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# Evaluation of Recovery Technology for the Grosmont Carbonate Reservoir

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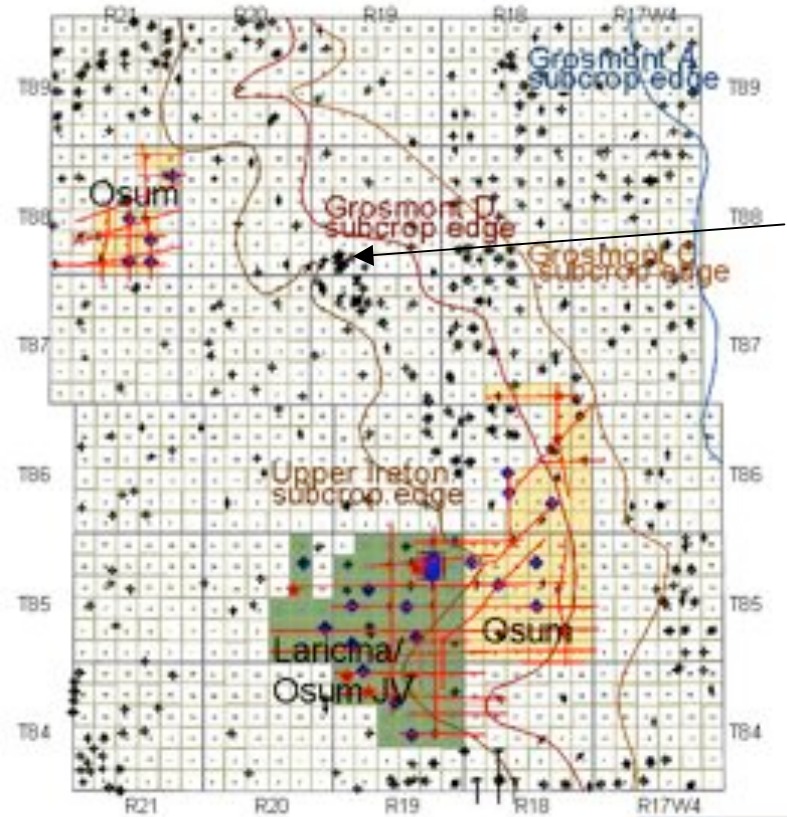
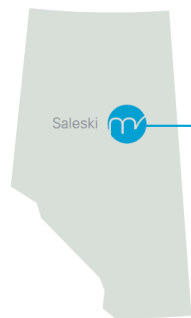
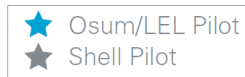
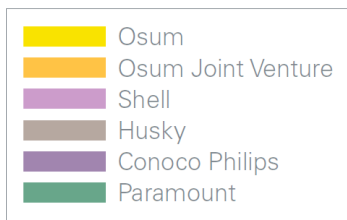
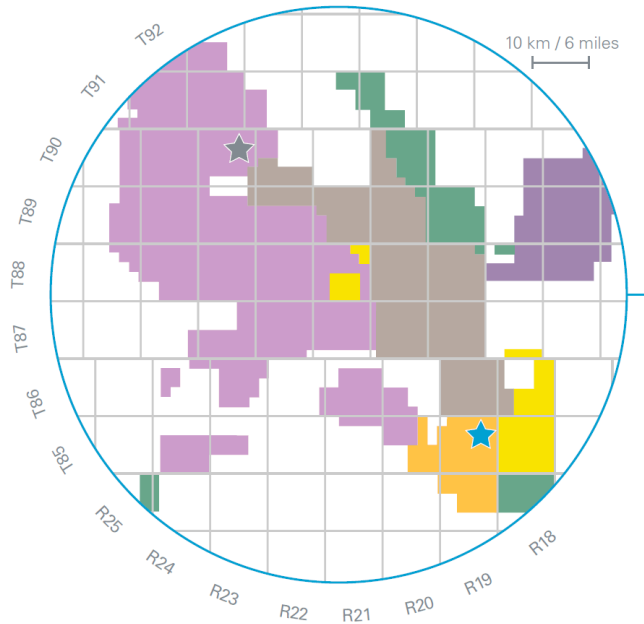
## Outline



