

I SUMMARY(a) Drilling

Esso Bass-2 was spudded on April 14, 1966 in Tasmanian waters of the offshore Bass Basin and, after drilling to a total depth of 5,910 feet, was plugged and abandoned on May 25, 1966.

(b) Geological

The well was drilled on the crest of a closed anticlinal feature as mapped by seismic. The structure is developed from basement through the overlying base of Tertiary strata to the top of the Oligocene.

Formation tops were essentially as predicted prior to drilling, apart from the Eocene top which was 182 feet higher than predicted.

A total of 5,244 feet of Tertiary strata were encountered in this well. Two hundred and fifty-six feet of volcanic rock of indeterminate age were encountered between the base of the Tertiary and the top of basement. Basement at Bass-2 was found to be low-grade metamorphic rock of which 143 feet was drilled.

Aside from normal background gas, no hydrocarbons were encountered in the well.

II INTRODUCTION

The Bass Basin, lying almost entirely offshore Victoria and Tasmania, covers an area of some 25,000 square miles. From magnetic data, it was inferred to contain a thick sedimentary section which, prior to the completion of Esso Bass-1 was almost entirely unknown geologically. From seismic data and extrapolated regional geology, the sedimentary section was thought to include Tertiary sediments favourable for petroleum generation and accumulation. The two offshore wells drilled in the basin, Esso Bass-1 and 2 have proven the prospective nature of the section in Bass even though the results have been somewhat discouraging.

Esso Bass-2 was the first well in the Bass Basin to be drilled on a closed structural feature, as determined by the seismograph. Closure was evident in all potential reservoir horizons.

III WELL HISTORY(1) General Data

- (a) Well name and number: Esso Bass-2
- (b) Name and Address of Operator: Esso Exploration Australia, Inc.
G.P.O. Box 4249,
Sydney, N.S.W.
- (c) Name and Address of Tenement Holder: Haematite Explorations Pty. Ltd.
440 Collins Street,
Melbourne, C.I. Vic.
- (d) Details of Petroleum Tenement: E.L. 1/60 issued by the State of Tasmania covering an area of 25,134 sq. miles. Farmed-in by Esso Exploration Australia, Inc. from Haematite Explorations.
- (e) District: Bass Strait
- (f) Location: Latitude: 39° 53' 09" S
Longitude: 146° 18' 15" E