Final Report: Seismic Analysis at Strategic Border Sites Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2)

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Open-File Report #2017-43

March 1, 2014

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Final Report: Seismic Analysis at Strategic Border Sites
Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2)

Summary

The Kansas Geological Survey acquired borehole and surface seismic data at 15 DHS sites near the US-Mexico border. Surface seismic data were processed using multi-channel analysis of surface waves (MASW), refraction tomography, and surface wave inversion to obtain 2-D profiles of shear-wave velocity (Vs), compressional-wave velocity (Vp), and seismic quality factor (Qs and Qp) for the near surface. Downhole data were processed to obtain downhole Vs, Vp, Qs, and Qp. This report contains final processing and results for Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Data Acquisition

One line of seismic data (~175 m) was acquired on February 25, 2013, at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2) coincident with the USGS ERT profile (Figure 1). The system of sources and receivers, collectively, is the Active Seismic Imaging (ASI) system developed by and fabricated at the Kansas Geological Survey (Figure 2). Seismic sources were an accelerated weight drop for surface wave and long-offset compressional energy, sledge hammer and steel plate for near-offset compressional-wave energy, and sledge hammer and shear block for shear-wave energy. Seismic receivers were located in a towed 144-channel 3-component (3-C) land streamer with 48 stations separated by 1.2 m. Receivers were single 4.5 Hz and 40 Hz vertical geophones and two 14.5 Hz horizontal (SV orientation) geophones (Figure 3). Seismographs were a Geometrics Geode distributed system. The survey was fixed spread with variable 0-85.3 m source offset (Figure 4) to obtain sufficient seismic sampling within the depth of interest. Individual receiver spreads overlapped by one station.

Downhole data were acquired on January 24, 2014, coincident with the west end of the surface seismic line, with a 3-C downhole Geostuff geophone (Figure 5). Receivers were located between depths of approximately 1.5 m and 43.4 m at approximately 0.75 m intervals (Figure 6). A repeatable shear and compressional 9 kg hammer source (Figure 7), developed and fabricated at the Kansas Geological Survey, was located at 3 m from the borehole. A 2.7 kg sledge hammer and steel plate were located at 22.9 m from the borehole.

For both the surface and downhole seismic surveys, multiple shots were acquired and recorded separately for each unique shot/receiver configuration and stacked during processing to minimize ambient noise (Figure 8) and increase the signal-to-noise ratio.

Figure 1: Aerial photo of Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2) and location of the active seismic line.

Figure 2: ASI towing and 144-channel 3-C land streamer, detached.