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- Geology in Osum's Saleski area
  - CSS Test at Buffalo Creek
  - Analog to the McMurray Formation
  - Laboratory Tests of Solvent Process
  - Commercial Prospective
  - Conclusions
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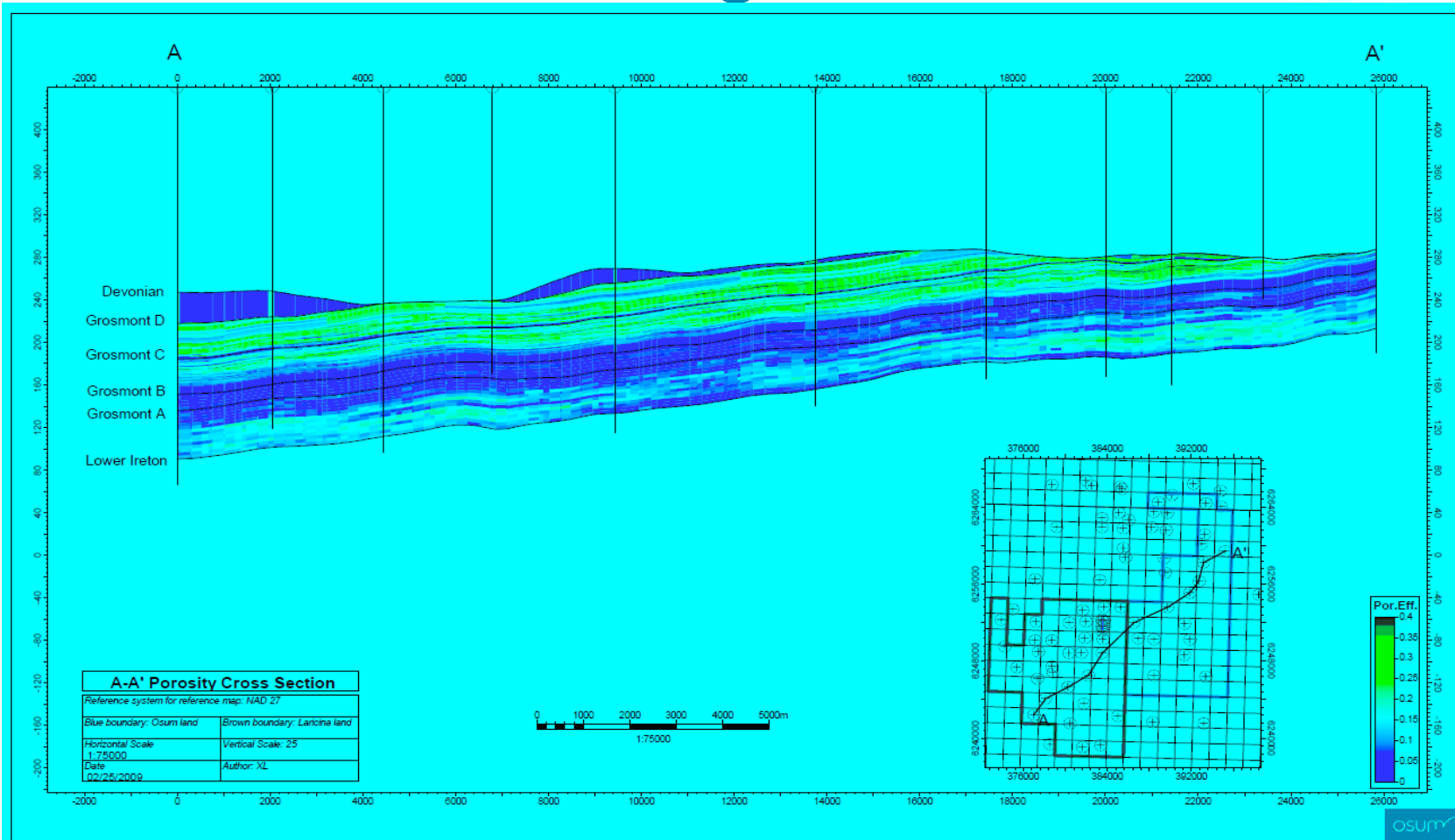
# Osum's Saleski/Liege Project Area



