony and presentations, Jan. 26, 2015

House Standing Committee on Energy and Environment

Earthquakes detected using only the KGS Temporary Network



A total of 123 earthquakes (white circles) were detected by the KGS temporary network (green triangles) during the first 16 days of recording.

http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/Seismicity/2015/01-26-15 KGS Seismic Monitoring.pdf

5

Error ellipses of earthquakes recorded near Wellington Field from the Wellington IRIS/DOE Seismometer Array



Alex Nolte, KGS/KU Geology/KICC

5 mi

- Earthquake (red dots) magnitudes detected and with Wellington seismometer array (blue triangles)
- Earthquakes range from magnitudes 0.8 to 1.6
- Earthquakes (yellow dots) from USGS temporary array (ismpkans)
- 2 sigma error shown as elipses with black solid lines indicating 95% confidence level
- Array managed by KGS and KU Geology for DE-FE0006821 (CO₂ injection project)
- Earthquake detection level in field ~0.5 magnitude

Dates vs. location of <u>all</u> earthquakes reported by NEIC including <u>ismpkans</u> south-central Kansas 7-17-2014 to 12-7-2015





Kansas Geological Survey Kansas Earthquakes

2014-07-17 04:40:43.0 to 2016-01-07 23:11:36.0

Date [YYYY/HH]: 2014/7 - 2014/8

http://www.kgs.ku.edu/PRS/Ozark/Software/KS_Earthquake_3DPlot/index.html



Example of action taken to restrict brine injection in Oklahoma, November 16, 2015 after 4.2 event

* Wells within 3-6 miles \rightarrow reduce volume by 25%

* Wells 6-10 miles \rightarrow cease operations, reduce depth







Example of action taken to 255 Jim Thorpe Building Telephone: (405)521-2302 FAX: (405)521-3099 restrict brine injection in Oklahoma – after 4.7 earthquake on Nov. 19

2 wells stop operations 23 wells reduce disposal volumes

Net reduction of 41% Wells within 10-15 miles on notice



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prefmag

Media Advisory - Cherokee-Carmen area Earthquakes

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Conservation Division (OGCD) is implementing a plan in response to today's earthquakes in the Cherokee-Carmen area. The plan calls for changes to oil and gas wastewater disposal wells in the area that dispose into the Arbuckle formation.

The plan calls for 2 disposal wells to stop operations, and for 23 others to reduce disposed volumes. The plan may change based on any new data.

The total net volume reduction is 41 percent.

In addition, disposal wells within 10 to 15 miles of the earthquake activity are being placed on notice to prepare for possible changes to their operations.

A full listing of the wells, operators, and action for each well can be found below. A map showing the well locations within the 3-6, 6-10, and 10-15 mile areas is attached.

Geoscience characterization and modeling

- Mechanics of induced earthquakes
- Fault characterization and stress field analysis ancient and modern
- Basement geology Midcontinent Rift System
- Mississippian Lime Play
- Arbuckle disposal zone

Trends in the central and eastern United States



Why care about seismicity?



Magnitude vs. size of fault →Need large fault to create a large earthquake

Bulletin of the Seismological Society of America, Vol. 84, No. 4, pp. 974-1002, August 1994

New Empirical Relationships among Magnitude, Rupture Length, Rupture Width, Rupture Area, and Surface Displacement

by Donald L. Wells and Kevin J. Coppersmith



Mechanics of induced earthquakes

- 1. Increase pore fluid pressure acting on a fault
 - Brine disposal
 (e.g., Healy et al., 1968)
 - Fracking (e.g., Holland, 2011)
 - Hydraulic connection needed

- 2. Change shear or normal stress acting on fault
 - Reservoir depletion or repressurization
 (e.g., McGarr, 1991)
 - No direct connection to fault



Stress field analysis: Statewide

240 well logs with data types suited for stress analysis



T. Bidgoli, KGS

131 in paper form

Drilling Induced Fractures to Estimate Present-Day Principal Stress Directions at Wellington Field





3D Stress Analysis Using SWRI 3D Stress Software → Faults oriented NE-SW most succeptible to movement



- Slip Tendency (ST = Shear Stress/ Normal Stress) is used to estimate potential for fault slippage
- ST= 0.3 (lower than 0.5 that is typically assumed).
- Conducting sensitivity studies to assess Slip Tendency
- Stress analyses indicate that critically stressed faults are in the Proterozoic basement and can slip at low pressure
- <u>Schwab and Bidgoli (2015) –</u> <u>optimally oriented fault in</u> <u>Arbuckle requires ~300 psi in</u> <u>Wellington Field area to slip</u>

Adapted from T. Birdie (2015) EPA Class VI geosequestration permit

Bouguer Gravity



Generalized fault framework



Midcontinent Rift System

COCORP seismic interpretation indicates large basement faults (10's of kilometers length) and thick sediment (up to 10 km [6.2 mi])



FIGURE 2-KANSAS LINE 1 AND TEXACO POERSCH #1 BOREHOLE (dot).