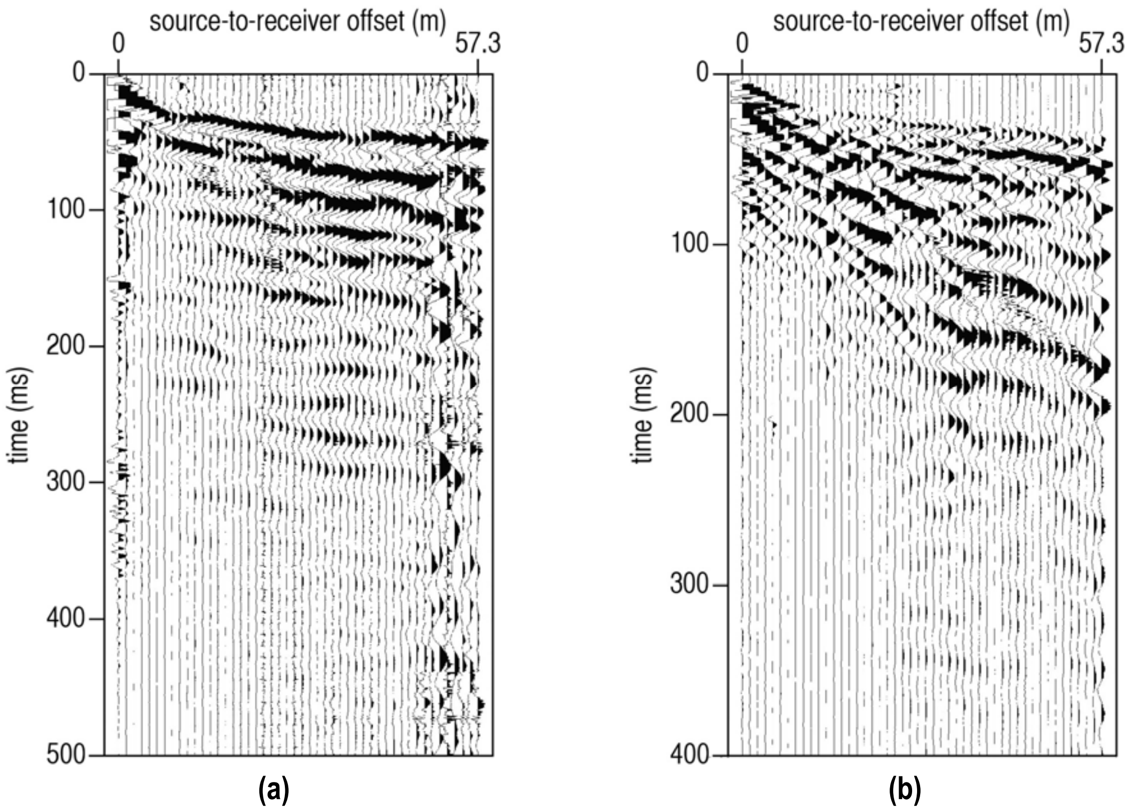

Figure 3: Representative off-end shot gathers at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2). (*a*) Sledge hammer and shear block source recorded with shear 14.5 Hz geophones, SV orientation. (*b*) Weight-drop source recorded with vertical 40 Hz geophones.

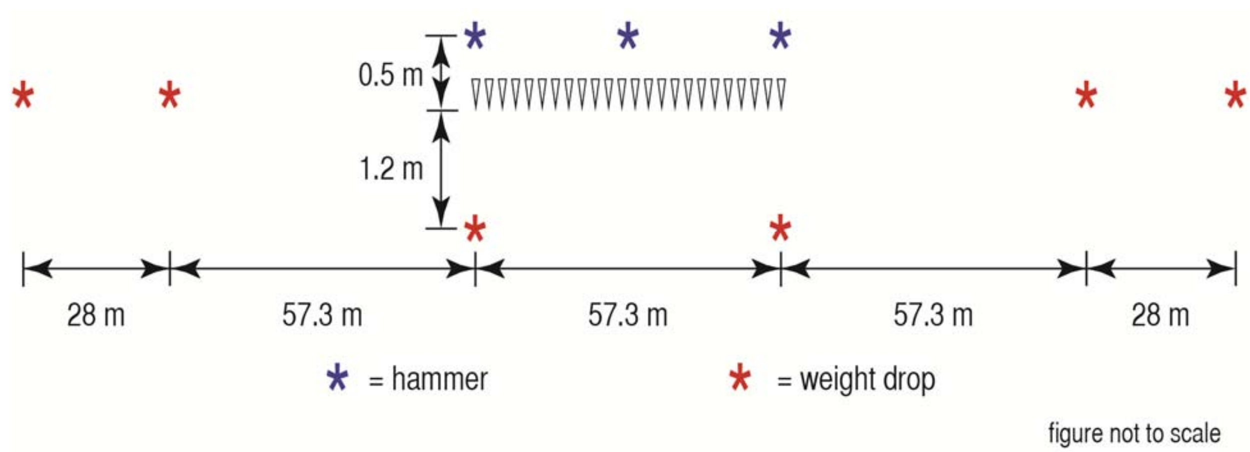

Figure 4: Diagram indicating all shot point locations relative to a single receiver spread. The receiver spread consisted of 48 stations separated by 1.2 m.

