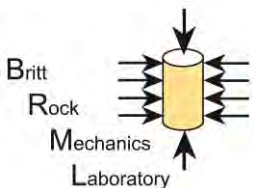


# Why Permeability and Geomechanics Drive the Completion And Stimulation Success In Multiple Fractured Horizontal Wells?

Presented by: Larry K. Britt ([lkbnsi@aol.com](mailto:lkbnsi@aol.com))

NSI Fracturing & Britt Rock Mechanics Laboratory  
([www.rocklaboratory.com](http://www.rocklaboratory.com))



# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives
  - What We Want To Do?
- The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells
  - What We Can Do?
  - Complexity?
- Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility
- Permeability
- Summary

# Why It Matters

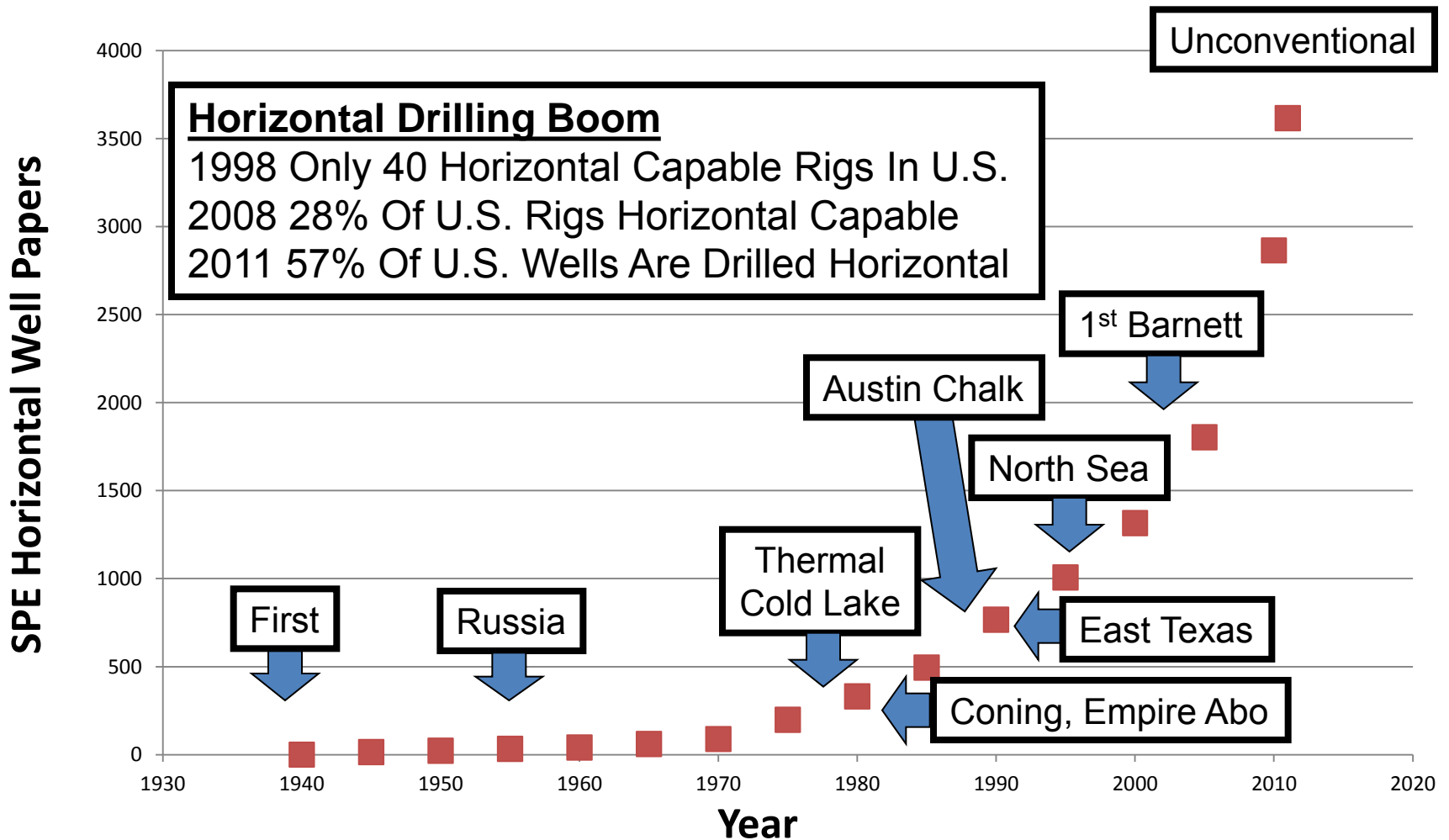
- Where Do I Land the Horizontal Well?
- How Do I Complete The Well?
- Where Do I Complete The Well?
- How Many Completions Do I Need?
- How Do I Fracture Stimulate The Well?
- What Fracturing Fluid Do I Use?
- What Pump Rate Should I Use?

# Why It Matters

- Where Do I Land the Horizontal Well?
- How Do I Complete The Well?
- Where Do I Complete The Well?
- How Many Completions Do I Need?
- How Do I Fracture Stimulate The Well?
- What Fracturing Fluid Do I Use?
- What Pump Rate Should I Use?

**\*Geomechanics And Permeability Are  
The Keys To Success**

# Horizontals: A Historical Perspective

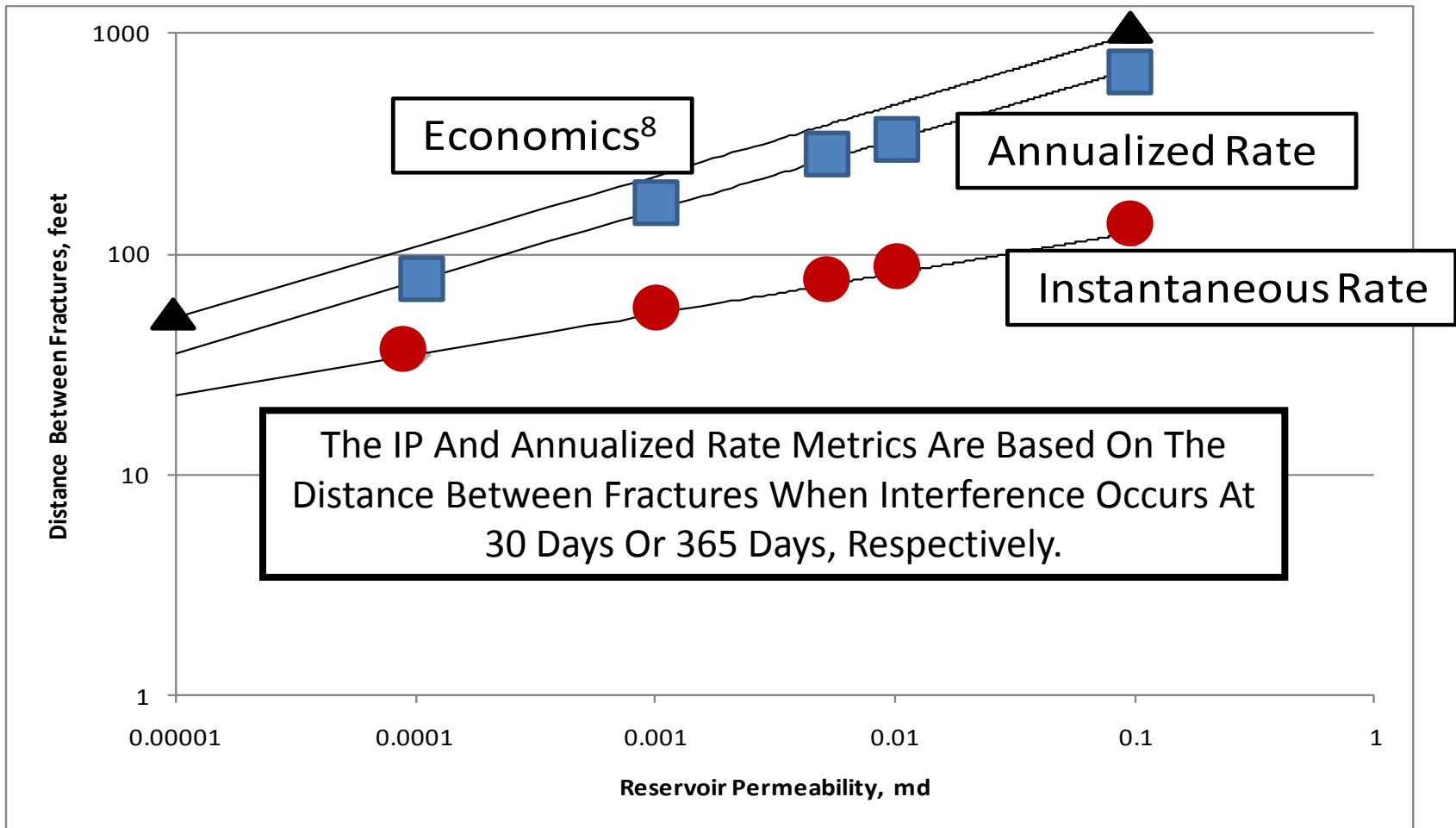


# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- **Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives**
  - **What We Want To Do?**
- The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells
  - What We Can Do?
  - Complexity?
- Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility
- Permeability
- Summary

