

STATE OF ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BEKKI WHITE, STATE GEOLOGIST

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLICATION 23

**THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY, THERMAL GRADIENT, AND HEAT
FLOW ESTIMATIONS FOR THE SMACKOVER FORMATION,
SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS**

By

Lea Nondorf



Little Rock, Arkansas

2013

STATE OF ARKANSAS

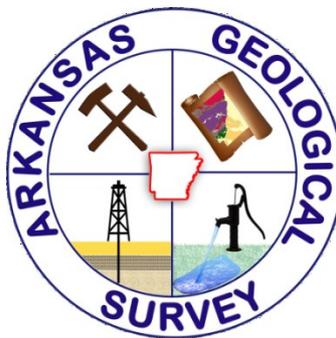
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Abbreviations

AGS-Arkansas Geological Survey
AOGC-Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission
AP&L-Arkansas Power and Light Company (now Entergy Operations, Inc.)
BHT-Borehole Temperature
DOE-Department of Energy
EGS-Enhanced Geothermal Systems
GEA-Geothermal Energy Association
NGDS-National Geothermal Data System
PEDBs-Portable Electronic Divided Bars
SMU-Southern Methodist University
UND-University of North Dakota

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THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY, THERMAL GRADIENT, AND HEAT FLOW ESTIMATIONS FOR THE SMACKOVER FORMATION, SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

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Lea Nondorf

Abstract

Subsurface thermal conductivity, thermal gradient, and heat flow are significant parameters when determining the feasibility of utilizing a geologic unit to generate industrial geothermal power. Core samples from 18 wells of the subsurface Jurassic Smackover Formation in southwest Arkansas were analyzed at the Arkansas Geological Survey where estimated thermal conductivity, thermal gradient, and heat flow values were determined. Thermal conductance of several samples was obtained using a KD2 Pro Thermal Analyzer at room temperature. Thermal gradients were estimated from Smackover borehole temperatures, and estimated heat flow was calculated from thermal conductance and thermal gradient values. Average estimated thermal conductance values for the Smackover Formation are greatest in northeastern Lafayette County at 2.57 Watts per meter Kelvin, or W/m·K, followed by southern Columbia and western Calhoun Counties at 2.47 W/m·K each. Northwestern Columbia and northeastern Lafayette Counties exhibit the highest estimated thermal gradient and heat flow with values averaging 3.51°C/100m and 72.3 milliWatts per meter per meter, or mW/m², respectively. Interpretation of these parameters suggests that this area exhibits the highest geothermal potential for the Smackover Formation in southwest Arkansas. Investigations further characterizing the Smackover Formation, including *in situ* thermal properties and borehole temperature measurements, are recommended for future geothermal feasibility studies.

Introduction

Worldwide interest in renewable energy resources has created a need for more data to help determine the feasibility of developing these energy alternatives. Geothermal energy is one potential resource which is currently being evaluated by each state in participation with the State Geothermal Data Project, a collaborative project organized by the Association of American State Geologists (AASG) and funded by the Department of Energy (DOE). The Arizona Geological Survey, under the direction of Lee Allison, was designated by the AASG to collect and contribute digitized legacy geothermal data from all 50 states to the National

Geothermal Data System (NGDS), a publicly available database network. The Arkansas Geological Survey (AGS) contributed geothermal data primarily from the Smackover Formation in southern Arkansas in the form of borehole temperatures (BHT's), drillers' logs, earthquake hypocenters, geothermal-relevant documents, and thermal conductance measurements (available at <http://services.usgin.org/track/report/AR>). Observed high temperature data of the Smackover Formation prompted further investigation into its potential as a geothermal reservoir for the state.

The purpose of this manuscript is to characterize the subsurface thermal

conductivity, thermal gradient, and heat flow of the Smackover Formation as a potential geothermal energy resource in southwest Arkansas. The data was collected over a two-year period starting in 2010.

Smackover Formation Description

In southern Arkansas, the Late Jurassic (Oxfordian, 161-156 Ma) Smackover Formation, named after the Smackover Field, Union County, Arkansas (Figure 1), was one of the first major oil producing units in the state. The Smackover contributed hundreds of millions of barrels of oil and condensate during early stages of production in the late 1930's to late 1940's (Vestal, 1950). The Smackover Formation is informally

divided into the upper and lower Smackover.