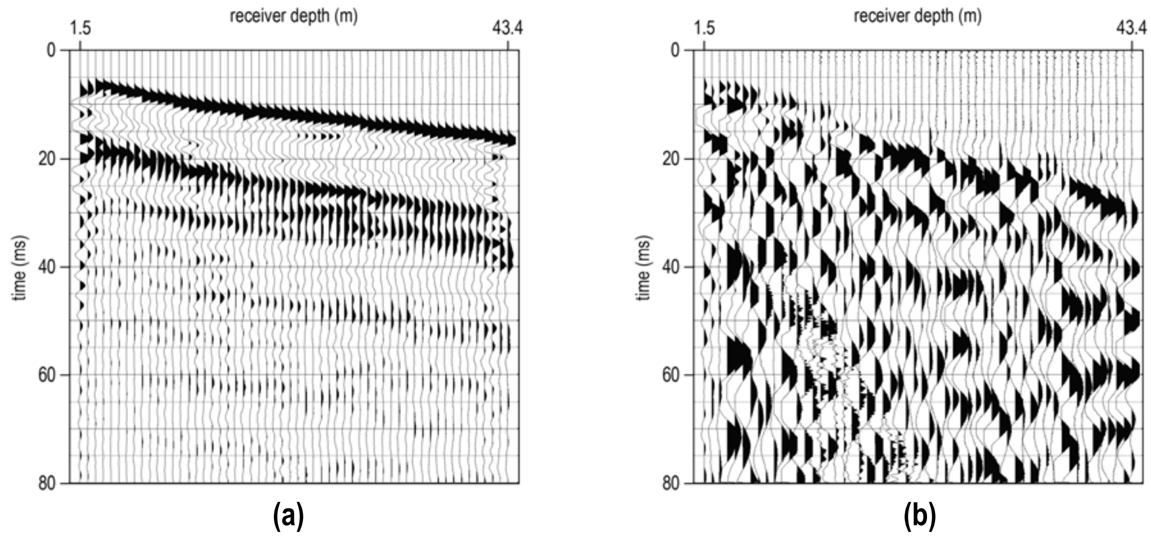

Figure 5: Representative unprocessed downhole (*a*) vertical and (*b*) shear records at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

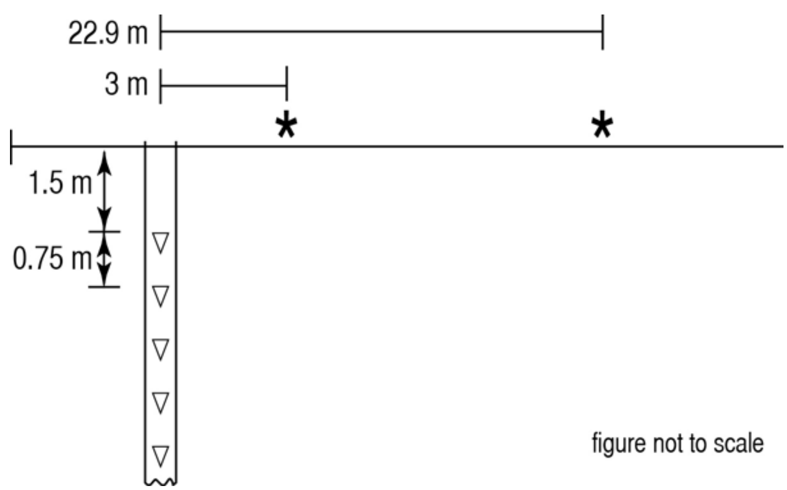

Figure 6: Downhole seismic field layout.

Figure 7: Downhole seismic acquisition at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

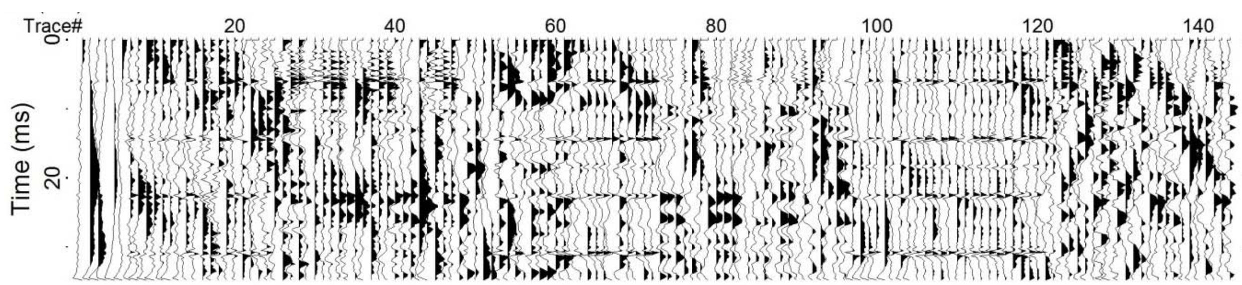

Figure 8: Representative ambient noise recorded at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2). Traces 1-48 represent the 4.5 Hz geophones, 49-96 represent the shear geophones, and 97-144 represent the 40 Hz geophones.

