

Unconventional Resources: Turning Conventional Paradigms Upside Down

Richard Chuchla
Senior Corporate Strategic Advisor
Exxon Mobil Corporation

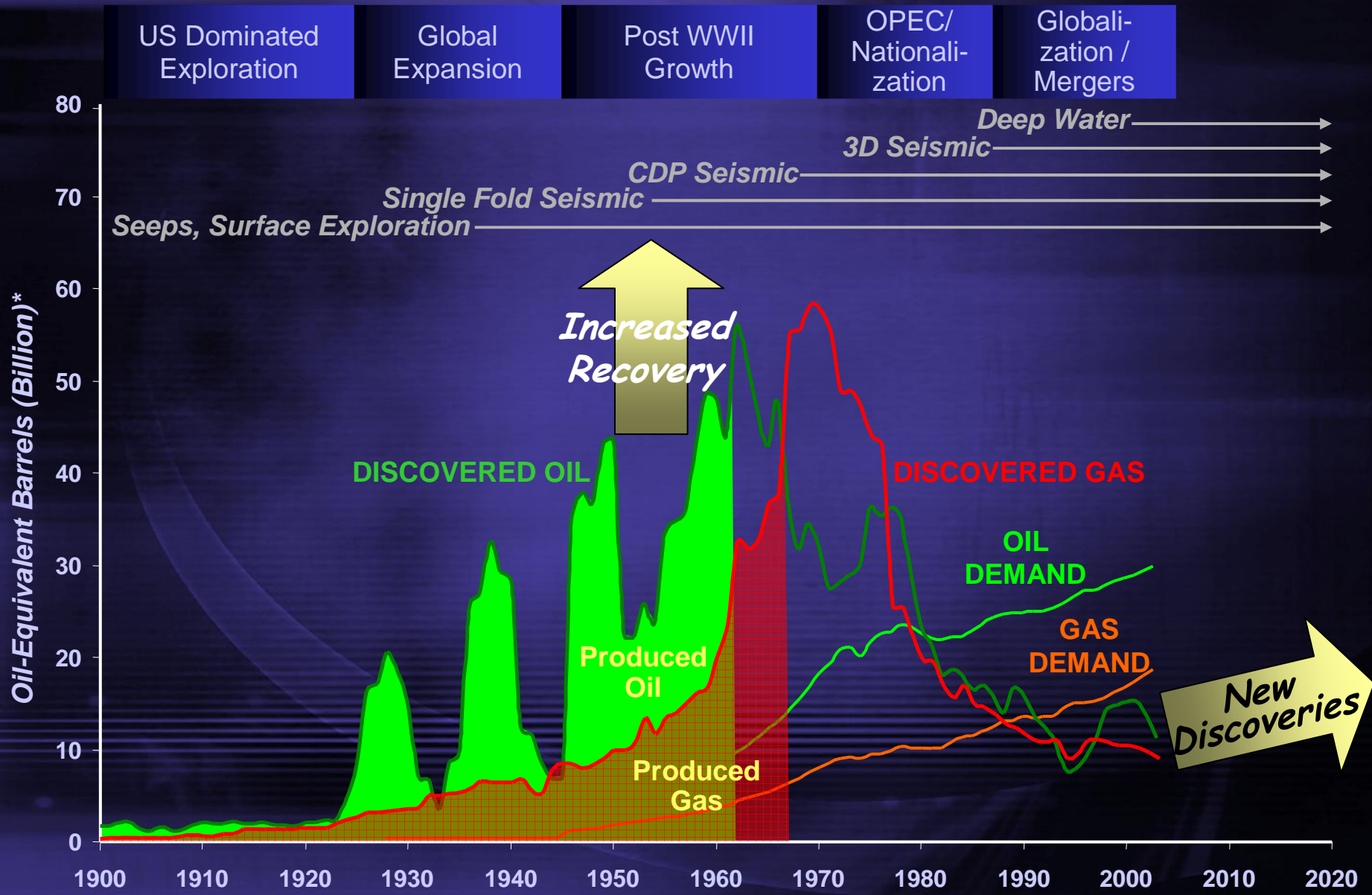
Outline

- **Definitions**
- **Historical Context and Importance**
- **What's Unconventional About Unconventional Resources?**
- **Challenges**
- **Pace of Discovery, Production and Innovation**
- **Outlook**

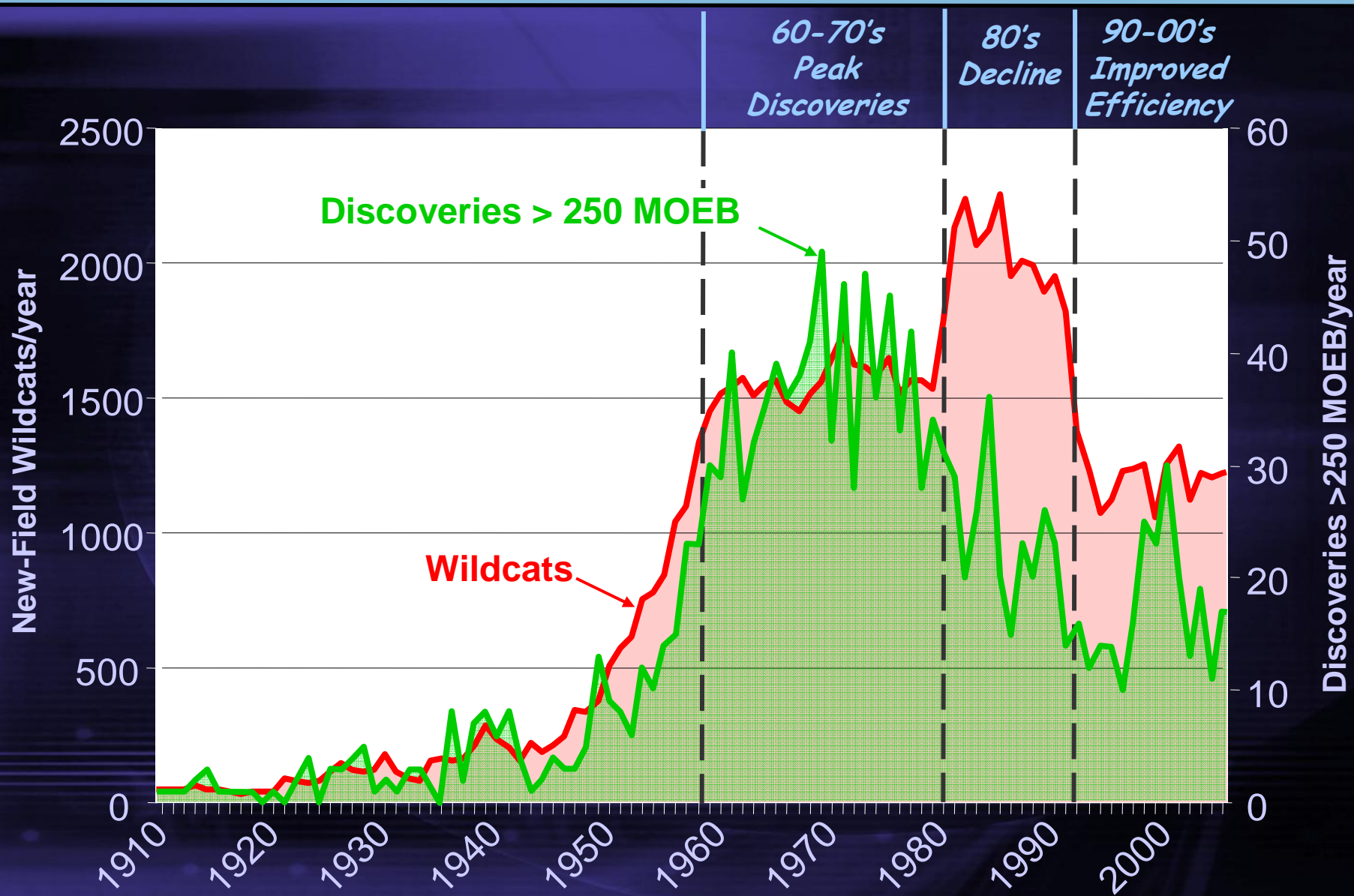
Definitions

- un·con·ven·tion·al [uhn-kuh n-ven-shuh-nl] : not conforming to existing rule
 - un·con·ven·tion·al re·source [uhn-kuh n-ven-shuh-nl ree-sawrs, -sohrs, -zawrs, -zohrs, ri-sawrs, -sohrs, -zawrs, -zohrs]: an oil and gas resource not bound by or conforming to conventional geologic rule or precedent
 - **Stubborn rocks (low permeability)**
 - e.g. tight gas (TG), shale gas (SG)
 - require physical stimulation (fracturing)
 - **Stubborn “fluids” (high viscosity to solid kerogen)**
 - e.g. heavy oil (HO), oil shale (OS)
 - require thermal stimulation
- ➔ *Technology-leveraged resources*
- ➔ *Stimulation to achieve commercial production*

