



Geoscience, Ideology, and the Politics of Energy

Mark Myers
State of Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Coordinator

*Note: AGS meetings will be at the BP Energy Center for 2009-2010.
Please check the website (www.alaskageology.org) and issues of the AGS newsletter for updates.
This newsletter promotes the February luncheon talk of the Alaska Geological Society,
to be held Thursday, February 18th, at the BP Energy Center.*

What is the role of geoscience in the development and implementation a rational and sustainable energy strategy?

As our nation and state move forward into this new decade there is heightened awareness of the crucial need for a long term, secure economically and environmentally sustainable supply of energy. There is growing recognition that energy policy is an important and maybe even the most critical consideration in maintaining and improving our society, preserving healthy ecosystems, maintaining and building our economy, and providing for national security. The interest in mitigating the amount of anthropogenic green house gases we introduce into our atmosphere has added another major driver for focusing attention on a comprehensive reevaluation of our energy policy.

While it is encouraging that energy policy has become a major issue in national and statewide discussion, it is discouraging that this has led to the polarization of views rather than a fact based consensus building exercise. Many groups have strongly held views of how to "solve" our energy supply issues. Very few of these groups are providing solutions that are scientifically valid, use proven technology, are scalable in reasonable timeframes, and are either economically, or environmentally responsible. These "solutions" are often grounded in a desire to focus on energy solutions that attempt to solve a particular problem or subset of problems while ignoring or discounting others. Many of these solutions appear to be promoted to advantage a particular commercial

AGS Luncheon

Date & Time: Thursday, Feb. 18th, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Program: Geoscience, Ideology, and the Politics of Energy

Speaker: Mark Myers, State of Alaska

Place: BP Energy Center

Reservations: Please make your reservation before noon Tuesday, Feb. 16th, 2010.

Cost: Seminar only, no meal: Free
Reserve a box lunch: \$13
Nonmember: \$15

Reserve a hot lunch: \$20
Nonmember: \$22

No reservation: add \$5 to the above
(on an "as-available" basis only)

E-mail reservations: vp@alaskageology.org
Or phone (907) 269-8673
(Ken Helmold, AGS VP)

For more information: visit the AGS website:

www.alaskageology.org

interest or ideological cause. Finally, many of these policy strategies appear to focus on short term political cycles rather than the long term timeframe necessary to effectively implement a viable strategy.

Realistic and holistic assessments of conventional and nonconventional resources should be the starting point of any policy. Full cycle costs and benefits of the various energy options should be baseline data. Finally, uncertainty and gaps in our data must be fully acknowledged and appropriately modeled.

Geoscientists can and should play a key role in helping to develop and implement a successful sustainable energy policy by bringing this objective scientific data and methodology into the discussion. As geoscientists we have been trained to be

interdisciplinary in our approach and routinely deal effectively with the inherent uncertainty of an incomplete geologic record. We are educated on the complexity of the interplay of natural and anthropogenic forces on our environment in the past, present and future. Finally, we are trained to separate out what the science objectively demonstrates from our personal beliefs or ideology.

Geosciences can provide a rational bridge to successful energy policy, provided we as scientists are willing to bring the needed objective data and analysis into the discussion.

About the Author:



Mark Myers serves as the State of Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Coordinator. This is a new position established under the Alaska Gasline Inducement Act in order to coordinate state agency resources associated with the development of a major natural gas pipeline from the North Slope to markets outside of Alaska.

Prior to serving in this capacity, Dr. Myers has held various senior executive, scientific research and petroleum industry positions including that of the 14th Director of the United States Geologic Survey where he managed the Nation's largest water, earth and biological science and civilian mapping agency. Prior to that position he was employed as the State Geologist and Director of the Division of Oil and Gas for the State of Alaska. He has also worked in various exploration and development positions with Chevron, ARCO, and Phillips Petroleum. In 2003 Dr. Myers retired as a Lt.Col. from the Air Force Reserve.