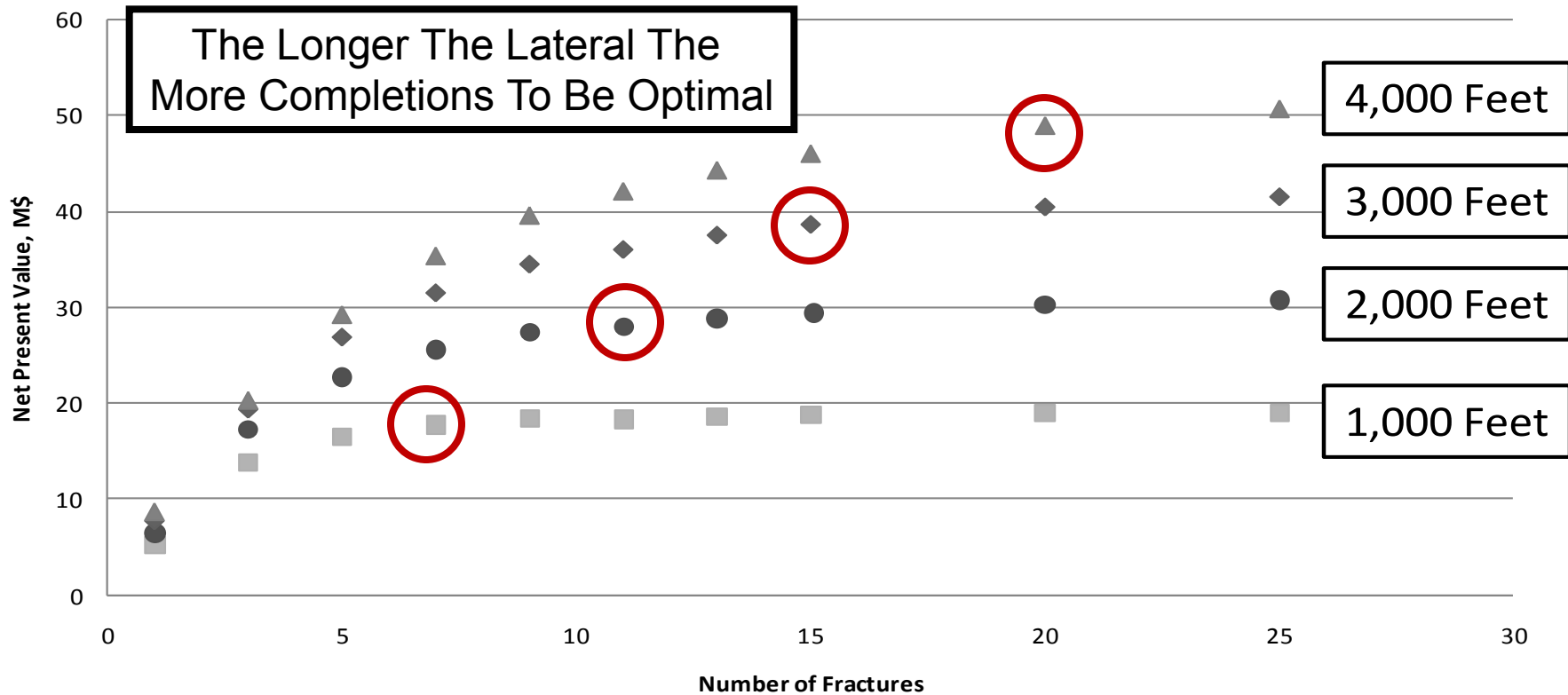
# Well Characterization & Objectives

Metrics Used To Determine The Optimum Distance Between Fractures/Compleions



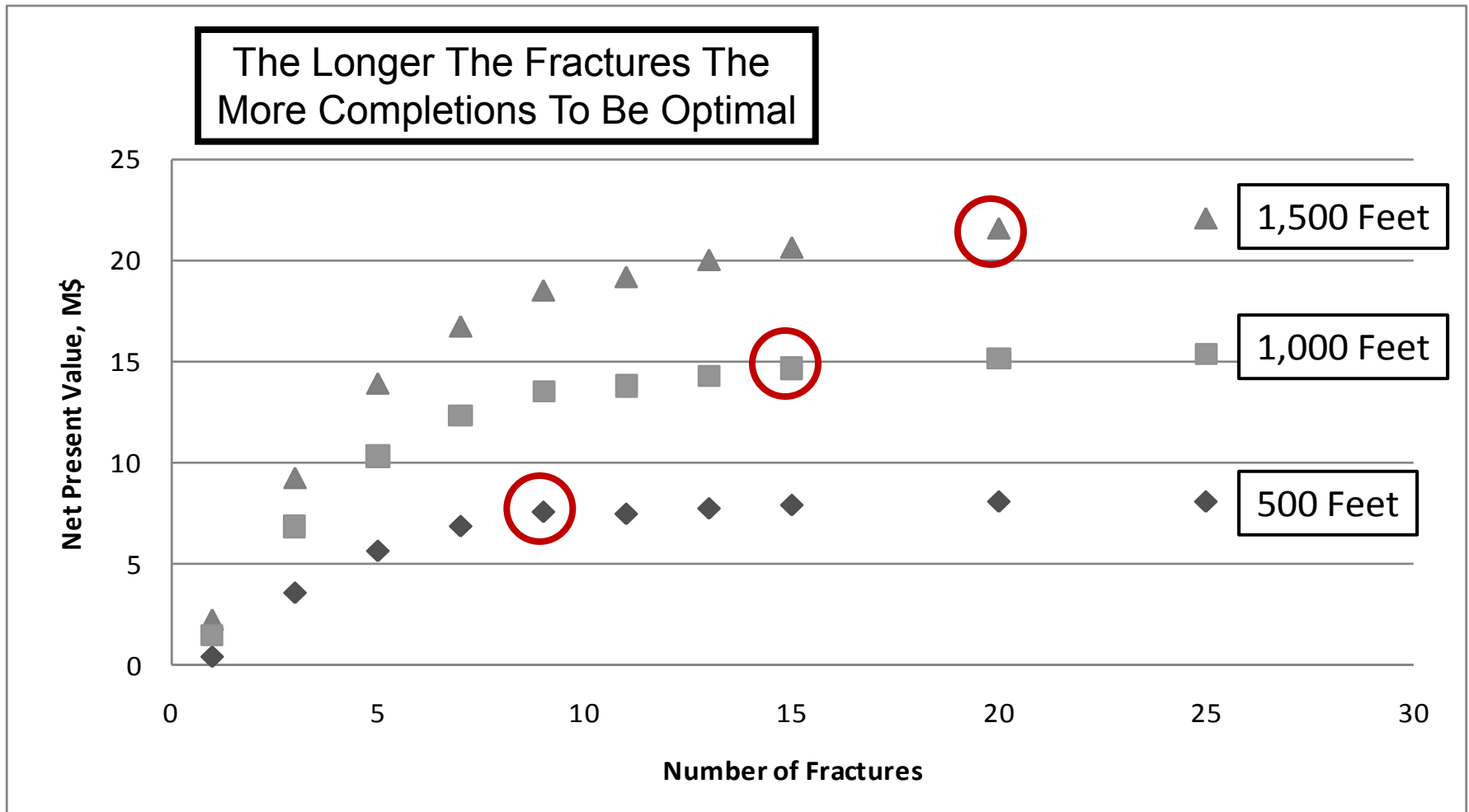
# Well Characterization & Objectives

## Effect Of Lateral Length On Completion Optimization

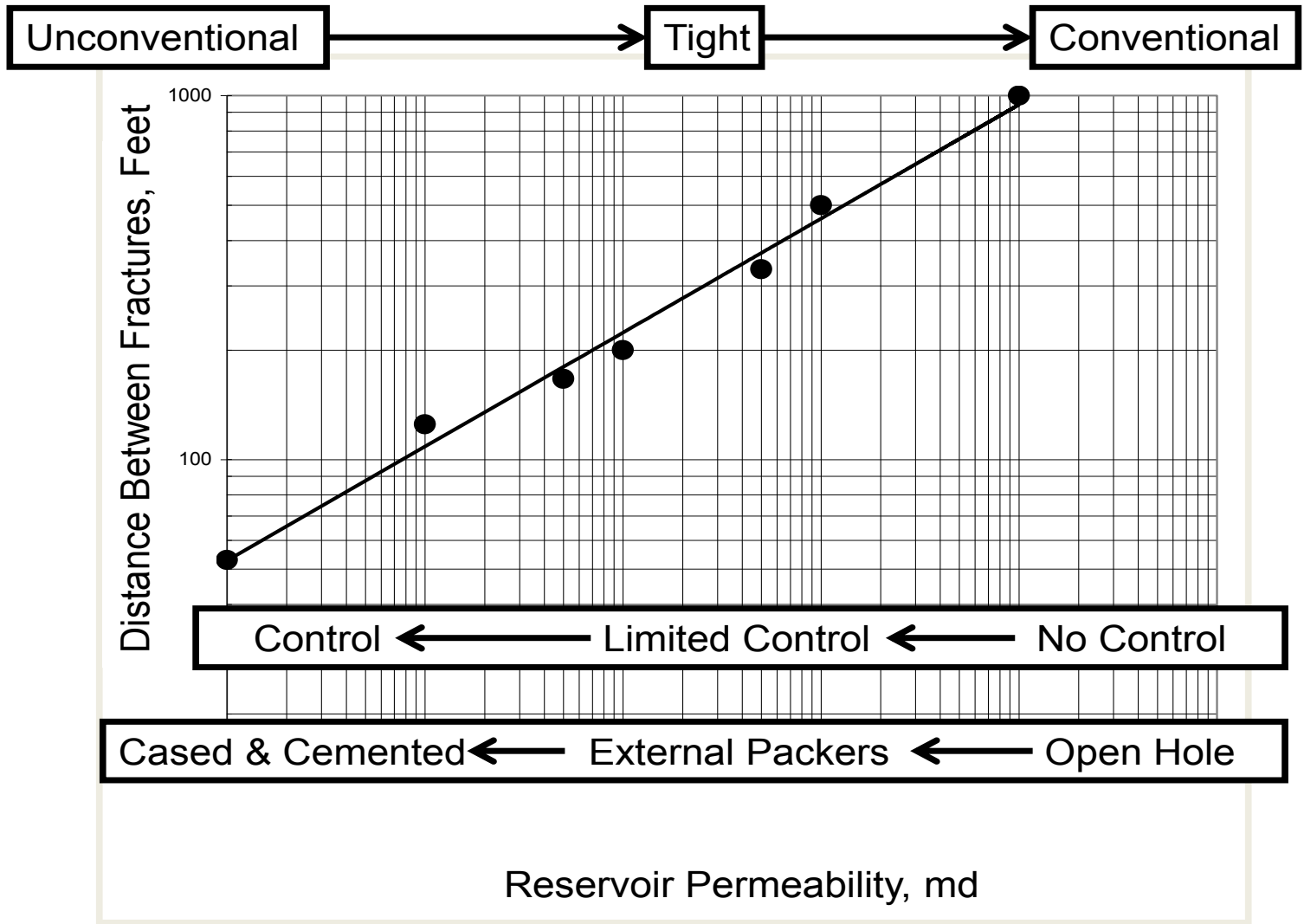


# Well Characterization & Objectives

## Effect Of Fracture Length On Completion Optimization



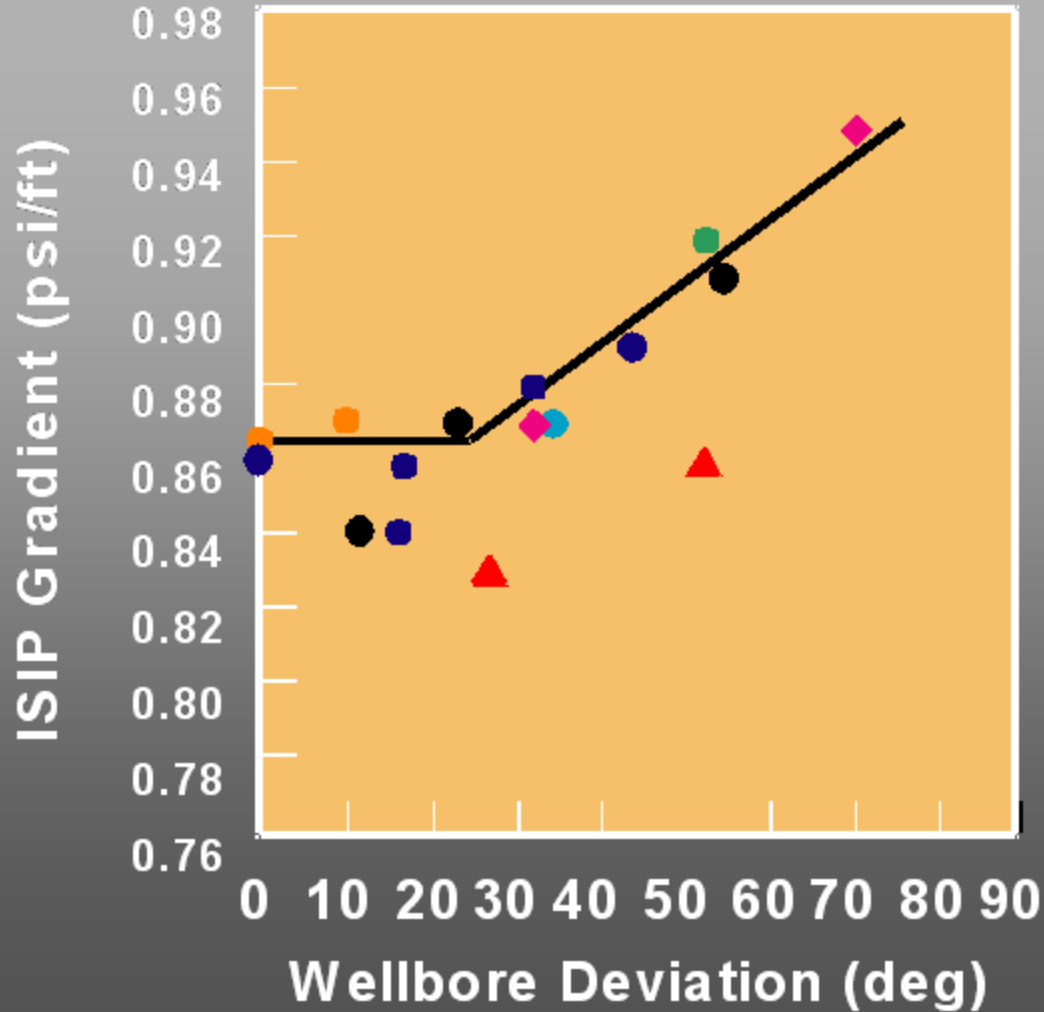
# Well Characterization & Objectives



# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives
  - What We Want To Do?
- **The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells**
  - **What We Can Do?**
  - Complexity?
- Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility
- Permeability
- Summary

# Geomechanics of Horizontal Wells



We Have Known Of The Effects Of Well Deviation,  $\beta$ , For A Long Time!

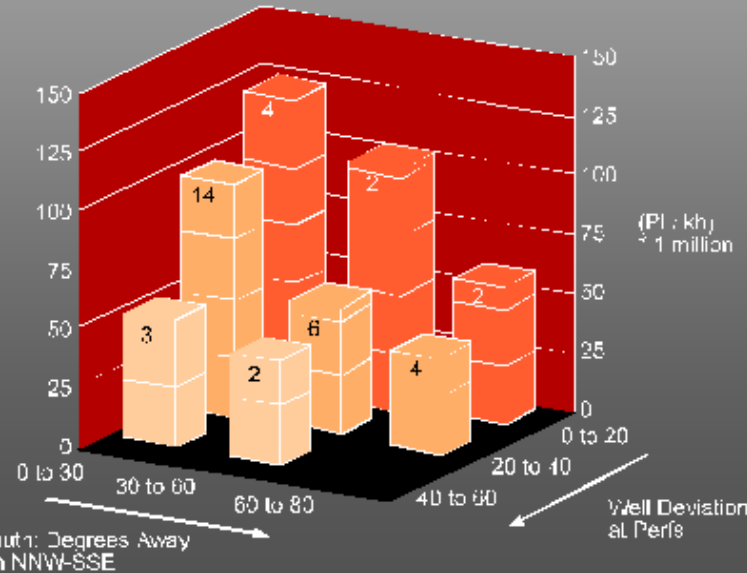
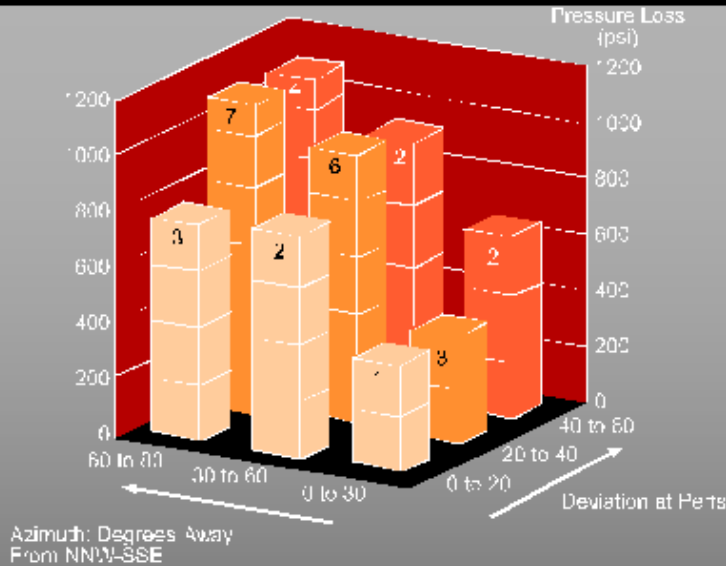
Slide Keys:

- Up to  $\beta = 30^\circ$ , No Real Effect on Pressures!
- Limited Proppant Was Placed In The High  $\beta$  Well!
- The Increased ISIP Is An Indication of Fracture Complexity “Tortuosity”!

# Geomechanics of Horizontal Wells

## Slide Keys:

- The Further The Azimuth,  $\alpha$ , And Perforations Were From  $\sigma_{Hmax}$ :
  - *The Greater The  $\Delta p$  Lossed,*
  - *The Poorer The Productivity*