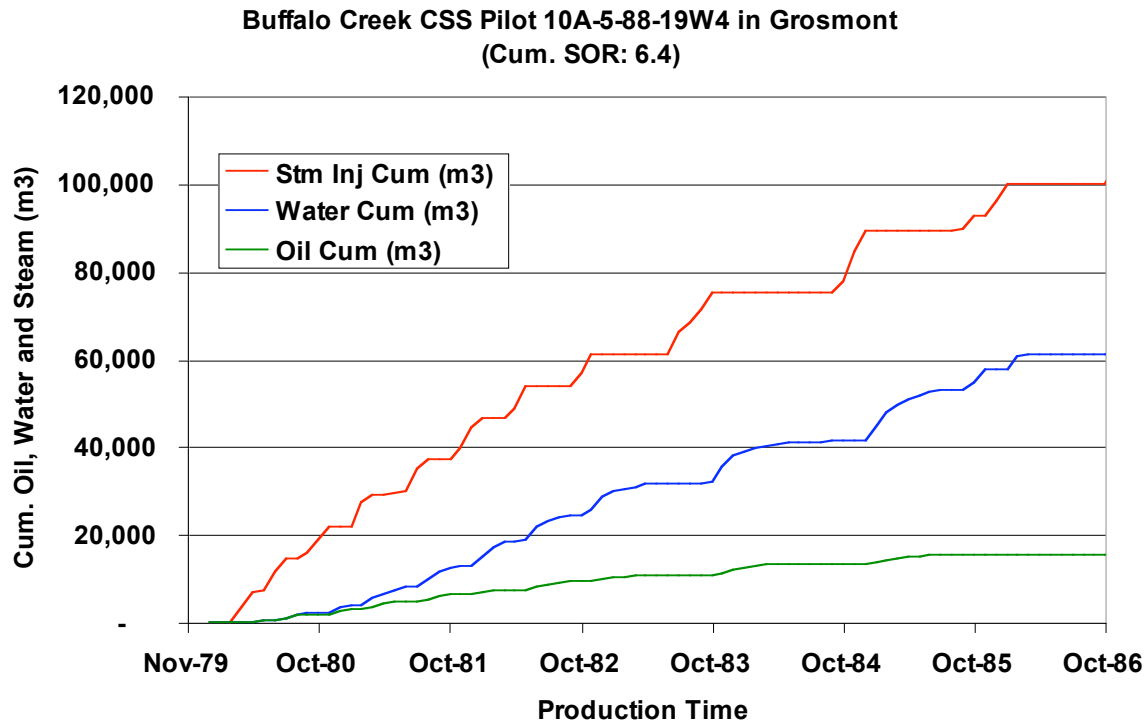
**Buffalo  
Creek Pilot**



# Cross-Section through Saleski Area



# Pilot Test in Buffalo Creek



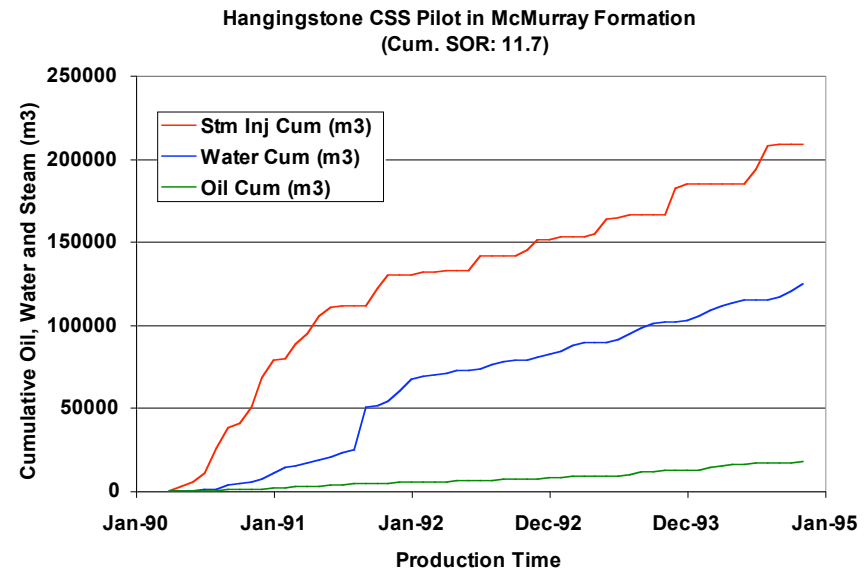
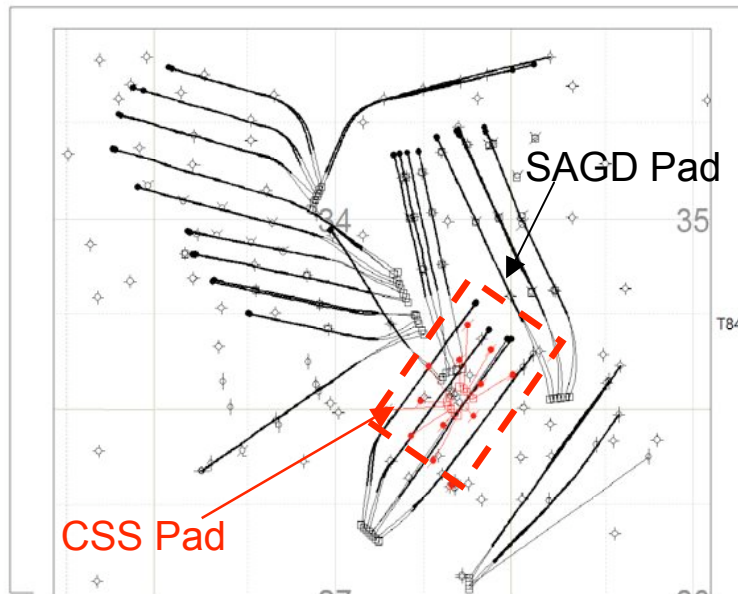
- Peak oil rate close to 500 Bbl/d (80 m<sup>3</sup>/d)
- High Steam Injectivity
- Best cycle SOR was 4.0
- Low produced water to injected steam ratio (<0.7)