Data Processing

Multichannel-analysis of surface waves (MASW) was used to analyze dispersive Rayleigh-wave energy and estimate shear-wave velocity (Vs). Fundamental-mode energy was interpreted and inverted using a weighted, damped least-squares approach (Xia et al., 1999), resulting in a 2-D Vs profile. Average and interval downhole compressional-wave velocity (Vp) and Vs were calculated using the arrival time of the direct P-wave and S-wave, respectively, and pathlength from the seismic source to each receiver depth. Refraction tomography with 1.2 x 1.2 m cell size was used to estimate Vs and Vp. Joint-analysis of refractions and surface waves (JARS, Ivanov et al., 2010) was used to constrain the non-uniqueness inherently involved in refraction inversion, resulting in physically realistic 2-D Vs and Vp profiles. Shear- and compressional-wave seismic quality factors (Qs and Qp, respectively) were obtained using a surface wave inversion technique (Xia et al., 2010). Downhole shear records were numerically rotated to orient the recorded shear-wave traces in the vertical (SV) and horizontal (SH) polarization directions (Di Siena et al., 1984). The direct P-waves and S-waves were isolated on compressional and shear records, respectively, and the spectral ratio method was used to estimate Qp and Qs for each lithology identified in drilling notes (Tonn, 1991; Hasse and Stewart, 2004). The velocity and quality values calculated from downhole data were used to constrain inversion and improve accuracy of the results obtained using surface seismic methods.

Final Results

MASW

MASW results are restricted to the side slope of the hill, which consists of more erosion material than the top of the hill where the borehole is located. Lower than expected velocities are possibly an artifact of the terrain.