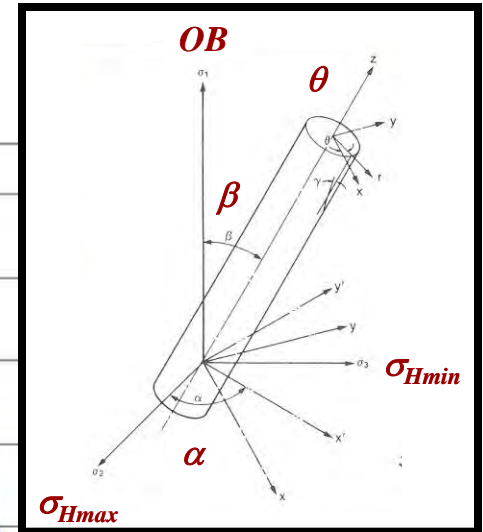
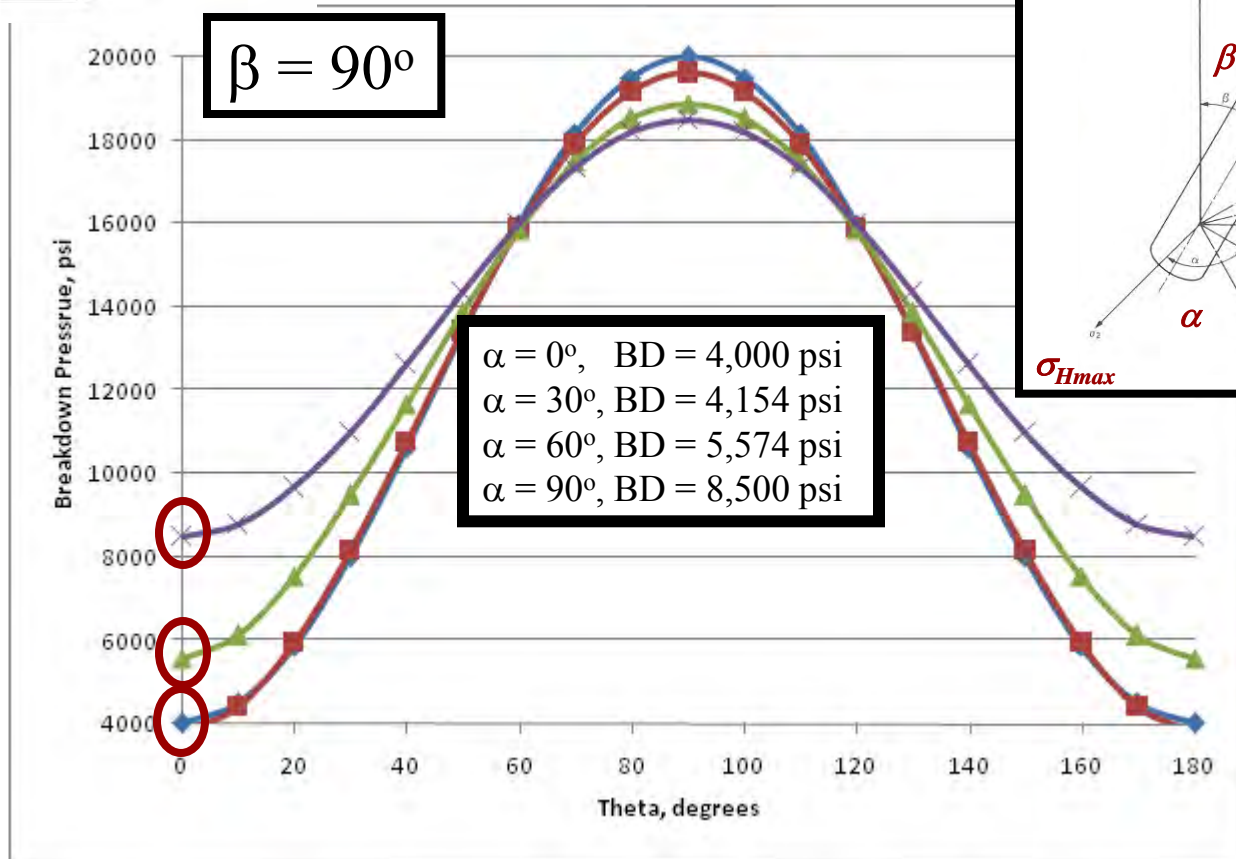
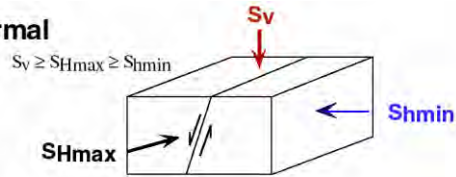


BP-Prudhoe Bay  
Circa 1992, J. P. Martins

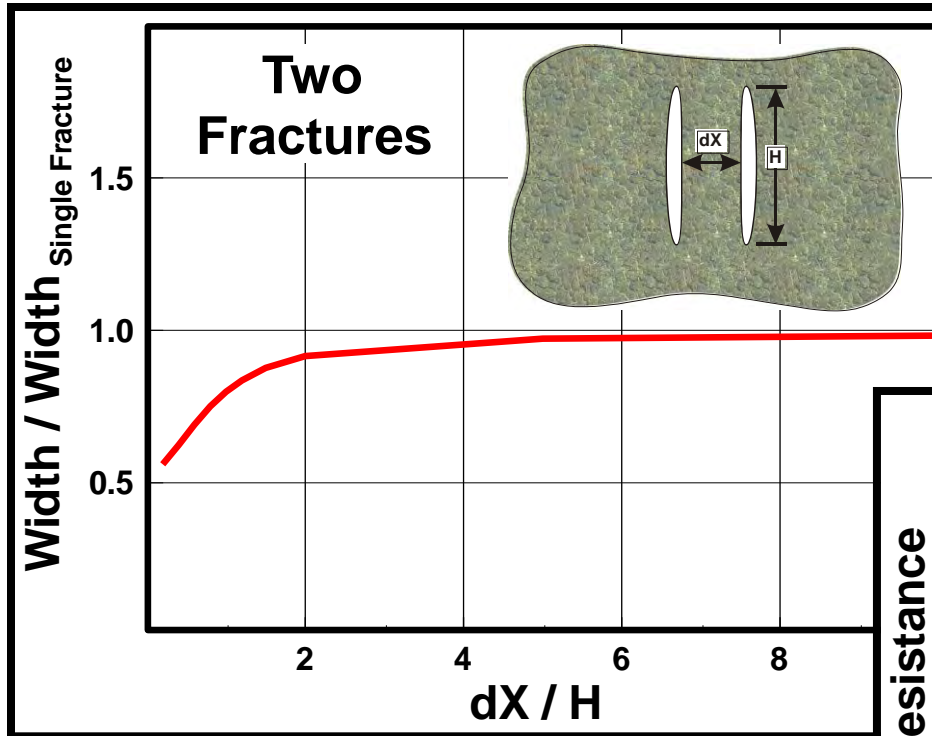
# Geomechanics of Horizontal Wells

$$\sigma_v = 10,000 \text{ psi}, \sigma_{Hmax} = 7,500 \text{ psi}, \sigma_{Hmin} = 6,000 \text{ psi}$$

Normal

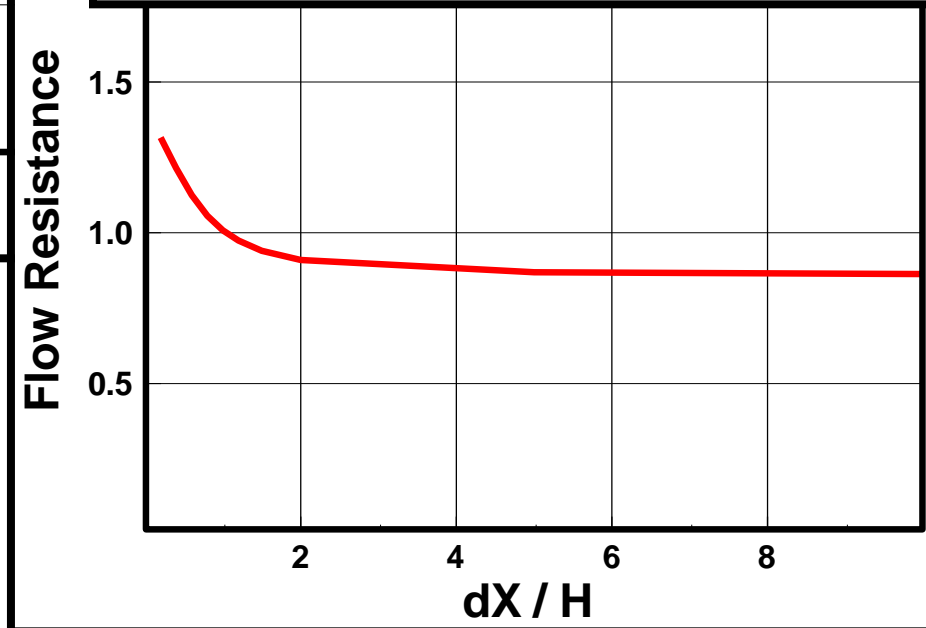


# Geomechanical Implications



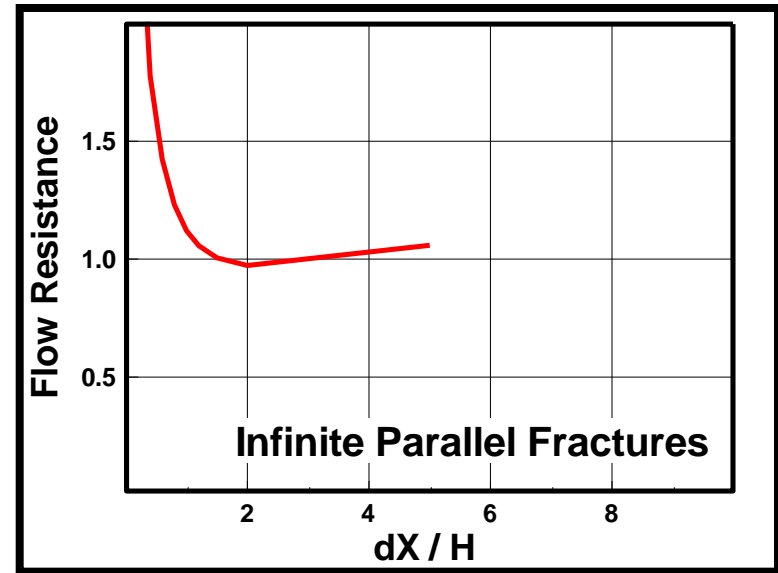
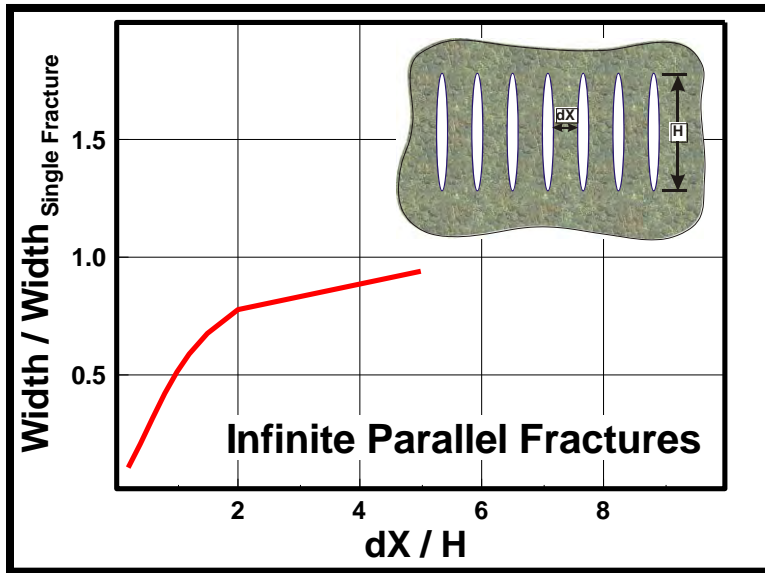
Slide Keys:

When The Distance Between The Fractures Is  $> 2$  Times The Fracture Height Minimal Effect On Fracture Width & Flow Resistance!



Two Interfering Fractures w/  
Contained Fracture Geometry

# Geomechanical Implications



## Description

Inter-perforation Distance (ft)  
Height/Interwell Distance Ratio

**Transverse Horizontal Treating Pressure**

**Transverse Horizontal Fracture Width**

**Flow Resistance Multiplier**

**Fracture Width Multiplier**

Vertical Well Treating Pressure Is 6,000 psi

Fracture Height is 500 feet

Single Fracture Width is 0.25 inches

**Case 1    Case 2    Case 3    Case 4**

1000      500      250      100  
2.00      1.00      0.50      0.20

5700	6600	9000	12000
0.188	0.125	0.063	0.025

0.95      1.10      1.50      2.00

0.75      0.50      0.25      0.10

Did we actually breakdown the perforations?  
Were we able to place proppant?

**Remember That The Bridging Criteria is  $Wf = 3 \times$  Proppant Diameter**

20/40 Ottawa Sand Avg Diameter Is 0.023 inches      0.069

40/70 Ottawa Sand Avg Diameter Is 0.011 inches      0.033

# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives
  - What We Want To Do?
- **The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells**
  - What We Can Do?
  - **Complexity?**
- Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility
- Permeability
- Summary

# Geomechanical Implications

The Object Of The Completion(s) & Fracture Stimulation(s) Is To Effectively Contact As Much Reservoir As Possible:

- Micro-Seismic Data Used To Assess Contacted Volume Or Stimulated Reservoir Volume

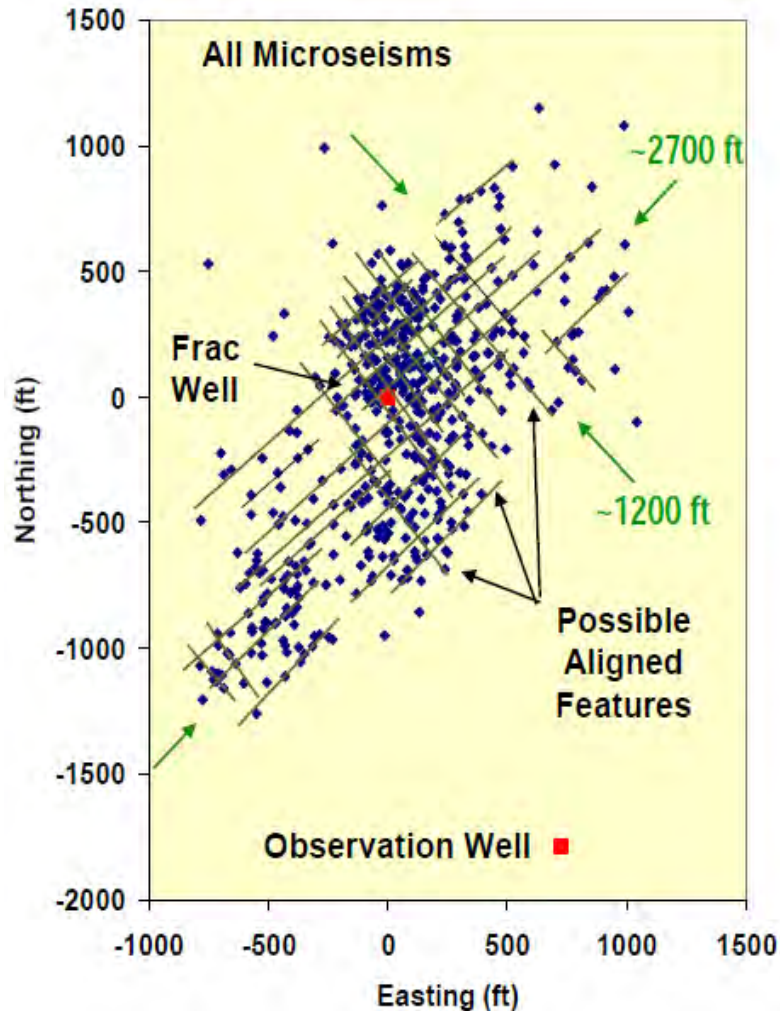
Where:

SRV = L x H x W of Micro-Seismic Event Map

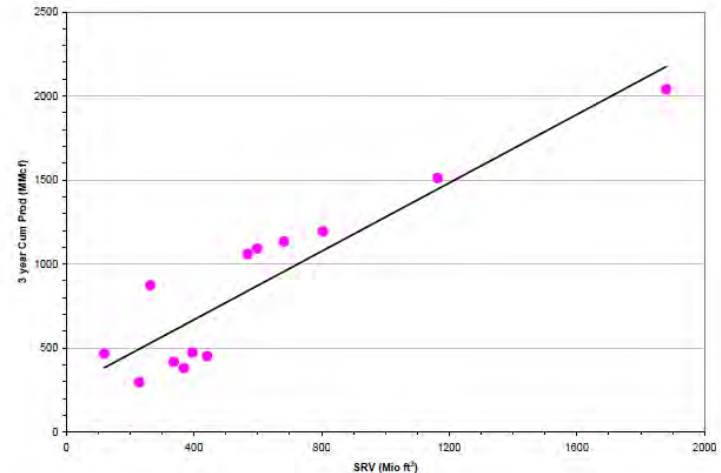
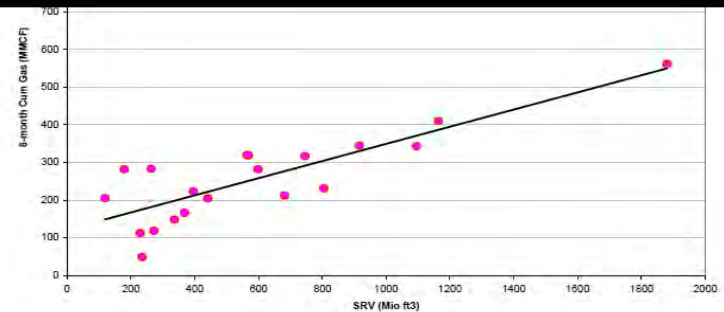
Often  $2(x_f) \times H_f \times L_L$

# Geomechanical Implications

## Stimulated Reservoir Volume

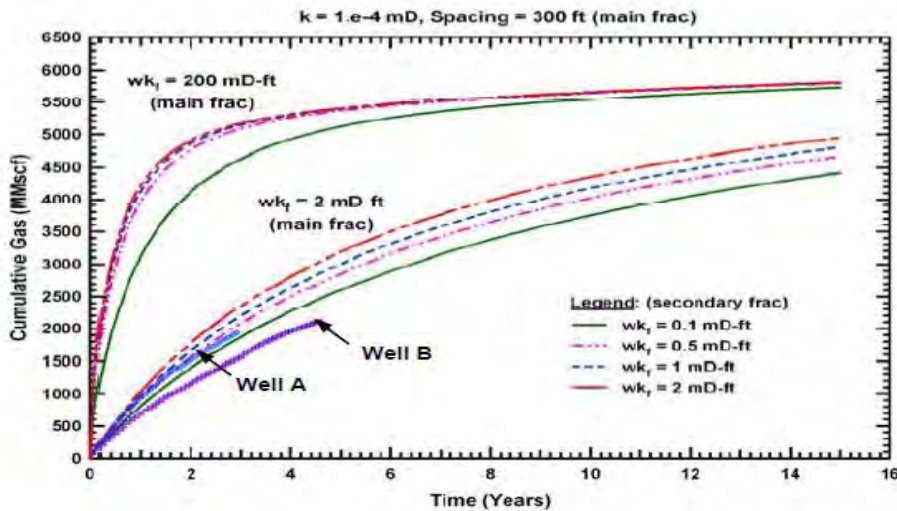


Bigger The Frac Volume The Greater The Stimulated Reservoir Volume & The Greater The Hydrocarbon Recovery

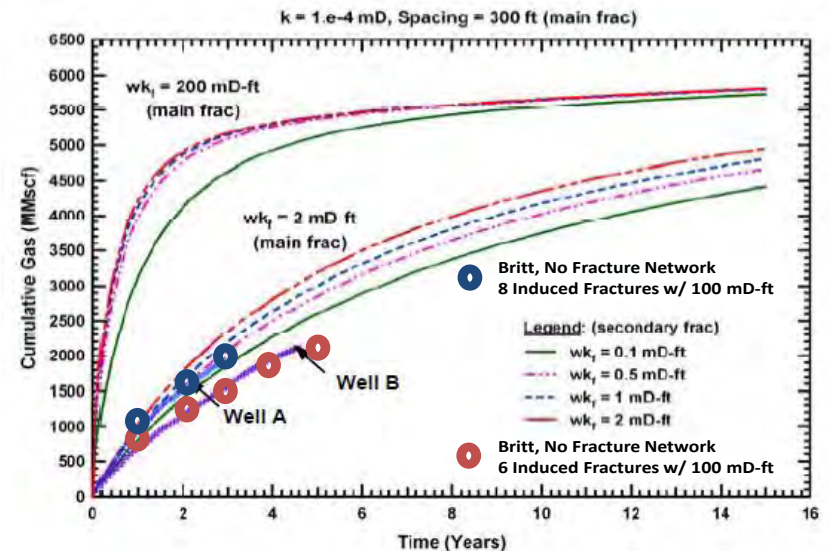


# Geomechanical Implications

But Does Complexity Or Stimulated Reservoir Volume Add Up To Hydrocarbon Recovery



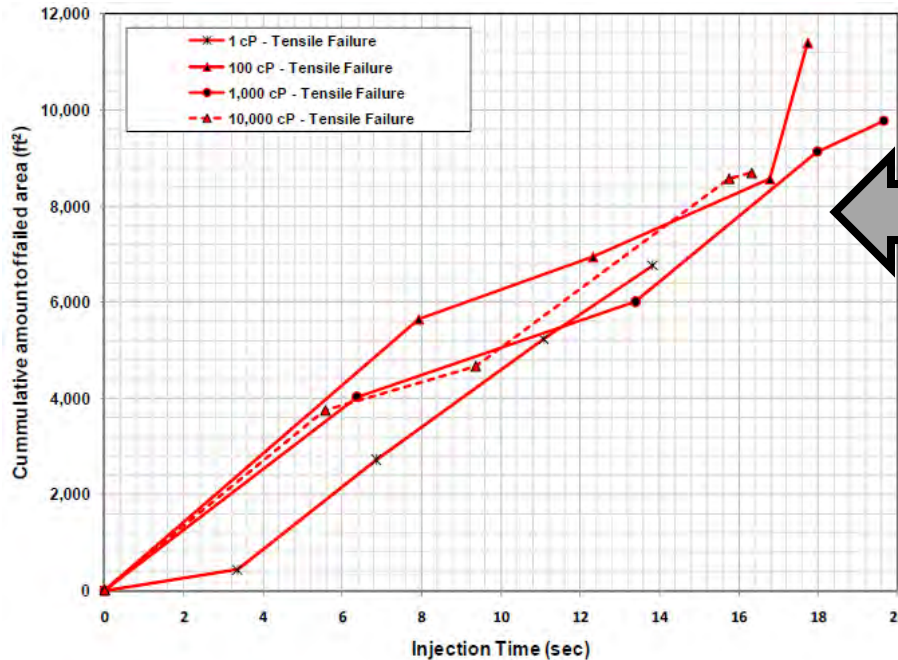
Study Showed That SRV Not Very Effective, Neither Was Induced Fracture For That Matter



Additional Simulations Show That SRV May Not Be Critical Or Is It? What About Over The Long Term?

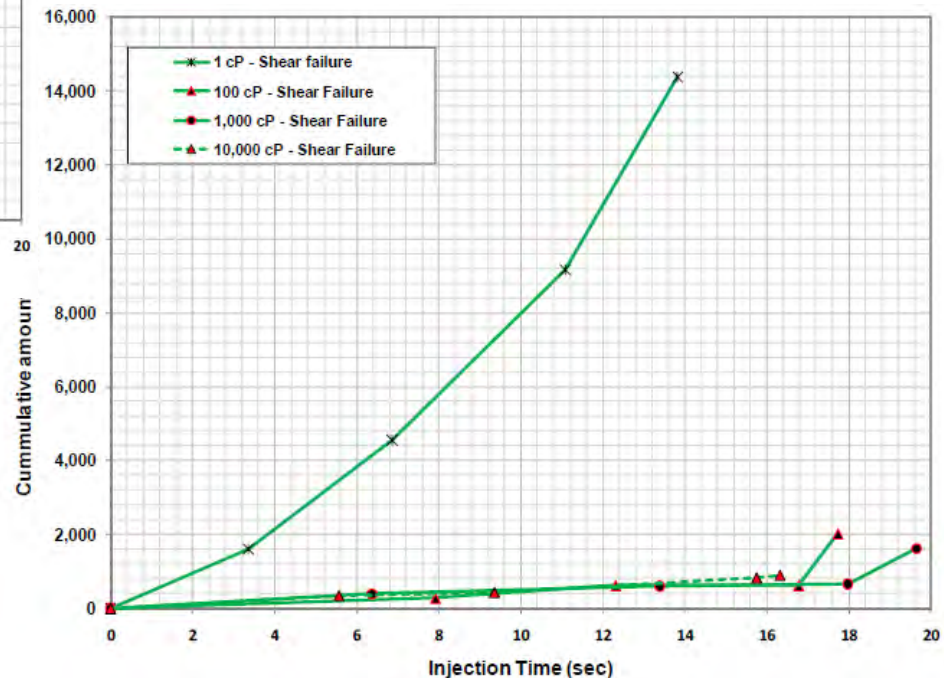
# Geomechanical Implications

## If SRV Important How Do You Get More?



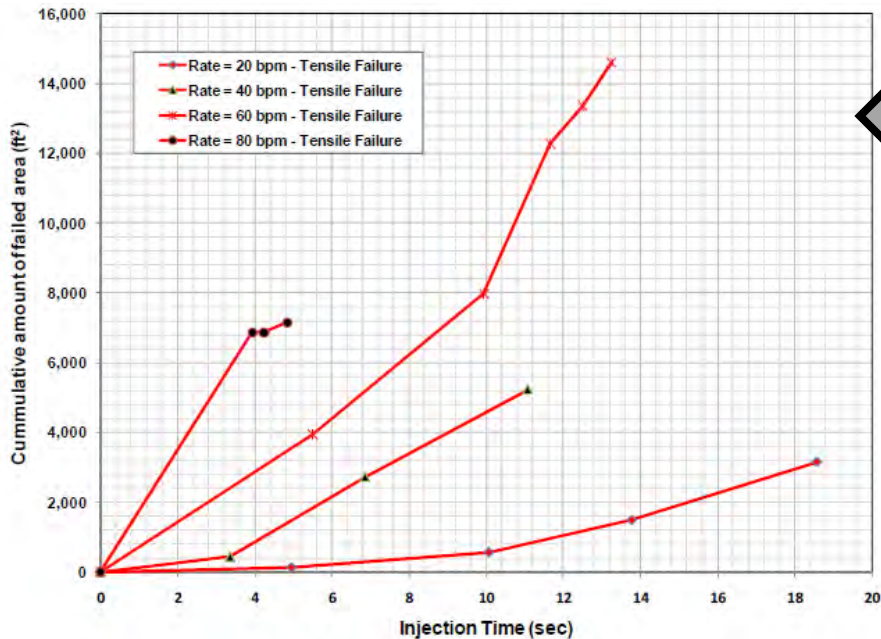
Study Showed That Higher Fluid Viscosity Slightly Increased The Tensile Failure Area

Study Showed That Low Fluid Viscosity Dramatically Increased The Shear Failure



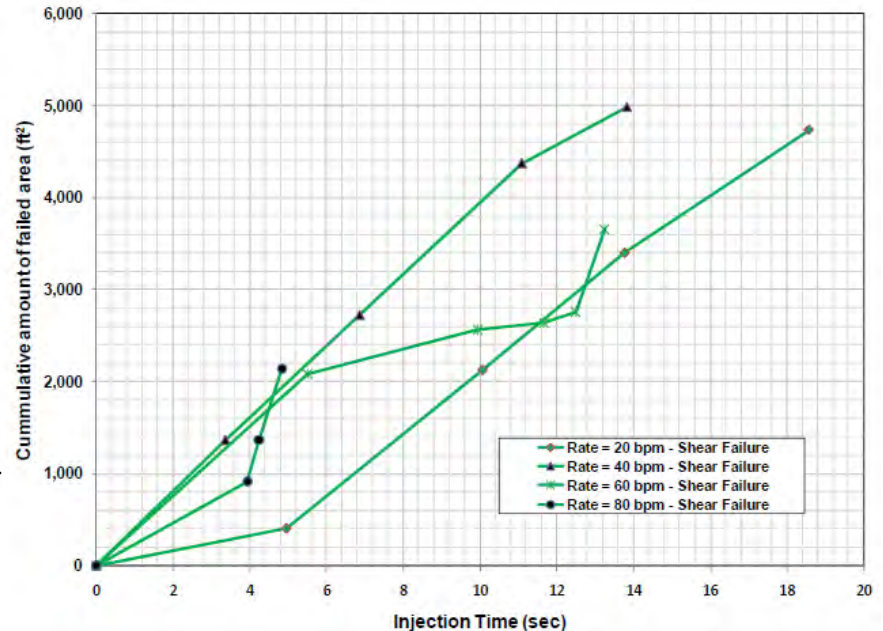
# Geomechanical Implications

## If SRV Important How Do You Get More?



Study Showed That Higher Treatment Rate Increased The Tensile Failure Area

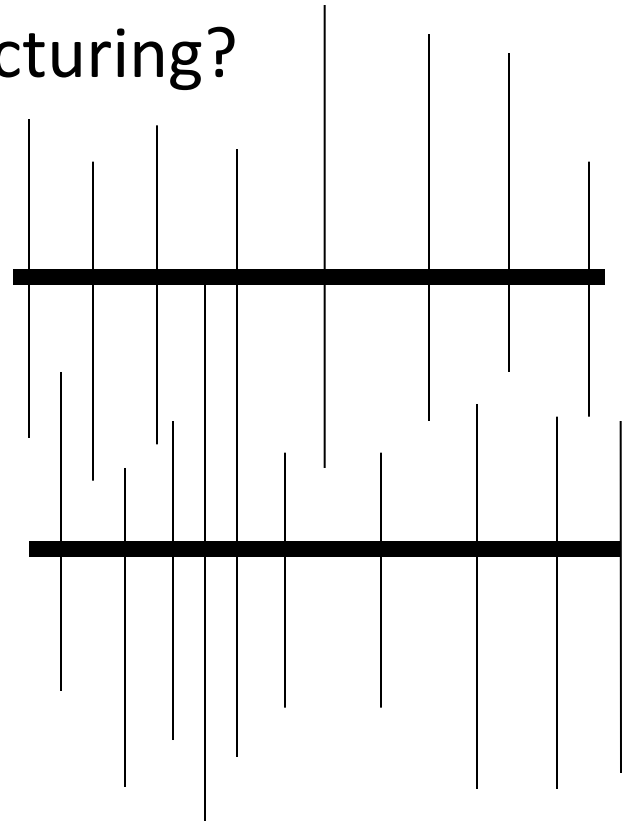
Results Less Clear For Shear Failure



# Geomechanical Implications

If SRV Important How Do You Get More?

