



# Natural Gas - USGS Domestic and World Resource Assessments

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3 December 2013

Figure 64. Industrial energy consumption by fuel, 2011, 2025, and 2040 (quadrillion Btu)

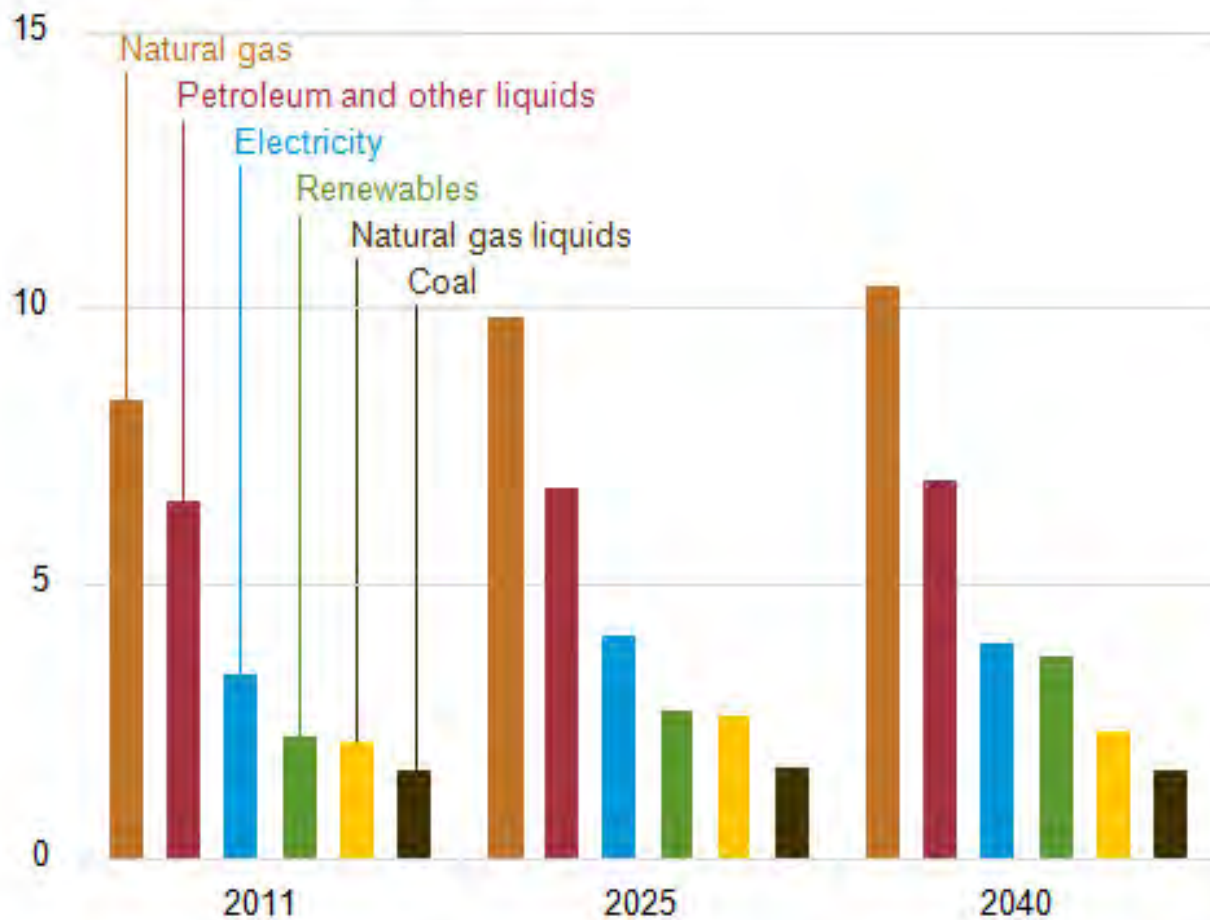
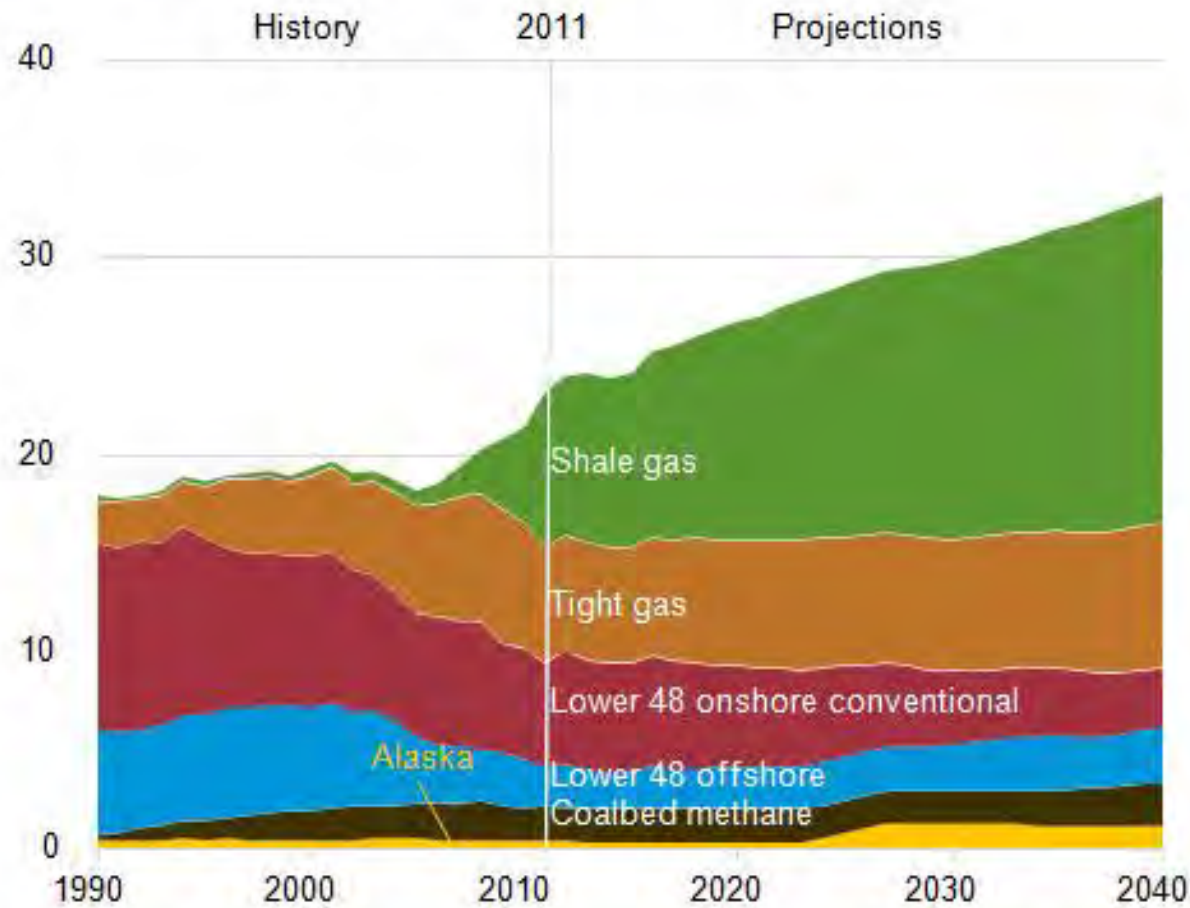