Context / Discovery History

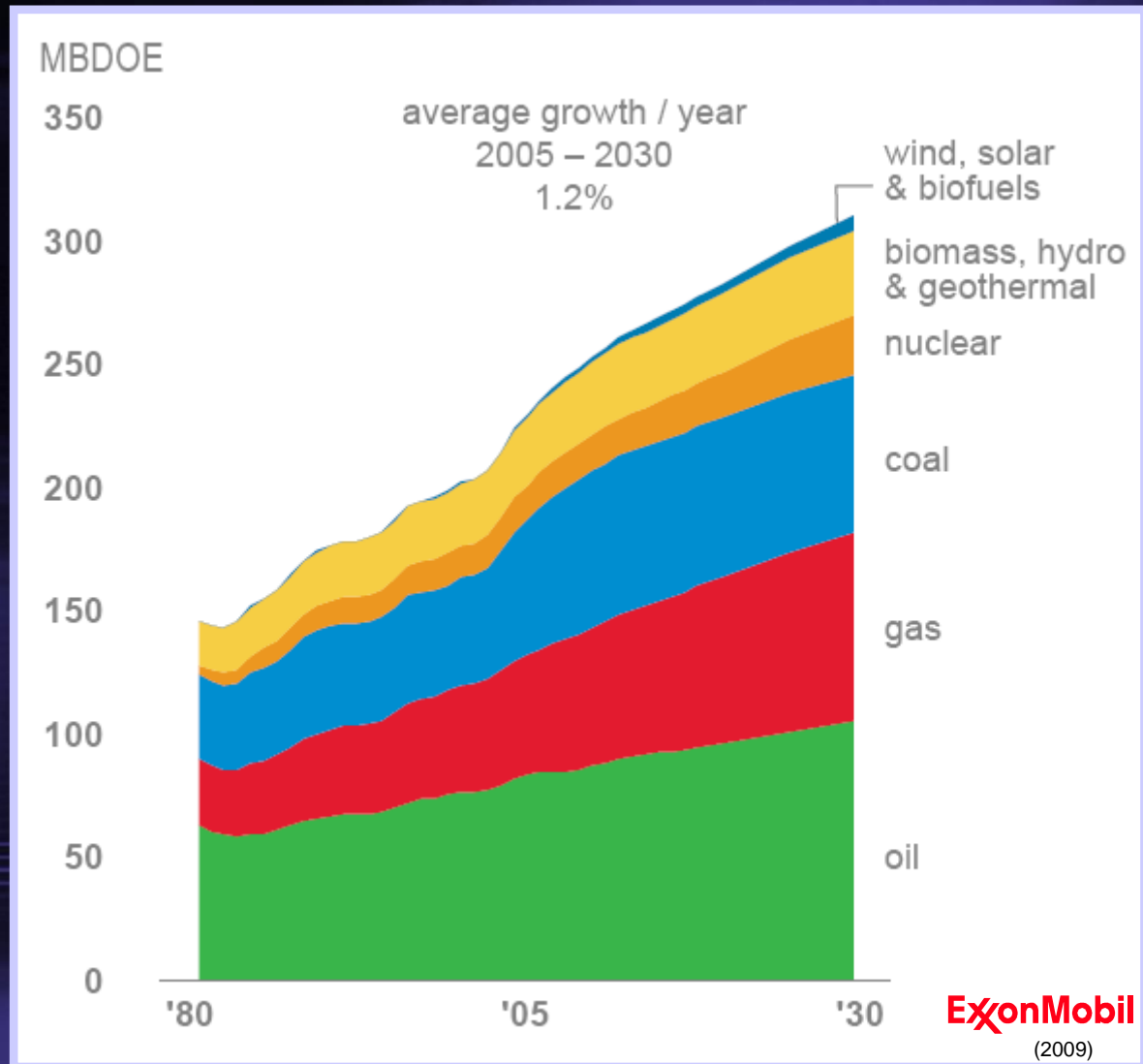


Context / Global Wildcats and Discoveries >250MBOE



Data courtesy of IHS, 2006

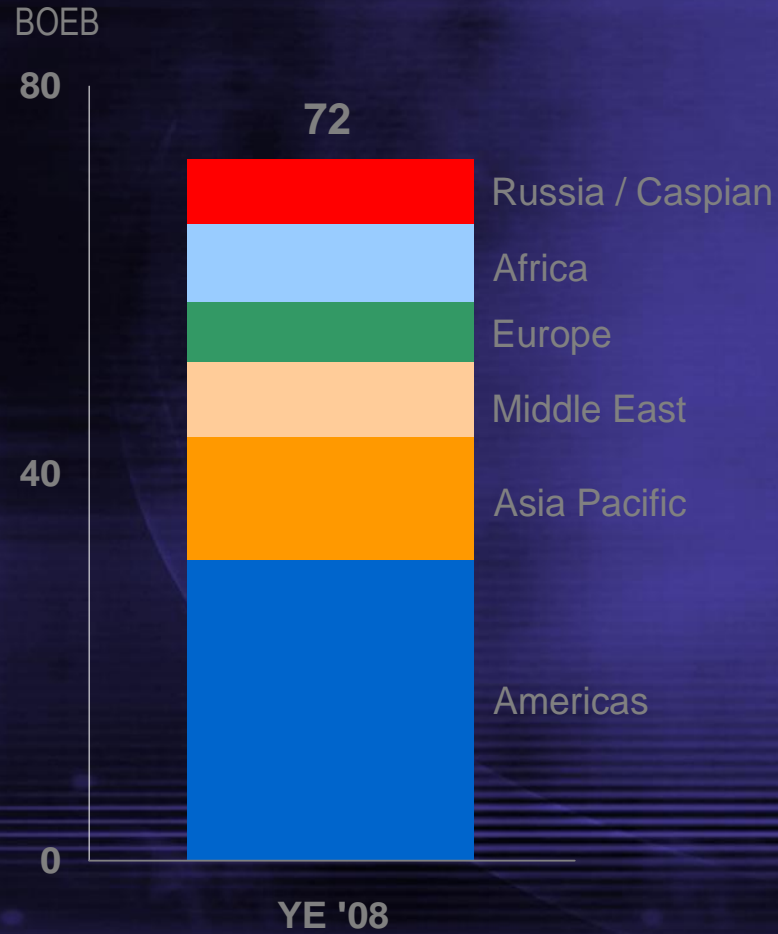
Context / Energy Demand to 2030



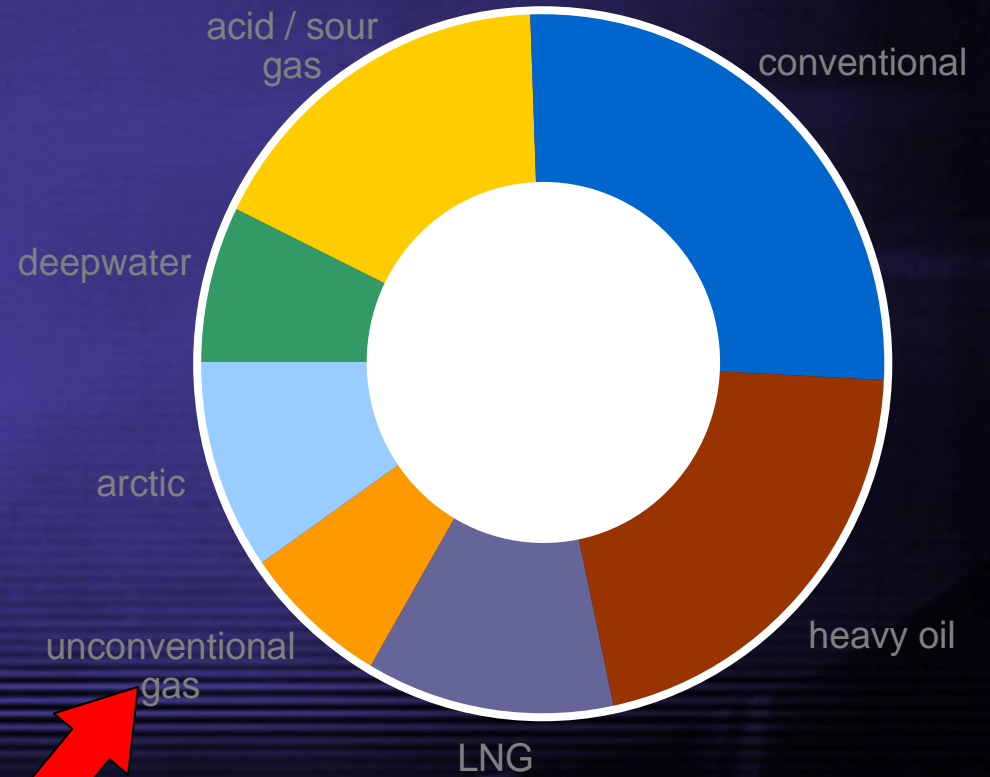
- Economic growth will drive increasing demand for energy
- Oil and gas are indispensable
 - Unconventional oil and gas will be important contributors to our energy future

ExxonMobil Resource Base

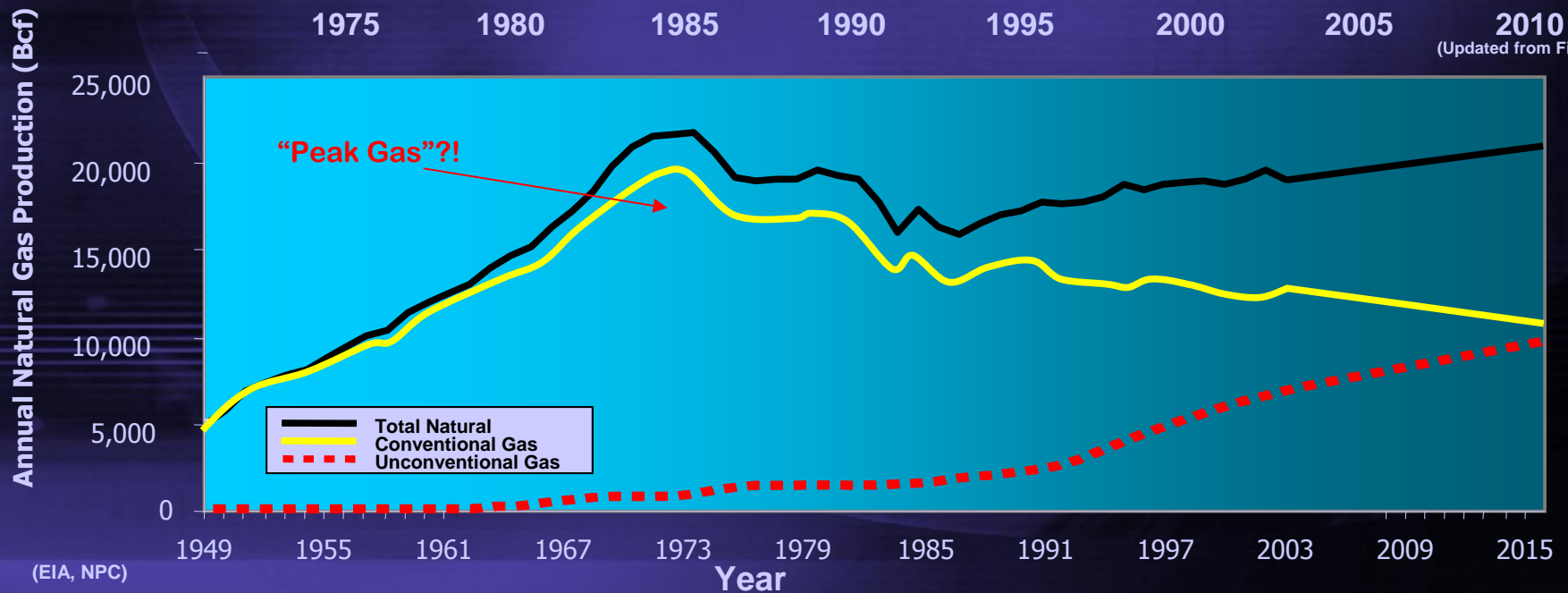
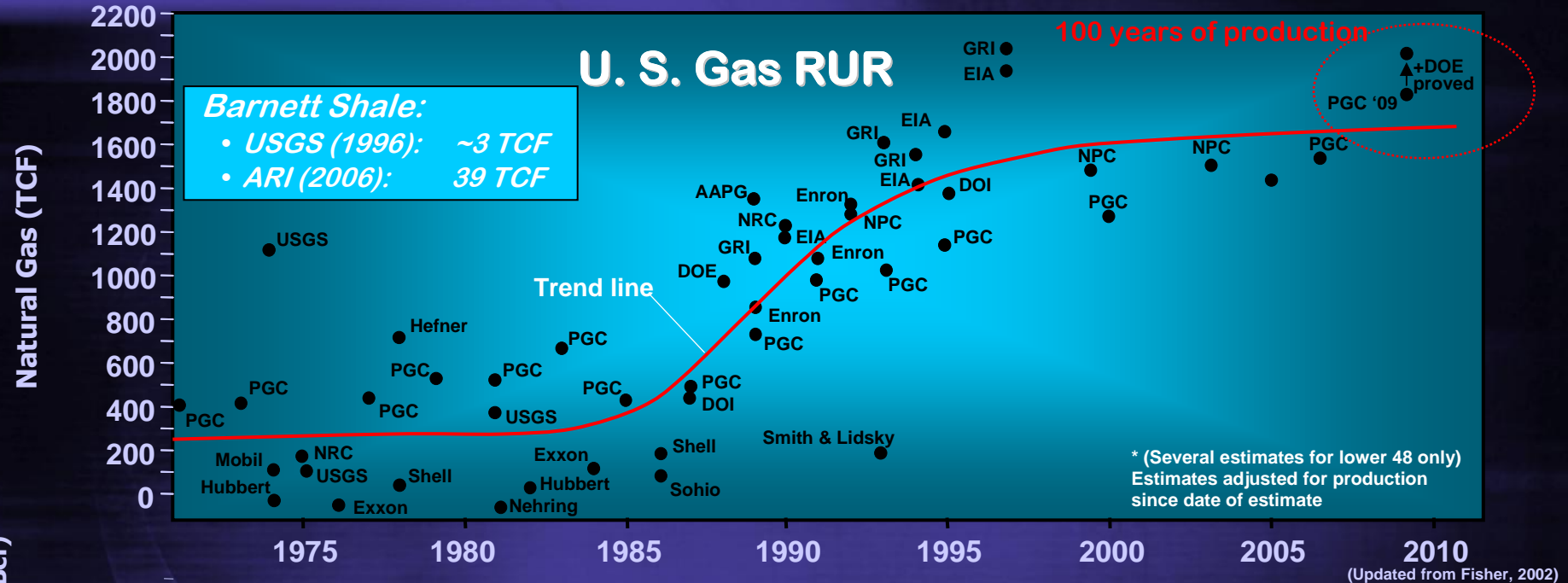
resource distribution