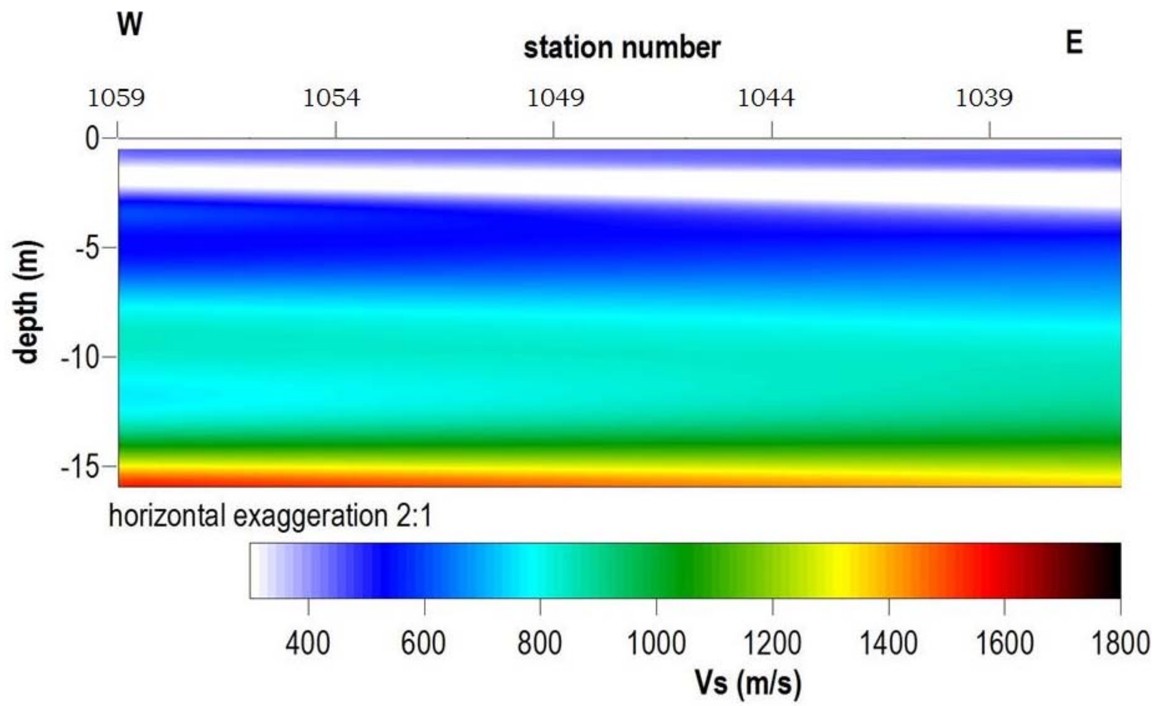

Figure 9: MASW Vs at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Downhole Vs

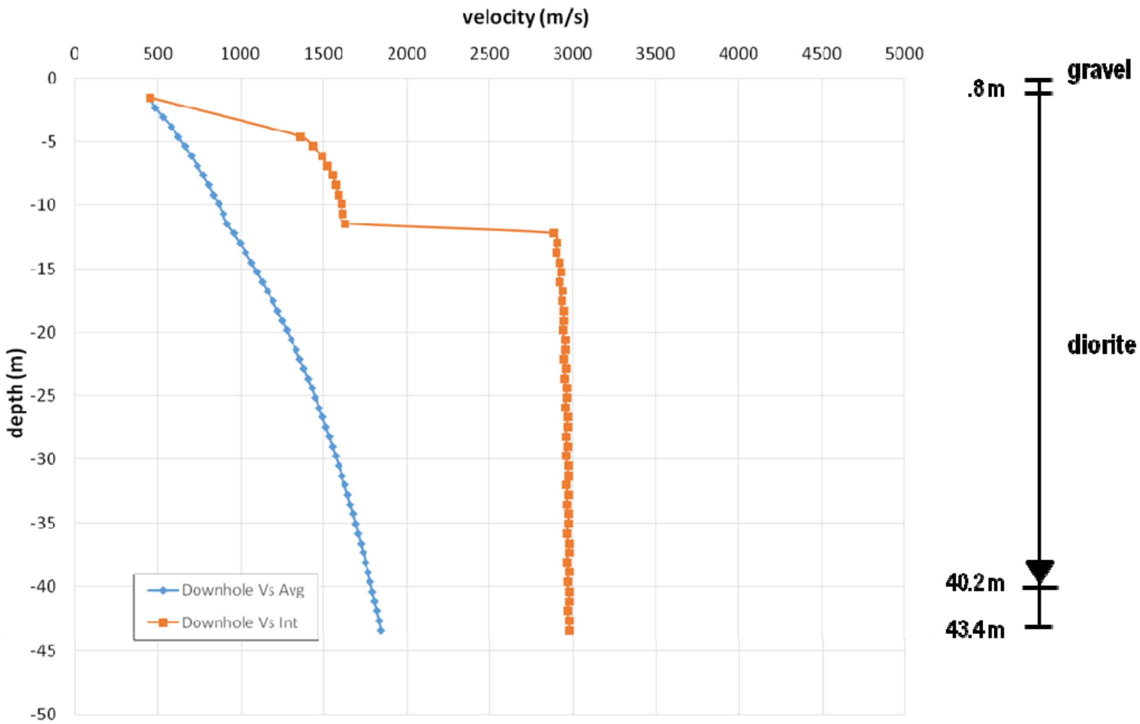

Figure 10: Downhole Vs profile at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Downhole Vp