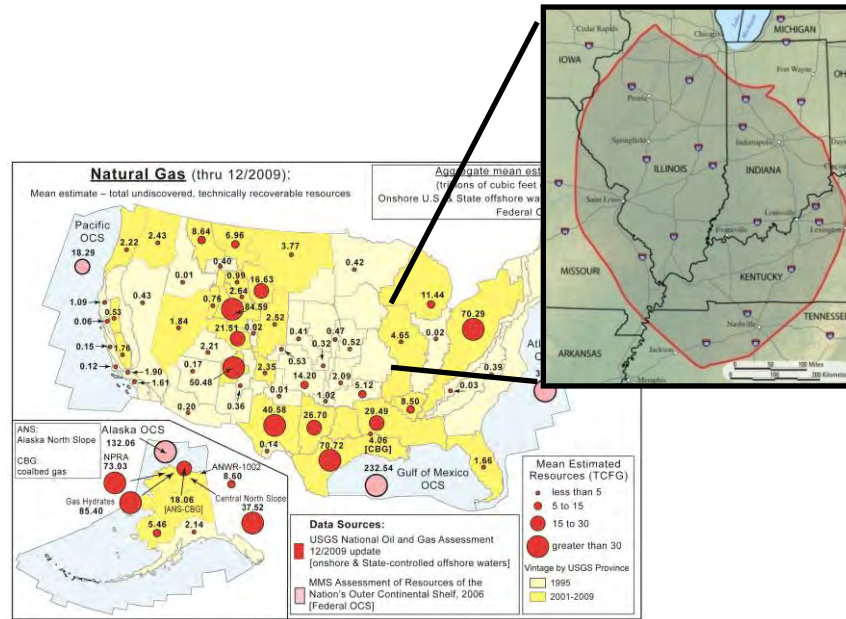
Figure 91. Natural gas production by source, 1990-2040 (trillion cubic feet)



# Overview: USGS Energy Resources Program

## ERP Mission:

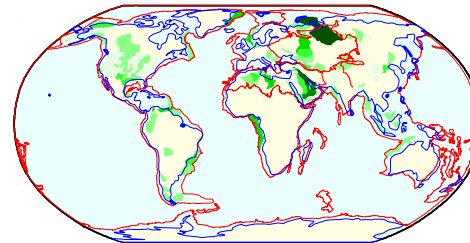
- (1) Understand processes critical to formation, accumulation, occurrence, and alteration of geologically based energy resources,
- (2) Conduct scientifically robust assessments of those resources, and
- (3) Study impact of energy resource occurrence, production and use on environmental and human health.