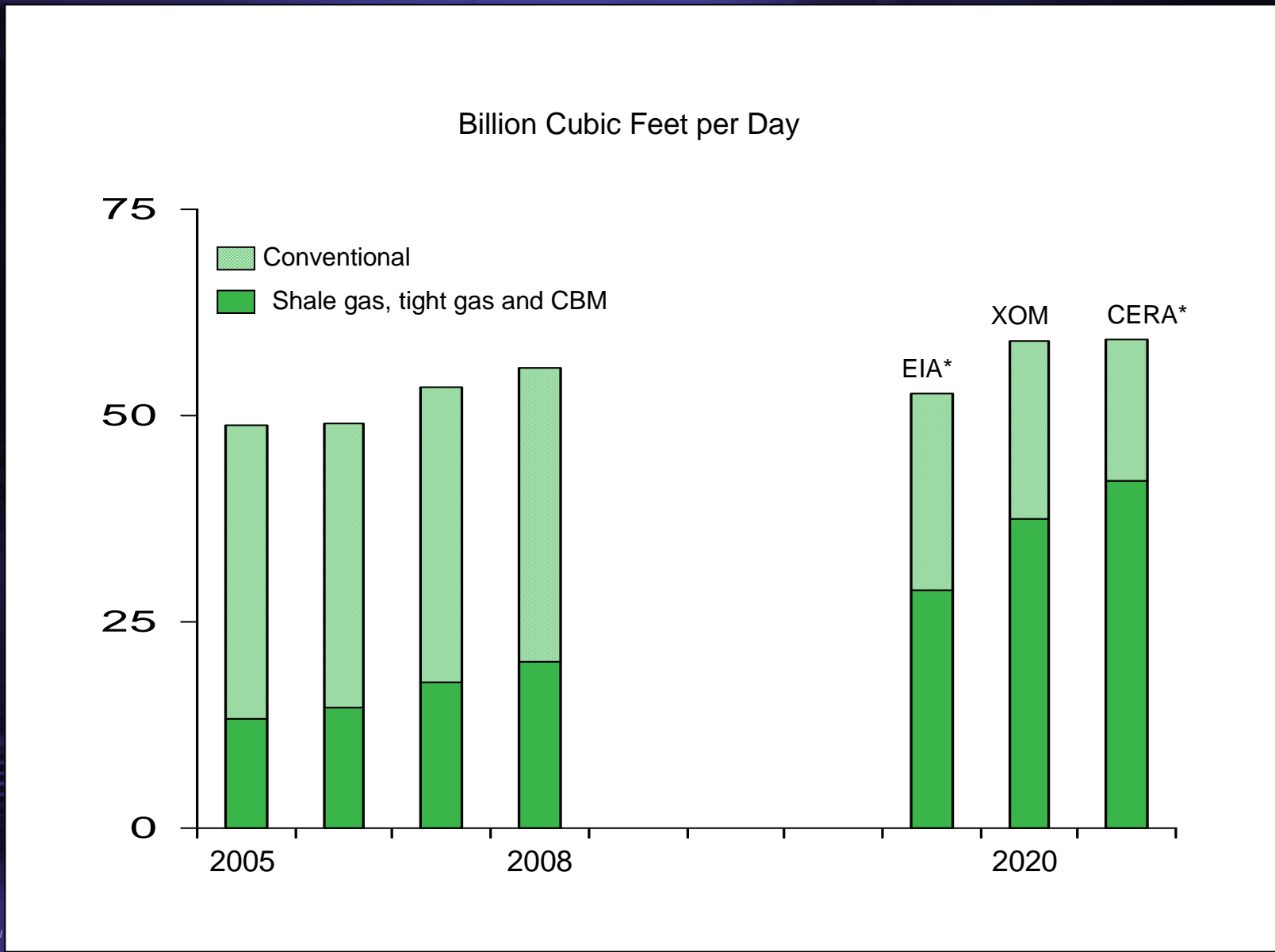
resource type



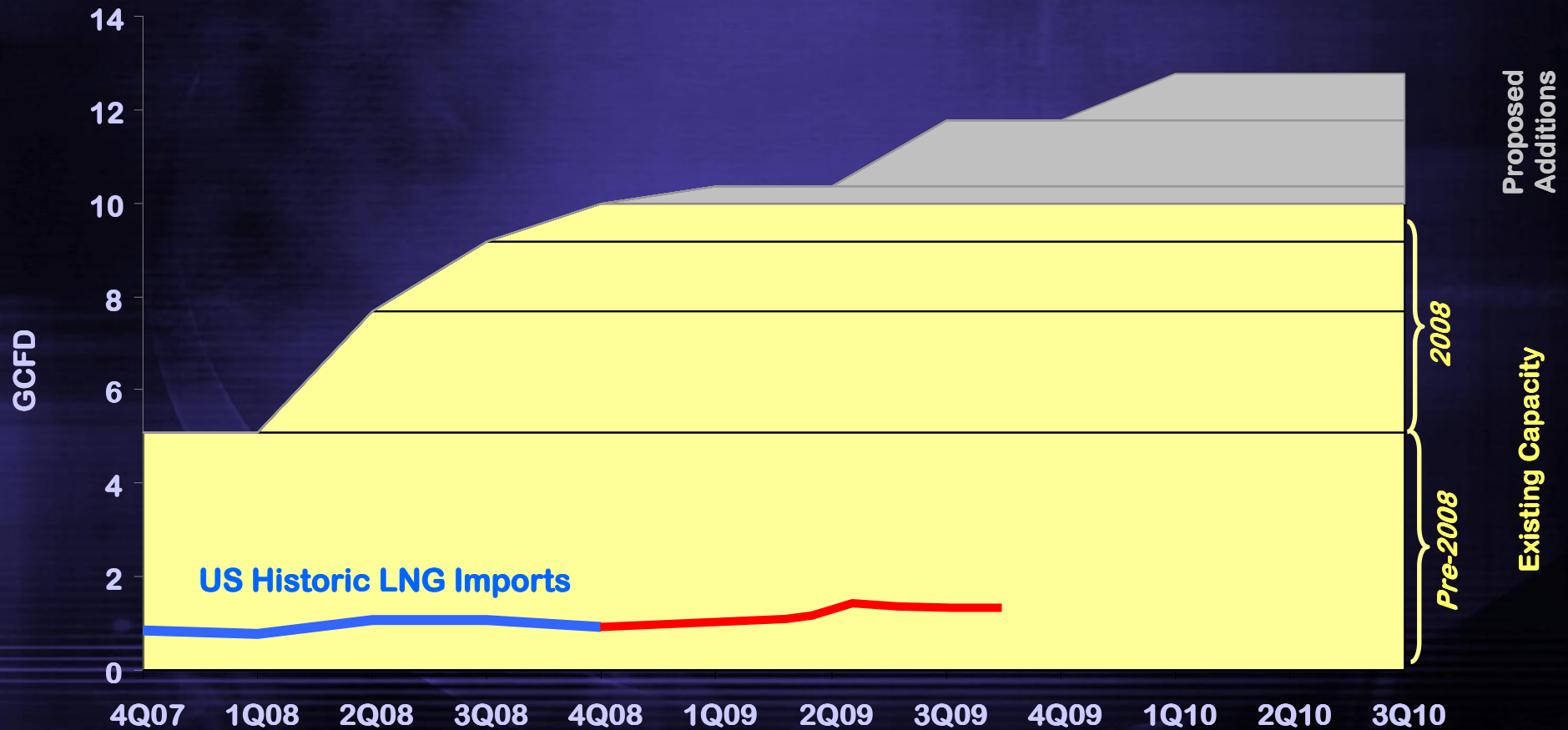
Emergence of Unconventional Gas



Exxon Mobil Production Outlook

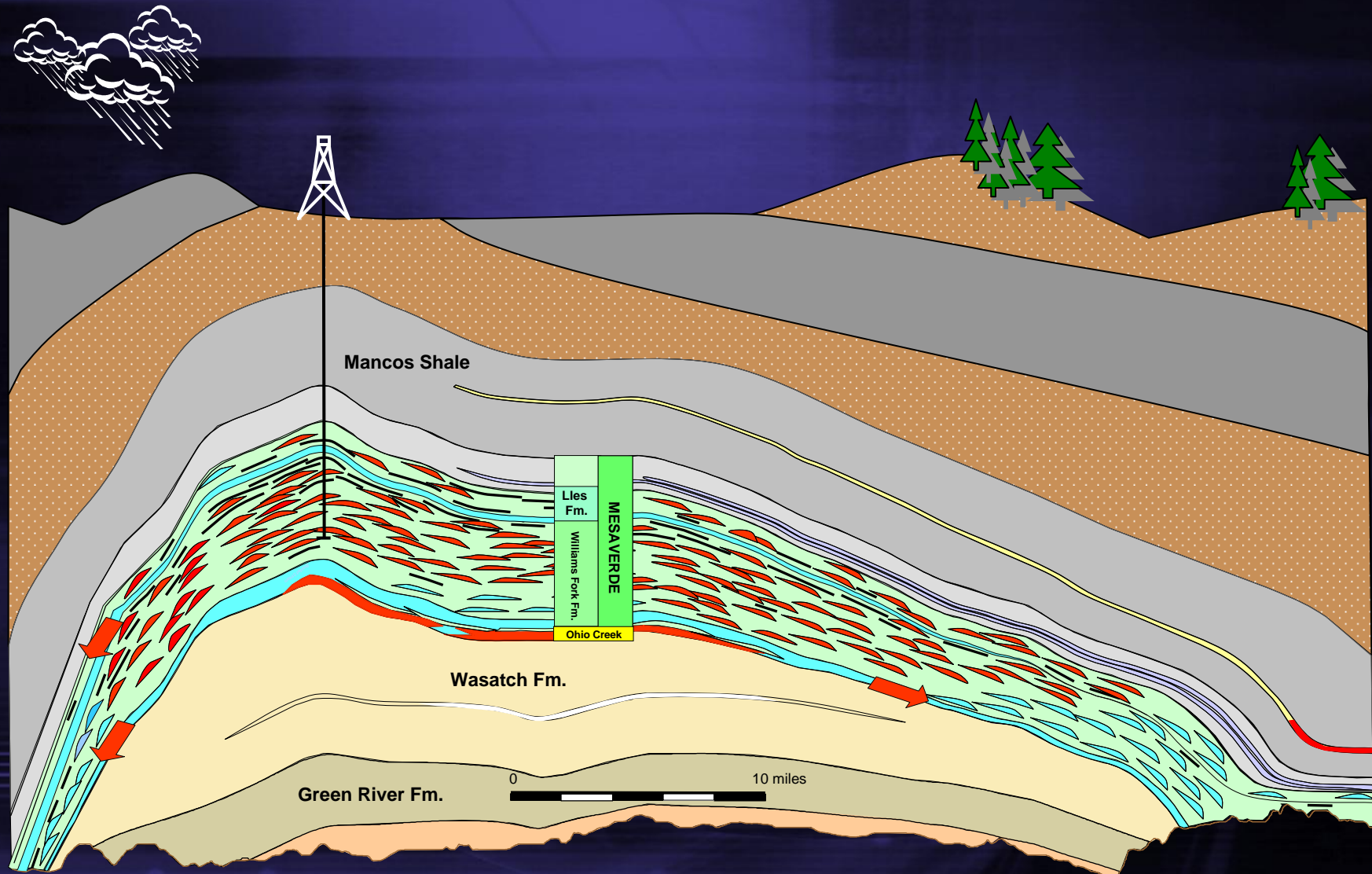


Unconventional Gas / Impact on U. S. LNG Business



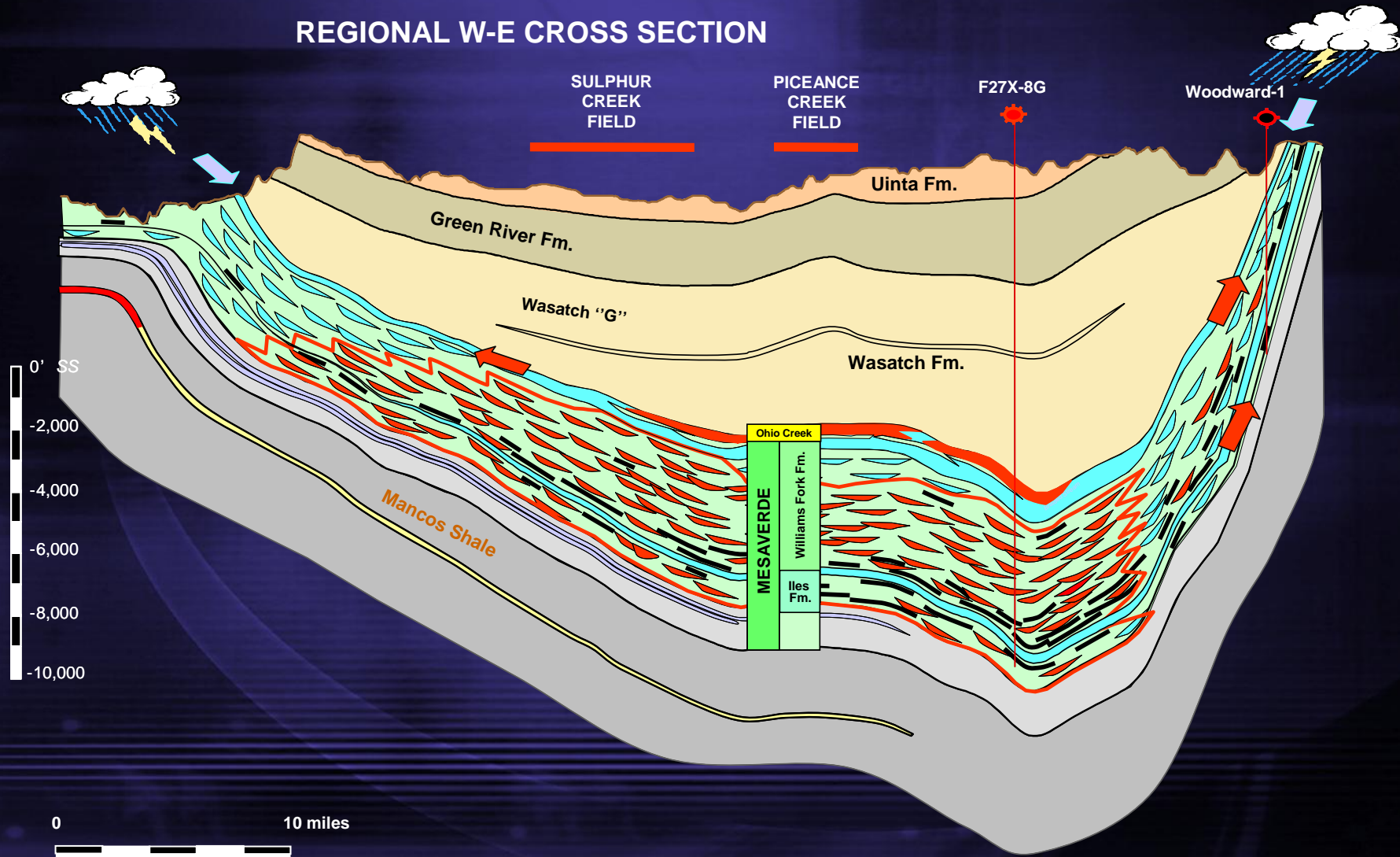
Data Source: Wood MacKenzie

A Conventional Perspective

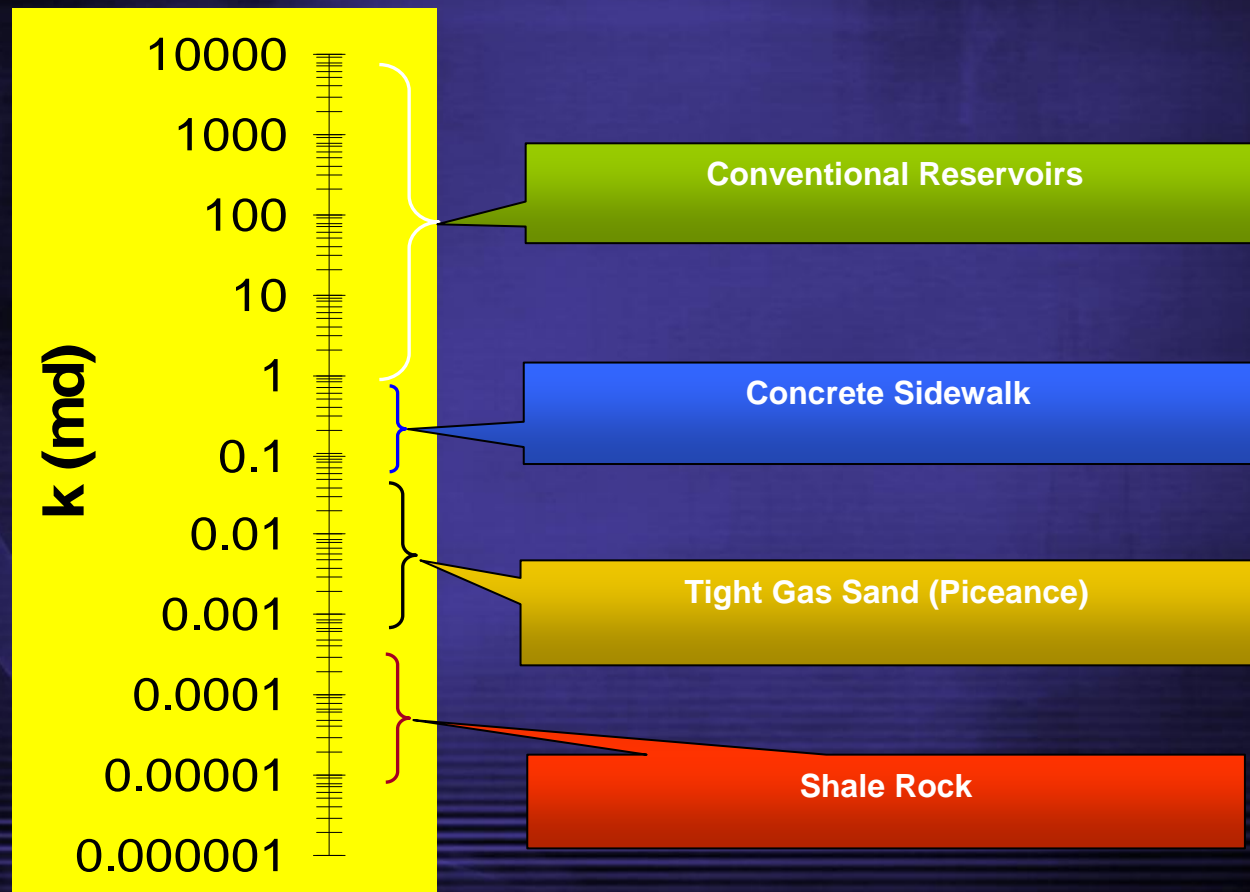


Geologic Paradigms Turned Upside Down

