

# Shale Gas – A Challenge for Georgia

Murman Margvelashvili *GIOGIE* 2011





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#### Potential for Shale Gas in Georgia:

Preliminary Study for Feasibility Analysis of Shale Gas Exploration in Georgia



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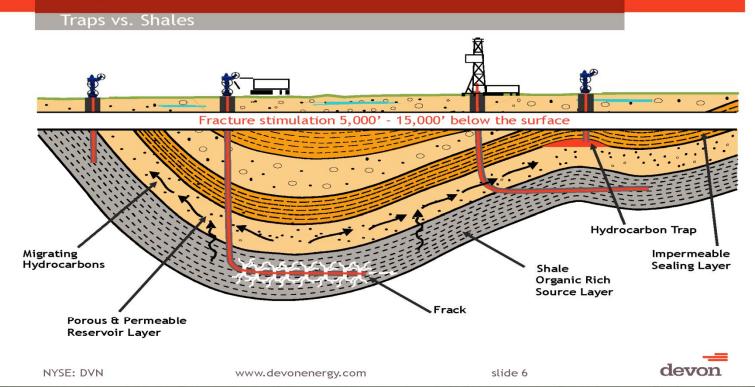
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## Technology's Role:



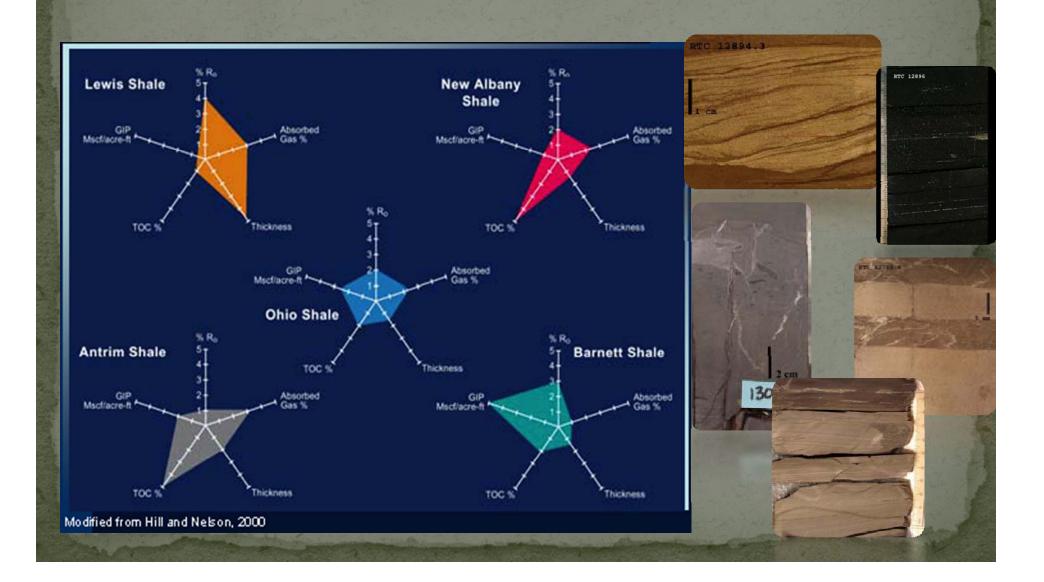


- Shale gas production -USA, Canada leaders
- Shale gas exploration is occurring in China, India, Poland, Germany, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Australia, Austria, Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Romania, Ukraine, and Argentina.
- Fukushima Increases the importance of fossil resources