From Woelk and Hinze (1995, KSG Bulletin 237)

Close match between measured and modeled gravity and magnetics along COCORP seismic line



http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Current/2004/Gerhard/fig3.html

from Woelk and Hinze (1995, KSG Bulletin 237)

East African Rift is a Modern analog to the Midcontinent Rift System → Both large graben systems



Illies, 1981



"Albertine Rift, East African Rift (artificial rendering)" by Christoph Hormann http://earth.imagico.de/view.php?site=rift2a

Texaco Poersch #1, Washington County, Kansas Deep well penetrating a portion of the Midcontinent Rift System consisting of arkose, gabbro, and basalt



http://www.kgs.ku.edu/Publications/OFR/1988/OFR88 22/06 summ.html



Bouguer Gravity -with rift and sub-elements, terrain boundary extending through Kansas (Kruger, 1999)



MRS arkosic and greywacke sediments

Magnetic – reduced to pole, overlain with configuration of Precambrian surface (Kruger, 1999)

Far reaching basement faults associated with the Midcontinent Rift serving as template for Phanerozoic structural reactivation

- 1 x 4 mi. grid
- high values = warmer colors



Basement geology from sample rock types in the area of the induced seismicity → thick arkosic sediment fill indicative of the Midcontinent Rift System (MRS)



Interactive map Proterozoic lithology (n=~3800 wells), faults, earthquakes M. Killian, KGS http://maps.kgs.ku.edu/co2/

Basement geology overlain on gravity tilt angle → distinct gravity anomaly and presence of sediment fill in the

Proterozoic Midcontinent Rift System

in the area of the induced seismicity in south-central Kansas



Thick Arkosic sediment basement samples inferred as Midcontinent Rift fill

Illustration of <u>tilt angle computation</u> to locate discontinuities in mapped data

 $\mathbf{\Theta} = \tan^{-1} \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial M}{\partial z} \\ \frac{\partial M}{\partial h} \end{bmatrix}$

arctangent of the ratio of the 1storder vertical derivative by the 1st-order horizontal derivative



Salem et al., 2007



Tilt Angle of Bouguer gravity with 2-5 mile filter overlain with outlines of oil fields in western two-thirds of Kansas

Strong delineation of inferred basement structures expressed by gravity lineaments Distribution of oil and oil fields (pastel-colored outlines) likely influenced by reactivation of basement faults

McCook

MRS axis defined by large gravity positives (blue to white) and negative (red)



Mississippian Lime Play and Arbuckle Disposal in southern Kansas and northern Oklahoma

- **Mississippian geology** depositional ramp, underpressuring, reservoir compartments, fractures and faults, high water cuts and the corollary, minimizing produced water with selective completions
- Arbuckle geology spatial changes in hydrostratigraphic units and their hydraulic (phi-k) properties, regional simulation to understand limits of storage and injectivity, connectivity with basement lack of bottom seal, fluid exchange via faults and within Proterozoic sediment of Midcontinent Rift System


Map printed 12/7/2015



Mississippian Isopach

Kansas Geological Survey, Kansas Corporation Commission, NEIC, USGS, ESRI, Oklahoma Geological Survey, Oklahoma Corporation Commission Map printed 12/7/2015

NW-SE structural cross section across Mississippian structural ramp



Mississippian structure map (25 ft contours) & colored map of total magnetic field intensity

-- main axis of N-NE trending <u>Proterozoic Midcontinent Rift</u> follows the large magnetic low (blue color) that also closely corresponds to a structural low in the late Paleozoic Sedgwick Basin







SW-NE Structural Cross Section (lower section)

Large basement faults inferred within Proterozoic-age Midcontinent rift basin

~64 km long

120 m



Workflow for reservoir simulation and geomechanical analysis

Data

Well logs

Tops



Core data



Reservoir Characterization

Multi-mineral FE



FZI-SWPHI

K prediction via ANN



K_h and K_v relations



Static model Structural model $\int \frac{1}{\int \frac{1}$

Statistical analysis

Property models



Geomechanical model



Geomechanical simulations



"Evaluating Potential for Induced Seismicity Through Reservoir-Geomechanical Analysis of Fluid Injection in the Arbuckle Saline Aquifer, South Central Kansas" Annual Meeting AAPG 2015, Denver ---T. S. Bidgoli, Y. Holubnyak, M. FazelAlavi



Model Area – Preliminary Simulation

- 18 wells for property analysis
- 4 complete penetrations with log data
- 103 SWD wells with yearly injection data



"Evaluating Potential for Induced Seismicity Through Reservoir-Geomechanical Analysis of Fluid Injection in the Arbuckle Saline Aquifer, South Central Kansas" Annual Meeting AAPG 2015, Denver ---T. S. Bidgoli, Y. Holubnyak, M. FazelAlavi

Thin Sections - Baffle Zone (Mid Arb.)