The upper Smackover Formation was the major hydrocarbon producer in southern Arkansas, primarily from the Reynolds oolite (where present). The upper section consists mostly of a white to brown, porous oolitic to pisolitic grainstone with local inclusions of calcite, pyrite, anhydrite, gypsum, and lignite (Vestal, 1950). Sucrosic texture is also common as a secondary feature generated from the weathering of oolites and/or pisolites (Vestal, 1950). Bromine brines are associated with the upper Smackover in south Arkansas. A *Mining Engineering* journal (Ober, 2012) reports all U.S. bromine was recovered from the bromine-rich brines of the Smackover Formation in Arkansas and is the state's leading mineral commodity.

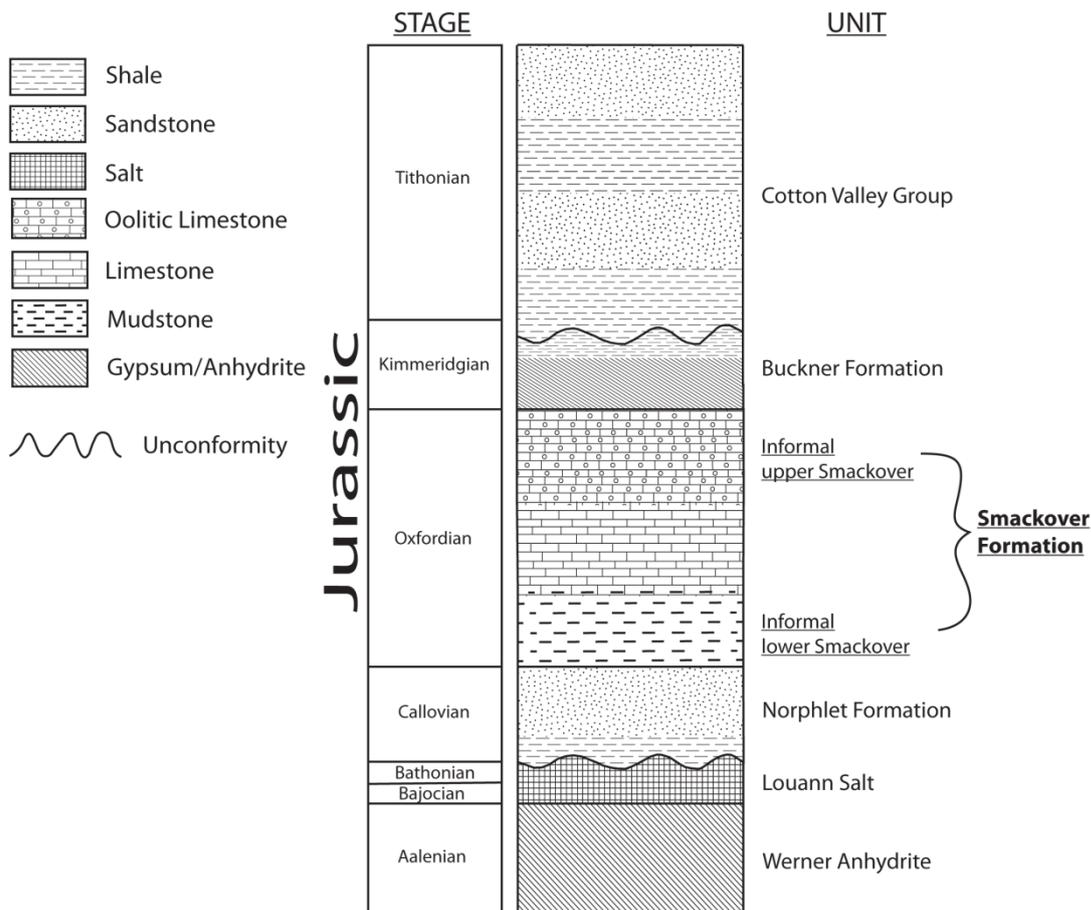


Figure 1. General stratigraphic chart of the subsurface Jurassic section indicating relative stratigraphic position of the Smackover Formation, south Arkansas.

The informal lower Smackover is the source rock for petroleum present in the informal upper Smackover as well as some Cretaceous reservoirs. Because of the development of new drilling technologies, several oil and gas companies are currently exploring the economic potential of the lower Smackover, or Brown dense, as a commercial and unconventional reservoir. The lower section is described as an organic-rich, very dense, dark-brown, very fine-grained, calcareous mudstone (Weeks, 1938).