regional

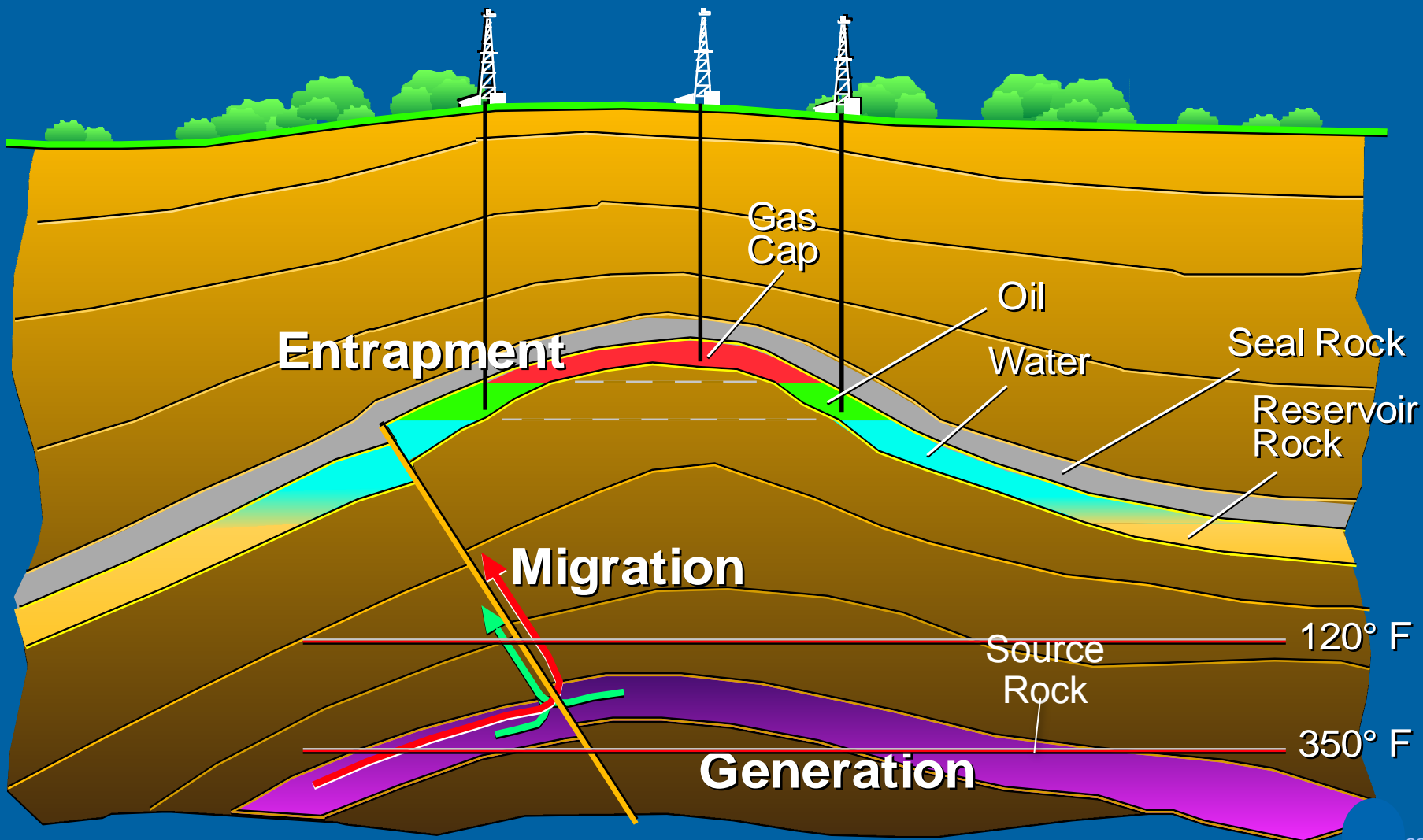
national

World Petroleum;  
Circum-Arctic  
Resource  
Assessment



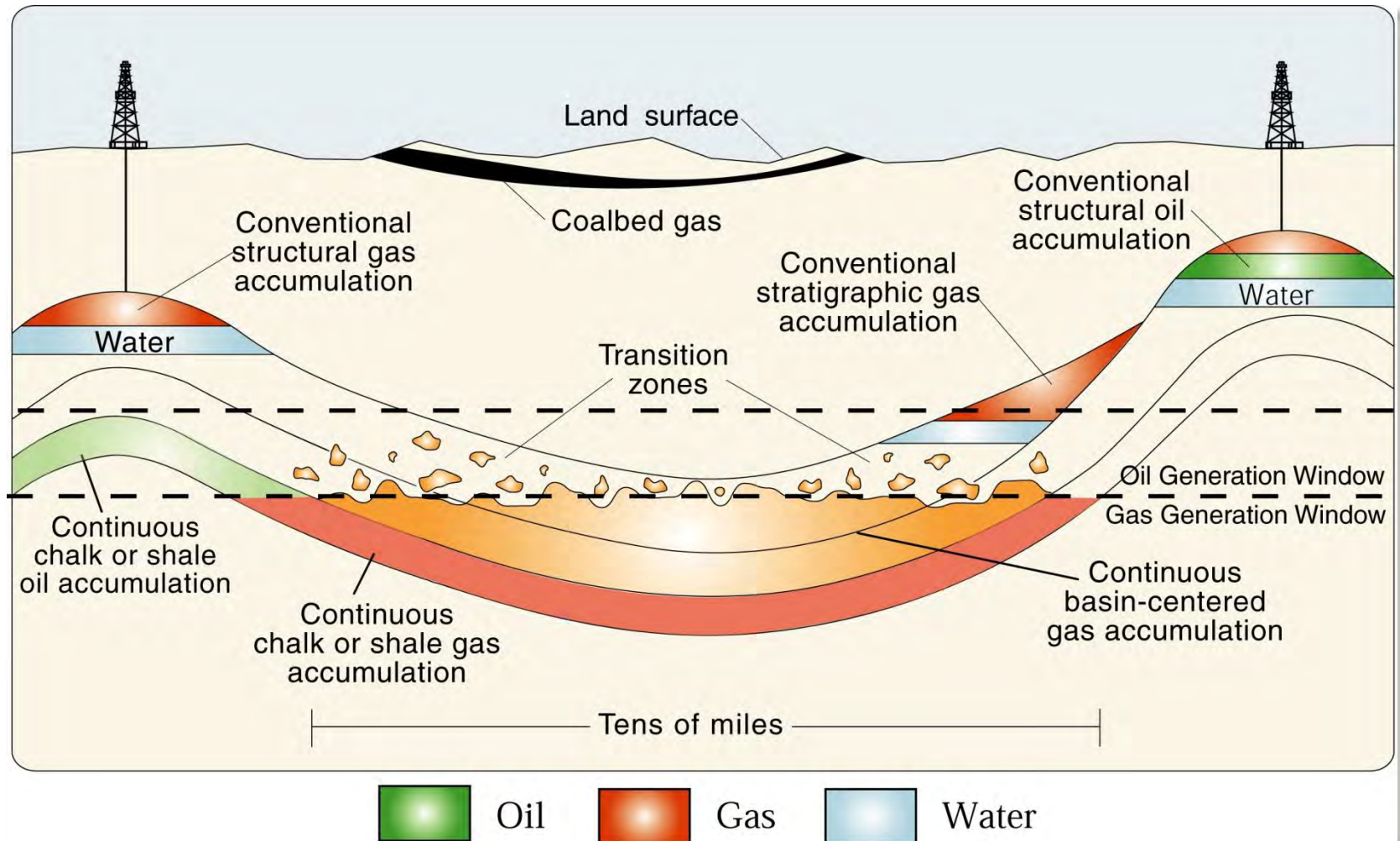
international

# Petroleum System Elements



# Conventional vs Unconventional

## Defined geologically by USGS



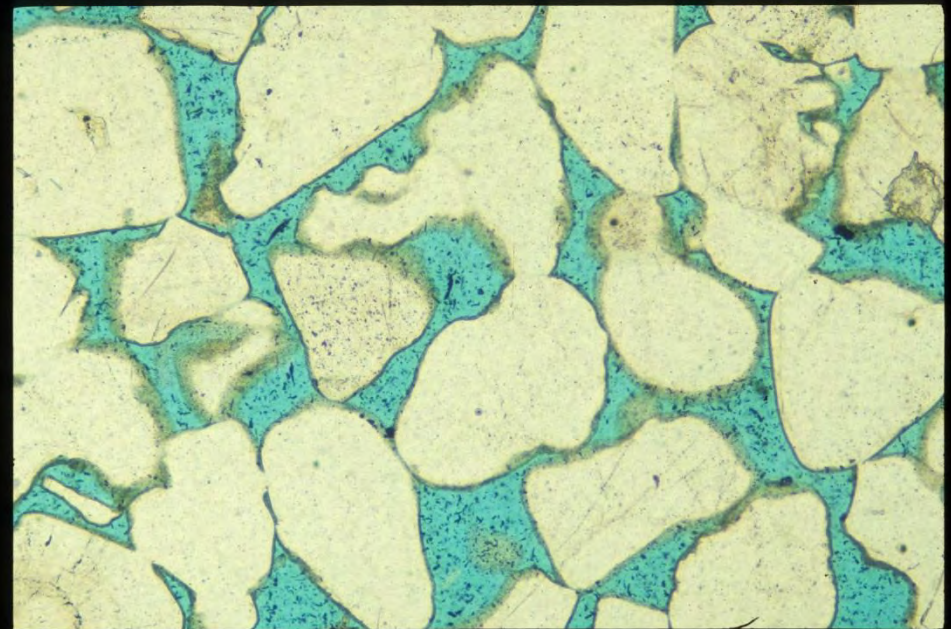
# Conventional Reservoir

# Spiro Sandstone



Core slab