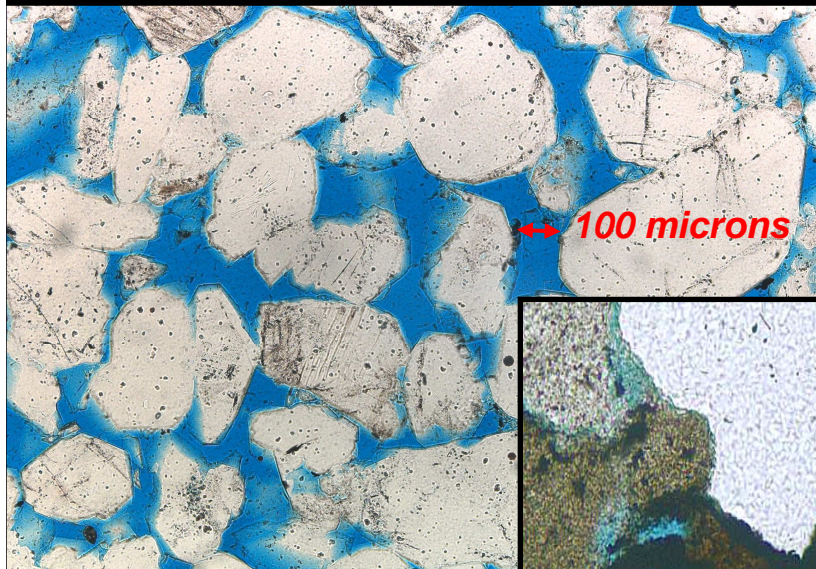
REGIONAL W-E CROSS SECTION



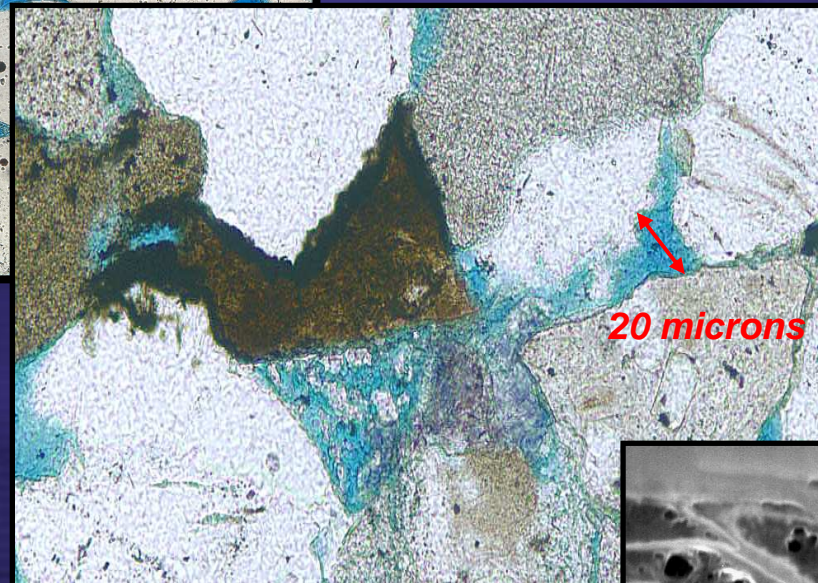
Unconventional Gas Challenges / Permeability



Unconventional Gas Challenges / Porosity

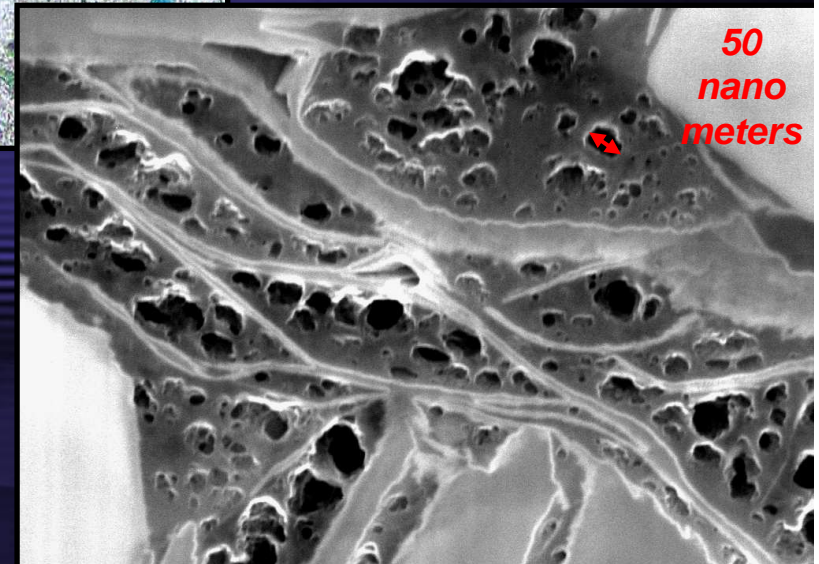


Conventional Gas Pore Space



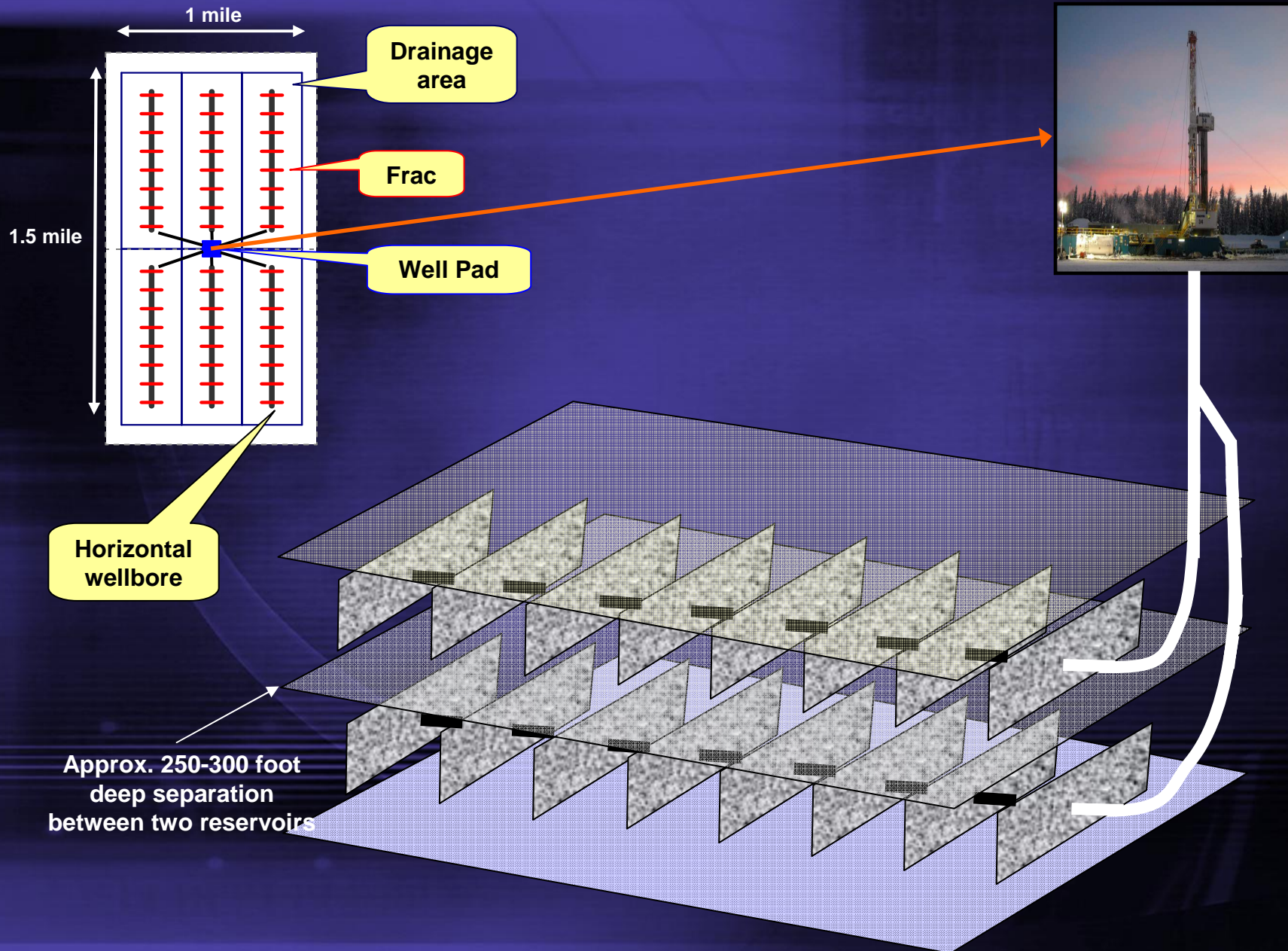
Tight Gas Pore Space

Shale Gas Pore Space



Diameter of average human hair is about 100 microns

Unconventional Gas Challenges / Production



Unconventional Gas Challenges / Level of Investment



Marcellus Shale

Industry acreage position: >7.5M acres

- Average well cost: \$4.00M
- Average EUR: 4 GCF/well
- Average well spacing: 80 acres

Assume half of the industry acreage might be productive

- ~50,000 well locations
- ~190 TCF of gas ultimately produced
- \$190 billion (for drilling and completions only)