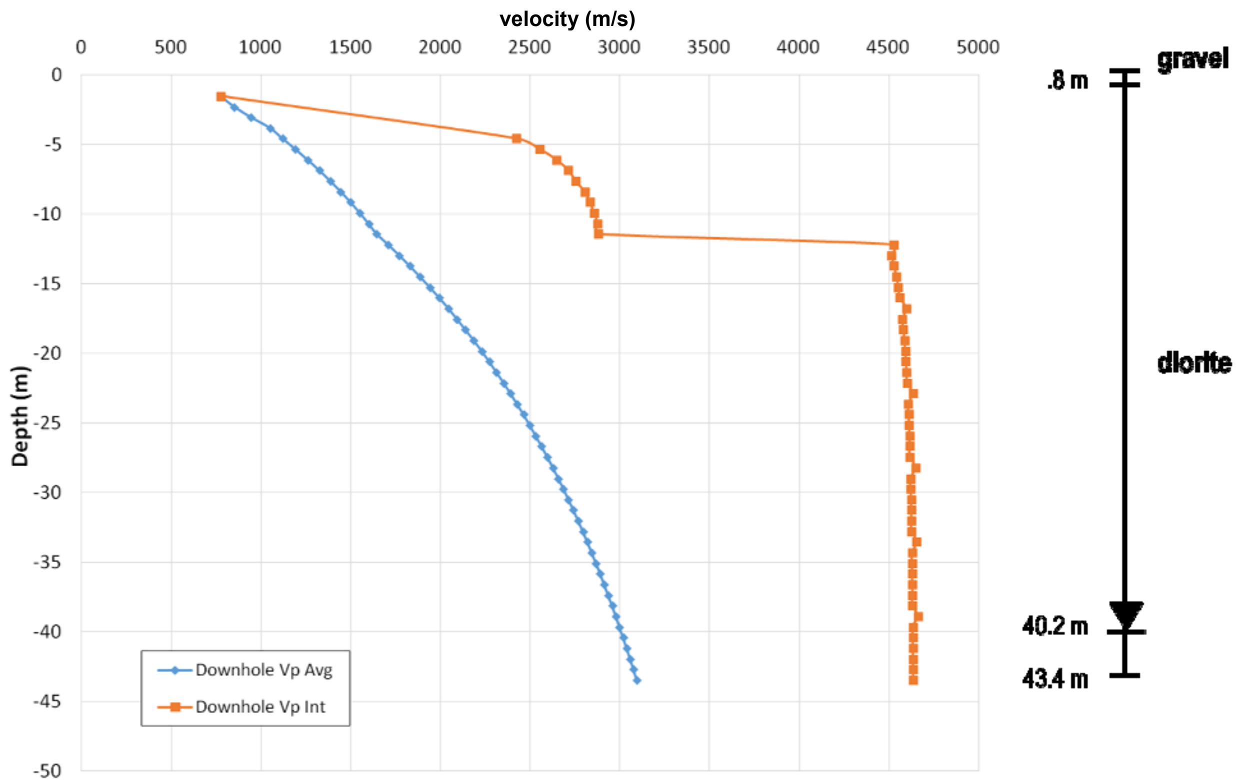

Figure 11: Downhole Vp profile at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Vs Tomography

The initial model for final tomography results was generated based on downhole interval S-wave velocities. Picked first arrival times used for preliminary processing were reviewed to confirm their accuracy and used for final processing.