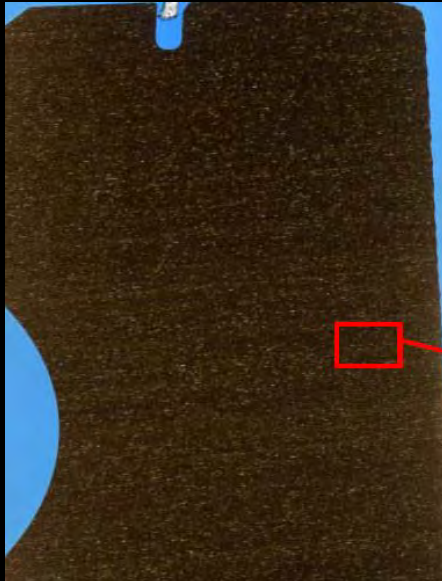
Medium-grained, cross-bedded sandstone



Thin section photomicrograph

# Continuous Reservoir

## Woodford Shale



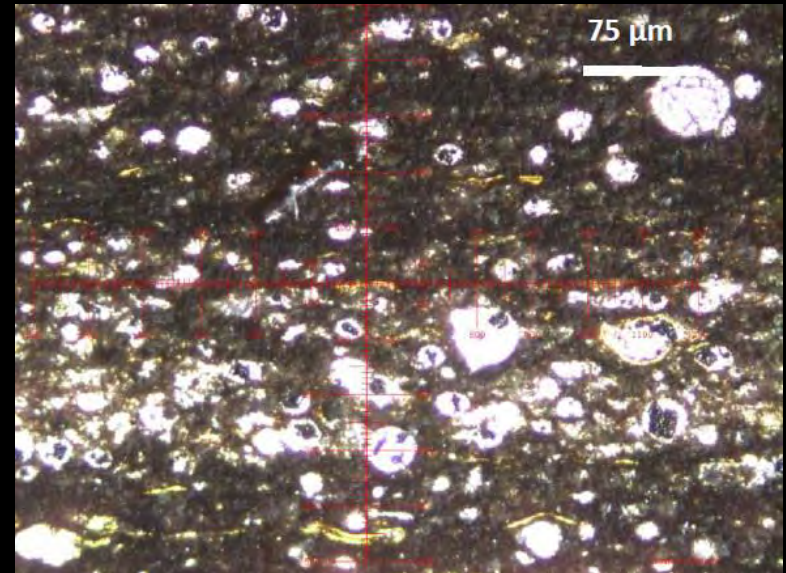
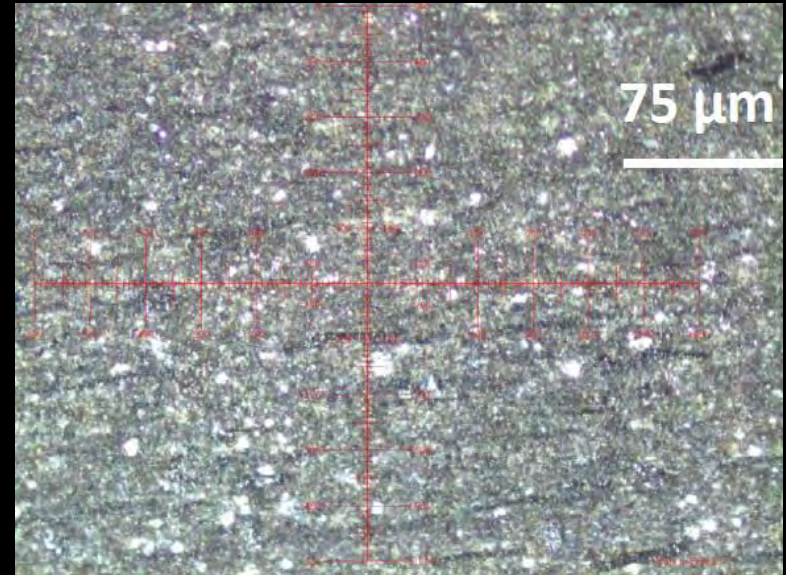
Weakly  
Laminated  
Shale



Strongly  
Laminated  
Shale

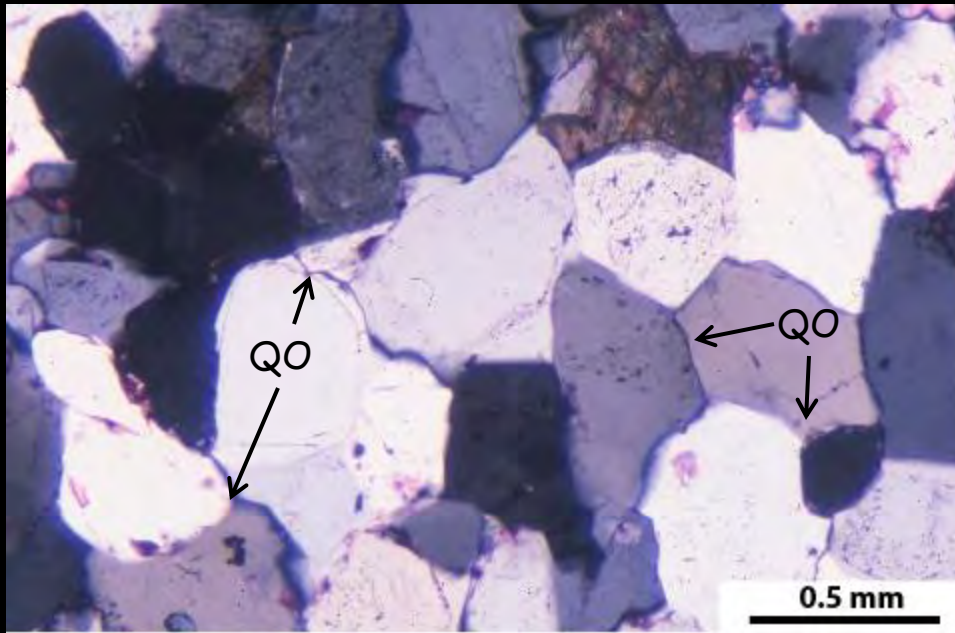
Core slabs

(Slatt and others, 2011)