# Challenges for CSS in Grosmont Formation

- Low mobility of bitumen
  - Bitumen becomes immobile when temperature falls below critical value
- Lack of solution gas drive
  - Low solution GOR in the bitumen (<5.0 m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>)
- Low compaction drive
  - Reservoirs buried in shallow formations (100 to 500 m) and partially pressure depleted
- Reservoir containment

Less Favorable Conditions for CSS

# CSS in McMurray Formation at JACOS Hangingstone

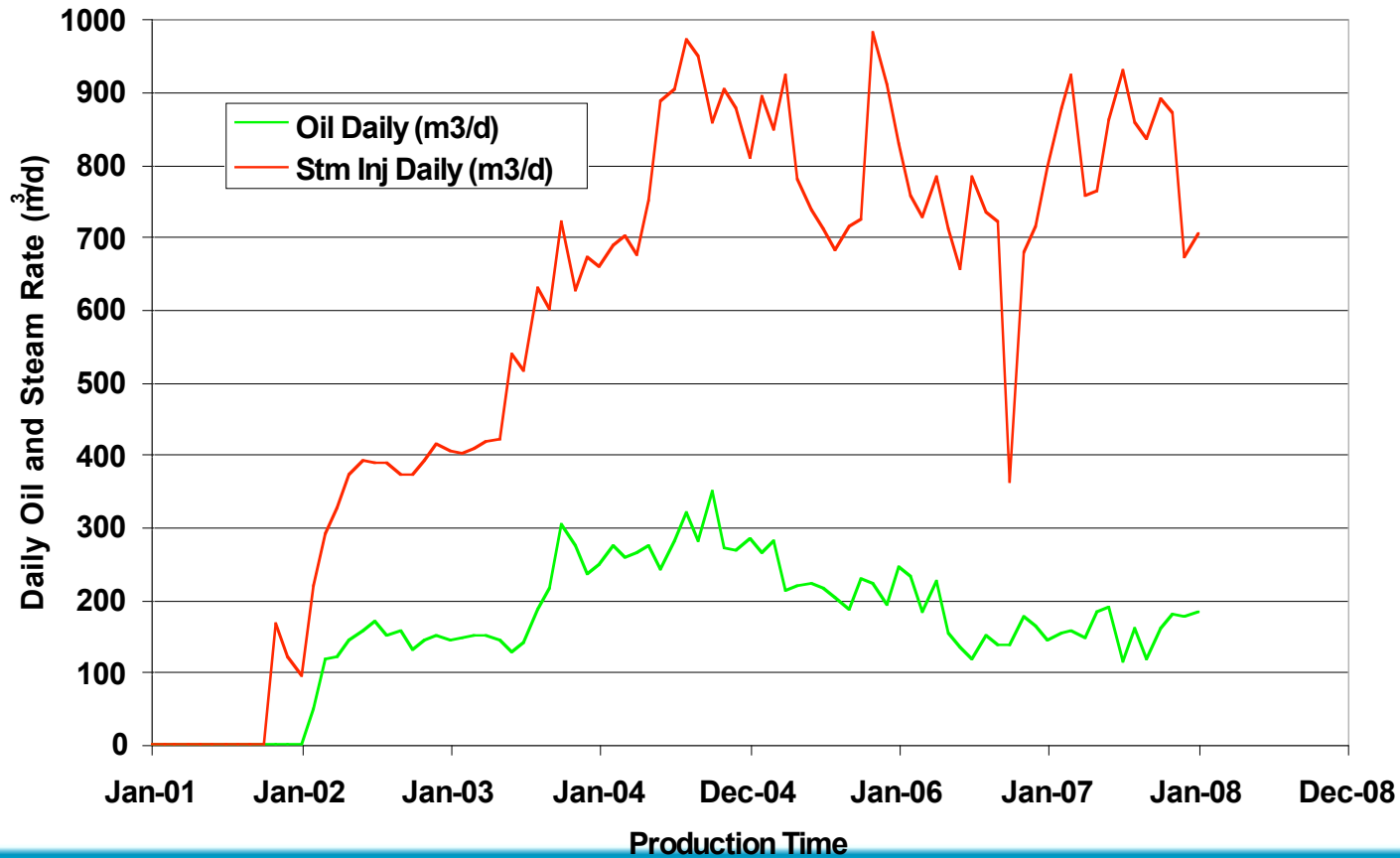


Higher SOR and Lower Productivity than Buffalo Creek Pilot

# SAGD in McMurray Formation at JACOS Hangingstone



Hangingsstone SAGD Pilot in McMurray Formation  
(2 Well Pairs, Peak Oil 150 m<sup>3</sup>/d per Well Pair, CSOR 3.5)





# Comparison of CSS and SAGD at Hangingstone Pilot Area



<b>Process</b>	<b>Peak Rate (m<sup>3</sup>/d/Well)</b>	<b>CSOR (m<sup>3</sup>/m<sup>3</sup>)</b>
<b>CSS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11.7</b>
<b>SAGD</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Ratio between SAGD &amp; CSS</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>

**Step Change in McMurray Performance with SAGD**

# Estimate of SAGD Rates in Grosmont



Parameters	McMurray	Grosmont
$\Phi$ (fraction)	0.33	0.22
$k_v$ (Darcies)	5	10
$\Delta S_o$	0.7	0.7
h (m)	20	30
Productivity ratio	1.0	1.4

