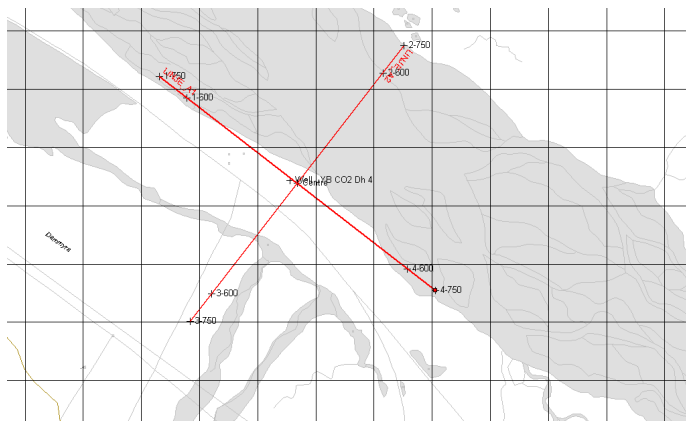




News Letter nr 11 - week 08 - 22.02.10



Seismic data acquisition

Longyearbyen CO2 lab picked up its activities in late January, concentrating on seismic data acquisition through an extensive geophone network. The tests were designed and performed by the University of Bergen, Institute of Geophysics, in cooperation with Bergen Oilfield Service (BOS) and Read Well Services. NORSAR also joined the team.

The recording layout at the surface consisted of 2 snowstreamers, each measuring 1200 meters, with geophone strings consisting of 8 gimbaled geophones taken out every 25 m. The snowstreamers were deployed making a cross: Line 1 in the East-West direction and Line 2 North-South. A geophone was deployed in Well 4 during the seismic shooting.

The purpose of the tests was to obtain information about the physical conditions close to the borehole, to tie in with the seismic lines shot in 2008. This will serve as a baseline for the quality of the reservoir before the injection of liquids.

The two lines were shot throughout the spread, starting with an offset of 300 m at the front end of each line and shot every 25 m until an offset of 300 m behind the end point. Each shot consisted of 25 m of detonating cord (1 kg explosives). A total 142 shots were completed.

For the second generation of tests, a zero offset VSP was acquired. The shot position was kept fixed at a 112.5 m offset from Well 4 along line NS. The geophone was deployed at the deepest possible point (600 m) and subsequently moved 5 m upwards for each shot till the geophone position was 100 m below the surface. Each shot consisted of 12.5 m detonating cord (0.5 kg explosives). In total 101 shots.

Another VSP was shot in a position kept fixed at a 612.5 m offset from Well 4 along line NS. The geophone was deployed at the deepest possible point (600 m) and subsequently moved 10 m upwards for each shot till the geophone position was 100 m below the surface. Each shot consisted of 25 m detonating cord (1.0 kg explosives). In total 101 shots.

The tests seem to be successful, though there is a challenge to filter out noise from the surroundings. Approaching snow scooters and coal trucks contributed in their own way.

During the tests, the instruments also picked up an earthquake in Storfjorden, east of the Polish research station in Hornsund. It was a minor earthquake that was not noticeable by the people of Longyearbyen.

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