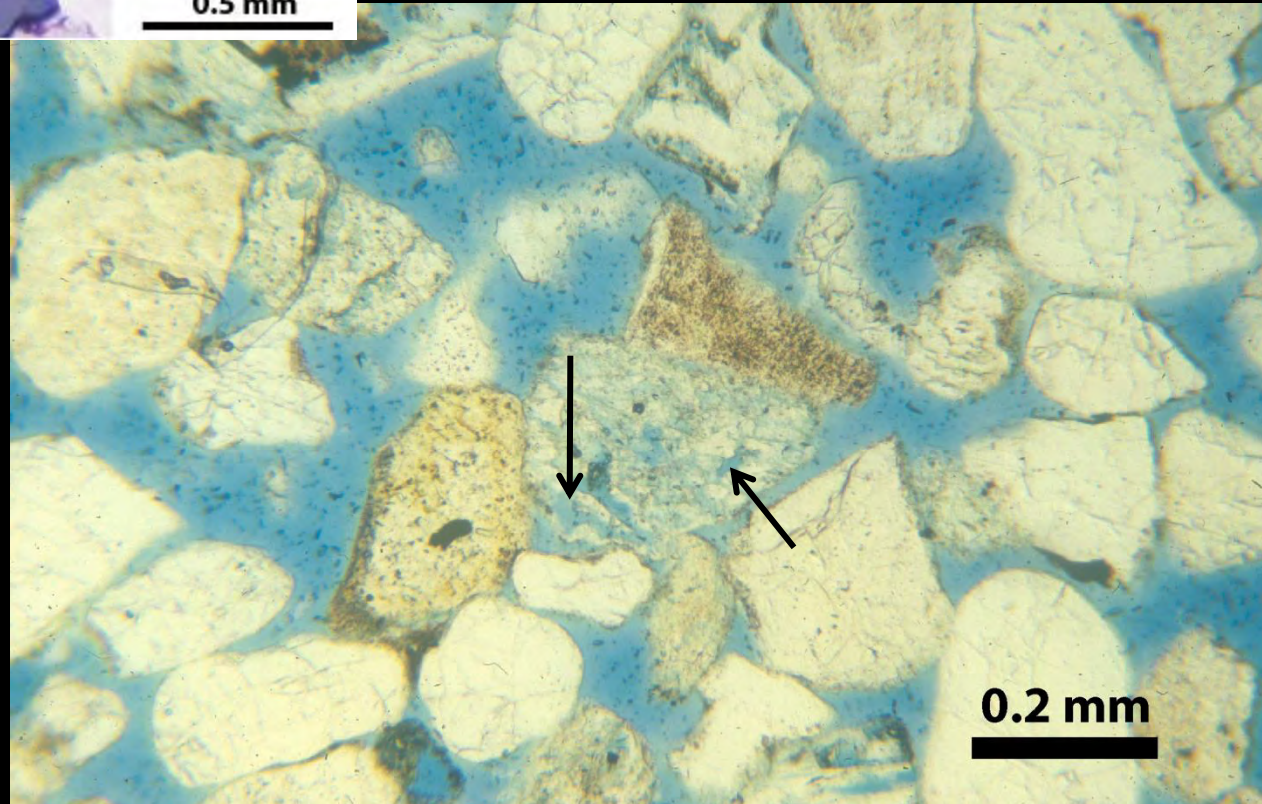
Thin section photomicrographs





Photomicrograph from a tight sandstone in the **Bossier Fm**. It is tight due to abundant quartz overgrowths (QO), and porosity exists between adjacent quartz overgrowths

Photomicrograph of an uncemented sandstone from the **Jurassic Morrison Fm**. Blue is epoxy that fills primary pores (between grains) and some secondary pores that have developed from partial dissolution of some detrital feldspar grains.



# Continuous (Unconventional) Oil and Gas

Enabled by directional drilling and hydraulic fracturing

Majority of domestic gas production (39% from shale)

One field (Bakken/Three Forks Formation) is ~10% of U.S. oil production

Concern over impacts include:

- Water supply and availability – consumptive use

- Aquifer contamination

- Landscape and ecological impacts

- Induced seismicity from waste fluid disposal



# Undiscovered, Technically Recoverable Resources Defined

Undiscovered - Resources postulated, on the basis of geologic knowledge and theory, to exist outside of known fields or accumulations.

Technically recoverable - Those resources producible using currently available technology and industry practices.

**No economic viability analysis!**

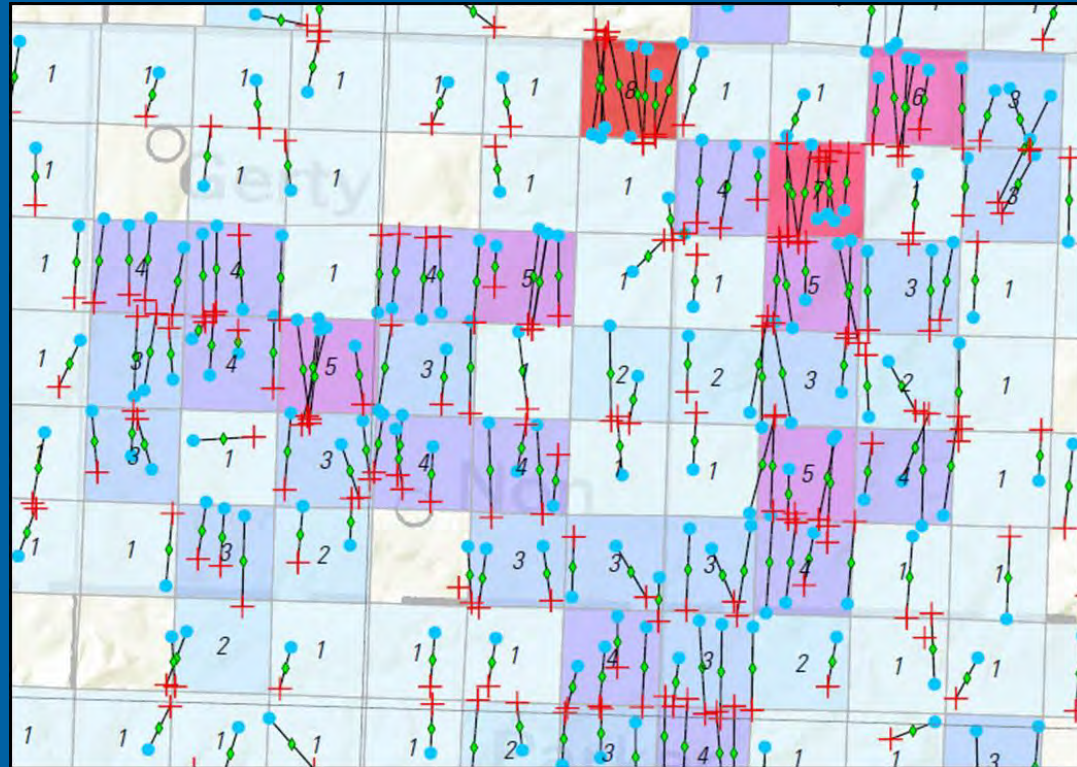
# Goal of USGS Assessments

Develop geologically based and statistically sound hypotheses concerning the quantities of oil and gas that have the potential to be added to proved reserves in the U.S. and the world. **USGS produces estimates of undiscovered, technically recoverable resources.**

Assessment includes an estimate of measurement uncertainty, expressed quantitatively

# Continuous Methodology

- Geologic characterization of assessment units
- Drainage areas of wells (cell sizes)
- Number of potential cells (tested and untested)
- Engineering data – well production and performance
- EUR (estimated ultimate recovery) distribution