# "Every Shale is Different"

Halliburton White Paper



## Oil/gas bearing formations in Georgia -



**East Georgia** 

#	Complex	Composition	Thickness (m)	Lithology	Area of distribution	Shale			
Eas	tern Georgia	437	1		The state of the s	7			
1	Lower Pliocene (Shiraki suite)	Terrigenous	up to 2500	Clays, sandstones, conglomerates	Zonal in South Kakhetian and local in Alazani-Agrichai OGZs				
2	Upper Miocene	Terrigenous	1450-2250	Sandy-clay sediments with interlayers of conglomerates and oolithic limestones	Zonal in Kartli and South Kakhetian and local in Near-Tbilisi OGZs				
3	Middle Miocene	Terrigenous	40-600	Clays (shales) with interlayers of sandstones	Zonal in Kartli and South Kakhetian OGZ; local in Near-Tbilisi OGZ	+			
4	Oligocene- Lower Miocene	Terrigenous	500-1500 and more	Clays (shales) and sandy-clays sediments	Regional (except Achara-Trialeti zone)	+			
5	Upper Eocene	Terrigenous	100-3000	Clays(?) and shales with interlayers of sandstones	Regional (except Achara-Trialeti zone)	+			
6	Middle Eocene	Volcanogenic	200-600	Volcanogenic-sedimentary rocks (tuffs, lavas etc.)	Zonal in Near-Tbilisi, Kartli and South Kakhetian OGZs;				
7	Paleocene- Lower Eocene	Terrigenous	up to 3500- 4000	Sandy-clay sediments with interlayers of limestones and marls	Regional	5-33			
8	Turonian- Danian	Carboniferous	200-1200	Limestones and marls; lower occur volcanogenic rocks	Regional				
9	Neokom- Aptian	Carboniferous	up to 1000- 1500	Limestones, marls; locally interlayers of sandstones and volcanogenic rocks	Regional	1			
10	Upper Jurassic	Terrigenous	500-1500 and more	Upper: speckled clays, sandstones; lower: sandy- clays with interlayers of coal-bearing rocks; lowest: volcanogenic rocks	Regional	+			
11	Upper Bajocian- Batonian	Terrigenous	up to 1000	Alternation of shales and sandstones	Regional (?)	+			
12	Liassic	Terrigenous	200-1200 maybe more	Shales with interlayers of sandstones and rear interlayers of limestones	Regional	+			

(Mgeladze et.al. 1989)

#### Oil/gas bearing formations in Georgia -



#### West Georgia

		7- 10-3	Thickness		The State of the S					
#	Complex	Composition	(m)	Lithology	Area of distribution	Shale				
Wes	Vestern Georgia									
1	Meothian	Terrigenous	up to 1000	Conglomerates, clay with interlayers of sandstones	Zonal in Guria OGZ; local in Abkhazeti- Samegrelo and Rioni OGZ					
2	Upper Miocene	Terrigenous	up to 2000- 2500	Sandy-clay sediments	Zonal in Guria and Abkhazeti-Samegrelo OGZ; local in Rioni OGZ	+				
-3	Oligocene- Lower Miocene	Terrigenous	200-1900	Clays (shales) and sandy-clay sediments	Regional	+				
4	Middle Eocene	Volcanogenic	1300-4000	Volcanogenic-sedimentary rocks (tuffs, tuffaleurolites, andesites, basalts, marls etc.)	Zonal in Guria OGZ; and Achara-Imereti OGZ					
5	Turonian- Danian	Carboniferous	200-1000	Fractured limestones and marls	Regional					
6	Neokom- Aptian	Carboniferous	up to 1000- 1200	Limestones, dolomitized limestones and dolomites	Regional	1				
7	Upper Jurassic	Volcanogenic- Terrigenous	up to 2500	In upper part salt-bearing section; lower: sandy- clay sediments; lowest: volcanogenic rocks (albite basalts and dolerites)						
8	Upper Bajocian- Batonian	Terrigenous	up to 1000	Alternation of shales and sandstones	Regional	+				
9	Liassic	Terrigenous	up to 1000	shales with interlayers of sandstones and rear interlayers of limestones Regional		+				

