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THE CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND TEXAS BRINE

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Abstract

Texas Brine found that they required a third party to help interpret geophysical data. The search for outside expertise led the company to question how they could develop the required fundamental knowledge base that would allow for the growth of internal expertise in the company. It was decided that one possible option would be to use the resources of the University of Houston Geophysics Department. Given that there was not a strong link between the university and Texas Brine, there were a number of issues to work through. These issues include data confidentiality, data sharing, and field data collection liabilities. Once the agreements were finalized, work on various projects began. The collaboration between the university and Texas Brine has led to well data being exchanged and field work that includes a 2-D seismic line and gravity data collection. This paper will present the process involved in developing a relationship between Texas Brine and the University of Houston, the work that has been completed so far, and the case for including academia in future work.

Key words: Geology, Geophysics, Salt Domes, Seismic, Texas

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