The Smackover thins and eventually disappears near its northernmost edge (Figure 2). Structural contours on the top of the Smackover Formation show the unit ranges from a depth of 1,000 ft (305 m) near its northernmost boundary to approximately 11,000 ft (3,353 m) in extreme southwestern Arkansas (Figure 3).

Geothermal Energy

Geothermal energy is thermal energy stored within Earth's crust and is considered a clean, renewable energy source. Thermal energy differs from heat energy in that energy is continuously exchanged between systems in contact even at thermal equilibrium. Within the crust, thermal energy is continuously transferred between the host rock and its formation fluids. According to the MIT panel (Tester et al., 2006), geothermal energy is generated either by (1) upward convection and conduction of heat from Earth's mantle and core, or (2) radioactive decay from elements in the crust, primarily from uranium, thorium, and potassium isotopes.

Specific subsurface conditions must exist within a geothermal reservoir before it is considered a feasible geothermal resource. First, the reservoir must exhibit relatively high heat flow and thermal gradient levels. Second, the particular depth of interest must be easily accessible and economically viable. Finally, the reservoir must have sufficient porosity and permeability to allow for circulation to effectively reheat the

formation fluids via the high temperature host rock. It is also recommended that the reservoir exhibit a relatively high recharge rate to ensure continuous production of the well. Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) were created to extract economical amounts of heat from reservoirs that lack proper porosity and permeability by generating or enhancing interconnected fractures within the high temperature host rock. As reported by Tester et al. (2006), studies indicate that the most influential parameter affecting the amount of recoverable thermal energy is the fracture volume of the host rock. A large system of fractures allow for very slow moving fluids to achieve thermal equilibrium with the high temperature host rock.

Geothermal Power Plants. According to the Geothermal Energy Association (GEA) (2011), there are four types of geothermal power plants used to generate electricity: flash power, dry steam, binary, and flash/binary.

A flash power plant uses pressurized hot fluids at temperatures above 182°C (360°F). The fluids are separated by a steam separator (held at a lower pressure than the liquid) into steam and hot liquid. The steam is transported to a turbine to power a generator and the liquid is reinjected into the subsurface to be reused.

The most economically and environmentally favorable system is the dry steam power plant, where only available steam from the reservoir is used to power turbines and no separation of steam and liquid is necessary.

A binary power plant is useful for reservoirs with fluids at temperatures below approximately 150°C (300°F). The geothermal fluid that is extracted is used to heat a secondary fluid, with a boiling point below that of water. These liquids are kept separate using a heat exchanger that transfers heat from the geothermal fluid to the working fluid which expands into a