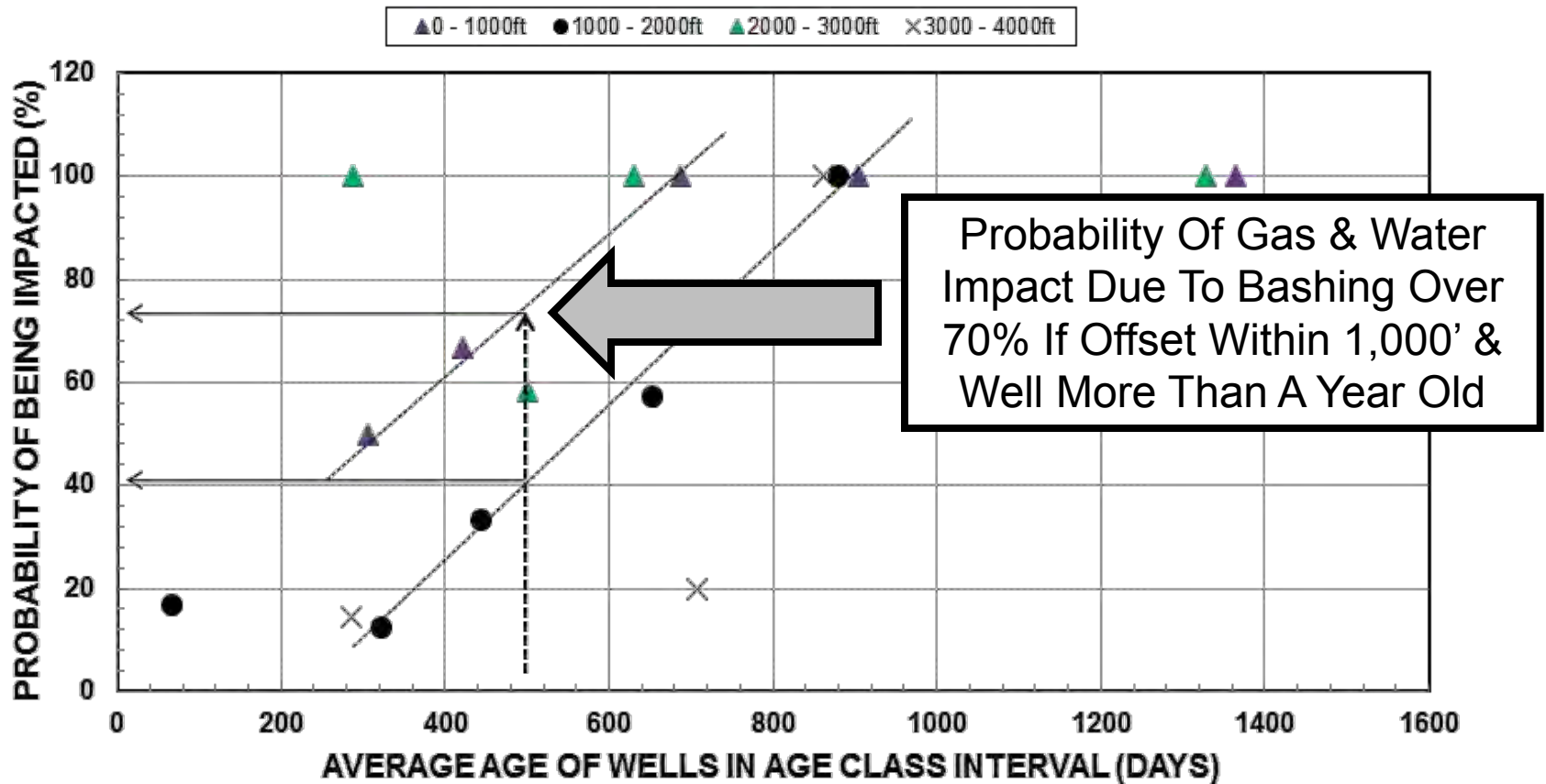
– How About Simultaneous Fracturing?



Fracture Stimulations Are Pumped In Two Parallel Horizontal Wellbores Simultaneously To Create Greater Stimulated Reservoir Volume

# Geomechanical Implications

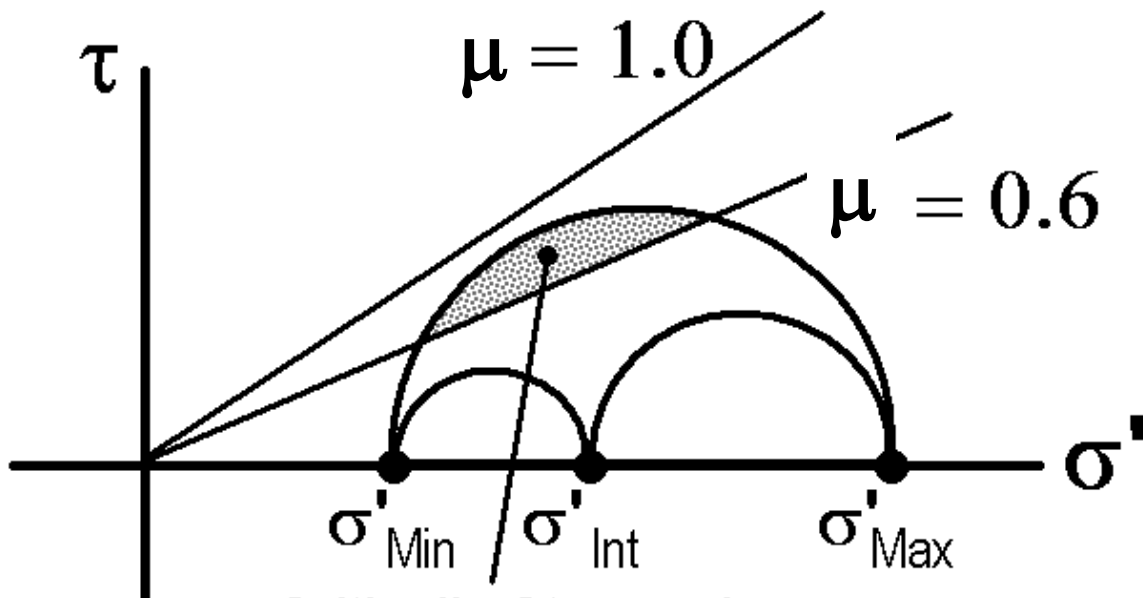
## Woodford Case History Of Bashing



# Geomechanical Implications

What Is The Likely Fissure Direction In The Current Stress State Whereby:

- The Natural Fissures Are Open,
- The Fissures Are Conductive, And
- Potentially Contributory To Well Performance



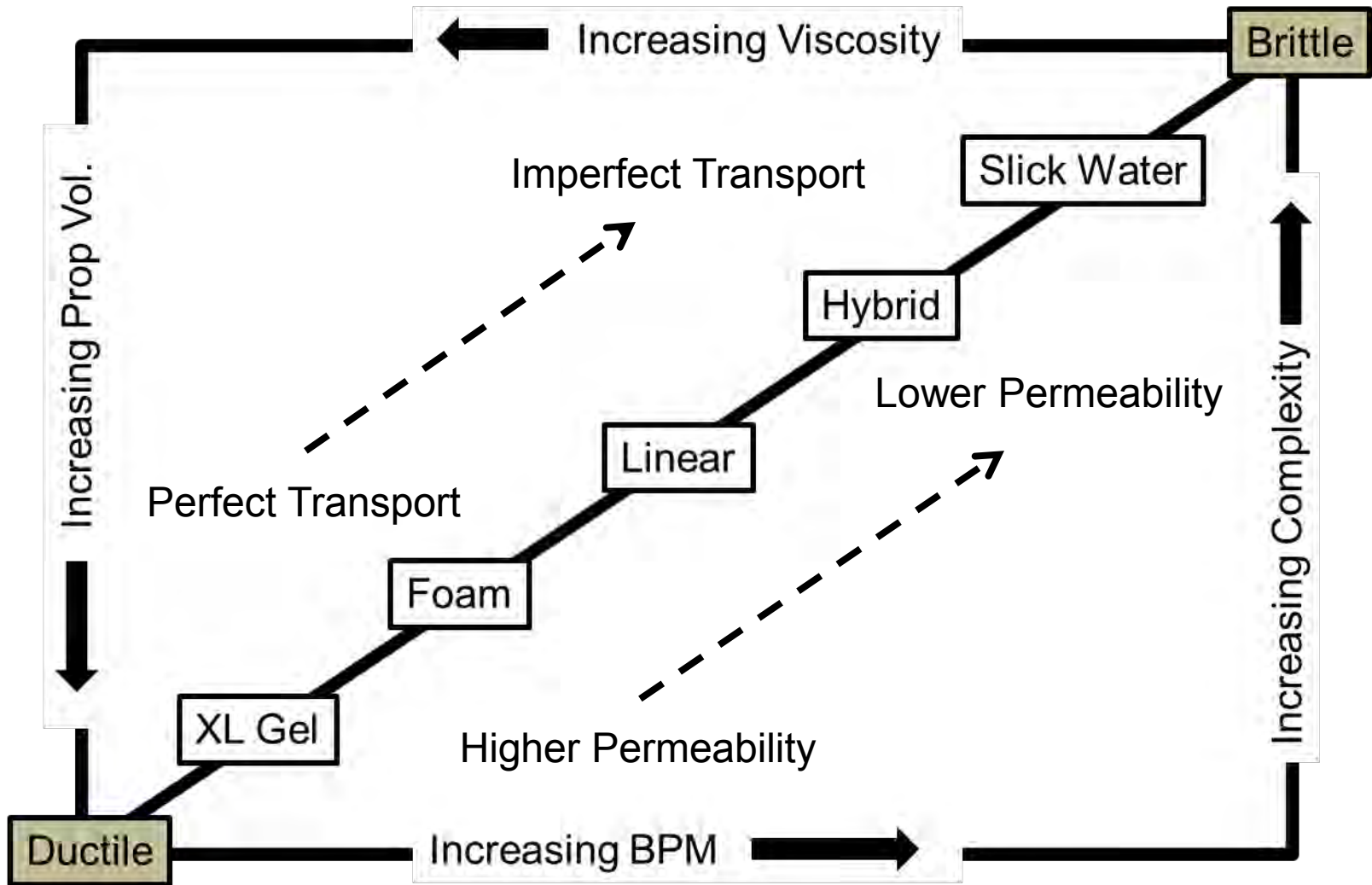
Such A Natural Fissure  
Is Deemed Critically  
Stressed

Critically Stressed  
Fracture Orientations

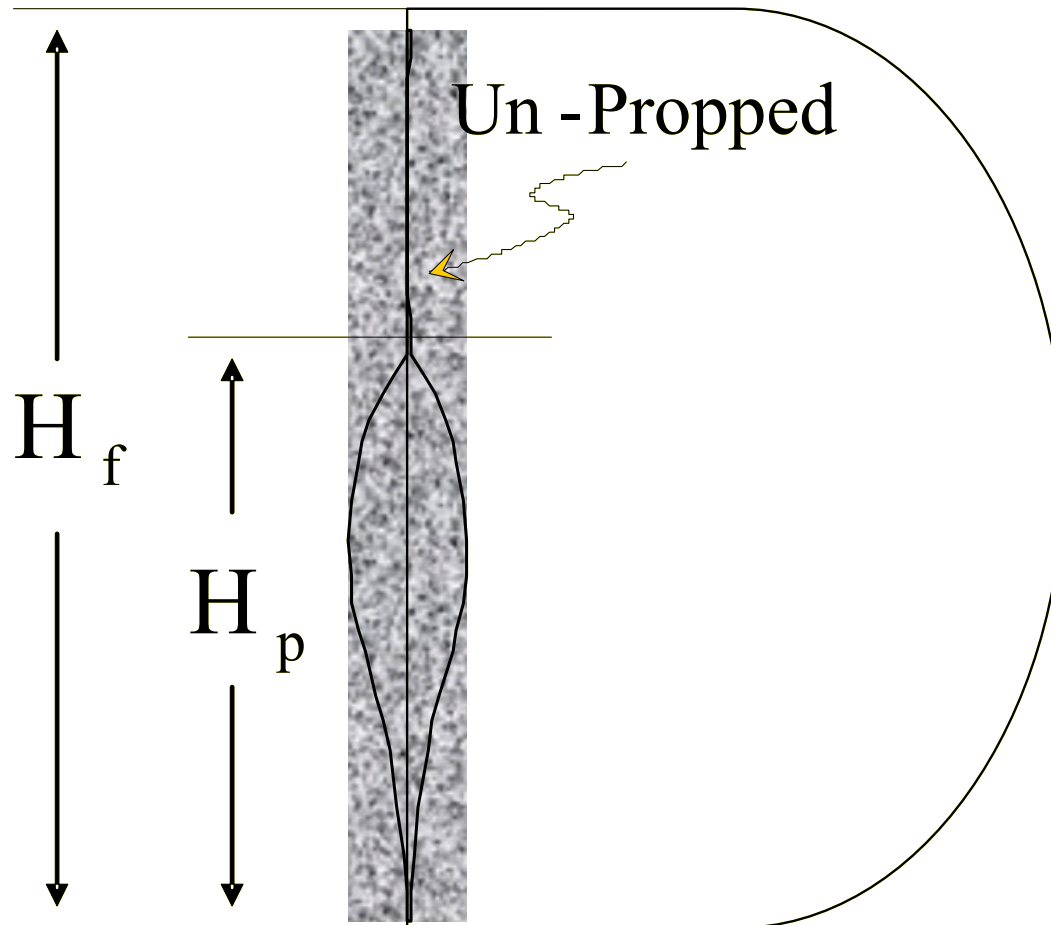
# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives
  - What We Want To Do?
- The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells
  - What We Can Do?
  - Complexity?
- **Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility**
- Permeability
- Summary

# Basis of Fracture Design



# Schematic of a Water-Frac



***Un-propped Crack Tests Integrate The  
Lab Results With The Field &  
Explains The Effect Of Poor Proppant Coverage!***

