A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF GEOLOGICAL FORMATION TO THE
NORM

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ABSTRACT

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) is a common and costly contaminant of produced waters associated with natural gas production and exploration. One way of combatting this problem is by identifying the problem beforehand. Our approach to this problem involves development of NORM prediction capabilities based on the geological environment.

During quarter twelve of this project, final project revisions were approved and work initiated under these revisions. We have also made contact with regards to identifying new sampling sites.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Southern University Center for Energy and Environmental Studies along with partners Louisiana State University's Basin Research Institute (BRI), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have teamed up to explore relationships between geological and radiological factors (NORM). Each of these partners will employ their specific areas of expertise in developing predictive capabilities with respect to NORM in the produced waters associated with natural gas exploration.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

This project is to consist of three major tasks: (1) Radiological Analysis, (2) Correlative Results with Respect to NORM Activity and geological parameters (Geo-environmental maps), and (3) Technology Transfer.

The radiological and minor chemical analysis of samples will take place at Southern University with the geo-environmental results being generated at Louisiana State University.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

During this reporting period, efforts were geared towards shifting the project tasks to meet the newly approved revisions and negotiating project changes. The appropriate methods, etc., continue to be updated and/or modified. We have also continued to make significant strides in terms of possibly obtaining industrial assistance and continue towards securing sampling sites.

CONCLUSION:

We are still in the process of identifying a new industrial partner, hopefully one with well sites in Vermillion Parish. This would be essential in that the preliminary geological (PARS) data obtained has focused on the Vermillion Parish area.

Project revisions have been approved and the project has been granted an extension to October 31, 1998. All tasks associated with the project are in progress and on a schedule to meet the new project ending date.