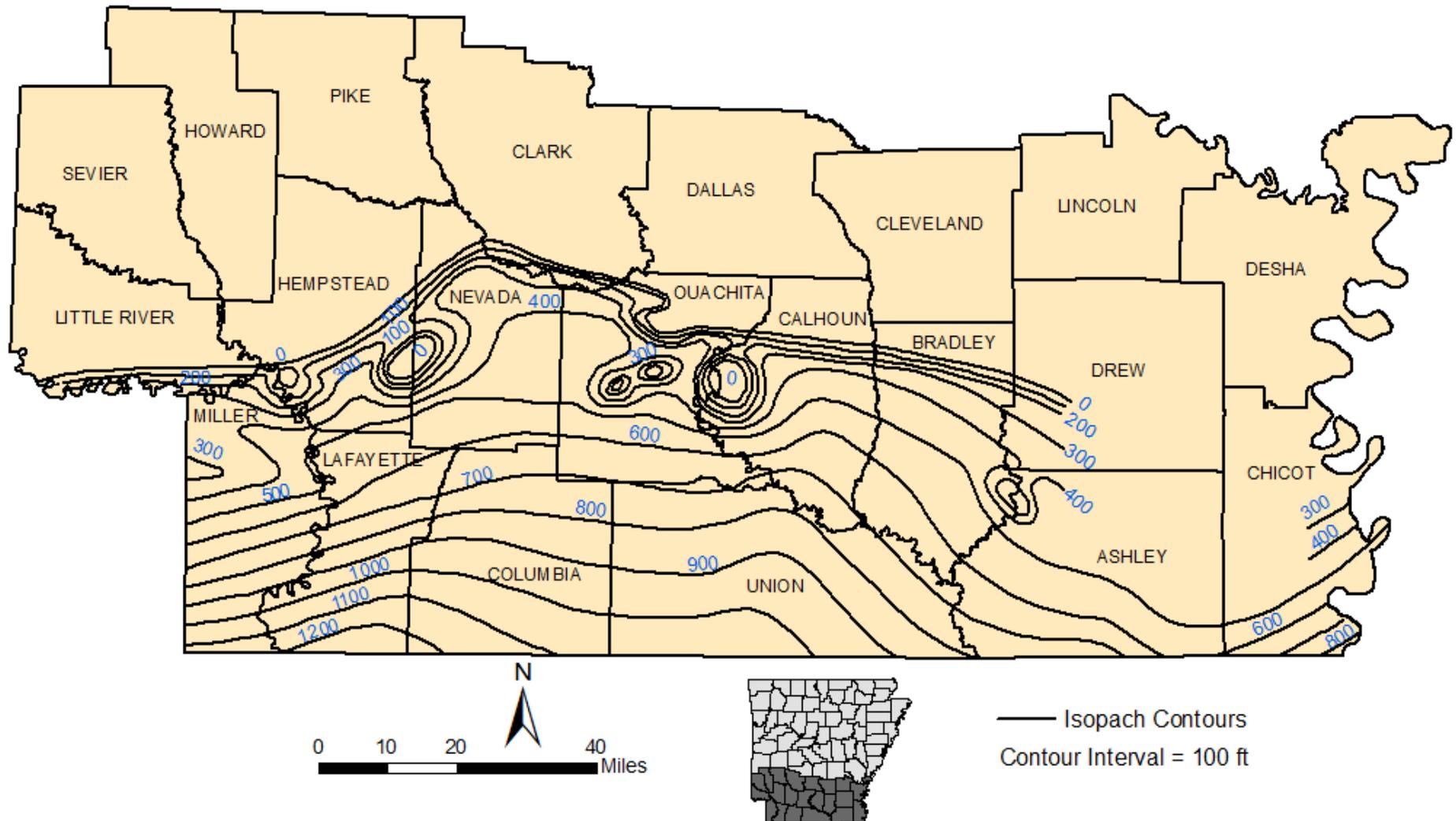


Figure 2. Isopach contours of top of Smackover Formation (modified from Vestal, 1950). Contour digitization by Jason Tipton, AGS.