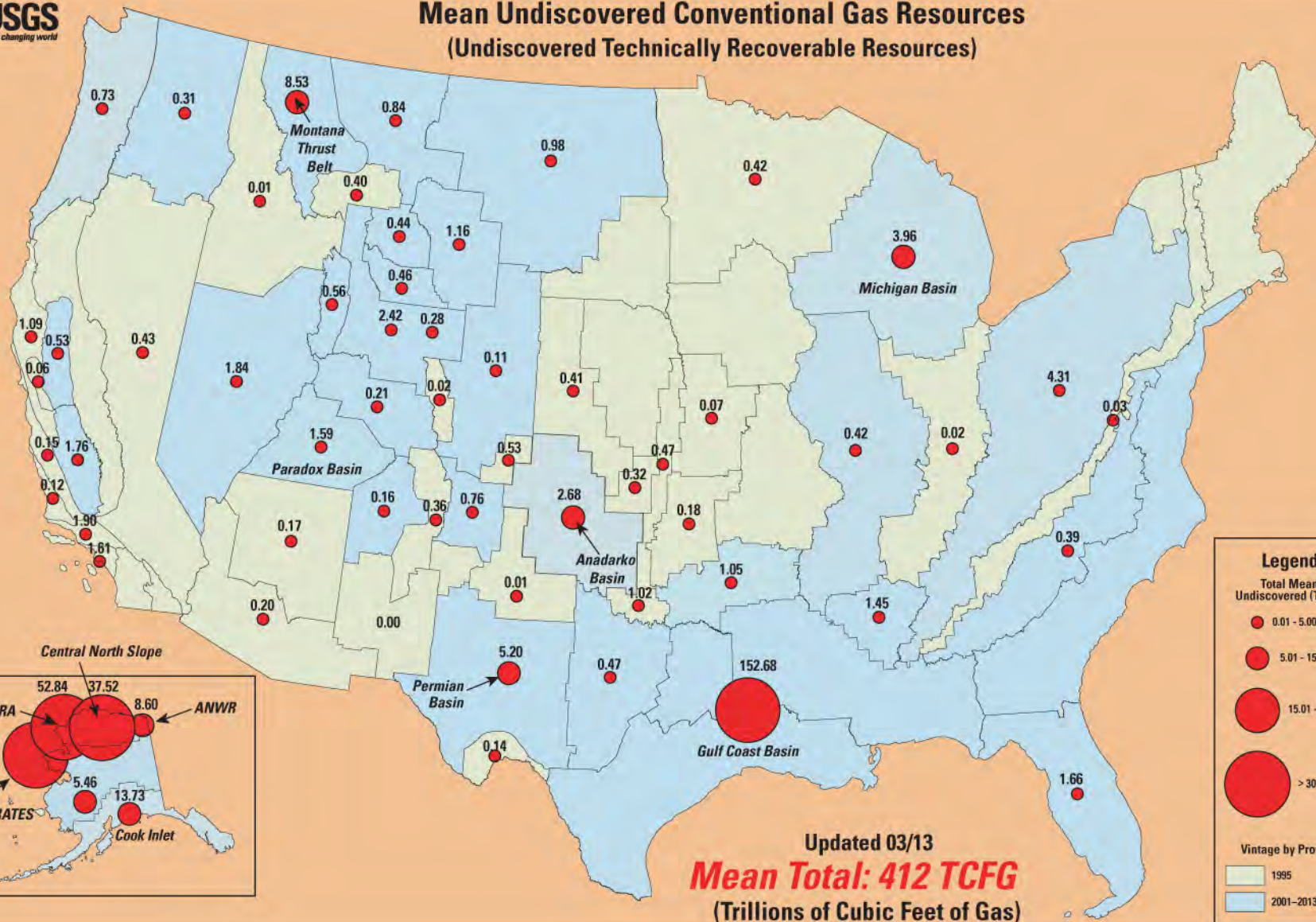


Woodford Shale – Horizontal Well Density

# Map of Assessed Shale Gas in the United States, 2012



# Mean Undiscovered Conventional Gas Resources (Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Resources)



**Legend**

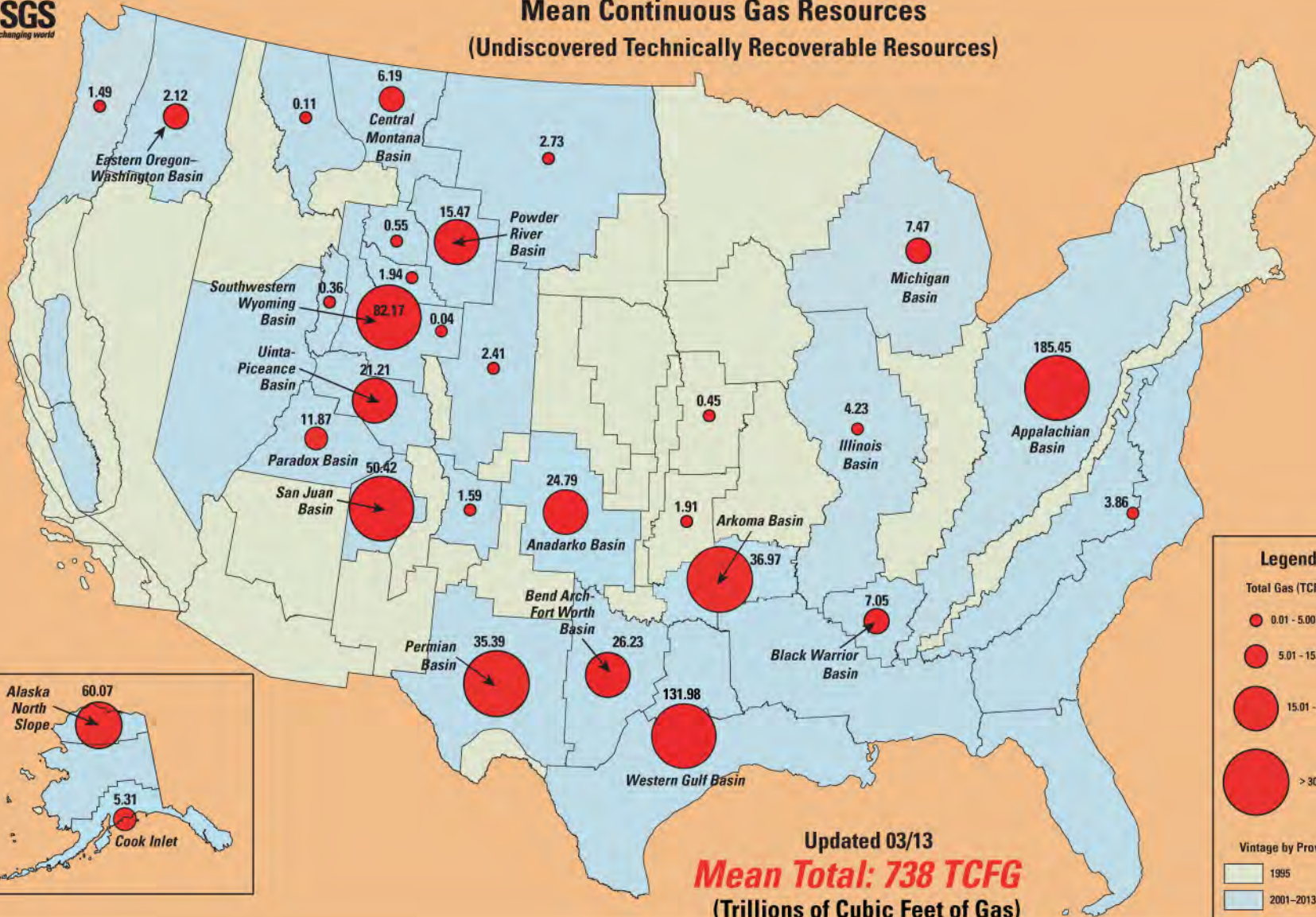
Total Mean Undiscovered (TCFG)

- 0.01 - 5.00
- 5.01 - 15.00
- 15.01 - 30.00
- > 30.00

Vintage by Province

- 1995
- 2001-2013

# Mean Continuous Gas Resources (Undiscovered Technically Recoverable Resources)



**Legend**

Total Gas (TCFG)