$$q = 2L \sqrt{\frac{1.3kg\alpha\phi\Delta S_o h}{m\nu_s}}$$

Grosmont could achieve higher SAGD productivity than McMurray

## Laboratory Studies

- Gravity Drainage process
  - Steam
  - Cold Solvent
  - Warm Solvent

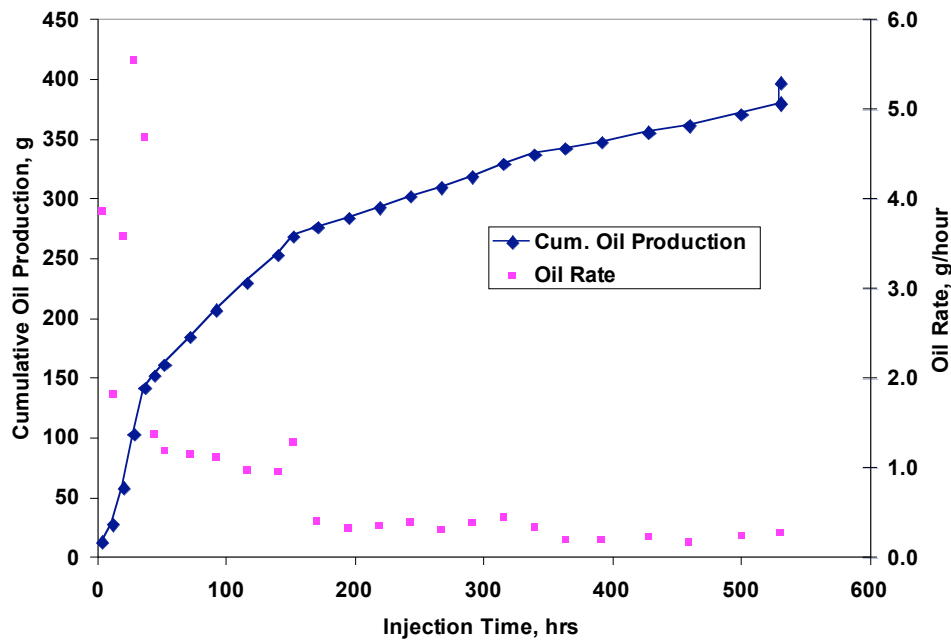
# Laboratory Test Apparatus



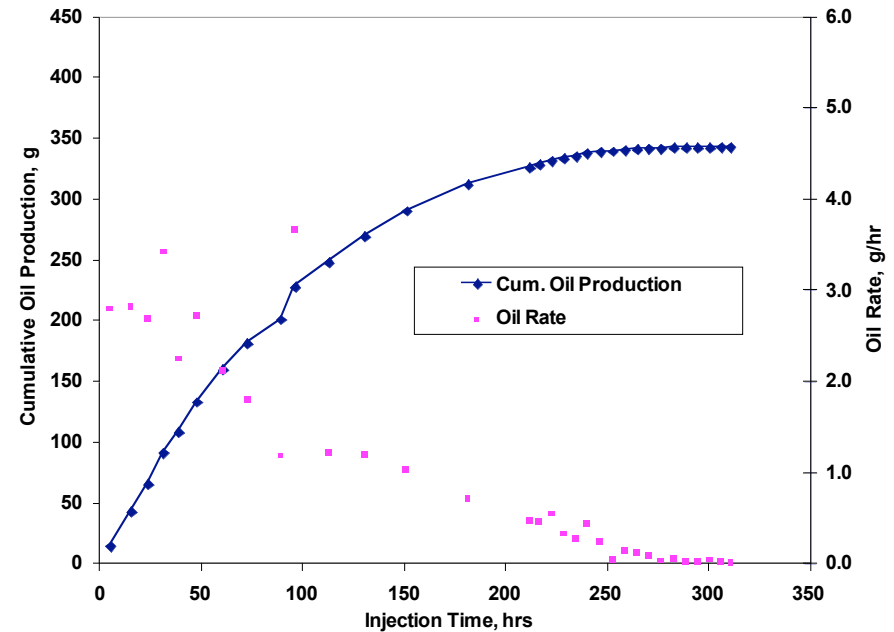
(Picture showing test apparatus at TIPM Lab. at University of Calgary)

- Full diameter Grosmont core
- Injected solvent is vaporized and maintained at constant pressure and temperature
- Diluted bitumen drains by gravity
- Production is collected from bottom and analyzed with NMR (Nuclear Magnetic Resonance)
- Core is CT scanned before and after test to visualize fluid distribution
- Residual oil is confirmed using Dean Stark