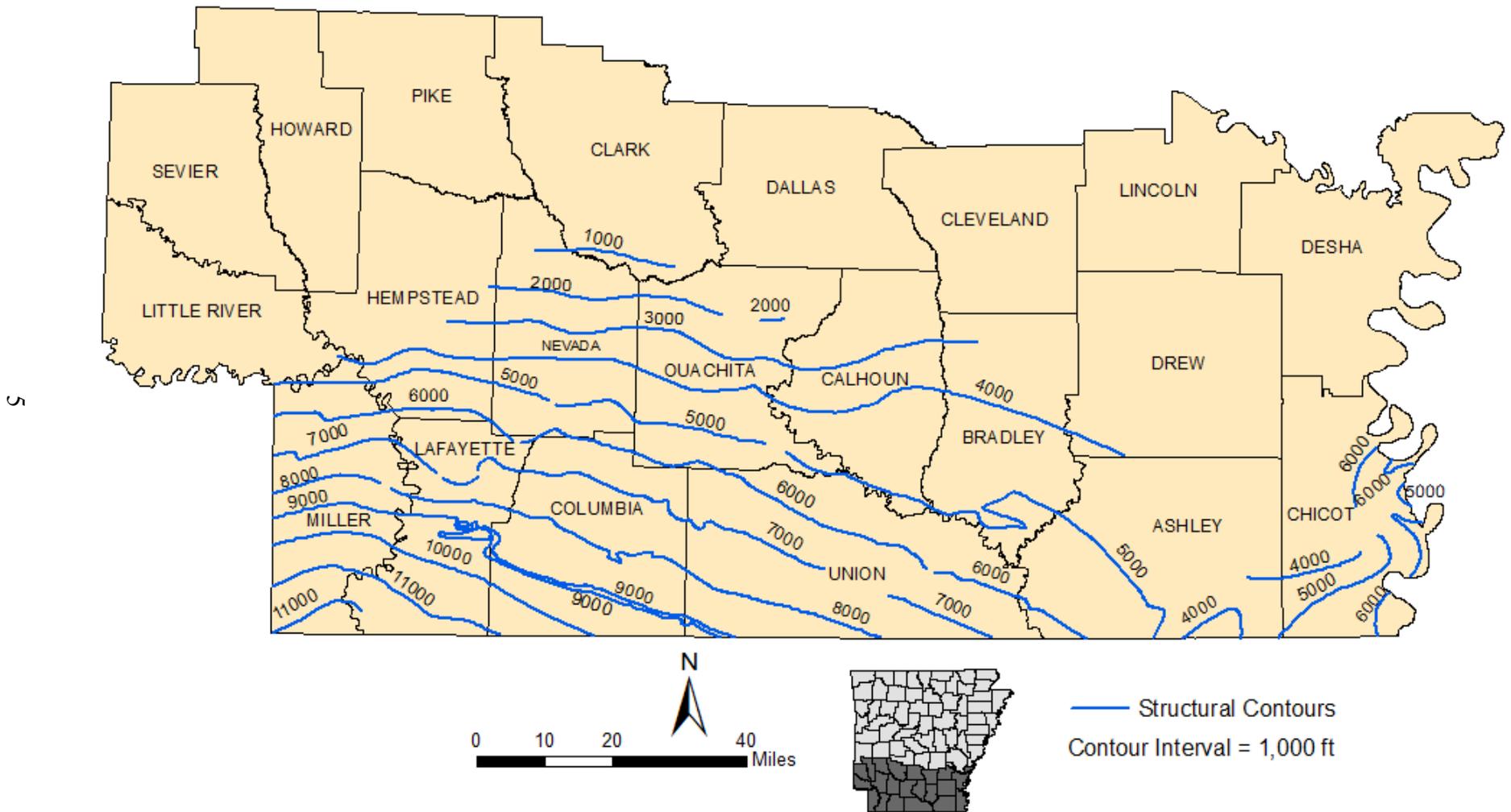


Figure 3. Structural contours of top of Smackover Formation (modified from Vestal, 1950). Contour digitization by Jason Tipton, AGS.

gaseous vapor that drives the turbines. All extracted geothermal water is reinjected back into the reservoir through a closed-loop system. Since brines within the Smackover Formation in south Arkansas are at or near boiling, the binary system is the best choice for future Arkansas geothermal power plants.

Finally, the flash/binary combined cycle power plant uses both technologies. Like a flash system, the geothermal fluid that vaporizes into steam is under reduced pressure and directly turns the turbine while the steam exiting the turbine is condensed and used in a binary system.

Previous Smackover Geothermal Studies.

Numerous Smackover Formation electrical logs (circa 1930's to present) show recorded BHT's at or near boiling temperatures of water. A 1980 report on *Heat Flow Measurements in the State of Arkansas* (Roy et al.) states that associated bromine-rich brines of the Smackover, extracted from depths of over 2,000 m (6,500 ft), are at temperatures near 100°C (212°F) upon reaching the surface. Recognizing the geothermal potential of these formation fluids, the Arkansas Power and Light, Co. (AP&L) (now part of Entergy Operations, Inc), in collaboration with the DOE, initiated a geothermal feasibility study near El Dorado, Arkansas in 1979. AP&L tested a 100kW direct contact boiling/condensing binary system using extracted brines from the Smackover to vaporize isopentane (C₅H₁₂), or the working fluid for this particular binary system, having a boiling point near 28°C (82°F) (Ellis, 1980). According to AP&L's plant manager, as reported by Ellis (1980), the plant operated intermittently from September through December 1979, during which several problems occurred as a result of control system issues, which allowed only short working intervals for the plant.

Possible Explanation of High Subsurface Temperatures in South Arkansas. Studies conducted by Southern Methodist University (SMU) Geothermal Laboratories indicate south Arkansas as having the warmest subsurface temperatures, with the warmest of these areas along the Arkansas-Louisiana border. Although the origin of the warm brines in south Arkansas is not clearly understood, Smith and Dees (1982) suggest that the high heat flux in northern Louisiana may be attributed to abnormal concentrations of radiogenic heat sources within Cenozoic alkali igneous rocks of the Monroe Uplift, which extends from northeastern Louisiana into southeastern Arkansas.