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Vintage by Province

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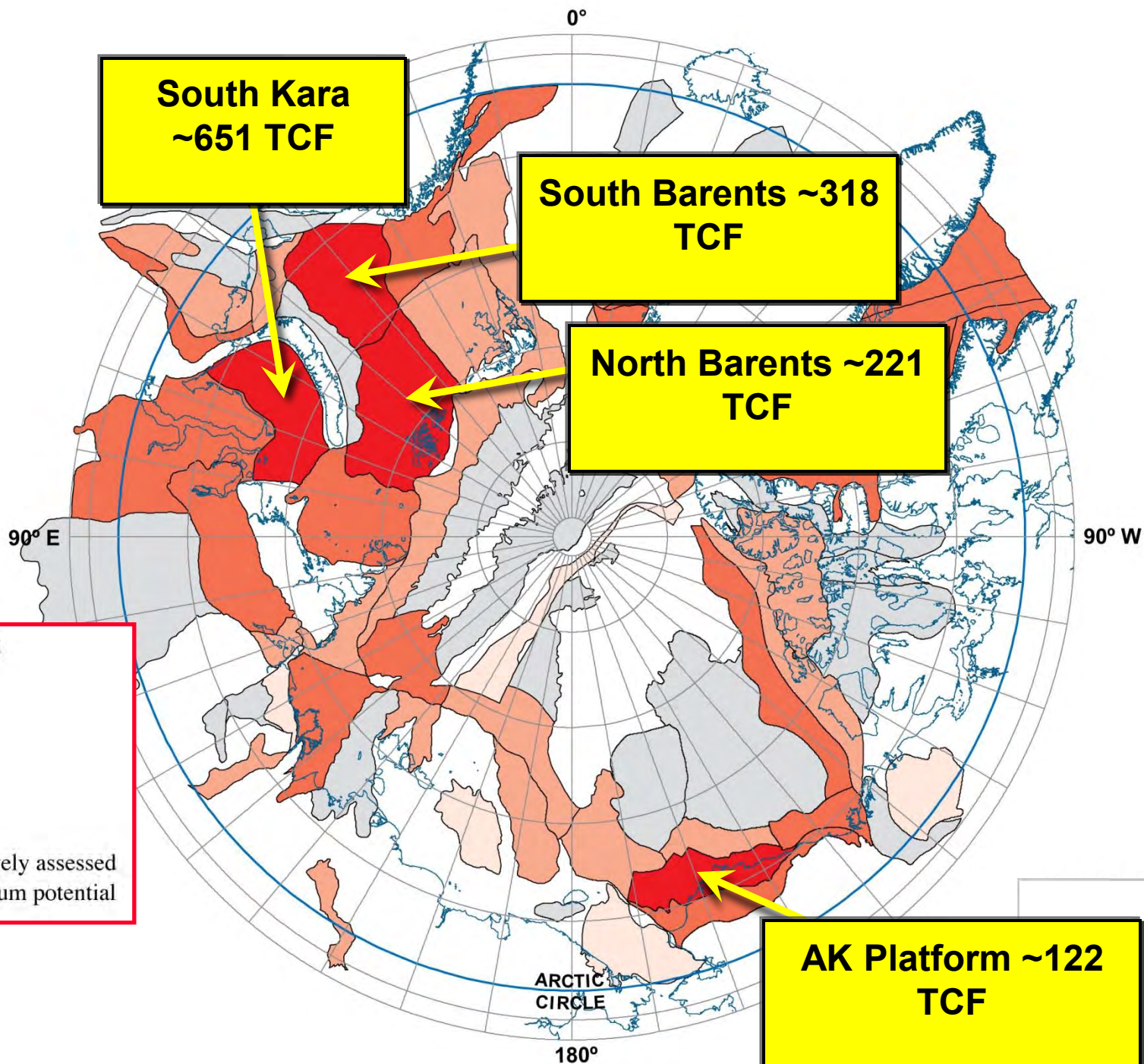
Updated 03/13  
**Mean Total: 738 TCFG**  
(Trillions of Cubic Feet of Gas)





# Natural Gas

Largest Total Gas AUs

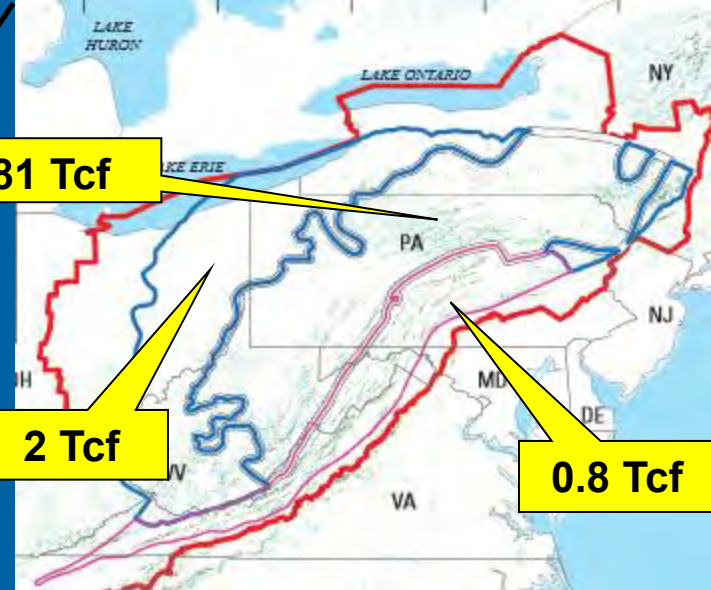


# CARA Gas Estimate

- Mean undiscovered gas: 1,670 TCF
- This is ~ 30% of global undiscovered gas
- Two thirds in just four CARA AUs:
  - South Kara Sea ~ 651 TCF
  - South Barents Basin ~ 318 TCF
  - North Barents Basin ~ 221 TCF
  - Alaska Platform ~122 TCF

# Resource Assessments Change Over Time

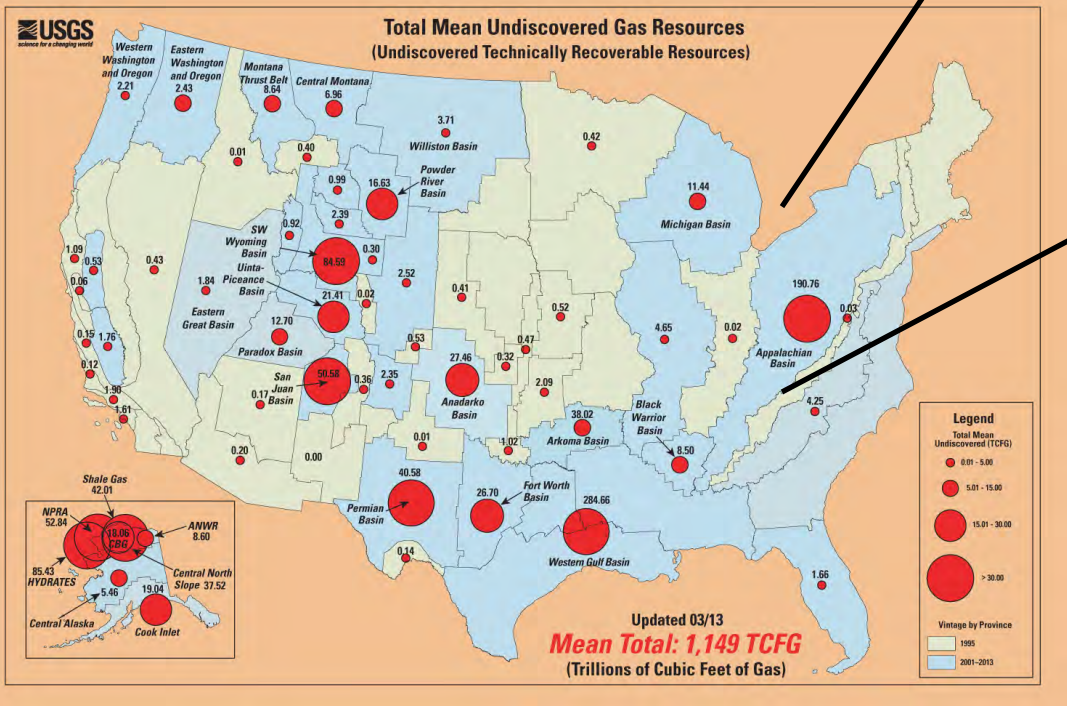
Example: Marcellus  
Shale (2011)