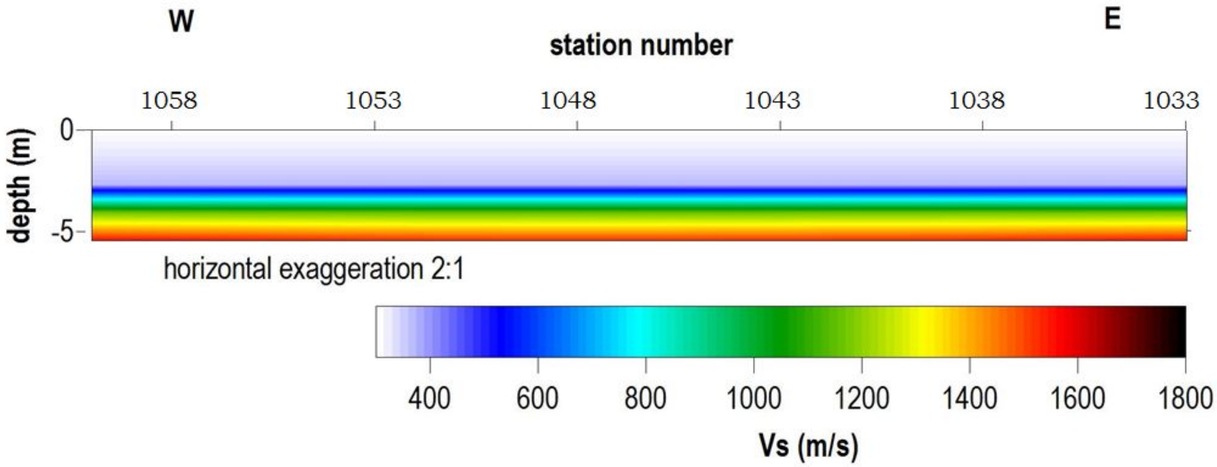

Figure 12: Vs tomography at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Vp Tomography

The initial model for final tomography results was generated based on downhole interval P-wave velocities. Picked first arrival times used for preliminary processing were reviewed to confirm their accuracy and used for final processing.

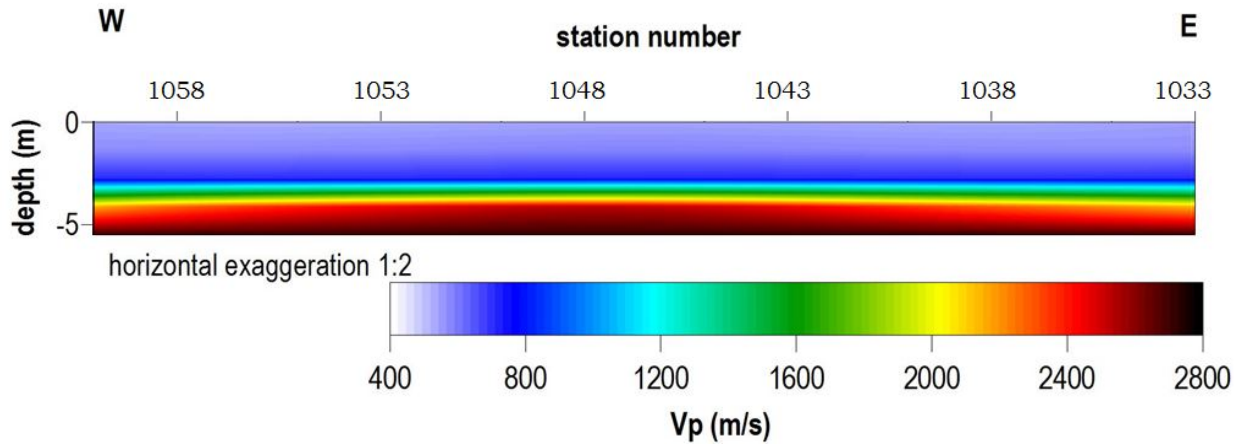

Figure 13: Vp tomography at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Downhole Qs

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition.