Thermal Conductivity

Thermal conductivity is a measure of the ability of heat to flow through a particular material, and is a function of temperature. Thus, higher thermal conductivity values for a particular lithology indicate a higher allowance for heat flow. Thermal conductivity units for this project are measured in Watts per meter·Kelvin, (W/m·K). According to Clauser and Huenges (1995), the mineral content of a rock as well as its physical or diagenetic components will cause its thermal conductivity to vary by several factors. Porosity also influences thermal conductivity. The void spaces in high porosity rocks (>80%) are filled with low conducting air (0.024 W/m·K at 25°C) or water (0.58 W/m·K at 0°C).

Smackover Thermal Conductivity Sampling Method. A total of 131 core samples from 28 wells from southern Arkansas were measured for thermal conductance at the AGS owned Norman F. Williams Core Sample Library in Little Rock, Arkansas, and include units stratigraphically above and below the Smackover (Figure 4). Each well is assigned

a permit number, a numeric identifier assigned to each drilled well in the state of Arkansas by the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission (AOGC). Of the 131 measurements, 83 are Smackover core samples from 18 wells in southwest Arkansas; some samples include portions of the overlying Buckner Formation, typically a red to gray shale. Thermal conductance results for the 10 non-Smackover wells are shown in Appendix 1.

Core samples selected for analyses were chosen based on (1) even distribution of well locations across southwest Arkansas, and (2) competency for drilling and thermal testing. However, thermal data were also collected on phonolite samples (permit number 21198) from the Monroe Uplift (potential origin of heat source) in Ashley County and are provided in Appendix 1.

Thermal measurements took place over a three month period beginning in mid-February 2012. All samples used in this project were from the AGS Norman F. Williams Core Sample Library. Thermal conductance was measured using a KD2 Pro Thermal Analyzer (version 1.08), purchased from Decagon Devices, Inc in 2011 (Figure 5). A Hilti Rotary Hammer was used to drill holes in the core using a 0.397 cm (5/32 in.) bit. Holes were drilled to the depth equal to the length of the thermal probe (Figure 6). After drilling was complete, compressed air removed debris from within the hole. The core was then set aside to cool to an average room temperature of 21°C (70°F) for at least ten minutes. After cooling, Arctic Alumina thermal grease (approximately 0.2 to 0.4 mL) was applied to the drilled hole. Thermal grease improves thermal contact between the thermal probe and the core; contact resistance will occur if no thermal grease is applied and will cause a decrease in normal thermal conductivity values registered by the probe. For better accuracy, measurements were set to run for ten

minutes on High Power Mode (HPM). During the measuring process, the thermal probe increased in temperature for a length of time followed by a decrease, allowing the sensor in the probe to measure thermal properties of the sample.

A TR-1 thermal needle probe, with dimensions of approximately 9.9 cm (3.9 in.) in length by 0.20 cm (0.10 in.) in diameter was originally provided with the analyzer specifically for core analysis. Several issues were noted when using the TR-1 probe on the core samples. First, drill bits equaling the dimensions of the probe were not readily available. Actual bits used for drilling were much wider than the diameter of the TR-1 probe, creating a significant gap between the core and probe. To account for this gap and allow for suitable thermal contact between the core and probe, a large amount of thermal grease (0.6 to 1 mL) was applied to the drilled hole. For some measurements, the amount of thermal grease added may have generated thermal results more reflective of the thermal grease (8 W/m·K, arcticsilver.com) and possibly contributed to higher error readings (≥ 0.02 or 2%). Also, the gap likely allowed more ambient air to come in contact with the probe, potentially lowering overall thermal conductance and increasing error values of the sample. Second, the probe requires 1 cm (0.40 in.) of rock surround the probe to allow the induced heat to be properly distributed throughout the sample. In most cases, samples of thermal interest did not meet this requirement and could not be measured. Finally, the diameters of most available core were approximately 8.9 cm (3.5 in.); therefore, no measurements parallel to bedding were recorded due to the probe length, thus eliminating the potential to determine lateral, or anisotropic, thermal characteristics, important in reservoir characterization for feasibility studies.