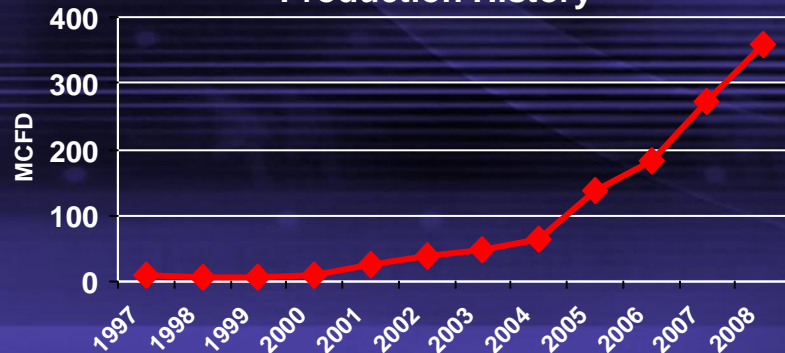
Challenging Unconventional Dogma / Commercial Models



• Old Paradigm

- “Australia gas” synonymous with the NWS or Gippsland
- Eastern Australia CBM is modest-sized resource
- Need to sell CBM to local gas markets
 - + Local gas markets are saturated
- Gas is too dry, ramp-up too long for LNG feedstock

Production History

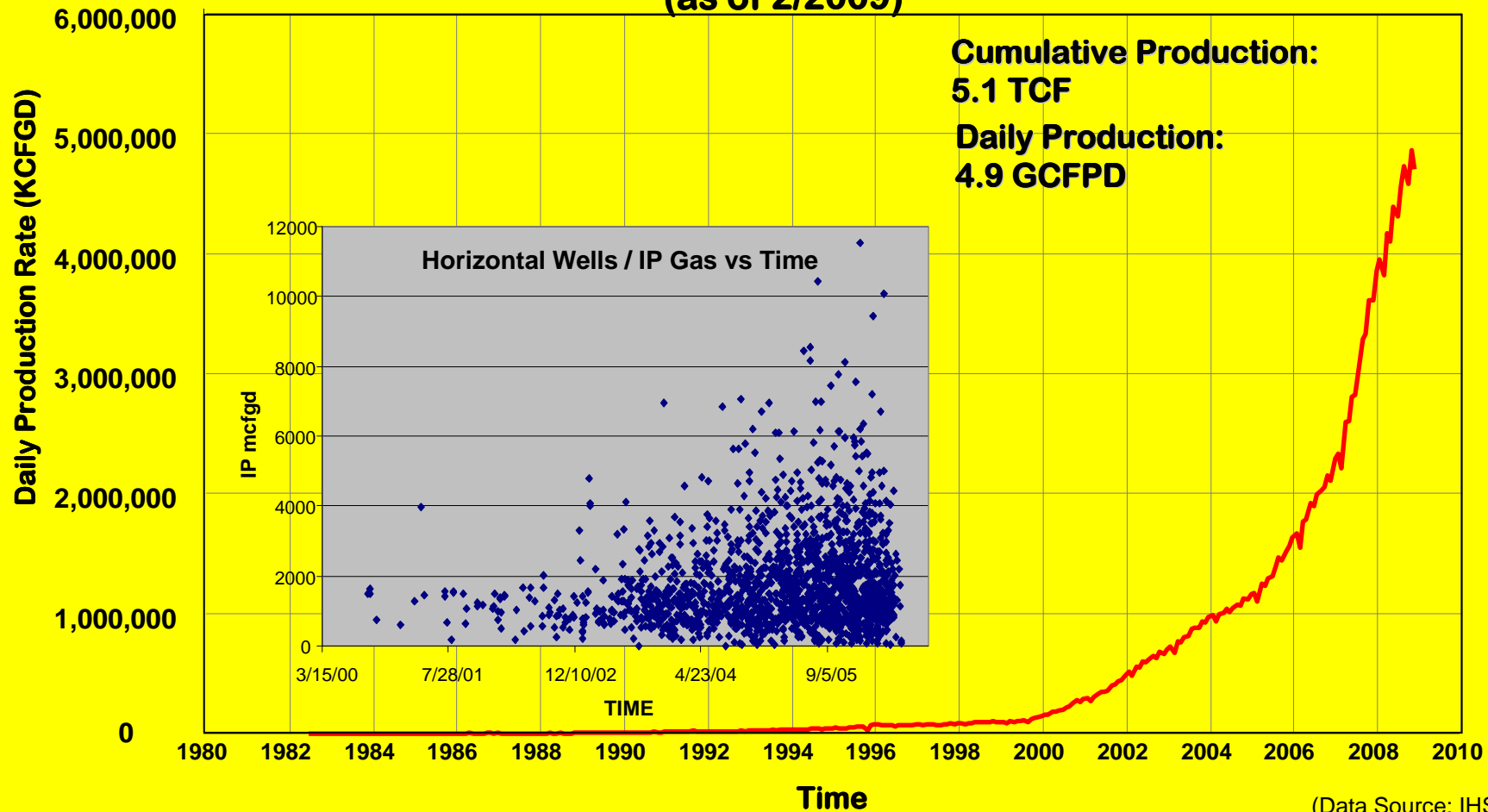


• New Paradigm

- Eastern Australia CBM is a very large resource
- Look for markets outside Australia
 - + Export via LNG

Emergence of Unconventional Gas / Barnett Shale

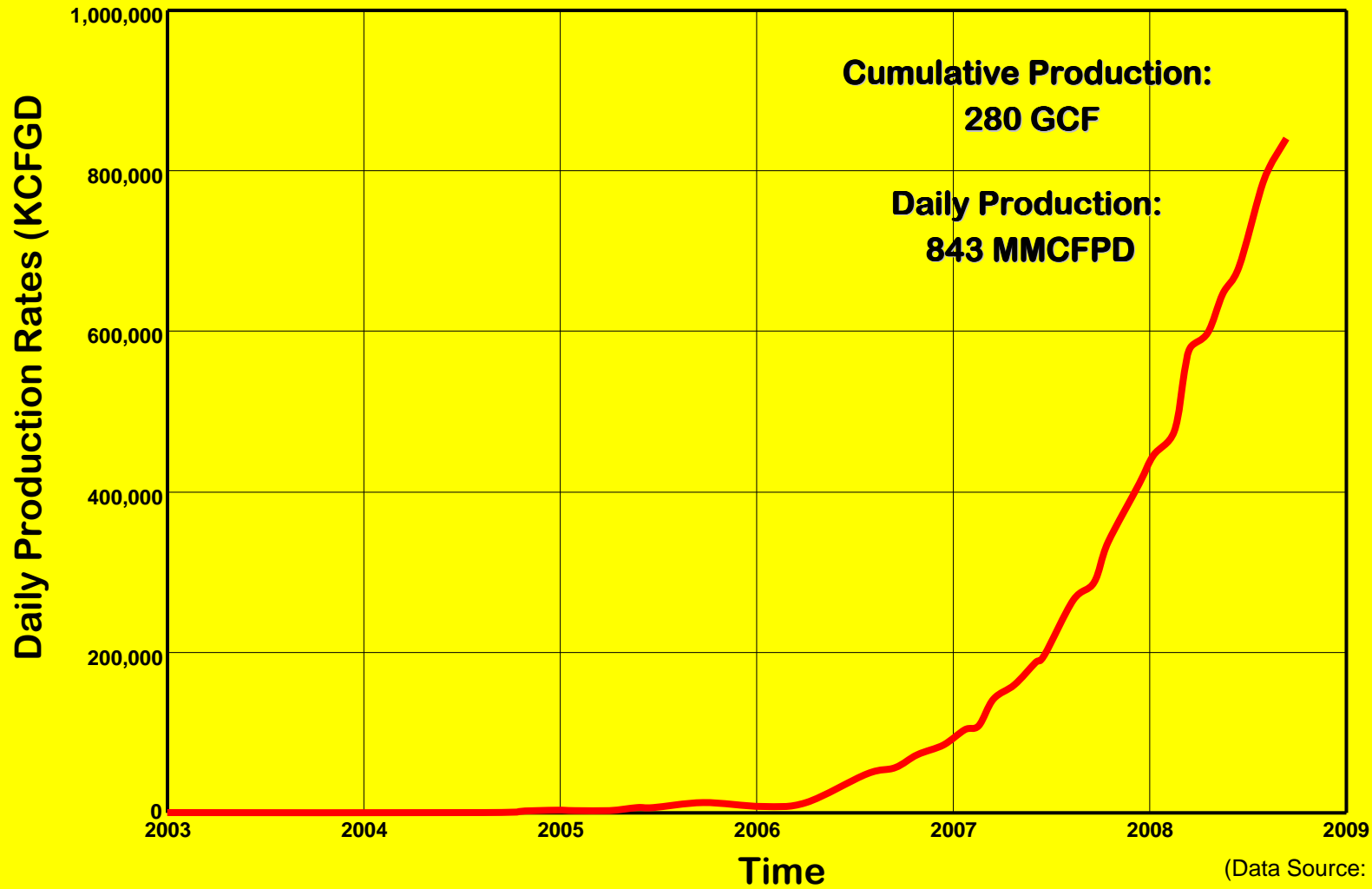
**Barnett Shale Historical Daily Production
(as of 2/2009)**



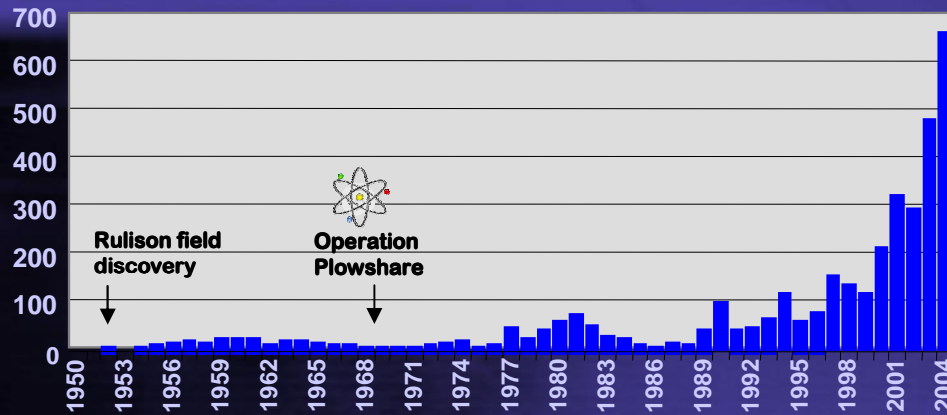
- ▼ Discovery well (vertical, CO₂, nitrogen foam frac)
- ▼ Massive hydraulic fracs
- ▼ First horizontal well; first 3D seismic
- ▼ First light sand (slickwater) frac
- ▼ Refrac
- ▼ Simul-fracs