Flow units in the lower Arbuckle injection zone



Pore types are complex in the Arbuckle





Lower Arbuckle Injection Zone



Pairs of photomicrographs Plane light and crossed nichols R. Barker, S. Datta, KSU



Well KGS 1-32



Core Porosity

Calculated Ky

Calculated Kh





Bromine/chlorine (Br⁻/Cl⁻⁾ and sulfate/cloride (SO₄²⁻/Cl⁻) ratios Used to Confirm of Baffles and Lack of Vertical Communication

- Br⁻ and Cl⁻ are conservative during water/rock interactions
- Very useful in detecting brine sources and mixing
- Values for brine of Lower Arbuckle vary substantially from Upper Arbuckle
- Lower Arbuckle brines cluster together
- Upper Arbuckle values more spaced out, suggests smaller baffles



Arbitrary seismic impedance profile – Wellington Field distinct caprock, mid-Arbuckle tight, lower Arbuckle injection zone



Core Features/Fractures



Rock Mechanical Properties vs. Depth



Step Rate Test Analysis Pressure-Time Plot





Structural cross section showing regional Arbuckle flow units, southern Kansas



Williams, Gerlach, Fazelalavi, Doveton, KS CO₂

Arbuckle Reservoir Model Summary

- Highly complex system with many sub-zones and different reservoir properties
- Highly fractured system may require dual porosity/permeability model in future
- Faulted system
- High vertical reservoir variability
 - Low permeability Mid. Arbuckle baffle zone could be a vertical fluid flow barrier
 - High permeability in Upper and Lower Arbuckle
- Horizontal variability

Porosity Model



Permeability Model (K90)



Permeability Model (Vertical)



Rock Type Based on RQI

 $RQI = 0.0314 \sqrt{\frac{Perm}{Porosity}}$





Dynamic Simulation Model





• KGS 1-32 Geologic Characterization Well

KGS 2-28 Proposed Monitoring Well

Previous AoR Delineation



Sources: ESRI, USGS, Kansas Geological Survey

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Sources: ESRI, USGS, Kansas Geological Survey



Regional Scale CO₂ Storage Capacity Simulation

- South Western and South Central Kansas
- 10 areas benchmark sites
- One "mega" model

Southern Kansas CO₂ injection model Gas saturation - 100 years after injection stops

~ 4 Billion tonnes injected ~ 300 psi average pore pressure increase



0.00 13.00 26.00 39.00 52.00 65.00 78.00 91.00 104.00 117.00 130.00 miles

Modeled Delta Pressure for Harper and Sumner Counties in South Kansas



Delta Pressure at a Basement Fault



January 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



Map printed by J. Hollenbach 12/8/2015

February 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



March 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



April 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



May 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



June 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



July 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



August 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



September 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



Map printed by J. Hollenbach 12/8/2015

November 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



December 2015 Delta Pressure (psi)



January 2016 - Projected Delta Pressure (psi)



Summary of Arbuckle characterization and simulation

- Arbuckle is not created equal everywhere and should not be treated this way
- Fluid movement is constrained primarily by permeability (including fractures and faults) and, therefore, vague assumptions are not good enough
 - Compare analog of Empire State Building, 1250 ft tall similar to thickness of the Arbuckle
 - Actual volume in the Arbuckle that has injectable pore space is not 100% of the interval, rather ~30% due to stratabound fractures and matrix permeability
- Geomechanics is a next step

Summary of earthquake monitoring, fault modeling, and basement characterization

- 1. Basement faults that are likely critically stressed are current targets of interest → orientation of faults (NE-SW) are conductive to be activated at relatively low pressures.
- 2. Northward migration of earthquakes in south-central Kansas and north-central Oklahoma → indications of regional fluid or pressure movement along basement faults.
- 3. Localized earthquake clustering and aftershocks → identifying fault zones to be further refined by integration of seismology, geophysics, and geology.
- 4. Latest large-scale movement along faults ended in Late Paleozoic followed by smaller, episodic movement → leading to proportionally small offset and also draping at shallower depths above tips of fault.
- 5. Working hypothesis for induced seismicity → Limited storage and transmissivity in Arbuckle saline aquifer that can be exceeded leading to 1) far-field pressurization and 2) leakage into the basement where faults can be critically stressed.

Continuing and future research

- 1. Evaluate earthquake source and mechanisms, spatial and temporal patterns, and use to refine locations and properties of active faults.
- 2. Refine static and dynamic models of the Arbuckle in areas affected by increased seismicity.
- 3. Update maps of Precambrian basement terrain and validate lineaments and inferred faults.
- 4. Continue to explore means to reduce amounts of produced water in the MLP and develop best practices for brine disposal and improve well performance.
- Utilize extensive operational plan with ongoing testing and monitoring to insure safe CO₂ injection at Wellington field and provide lessons learned for stakeholders.

Acknowledgements & Disclaimer

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