(მგელაძე და სხვ., 1989) მონაცემების გამოყენებით

## Criteria for Selection

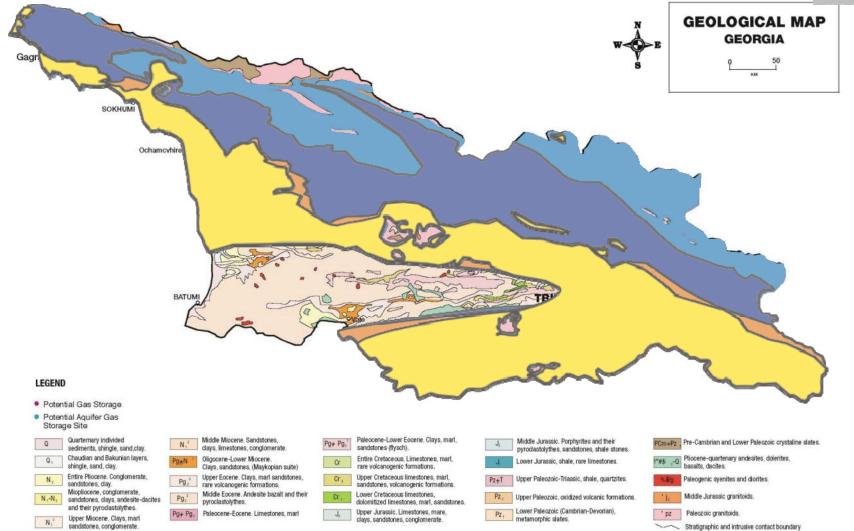
- Oil and gas source beds with known
  - Shale lithology
  - Low permeability
  - Evidence of gas
  - Geographic spread,
  - Thickness
  - Relative homogeneity
  - TOC, GIP, Thermal Maturity, etc. not used for evaluation

# Prospective Shale Gas Formations in Georgia



Shale Formation	Depth min/max	Thickness min/max	Maturity	Distribution	Tectonics	Lithology	Gas & Oil Shows	Level of knowledge
Upper Miocene (Sarmatian)	0/3,000	300/3,000	matured	Zonal in: Kartli and South Kakheti, Guria and Abkhazeti- Samegrelo, OGZs; local in Rioni and Near-Tbilisi OGZs	Low	sandy-clay sediments with interlayers of conglomerates and oolithic limestones	Oil shows	Intermediate
Oligocene- Lower Miocene (Maikopian)	0/>5,000	700/2,500	matured	Regional	Intermediate	clays (shales) and sandy-clays sediments	Oil & Gas shows	Good
Middle Jurassic Aalenian- Bathonian	0/>9,000	400/1,300	matured	Regional	Tectonized with vertical and overturned folding, overthrusts bedding and thrust faults	alternation of shales and sandstones	Oil	Poor- intermediate
Lower Jurassic (Liassic)	0/>10,00 0	200/1,500	matured- over- matured	Regional	Same as above but more tectonized	shales and slates with interlayers of sandstones and rear interlayers of limestones	Oil shows, bitum en	Poor-intermediate





## Scale of the Game

- Numerous gas shows
- Formations oil prone, type II kerogen, favorable for Shale Gas
- High thickness of formations
- Exercise

Lower Jurassic (Liassic) – South slope of Caucasus - Kazbegi Lagodekhi Assume for - 1000km²=30kmx33km

- 400m net thickness out of .3-1.5km (Cf. 20-60m in Barnett)
- Gas content 5cm/ton (9cm/ton in Barnett)
- 10% recovery rate (min-12% in New Albany) 500bcm potential recoverable reserve from one formation

THE STAKES ARE HIGH

# Challenges

- 1.Information availability and quality
- Geology Information in different institutions
- Well log data from different license block owners
- Measurement methodologies to be revisited
- Availability of information very low

Data consolidation, digitization and reconciliation and more surveys needed

- 2. Technology, know-how
  - No experience with shale gas among policymakers and operators
  - Some experience with directional drilling and hydro fracturing
  - No service companies, drilling industry
  - Technology transfer and technical assistance should be sought
- 3. The territory divided into many license blocks
  - Licensees may be unprepared or unwilling to take the risks of SG exploration and production development
- Information, financial and technological barriers. Need to encourage existing license block owners or bring in new investors. Highly experienced specialized international companies should be involved **-failure may have highly damaging results**



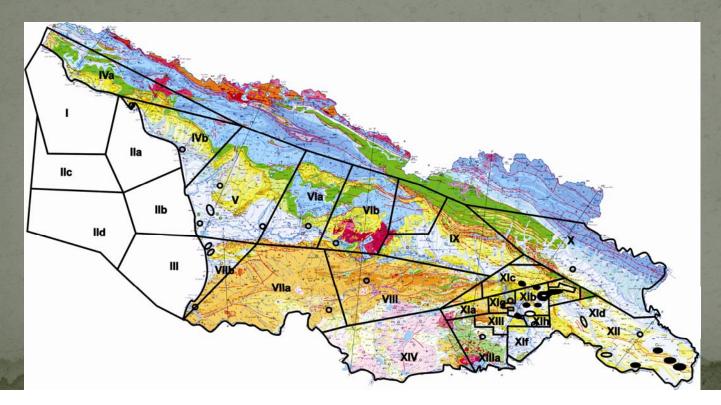




# Challenges

- Partly Mountainous Terrain,
  - Land and infrastructure availability
     Pipelines, roads
  - Water available, but environmental concerns risk water contamination