As a geologist he is a clastic sedimentologist and expert on North Slope petroleum geology. He holds BS and MS degrees in Geology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

The Alaska Geological Society

LUNCHEON SCHEDULE 2009 - 2010

Updates on the web at:
<http://www.alaskageology.org>

September 2009	Thurs., Sept. 17 th , Paul O'Sullivan, Apatite to Zircon, Inc., Timing of Brooks Range Uplift and Denudation: A Summary of Fission Track Results Over the Last 25 Years.
October 2009	Thursday, Oct. 15 th , Steve Wright, Chevron, Cook Inlet Gas Shortage: Fact of Fiction?
November 2009	Thursday, Nov. 19 th , Stephen Hubbard, University of Calgary, High Relief Clinoform Development
December 2009	Thursday, Dec. 10 th , John Howell, University of Bergen, Laser Scanning and Geological Modeling.
January 2010	Thursday, Jan. 21 st , William Morris / Mark Scheihing, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., Tanqua Karoo, South Africa
February 2010	Thursday, Feb. 18 th , Mark Myers, State of Alaska; Geoscience, Ideology, and the Politics of Energy
March 2010	Thursday, March 18 th , Pat Druckenmiller, UAF, Mesozoic Marine Reptiles
April 2010	Wednesday, April 15 TH , Don Gautier, USGS, Circum-Pacific Resource Assess.
May 2010	Thursday, May 20 th , Brigitte Martini, Ormat, Geothermal Prospects of Mt. Spurr

From the President's Desk

This month's AGS luncheon is likely to be a popular one, so please make your reservations early to hear Mark Myers speak about the role of geoscience in the politics of energy.

Ken Helmold is chairing the annual AGS Technical Conference. This year's conference will be held at the new ConocoPhillips Science Building at UAA on April 16th, 2010. Please send your abstracts to Ken (ken.helmold@alaska.gov) by Monday March 15th.

AGS would like to thank all those who have continued to contribute to the scholarship funds. We continue to see up-ticks in giving and we will likely increase our distributions soon. Thanks for doing your part! This year's candidates are currently being evaluated and results will be announced soon – keep your eye on the website.

See you at the Luncheon.

Tom

AGS SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alaska Geological Society is proud to offer several scholarships annually to undergraduate and graduate students conducting geoscience research projects in Alaska. These scholarships include AGS scholarships and the Don Richter Memorial Scholarship. The goal of the AGS scholarship program is to foster and support interest in Alaskan geology, and to increase geologic knowledge of our state. Detailed information about the scholarships, and applications for the scholarships, can be obtained from our website.

Please consider donating to these funds!

As of July 2009, the Alaska Geological Society has official 501c3 nonprofit status (accepts tax-deductible contributions) with the IRS.

AGS expresses thanks to:

**Shell Exploration and
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for supporting the AGS
Scholarship Program.



The Alaska Geological Society offers scholarship awards to graduate and undergraduate students who are conducting geoscience research projects in Alaska

including
Alaska Geological Society Scholarships
The Don Richter Memorial Scholarship



Scholarship information and applications are available online at

www.alaskageology.org

The Alaska Geological Society, Inc.
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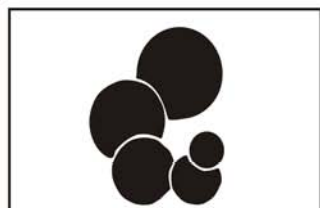
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Call For Abstracts

2010 Annual AGS Technical Conference

WHEN: Friday April 16, 2010
WHERE: UAA ConocoPhillips Science Building
University of Alaska Anchorage
DEADLINE: Monday March 15, 2010

Oral presentations in the morning
Posters presentations in the afternoon

Please send abstracts to Ken Helmold at:
ken.helmold@alaska.gov

Please limit abstracts to 250 words and indicate whether you'd prefer to give an Oral or Poster Presentation.