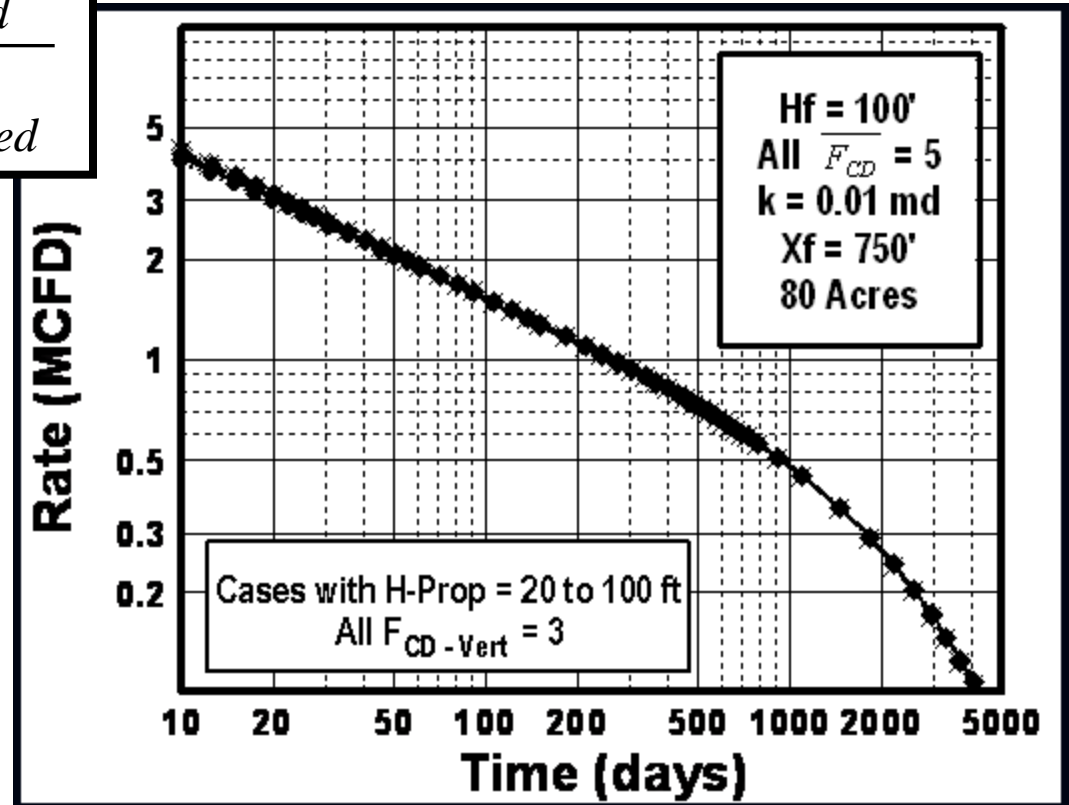
# Water Frac Guidelines

## Must Depend on Un-Propped $k_f w$

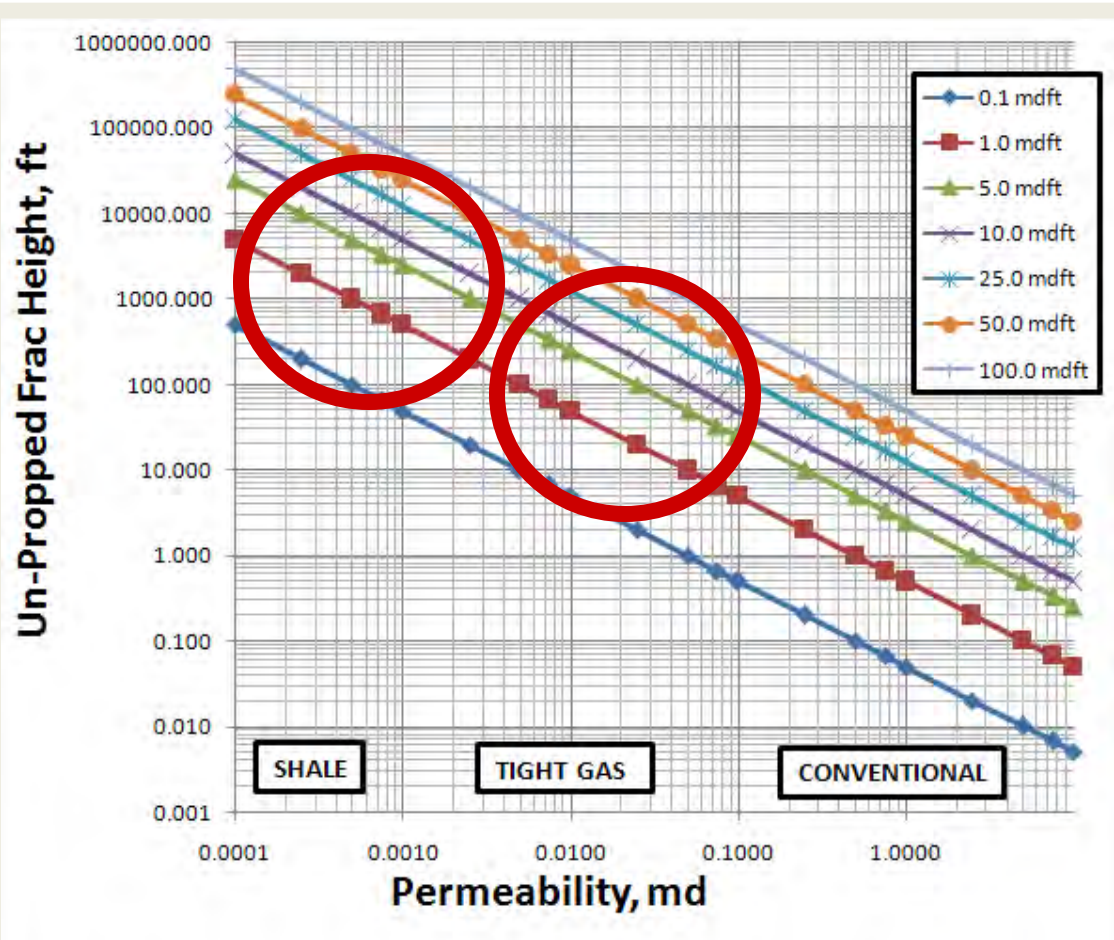
$$F_{CD-Vert} = \frac{(k_f w)_{Unpropped}}{k H_{F-Unpropped}}$$

As Long As  $F_{CD-Vert} > 2$   
The Propped Fracture  
Height Doesn't Matter!

For  $(k_f w)_{Un-propped} = 1$  mdft  
 $H_{F-Un-propped} < 50$  feet



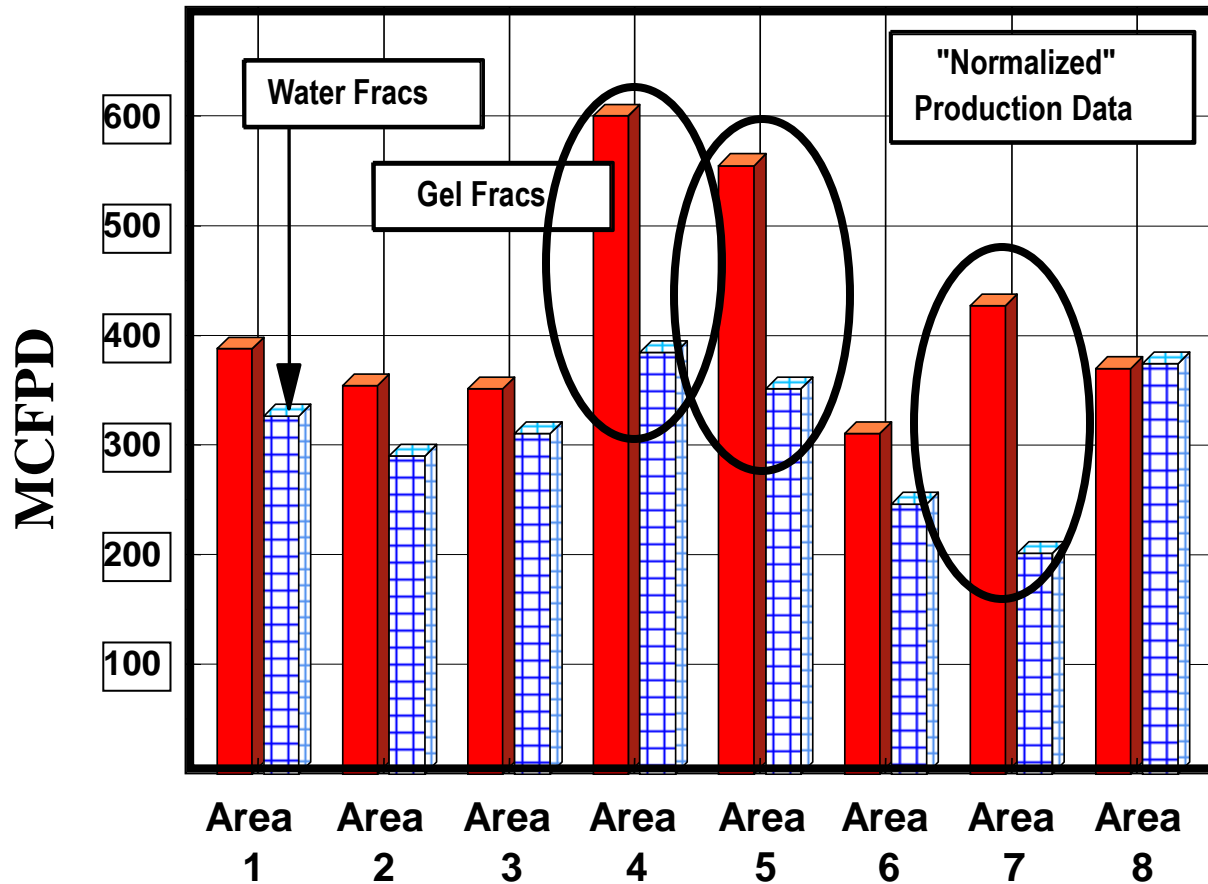
# Why Un-Propped Crack Testing?



With Un-Propped  $k_f w$  A Shale Reservoir Can Support Hundreds Of Feet Of Un-Propped Fracture!

***This Is Why Water-Fracs Should Only Be Applied To Tight Unconventional Reservoirs & Proppant Is Always Needed!***

# Water-Frac's Must Depend On Un-Propped Fracture Conductivity



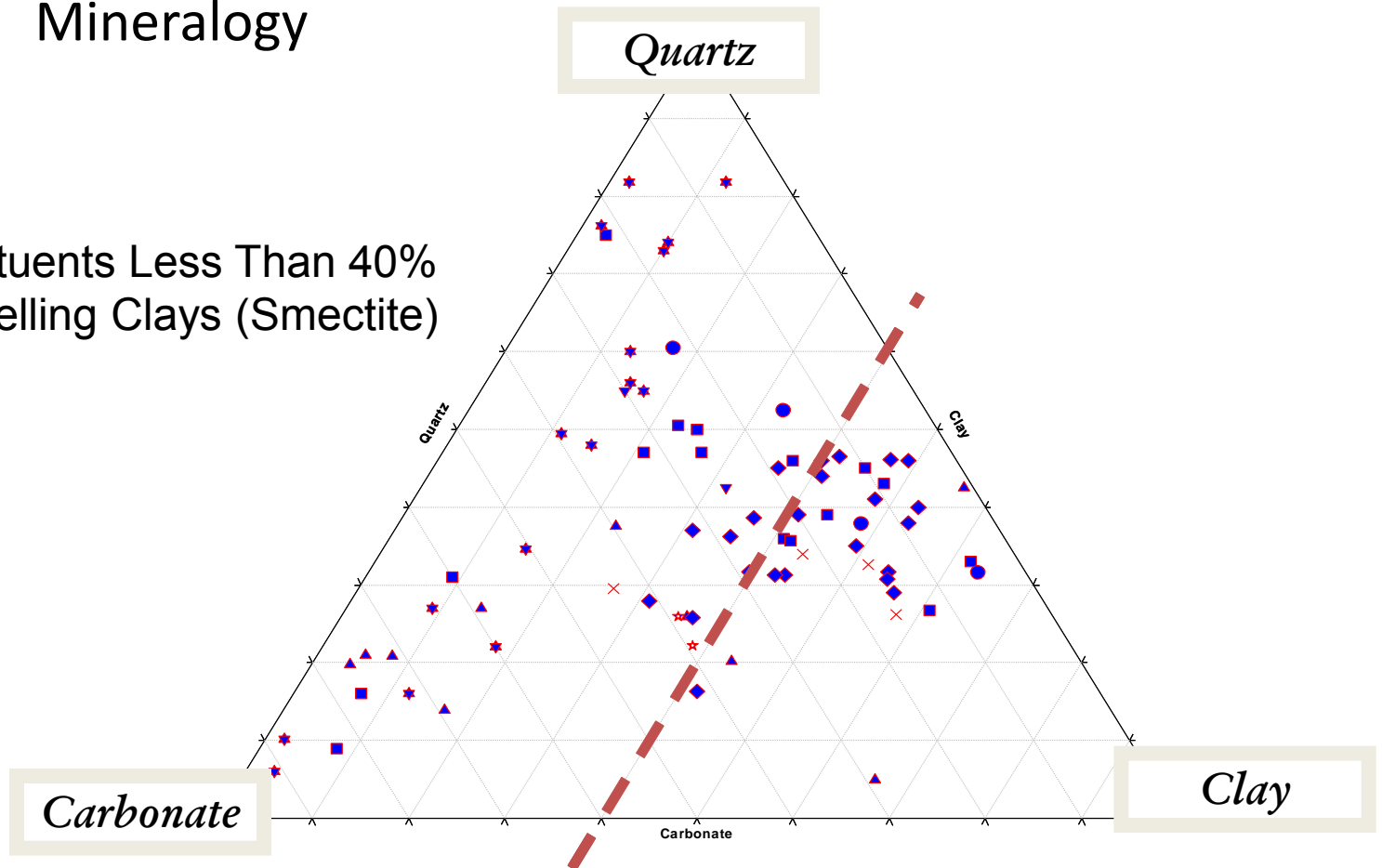
Area 4,5, & 7  
Represents  
Woodlawn &  
Blocker  
Fields Where  
Taylor (CV) Sand  
Is 100+ Feet Thick!