#### Potential Markets for Gas

Internal Market

- SSP strategic planning (WEG MoE- IRG) shows almost doubling of gas demand by 2030 in reference (BAU) scenario
- Rapid development of free industrial zones may result in more than doubling of gas consumption in next 5-7 years

#### Regional Market

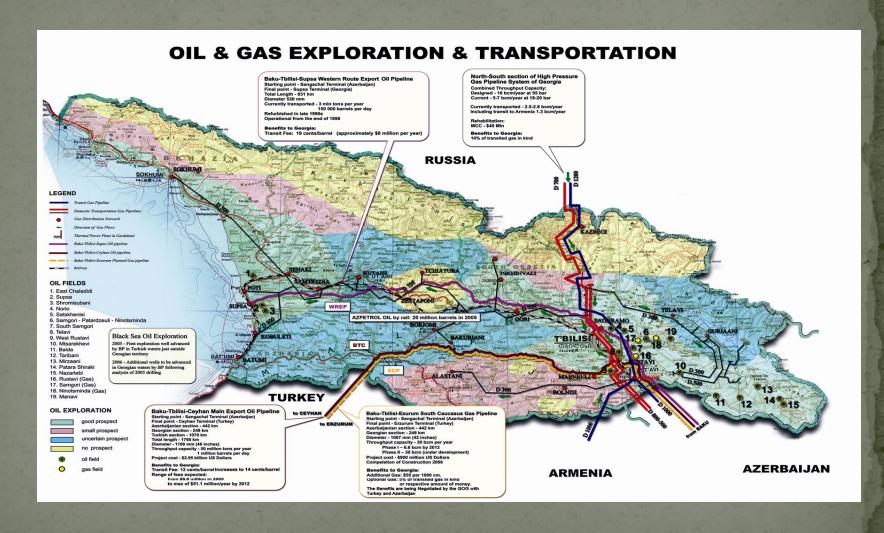
- Fukushima may result in increase for future gas demand in Armenia

#### **International Markets**

- Southern Corridor (Nabucco, White Stream, SCP II)
- LNG facility (AGR)



# Existing Oil and Gas Pipelines





# SG Challenges

- High Production costs & slow development curve
- Price competition with natural gas suppliers and subsidized gas prices on internal market
- Market/network access when network owners are also suppliers and distributors

Develop the Legal and Regulatory measures -

- Examine the possibility for favorable taxation, feed in tariffs, reserved market segment (e.g. CNG vehicles)
- Assure third party access to distribution networks
- Secure access and preserve control of the transmission pipelines



## Conclusions

- Shale Gas can be a high potential resource at least of national and regional importance
- Number of important internal and external factors are complicating the development of this resource *A* wise and diligent development strategy is needed
- Strong external financial, technical and policy support is needed in order to bridge the risks and gaps and develop the shale gas potential



## Recommendations

#### **Exploration activities**

- 1. Develop a Central & Unified Geological Data Base for Shale Gas Deposits.
- 2. Conduct Exploratory Geology Analysis with License Block Operators
- 3. Compile the Geological Framework Model of Shale Gas in Georgia
- 4.Shale Gas Resource Screening and Ranking Analysis, Geophysical Surveys of Candidate Shale Gas Play Areas
- 5. Exploratory Test Drilling and Geological Data Analysis
- 6. Gas Market, Regulatory and Infrastructure Review
- 8. Develop Shale Gas strategy and Action Plan

#### To accomplish the above

- 1. Negotiate and involve existing and potential new License Block owners,
- 2. Apply for international assistance and involve highly experienced and professional specialized companies,
- 3. Develop the local technical and policy capacity for shale gas development.



## THANK YOU

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