# Laboratory Test of Solvent Process



Warm Solvent @ 50 C

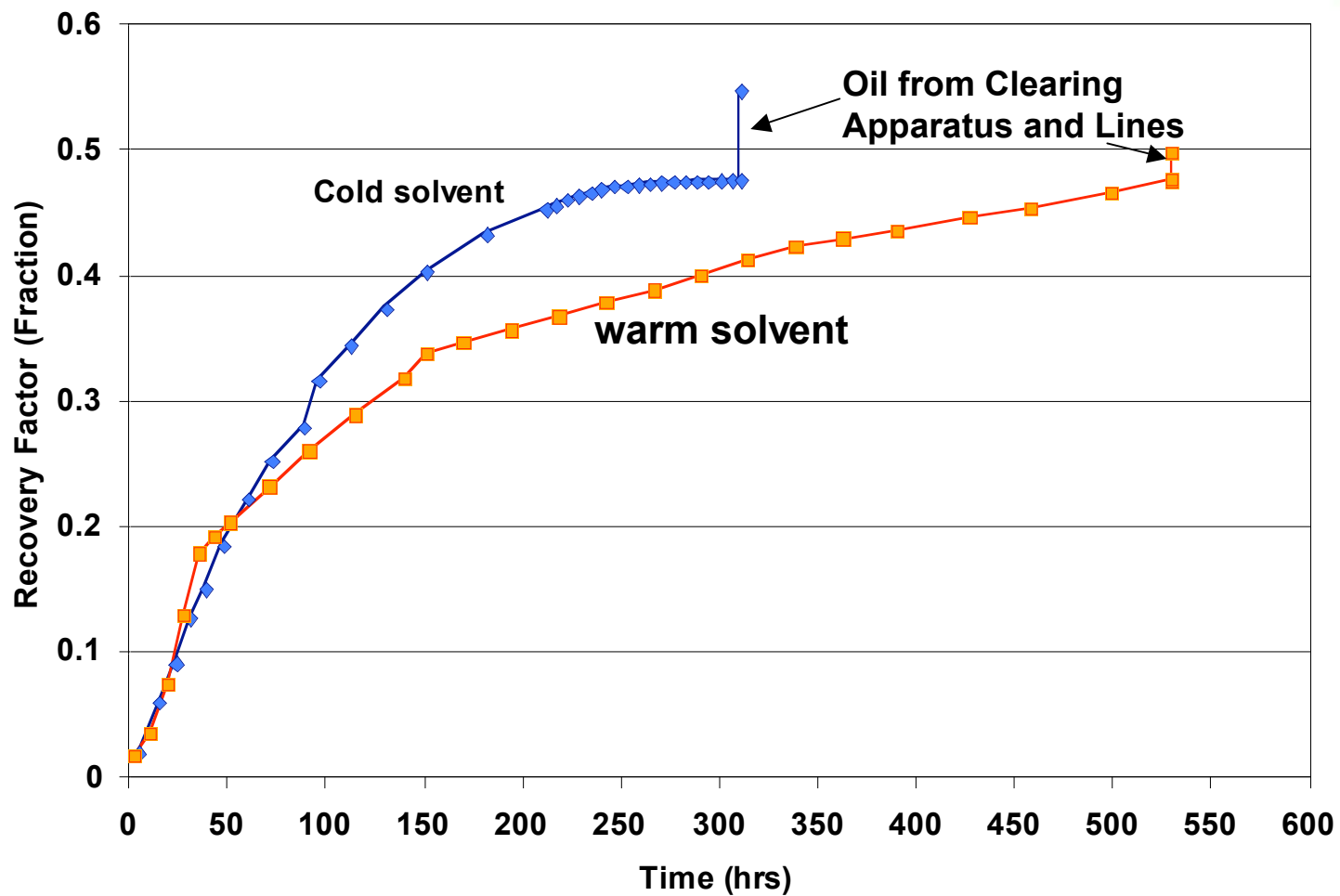