# Mineralogy & Ductility

## Proppant And Fluid Selection & Quantity:

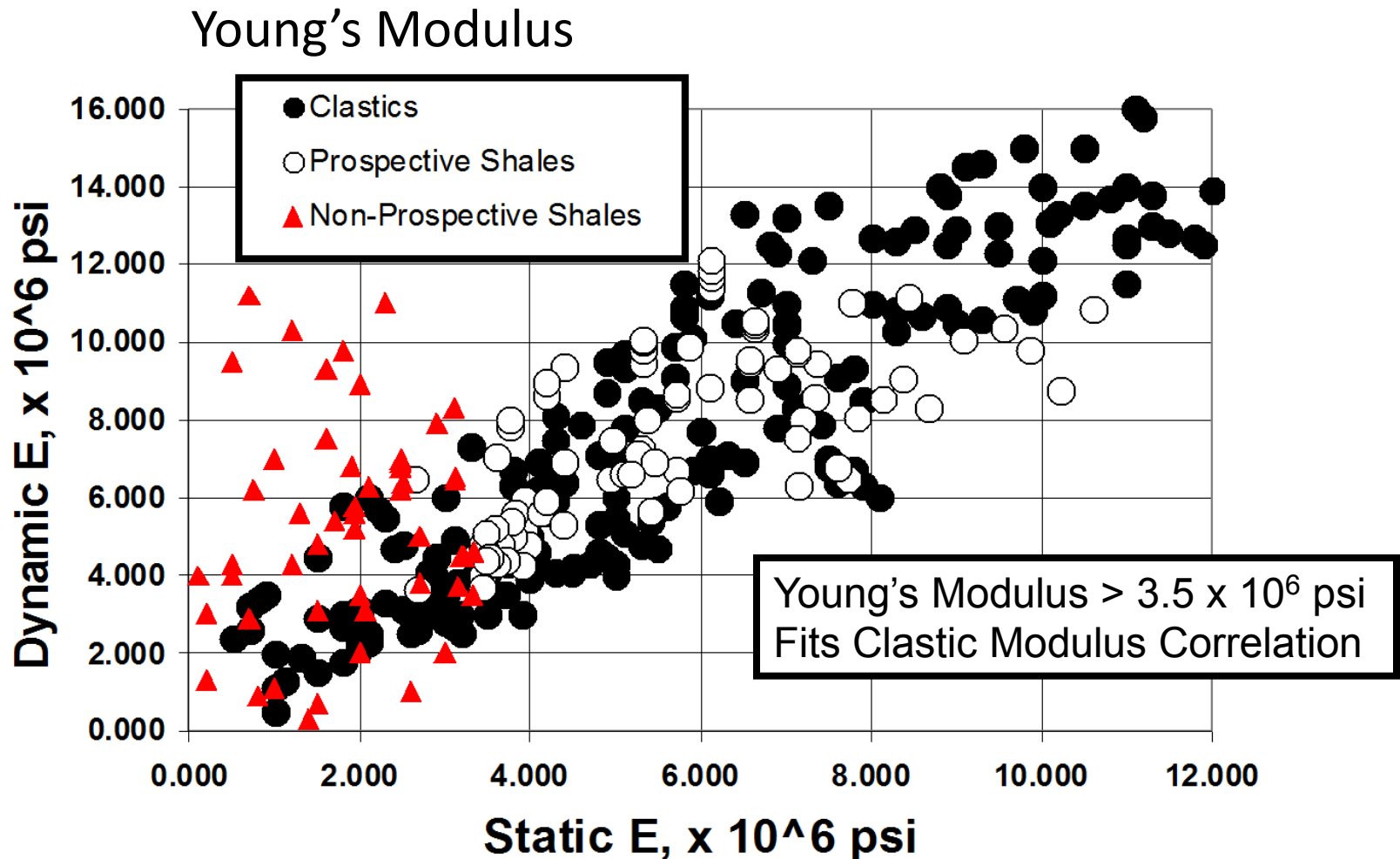
### Mineralogy

Clay Constituents Less Than 40%  
Minimal Swelling Clays (Smectite)



# Young's Modulus & Brittleness

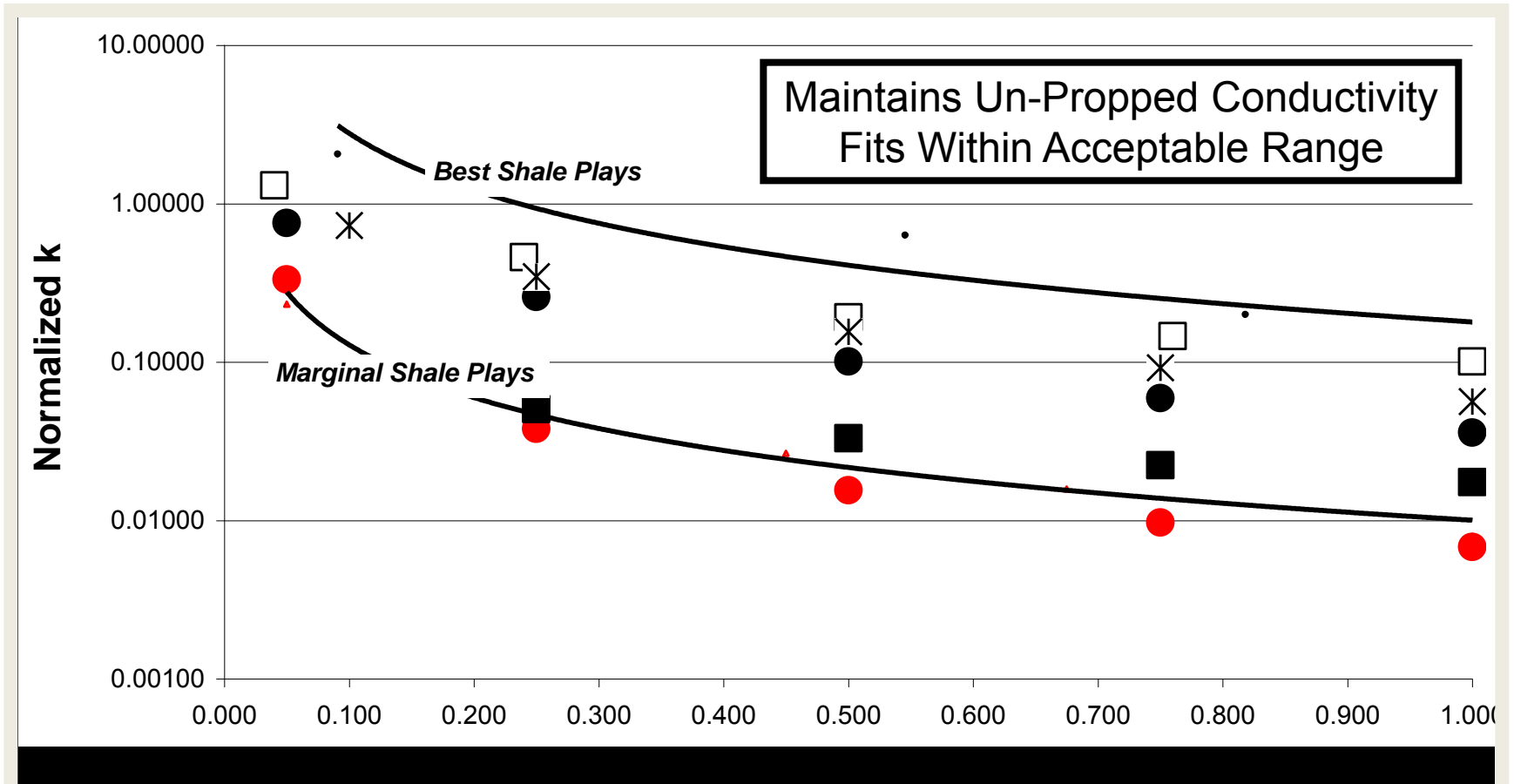
Proppant And Fluid Selection & Quantity:



