

Afternoon summary, CBM 93001

A slight drilling break was observed at 977m and bottoms up circulated. Coal was observed over the shakers and accompanied by a strong gas show - over 18,000 ppm methane was observed on the chromatograph display.

Coring commenced at 979m and continued to TD at 1007.57m for a total of 30.4m of continuous coal, plus 30cm of carbonaceous claystone at the base. The coal was predominantly dull but with considerable interbedding and interlaminating of brighter coal lithotypes. Woody vitrinite was occasionally observed, with well developed cleat at about 6-7mm spacing, and becoming more common towards the base. The coals fractured easily perpendicular to bedding, and parted readily along bedding planes. These are only cursory observations as the main focus of activities was obtaining desorption data from the coals.

While the results of Q1 lost gas desorption evaluations were considerably better than those of coals higher in the sequence (eg around 800 and 840m) they were still poor, with maximum gas production of 50ml over the 20 minute observation period. Quite long delays in extracting the core from the core barrel, when the cores became quite fragmented, would have contributed to the low amounts of desorbed gas, but these inertinite dominated coals are likely to be relatively gas poor to begin with.

Despite the poor desorption results, cuttings gas shows were very encouraging, and are clearly related to the coals - high gas peaks arrive instantaneously with the coals and disappear with them, as at Blamore 1. Also encouraging is the occurrence of Blamore like gas shows at a much shallower depth - at least 600-700m shallower. As at Blamore they are distinguished by high C2 percentages. It seems very possible that gas shows of this type are associated with the brighter coals encountered in the 30m seam, and are not strongly depth and temperature dependent.

The current operation is preparing for DST#2 over the 30m seam, the test being planned for first light Tuesday 16th September.