Cold Solvent

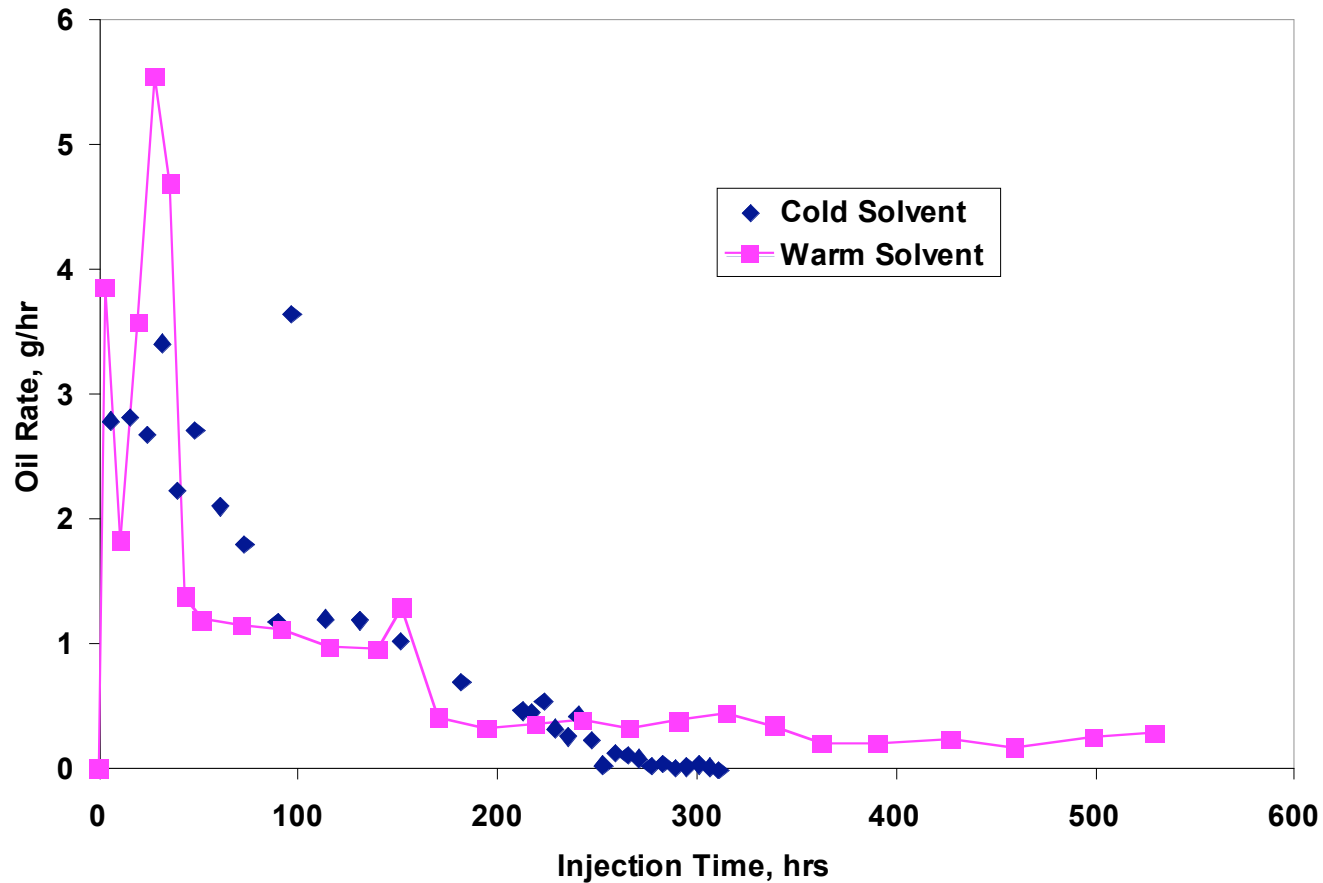
(From Edmunds et al CIPC Paper  
2008-154)