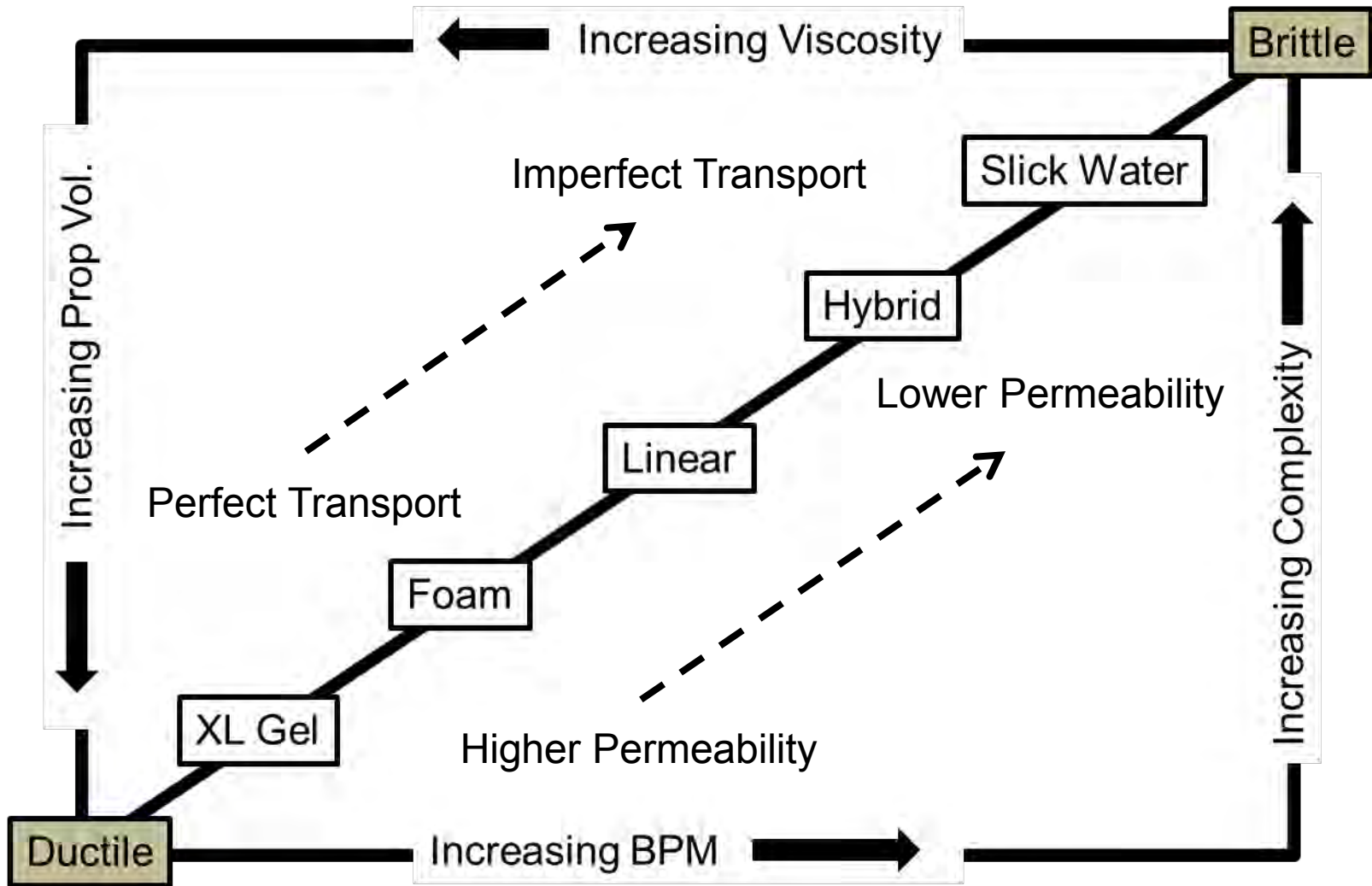
# Un-Propped Crack Test & Ductility

## Proppant And Fluid Selection & Quantity:

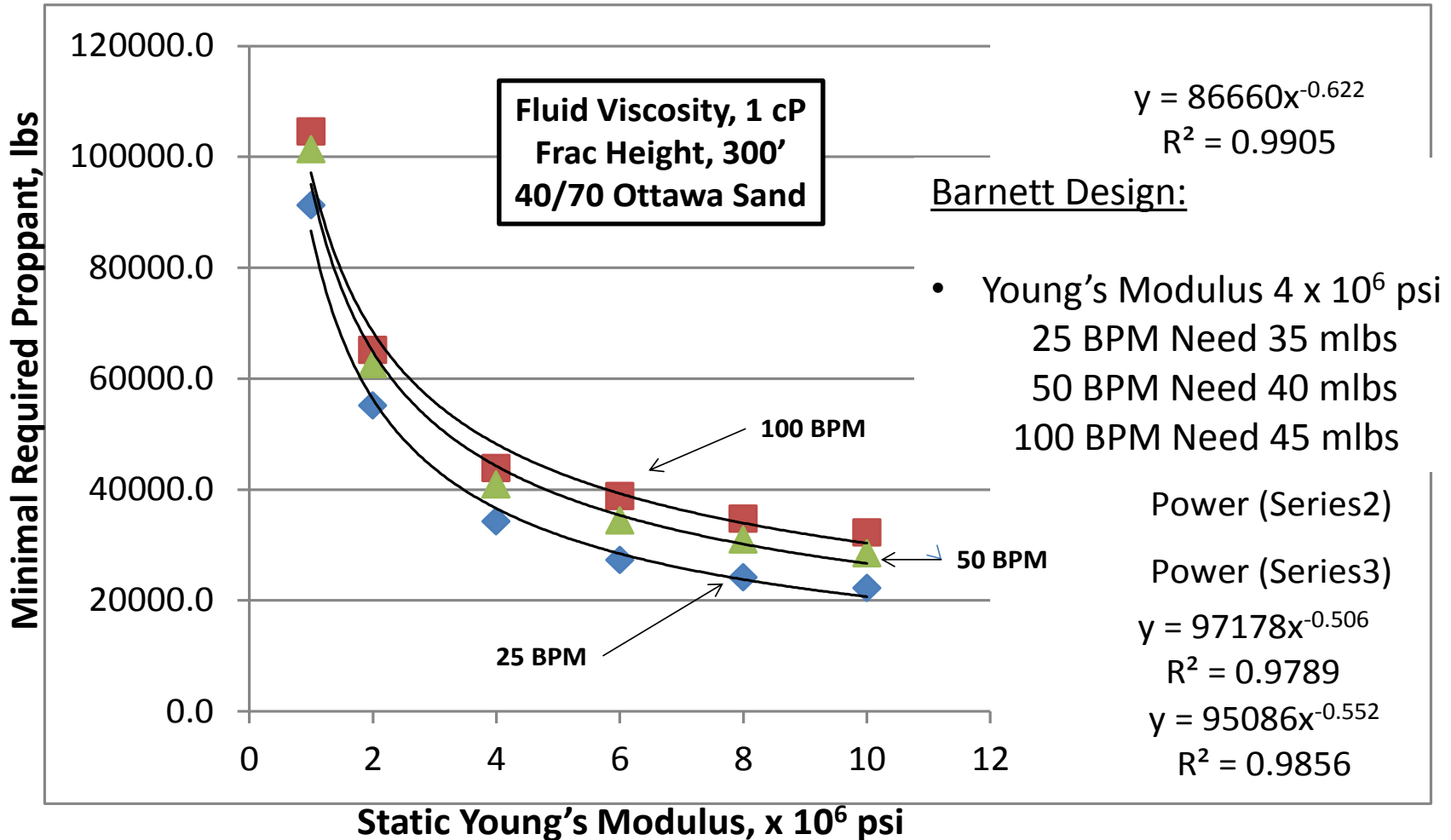
### Un-Propped Crack Conductivity



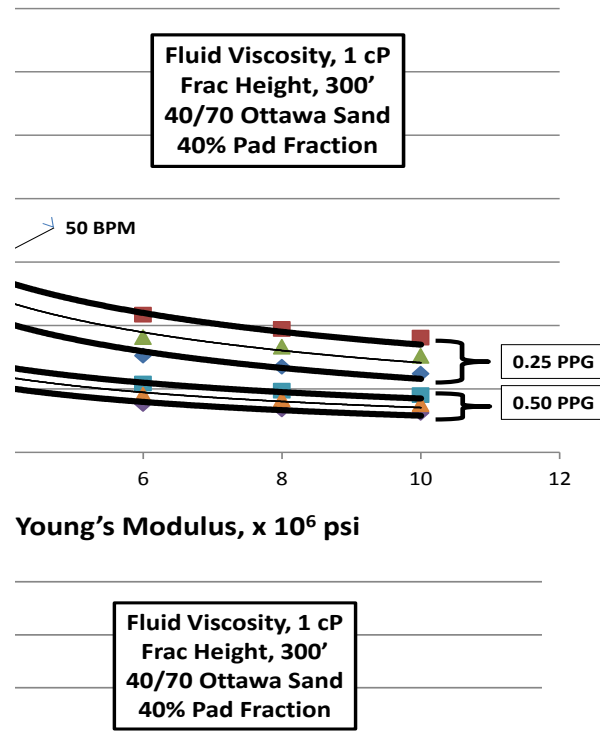
# Basis of Fracture Design



# Water Frac Design Example



# Water Frac Design Example



## Barnett Design:

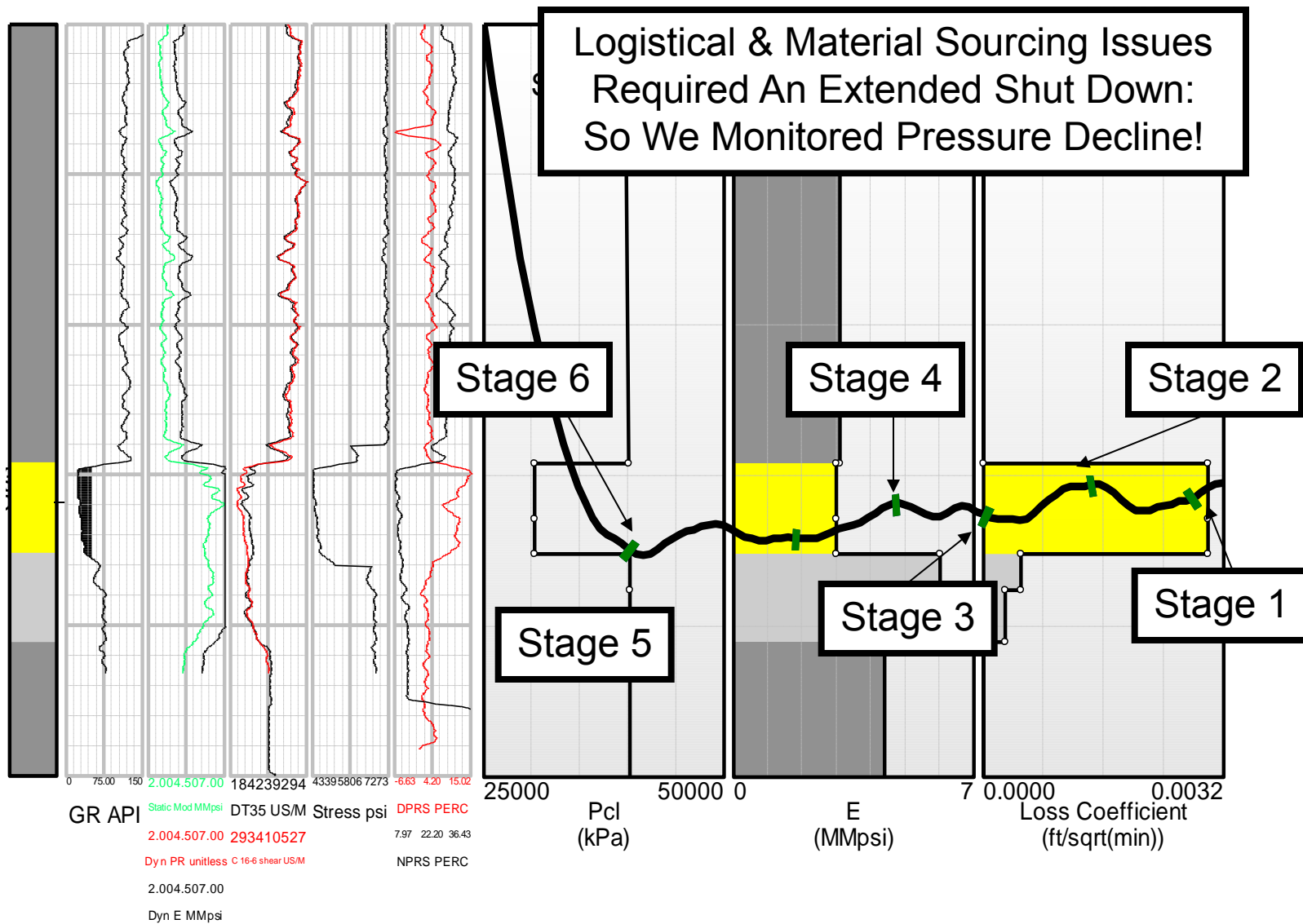
- Young's Modulus  $4 \times 10^6$  psi  
0.25 PPG Need 250 mgals  
0.50 PPG Need 110 mgals  
1.00 PPG Need 60 mgals

Minimum Fluid Requirement  
Does Not Consider Dilation!

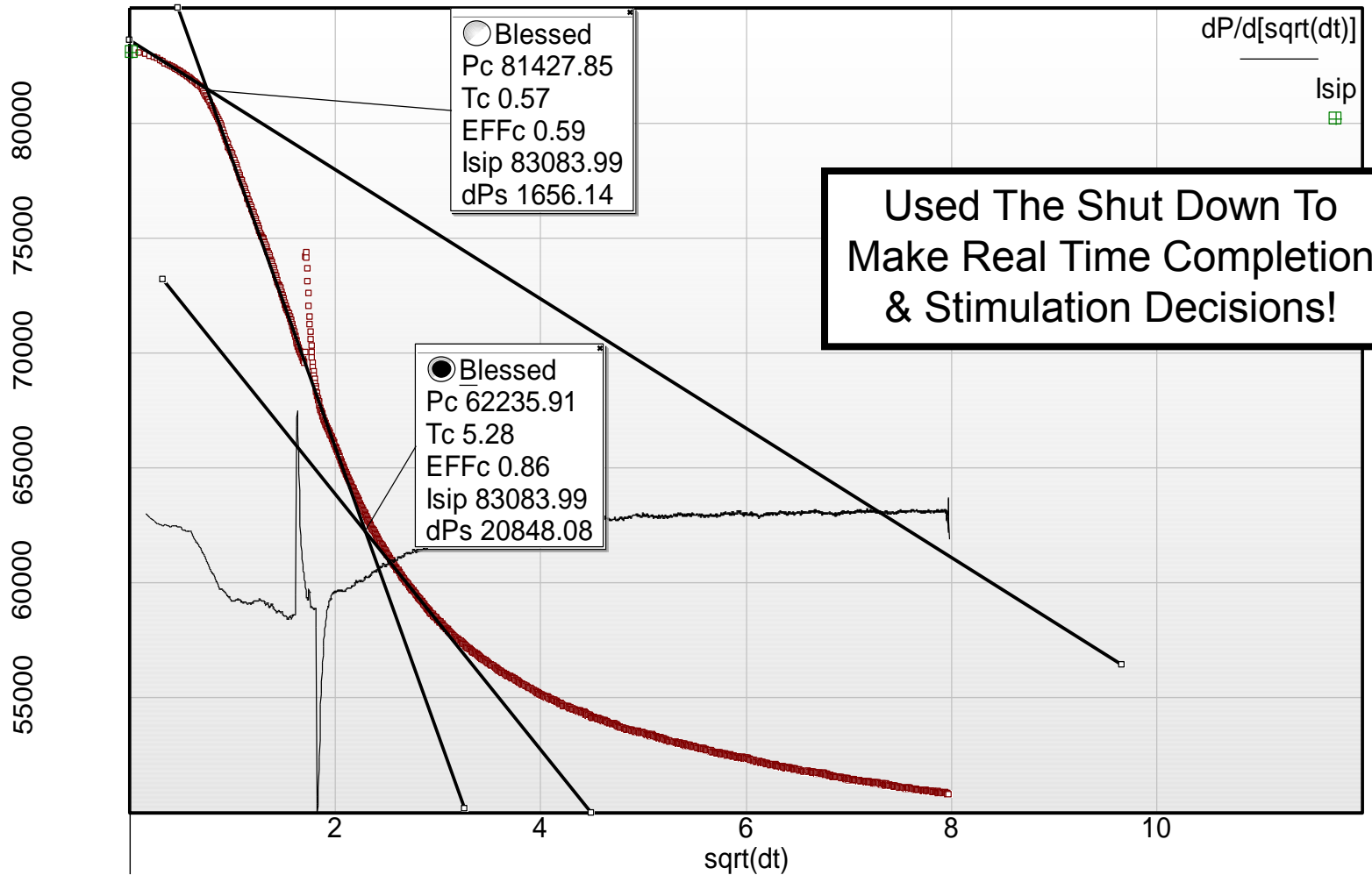
# Presentation Outline

- Why It Matters? The Keys To Success!
- Historical Perspective: Horizontal Wells
- Horizontal Well Characterization & Objectives
  - What We Want To Do?
- The Geomechanics Of Horizontal Wells
  - What We Can Do?
  - Complexity?
- Basis of Water Frac Designs – Ductility
- **Permeability**
- Summary

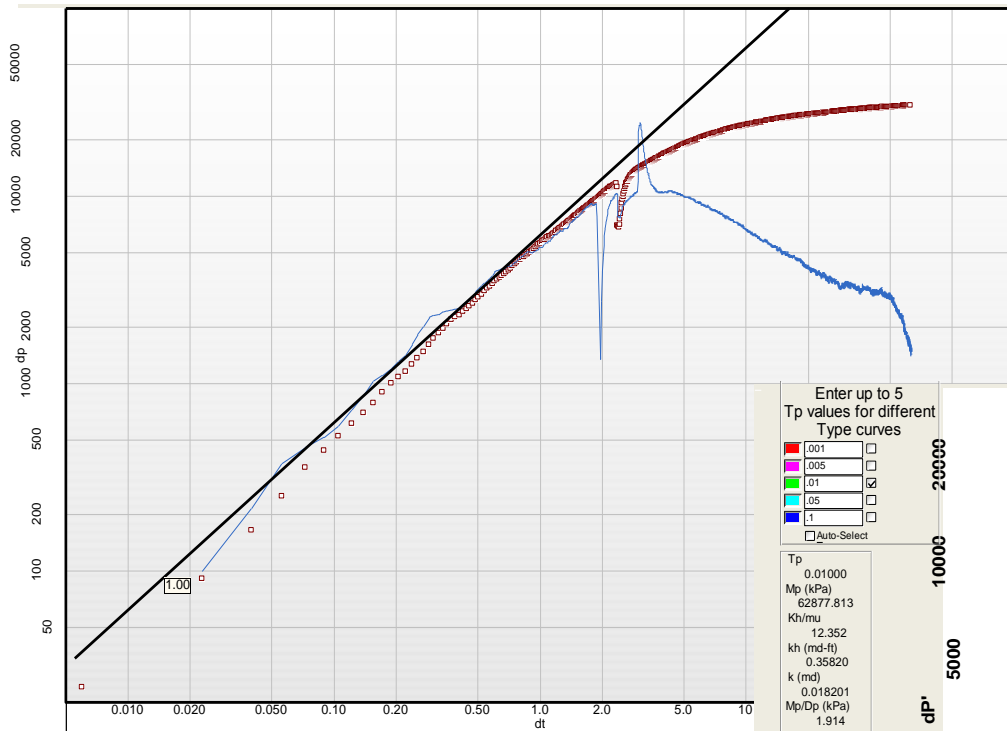
# Post Fracture Decline Analysis Example



# Post Fracture Decline Analysis Example



# Post Fracture Decline Analysis Example

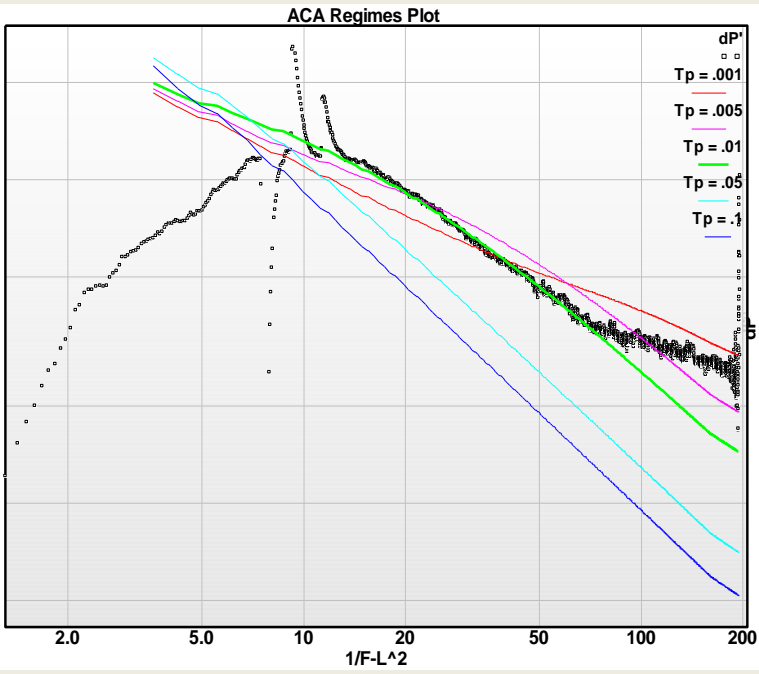


Type Curve Analysis Of Post Fracture Pressure Decline!

Enter up to 5  
Tp values for different  
Type curves

- .001
- .005
- .01
- .05
- .1
- Auto-Select

Tp 0.01000  
Mp (kPa) 62877.813  
Kh/mu 12.352  
kh (md-ft) 0.35820  
k (md) 0.018201  
MpDp (kPa) 1.914  
Fissure Enhanced Loss



Type Curve Analysis Indicates A Permeability Of 0.018 md!

# Keys to Horizontal Success

- Understand The Keys For Success
  - Ductility (Mineralogy, Rock & Geomechanics)
  - Permeability
- Completion(s) & Stimulation(s)
  - Fracture Length & Lateral Length
- Execute, Execute, Execute