Emergence of Unconventional Gas / Fayetteville Shale

Fayetteville Shale Daily Production

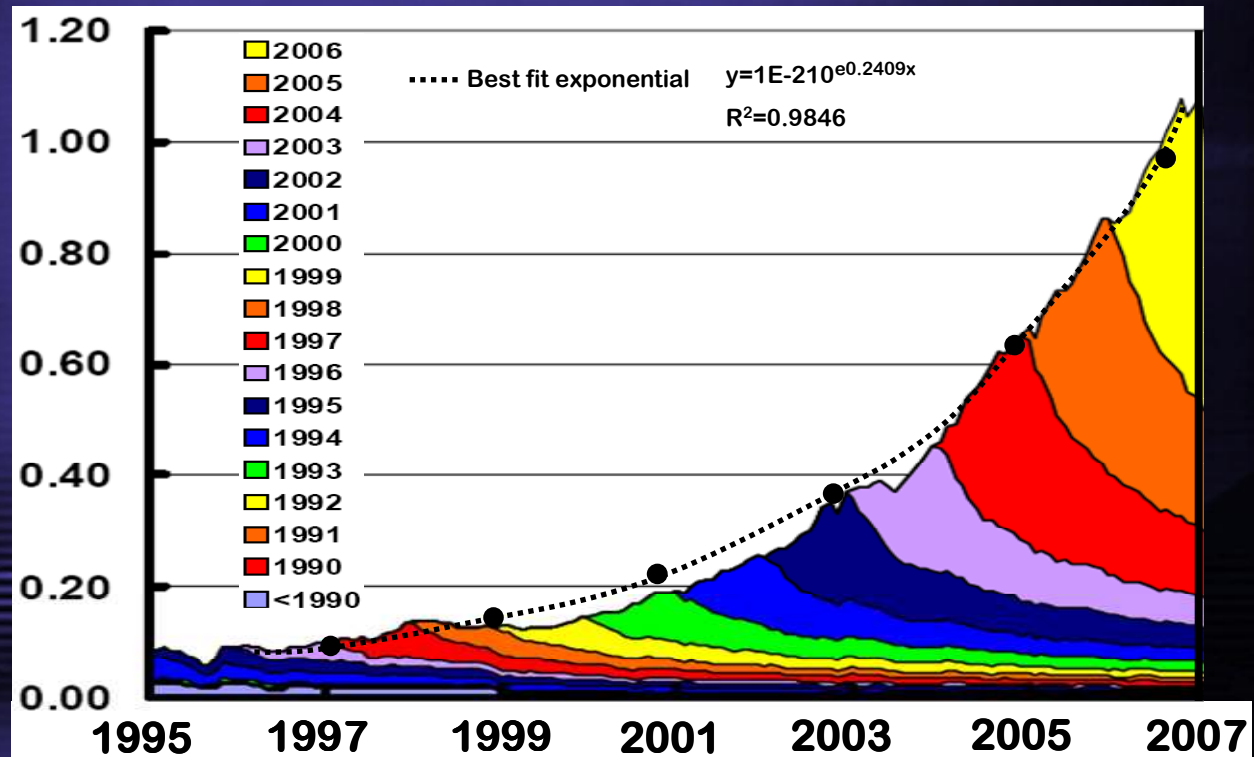


Emergence of Unconventional Gas / Piceance Basin



- Mesaverde tight gas potential recognized in early 1950's (Rulison field discovery)
- Massive nuclear and hydraulic fracs deemed unsuccessful
- Increased drilling activity due to increased gas price and advancement of frac technology

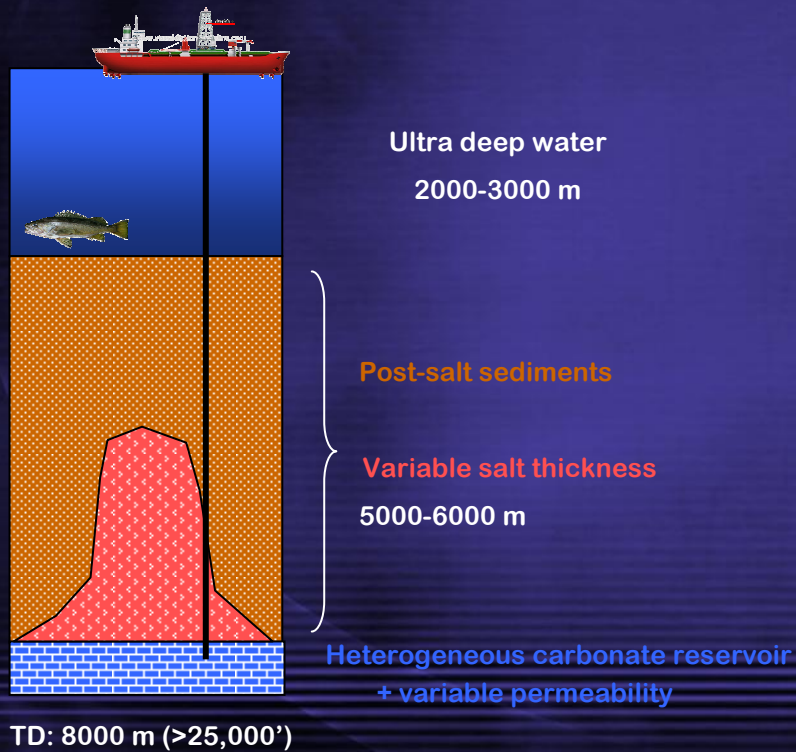
- Exponential growth in production starting in 1995
- Production has been limited by take-away capacity and attendant low price



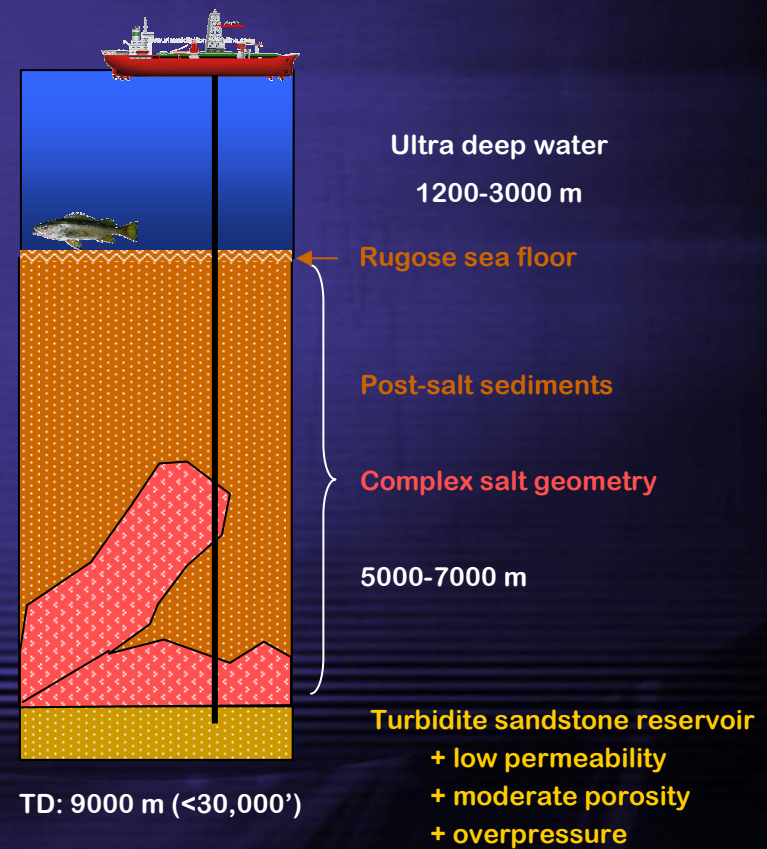
(Courtesy of IHS, 2008)

Deepwater / New Frontiers

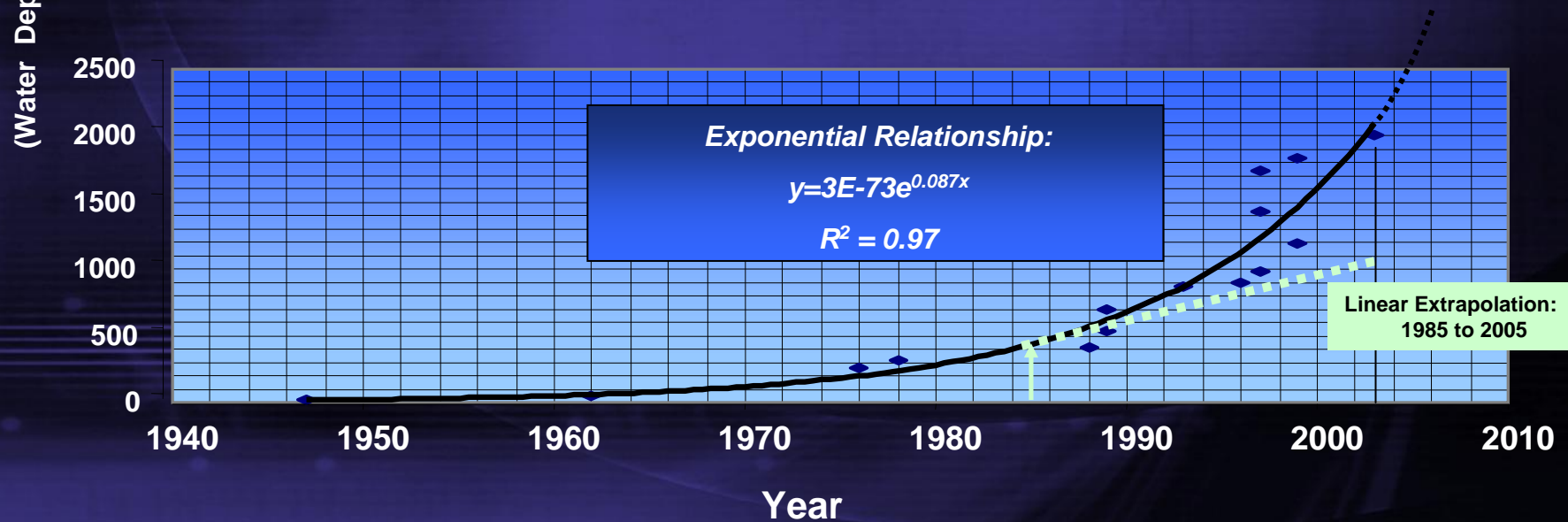
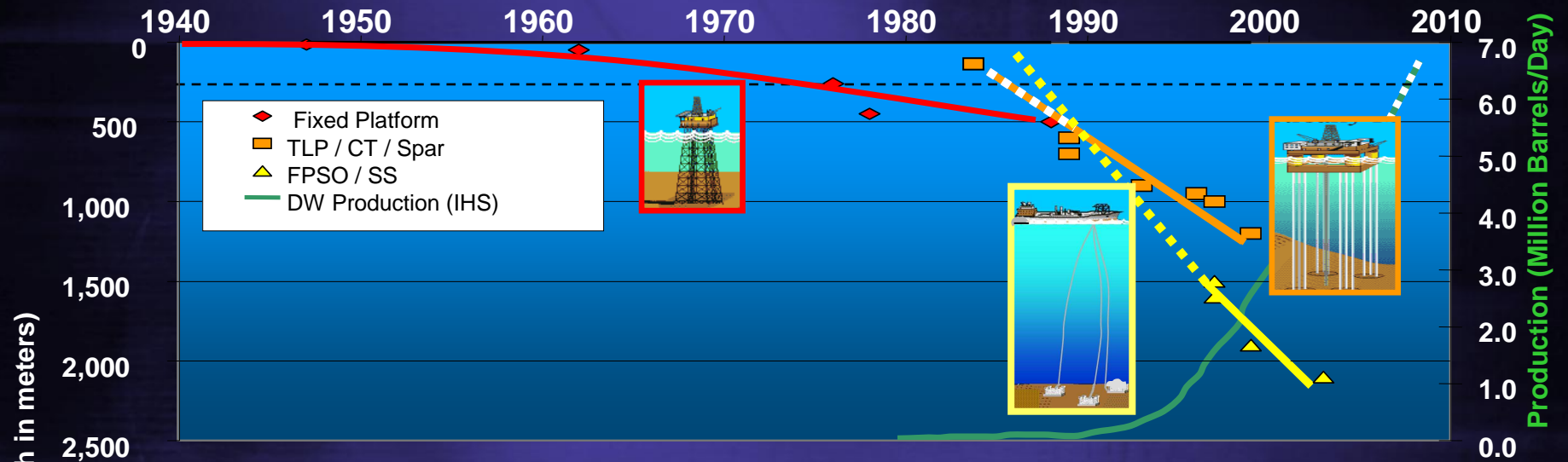
Brazil Santos Sub-Salt