Two separate tests using core samples from different wells

# Over 50% RF Achieved from Both Cold and Warm Solvent Tests



# Effect of Temperature on Oil Rate



**Temperature Increases Initial Process Rate**

# Drainage Patterns

- High initial rate following by reduced rates
  - Initial high oil rate is most likely due to drainage from fractures
  - Slower drainage rates in late stages could be the combination of flow from both matrix and fracture
- Drainage from both fracture and matrix is confirmed from CT Scan



## High Residual Oil in Core (>40%)

- Less drainage head (0.9 m) in the core than in the field (20 to 60 meters)
- Less drainage time (days) in the core than in the field (years)
- Higher percentage of the liquid hold-up by capillary pressure in the core than in the field

# Interpretation of Lab. Test Results

- Scaling Factor

- Geometrical Similarity

- $H_{field} = 27.0 \text{ m}$ ;  $H_{model} = 0.9 \text{ m}$

- Permeability

- $K_{field} = 10 \text{ D}$ ;  $K_{model} = 300 \text{ D}$

- Time Similarity

- $T_{field} = 10 \text{ Yrs}$ ;  $T_{model} = 4.0 \text{ Days}$

$$\frac{K_m}{K_f} = \frac{\left( \frac{h}{N\Delta S_o} \right)_{field}}{\left( \frac{h}{N\Delta S_o} \right)_{model}}$$

$$\frac{t_m}{t_f} = \frac{\left( h^2 \right)_{model}}{\left( h^2 \right)_{field}}$$

$$N = \int_{\partial C}^{C_e} \frac{(1-C)\Delta\rho}{D_s\mu} \frac{dC}{C}$$

## Limitation for an Unscaled Test

- Recovery efficiency in actual reservoir could be higher than that from unscaled laboratory test
  - Residual oil in the model is higher than that in actual reservoir

$$S_{or} = \frac{(b-1)}{b} \left( \frac{v_s \phi h}{kgt} \right)^{1/(b-1)}$$

- Impact of capillary pressure in the model is higher than that in actual reservoir

$$H = \frac{\sigma \Delta J}{\Delta \rho g} \sqrt{\frac{\phi}{k}}$$

# Evaluation of Commercial Prospect

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- Scaled experiments
  - Very challenging for multiple porosity medium
- Field-scale reservoir simulation
  - PVT, transport and interfacial properties in porous medium
  - History match of laboratory and field tests
- Field test towards commercial development
  - Promising results have been obtained from initial solvent tests at Laricina-Osum JV property (From Edmunds et al CIPC paper 2008-154)
  - Large-scale pilot tests are planned

## Conclusions

- CSS pilot test at Buffalo Creek demonstrated high injectivity and high productivity in Grosmont Formation.
- Both cold and warm solvent soak tests achieved over 50% recovery from a Grosmont core.
- Drainage of oil occurred also from the low porosity (<10%) section of the Grosmont core.
- Warm solvent test achieved higher oil drainage rates than cold solvent test especially during the initial production stage.

## Conclusions (Cont'd)

- Solvent process could be more efficient in the field than the unscaled core test.
- Scaled physical modeling and field pilot testing are required to evaluate the commercial potential for future Grosmont development.
- Gravity drainage process applied to Grosmont reservoirs appears to hold great promise.
- Optimization of the recovery process for the Grosmont reservoir should be focused on a combination of solvent and thermal processes.

# Acknowledgement



- Permission from Osum Oil Sands Corp. to publish this paper
- The University of Calgary's Tomographic Imaging and Porous Media (TIPM) laboratory for conducting the laboratory tests.