

Appendix

Appendix A

Glossary

- anaerobic:** Conditions that exist only in the absence of oxygen.
- anticline:** A fold, generally convex upward, whose core contains stratigraphically older rocks.
- associated dissolved gas:** Natural gas that occurs together with oil in a reservoir, either dissolved in the oil (dissolved gas) or as a gas cap above the oil (associated gas).
- combination trap:** A trap for oil or gas that has both structural and stratigraphic elements.
- extension test:** A well drilled to extend the areal limits of a partially developed pool. May sometimes become a new pool discovery well. Also known as *out-post test*.
- field:** Composed of a single pool, or multiple pools that are grouped on or related to a single structural and/or stratigraphic feature.
- formation:** A rock mass composed of individual beds or units with similar physical characteristics or origin.
- formation water:** Water present in a water-bearing formation under natural conditions, as opposed to introduced fluids, such as drilling mud.
- new field wildcat:** A well drilled in search of oil or gas in a geological structural feature or environment that has never before been proven productive.
- new pool wildcat:** Well drilled in search of pools above (shallower pool test), below (deeper pool test), or outside the areal limits of already known pools in fields that have already been proven productive. May sometimes become an extension well.
- nonassociated gas:** Natural gas that occurs in a reservoir without oil.
- outpost test:** See *extension test*.
- permeable:** Having the property or capacity of a porous rock, sediment, or soil for transmitting a fluid; it is a measure of the relative ease of fluid flow under unequal pressure.
- petroleum:** A general term for all naturally occurring hydrocarbons, whether gaseous, liquid, or solid.
- play:** A rock formation or group of formations within a sedimentary basin with geologic characteristics similar to those that have been proven productive. A play serves as a planning unit around which an exploration program can be constructed. May also refer to the exploratory effort, often following a significant discovery, that uses a geologic idea to determine where petroleum can be found.
- pool:** A subsurface accumulation of oil and/or gas in porous and permeable rock, having its own isolated pressure system. Theoretically, a single well could drain a pool. Also known as a *reservoir*.
- porosity:** The percentage of the bulk volume of a rock or soil that is occupied by interstices (gaps between the particles that compose the rock), whether isolated or connected.
- prospect:** An area that is a potential site of economically recoverable petroleum accumulation based on preliminary exploration.
- province:** A region in which a number of oil and gas pools and fields occur in a similar or related geological environment.
- reserves:** Usually refers to oil or gas that has been identified by drilling or extrapolation from drilling and is recoverable at current prices and technology. Proved reserves are identified and estimated directly by engineering measurements; in most cases, only the drilled portion of fields is included in this category.
- reservoir:** See pool.
- reservoir rock:** Any porous and permeable rock that yields oil or gas. Sandstone, limestone, and dolomite are the most common reservoir rocks, but gas accumulation in the fractures of less permeable rocks also occurs.
- resources:** The total amount of oil or gas that remains to be produced in the future. Generally does not include oil or gas in such small deposits or under such difficult conditions that it is not expected to be produced at any foreseeable price technology combination.
- secondary migration:** The movement of fluids within the permeable reservoir rocks that eventually leads to the segregation of oil and gas into accumulations in certain parts of these rocks.
- sedimentary basin:** A low area in the Earth's crust, caused by earth movements, in which sediments have accumulated.
- sedimentation:** The act or process of forming or accumulating sediment in layers, including such processes as the separation of rock particles from the material from which the sediment is derived, the transportation of these particles to the site of deposition, the actual deposition or settling of the particles, the chemical or other changes occurring in the sediment, and the ultimate consolidation of the sediment into solid rock.
- source rock:** Sedimentary rock in which organic material under pressure, heat, and time was transformed to liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons. Source rock is usually shale or limestone.

stratigraphic trap: A trap for oil or gas, resulting from changes in rock type, porosity, or permeability, that occurs as a result of the sedimentation process rather than structural deformation.

structural trap: A trap for oil or gas resulting from folding, faulting, or other deformation of the Earth.

trap: Any barrier to the upward movement of oil or gas that allows either or both to accumulate. A trap includes a reservoir rock and an overlying impermeable roof rock; the contact between these is concave, as viewed from below. See also *stratigraphic*, *structural*, and *combination traps*.