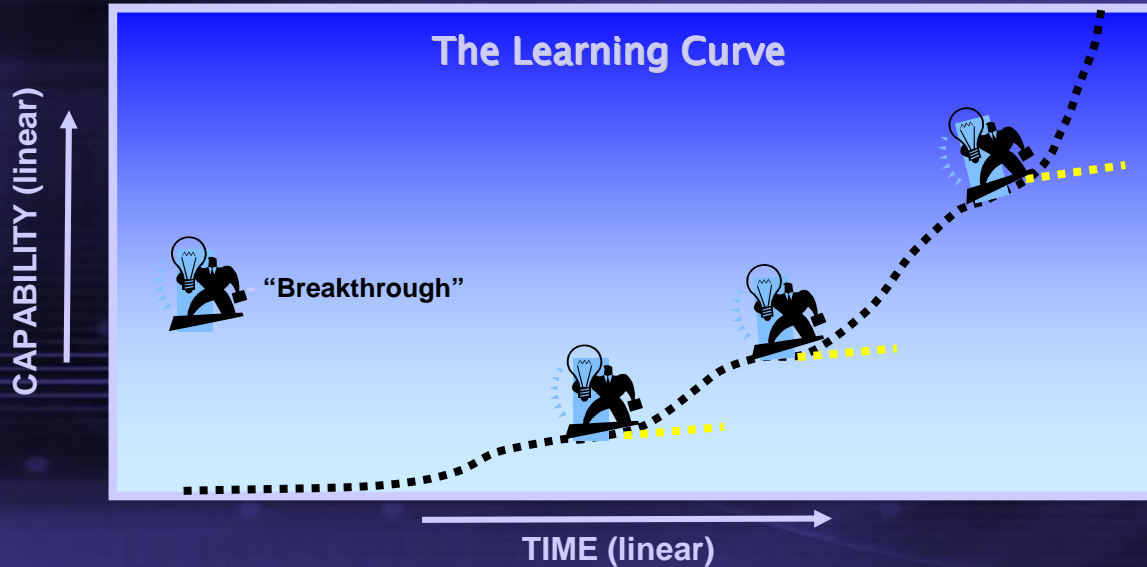
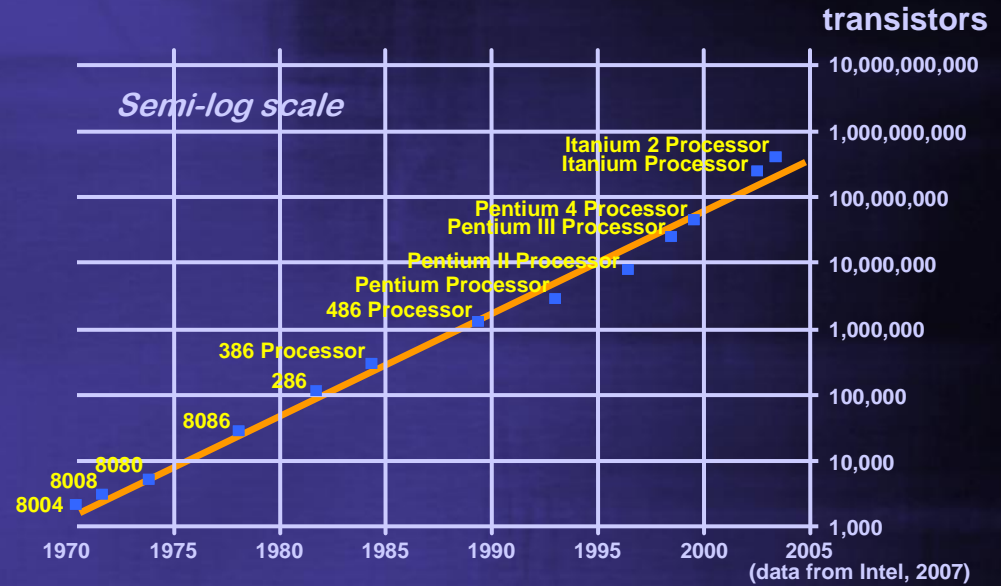
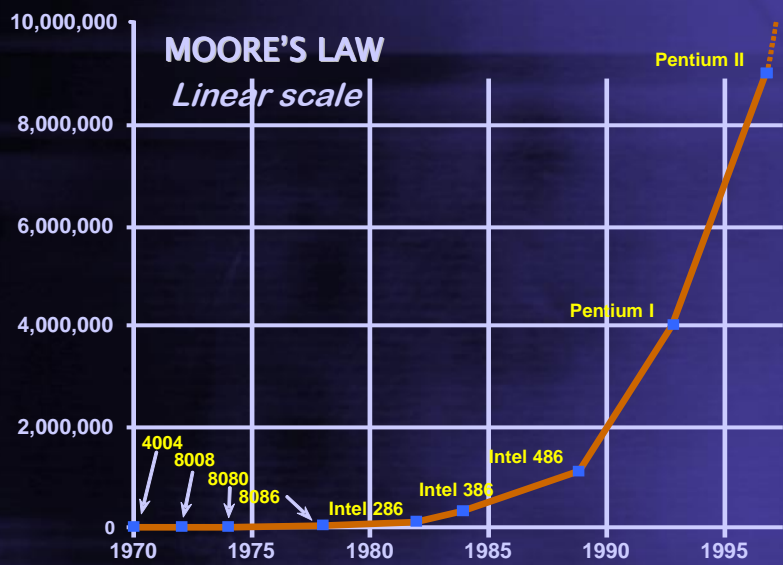
Gulf of Mexico Lower Tertiary



The Pace of Innovation / Water Depth Capability



The Inexorable Pace of Innovation



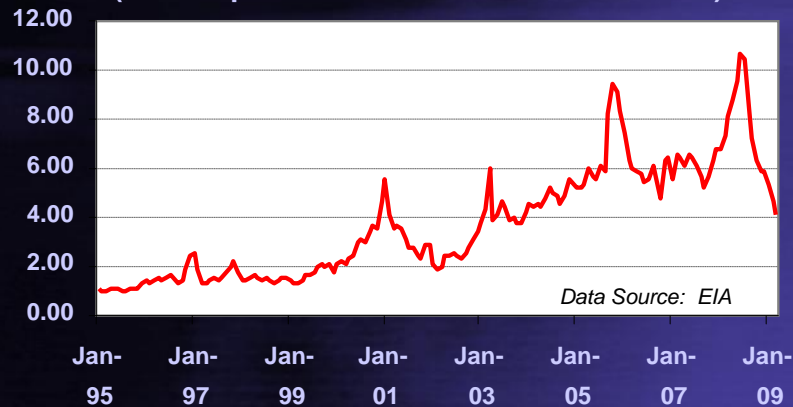
- Exponential, accelerating growth
- Succession of S-curves
 - Each succeeding curve has shorter base, longer ramp

Intrinsic Value of Unconventional Resources

- “Materiality”
 - Large opportunities available
- “Security”
 - In politically stable countries
- “Optionality”
 - “Piloting”, development pace allow for significant reaction to learning and changing market conditions
- “Sustainability”
 - Scope for multi-decade production profiles
- “Commercial Viability”
 - Opportunities exist in countries importing gas, offering existing infrastructure, attractive fiscal terms and favorable business environment / outlook
 - + Favorable early entry & lease holding costs, modest entry work program requirements
- “Technology”
 - Technology is a key value lever

Unconventional Gas / An Outlook and Remaining Challenges

U.S. Natural Gas Wellhead Price
(Dollars per Thousand Cubic Feet in 2009 \$)



US Onshore Gas Rig Count



Outlook

- A “breather” followed by continued production growth in North America and beyond
 - Unconventional gas will be competitive with imported or other new indigenous conventional sources of gas
 - Will provide material, strategically important resource
- Continued growth of global resource base of unconventional gas

Key Challenges

- Develop a predictive understanding of subsurface controls
 - “Rock revival”
 - Focus on fundamental science
- Innovate new technologies for detection, drilling, stimulation, enhanced recovery and water control
- Reduce surface footprint and water demand

“The conventional view serves to protect us from the painful job of thinking.”

John Kenneth Galbraith

*Grateful Acknowledgements to the **ExxonMobil** team pursuing Unconventional Resources*