

## Weekly Update Edition

*Word of well's success spurs activity; West Bay downplays its significance*

### West Bay Exploration Marengo Twp., Calhoun Co. well tested at 192 bpd oil

*by Scott Bellinger  
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CALHOUN COUNTY, Mich. — Drilling and well completion records released from the Office of Geological Survey's confidential status late last week revealed that West Bay Exploration Co. had tested its Foote 1-12 (SL: NE SW NE, Sec 12-T2S-R5W, Marengo Twp., Calhoun Co.) well at initial daily rates of 192 barrels oil and 40 Mcf gas from the Ordovician Trenton Formation in mid-August 2006.

Due to its location in a previously non-productive area — with Albion-Scipio Trend wells in Calhoun County's Albion (T3S-R4W) and Sheridan (T2S-R4W) townships to the southeast and both Albion-Scipio and Niagaran reef wells in Lee Township (T1S-R5W) to the northwest — word of the Foote 1-12 well's success has reportedly prompted a flurry of speculative leasing and seismic exploration activity in the surrounding area.

The prospect of new life being breathed into a play that was kicked off more than 50 years ago and ultimately developed into

Michigan's only giant oil field has no doubt fueled the excitement surrounding West Bay's successful Marengo Township well.

West Bay chief geologist Murray Matson downplayed the significance of the well when contacted by telephone this week, saying the company feels it has found "just a little pocket" of production and that it is "not a multi-million barrel extension" of the prolific Albion-Pulaski-Scipio Trend of Ordovician Trenton and Black River oil and gas production. "It's not really as exciting as some people seem to think it is," Matson said.

The Foote 1-12 drilling prospect was developed using a combination of low-tech and high-tech exploration techniques, according to Matson. On the low-tech side, the company utilized well control, keying off of nearby wells where shows but no dolomite had been observed in the Trenton, and "trendology," looking at the orientation of successful wells in Sheridan Township, Matson said.

On the high-tech side, the company shot 3-D seismic data in the area, with Matson

unwilling to divulge how much new data was acquired or confirm if the company has continued to acquire more data.

A West Bay Exploration affiliate, West Bay Geophysical, was formed approximately seven years ago, Matson said, with the nine-person crew working mostly with "mini-vibe" technology and capable of small 3-D shoots of approximately three-quarters of a square mile at a time.

All of West Bay Exploration's prospects utilize seismic as they are developed, Matson said, with the West Bay Geophysical crew having worked in Michigan and in Texas, and even spending some time recently in the Central American country of Belize.

Processing of the seismic data acquired

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**THE PRODUCTION FACILITY** constructed for West Bay Exploration's Foote 1-12 well in Calhoun County's Marengo Township (T2S-R5W) is shown in the photo at left, taken in late September 2006. Reports from the field indicate that the well's success and its potential significance have spurred a flurry of leasing and exploration activity in the area.

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Jack R. Westbrock

by West Bay Geophysical is done by outside contractors, Matson noted.

West Bay Exploration geophysicist Matt Johnston had presented a paper at the March 23, 2006 Petroleum Technology Transfer Council (PTTC) / Northern Michigan Section, Society of Petroleum Engineers (No. Mich.-SPE) "Michigan Field Experiences — Carbonate Reservoirs" workshop on the effects of shallow seismic raypath anomalies and their effects on Niagaran and Trenton seismic reflection character.

Johnston concluded that variations in drift thickness may be more readily mapped using shorter source and receiver arrays in seismic data acquisition, and said that interbed multiple reflections in the salt portion of the Michigan Basin remain a significant problem that conventional seismic data processing schemes appear to be unable to eliminate.

When asked if the concepts presented by Johnston at that workshop had been applied in development of the Foote 1-12 prospect, Matson confirmed that they had.

The Foote 1-12 well was drilled from July 11 to July 26, 2006 by Bigard & Huggard Rig 2, reaching a total depth of 4,400 feet. The top of the Trenton was encountered at a subsurface depth of 4,122 feet (-3,190 feet subsea). A total loss of circulation occurred beginning at a depth of 4,330 feet, drilling continued with no returns all the way to total depth. Five and one-half inch production casing was set at a depth of 4,380 feet.

The well was perforated in the interval of 4,337 feet to 4,357 feet with a total of 80 shots and given a total of 500 gallons of 28 percent acid on Aug. 15.

Bottom hole pressure was recorded at 1,822 pounds per square inch. Gravity of the oil tested was measured at 41.6 degrees API.

The well is just completing a 30-day production test period, Matson said. The relatively small volumes of gas produced to date are high in nitrogen and much of the gas is being used for lease fuel at the location. Matson said West Bay plans to limit the well to no more than 150 barrels oil daily to try to prevent the onset of water production.

The well was drilled on a 40-acre unit

comprised of the SE¼ of the NE¼ of Section 12, with the unit requiring a Rule 303(2) exception.

Matson declined to comment on the extent of West Bay's current development work in the immediate area of the Foote 1-12 well.

He did characterize West Bay's recent work in the state as "looking at what's left in Michigan," saying the company recognizes that the big productive structures and trends have largely been discovered and exploited. "We're looking at smaller structures," Matson said.

He noted that exploration efforts in areas such as Monroe County — where two Trenton/Black River dry holes were recently drilled in London (T5S-R7E) and Raisinville (T7S-R8E) townships — and in Huron County — where production casing was recently set on a Dundee wildcat in Sebewaing Township (T15N-R9E) — are aimed at fractured Dundee and Trenton reservoirs.

The company also has permitted a Dundee test near the east edge of the Bentley Field in Gladwin County's Bentley Township (T17N-R2E).