**Mean total = 84 Tcf**

USGS 2002 Devonian Black  
Shale Continuous Gas Plays:  
**2 Tcf**

USGS 1995 Devonian Black  
Shale Continuous Gas Plays:  
**Not Assessed**



Changes result from improved geologic  
understanding, technological developments,  
other factors



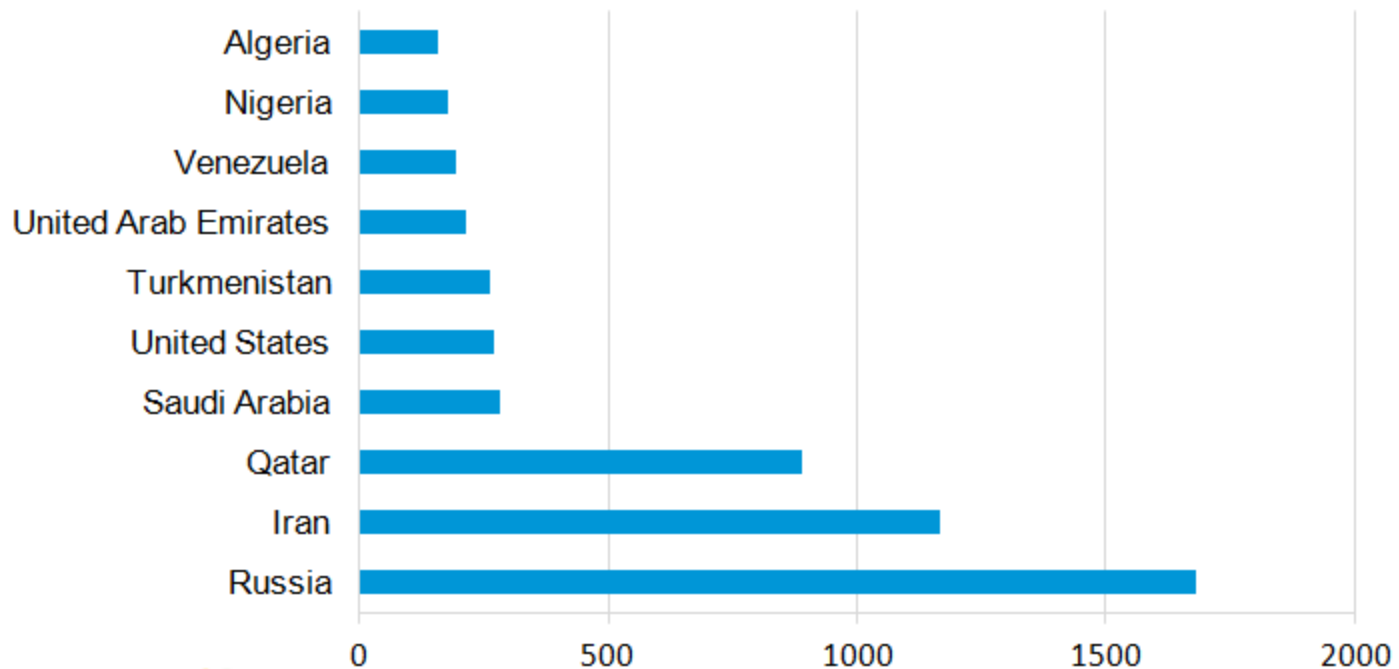
# Summary of USGS World Conventional Oil and Gas Resources, 2012

- Oil: 565 BBO mean
- Gas: 5600 TCFG mean
- Liquids: 166 BBO mean

# Global Gas Reserves and Resource Estimate

## Largest proven natural gas reserves holders, 2012

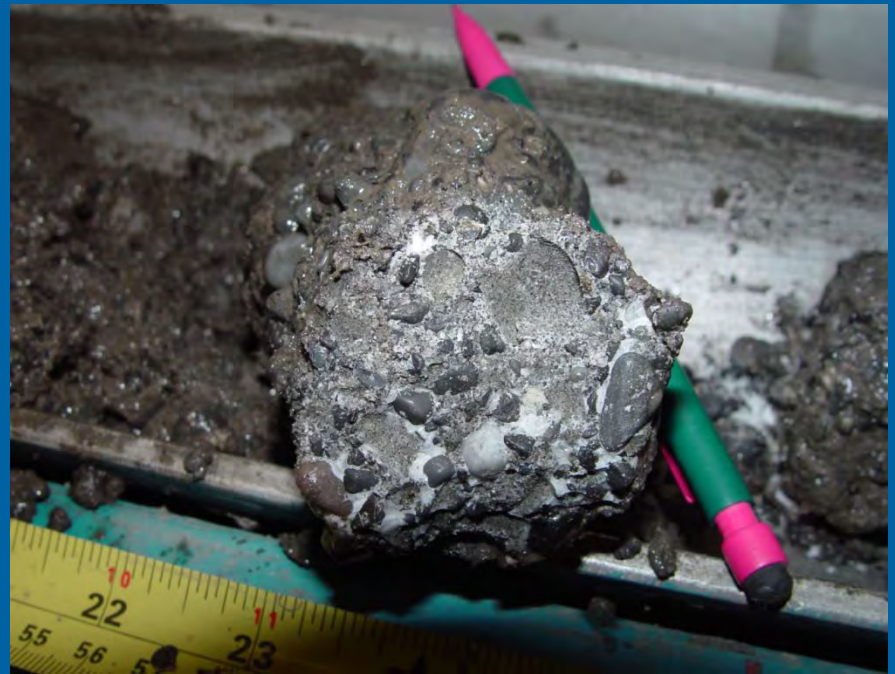
trillion cubic feet



Source: Oil and Gas Journal, 2012

# Reminders

- USGS undiscovered, technically recoverable resources do not consider economics
- USGS world unconventional assessment is underway (results not presented today)
- Gas hydrates



An aerial photograph showing an offshore oil platform situated in the middle of a vast, flat expanse of sea ice. The ice is a pale blue-grey color, with numerous tracks and ridges crisscrossing the surface, indicating heavy vehicle traffic. The platform itself is a complex of structures, including a tall derrick and several smaller buildings. The horizon is visible in the distance under a clear, light blue sky.

<http://energy.usgs.gov>