For more information call Ken at: 269-8673

Meeting Information

The **American Geological Institute** provides a comprehensive list of national and international geoscience meetings at: <http://calendar.agiweb.org>

Local Meetings:

American Water Resources Association—Alaska Section

<http://www.awra.org/state/alaska/index.html>

Alaska Geological Society

<http://www.alaskageology.org>

Lunch meetings are held monthly September through May in Anchorage. For more information, contact Jim Clough, 451-5030.

Alaska Miners Association

<http://www.alaskaminers.org/>

The Anchorage branch of the AMA holds weekly meetings at 7 AM every Friday at the Denny's on Northern Lights and Denali. They hold regular luncheon meetings in association with SME. For more information, contact the AMA office at 563-9229.

American Institute of Professional Geologists

<http://www.aipg.org>

AIPG holds regular quarterly evening Section meetings in Anchorage and Fairbanks. For more information contact Mark Lockwood, President, at Shannon & Wilson, Inc., in Fairbanks, 907-458-3142.

Chugach Gem & Mineral Society

<http://www.chugachgms.org>

CG&MS holds all meetings at the First United Methodist Church on 9th Avenue. Contact their hotline at 566-3403 for information on regular monthly business meetings, monthly potlucks, and guidebook sales, including the new Alaska Rockhound Guidebook.

Geophysical Society of Alaska

<http://gsa.seq.org/>

Luncheon meetings are held monthly September through May at the ConocoPhillips Tower. For more information, contact Phil Rorison, 265-6321

Society of Petroleum Engineers

<http://alaska.spe.org/>

For more information, contact Jack Hartz at 375-8239.

UAS Environmental Science Program

<http://www.uas.alaska.edu/envs>

National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT)

<http://www.nagt>

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The Alaska Geological Society, Inc.
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On the web at: <http://www.alaskageology.org>

The Alaska Geological Society is an organization which seeks to promote interest in and understanding of Geology and the related Earth Sciences, and to provide a common organization for those individuals interested in geology and the related Earth Sciences.

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

AGS annual memberships expire November 1. The annual membership fee is \$15/year. You may download a membership application from the AGS website and return it at a luncheon meeting, or mail it to the address above.

Contact membership coordinator Mark Olson with changes or updates (e-mail: gregory.c.wilson@conocophillips.com; phone: 907-263-4690)

All AGS publications are now available for on-line purchase on our website. Check to see the complete catalogue.

<http://www.alaskageology.org/publications>

ADVERTISING RATES

Advertisements may be purchased at the following rates:

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Contact Tim Ryherd (907) 269-8771 for advertising information.

Newsletter Delivery Options

Your newsletter should be arriving via both an emailed PDF and regular mail. If you have an email account but have not received the PDF, please let the editor know. Also contact the editor if you wish to opt out of the paper copy.

Annual membership expires on Nov. 1st. Please renew if you have not already done so, or risk an interruption in your AGS emails and Newsletters.



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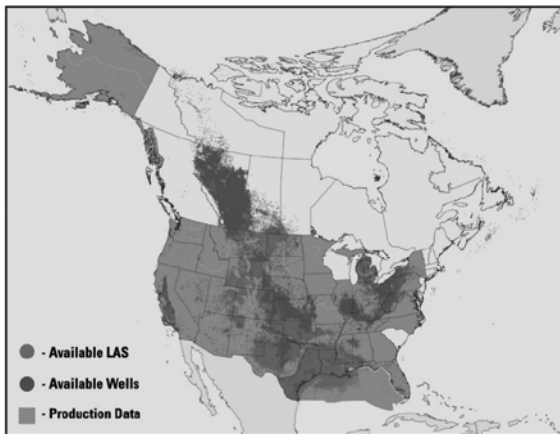
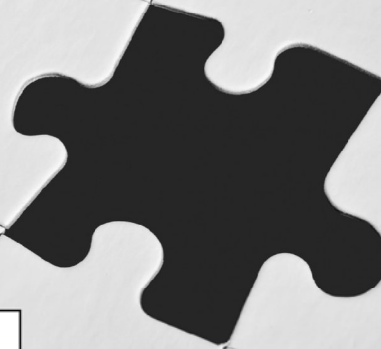
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