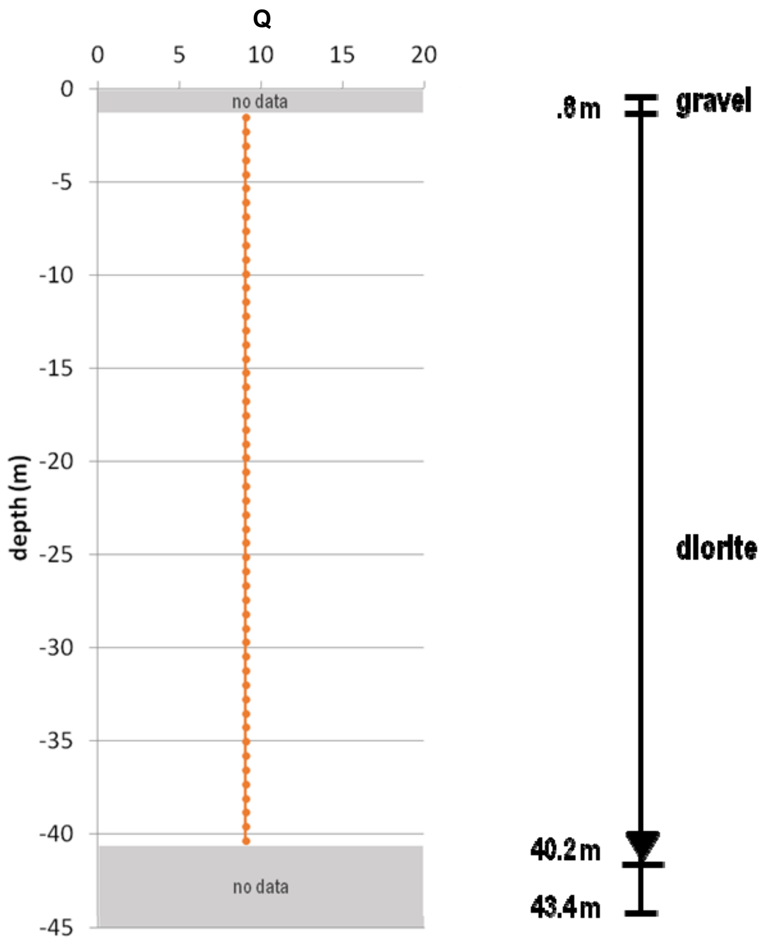

Figure 14: Downhole Qs profile at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Downhole Qp

Calculation of Q is highly sensitive to sources of noise (e.g., traffic) during acquisition.

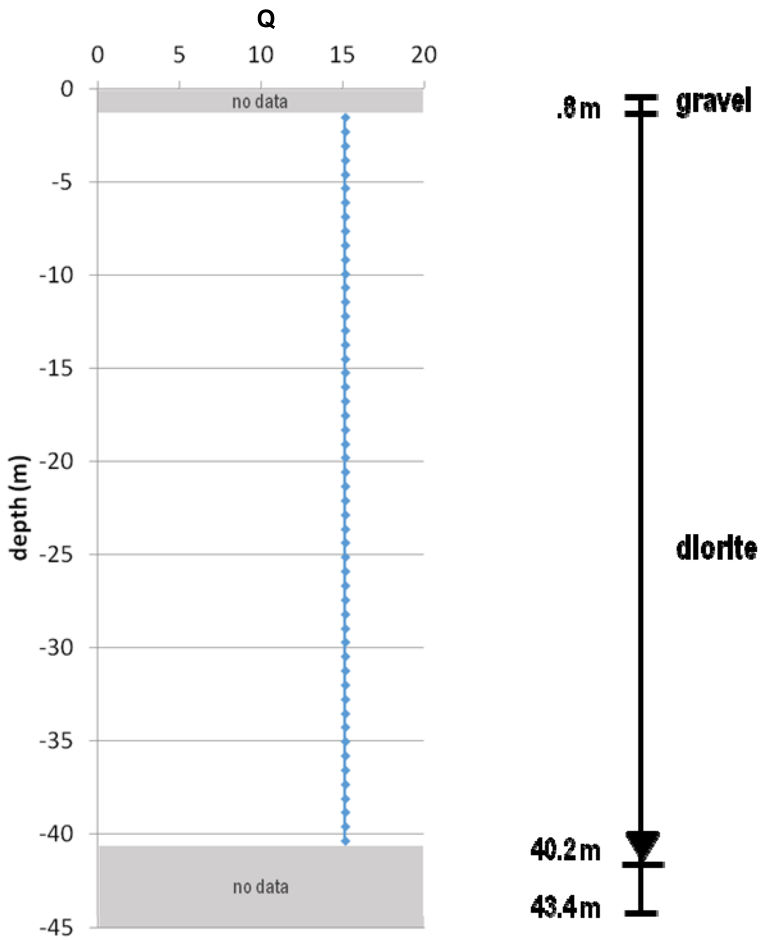

Figure 15: Downhole Qp profile at Nog-C_N3 (DTRA N2).

Surface Qs and Qp

Our attempts to stabilize the Q inversion at this site were unsuccessful. Stable inversion requires large amounts of consistent data, which we did not have at this site.

Related Materials

Delivered materials include:

1. This report
2. PowerPoint presentation summarizing this report
3. Data files
4. Document explaining the data file format
5. Detailed list of deliverables

References

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