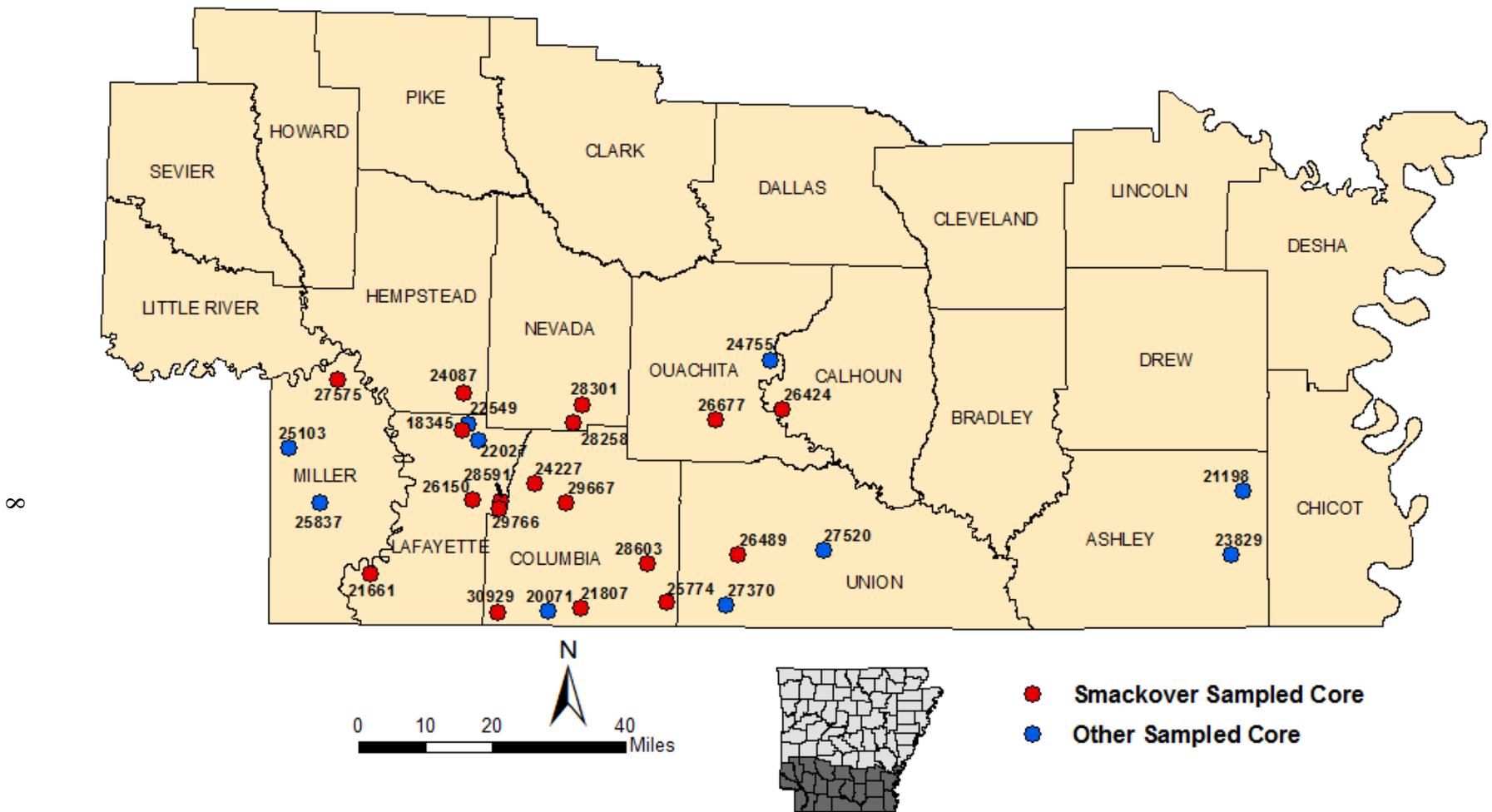


Figure 4. Locations of sampled core from wells in southern Arkansas, labeled according to permit number. Red dots represent core measurements from the Smackover Formation, blue dots represent measurements from all other formations.



Figure 5. KD2 Pro Thermal Analyzer device showing probe inserted into core of interbedded anhydrite in dolostone. Thermal compound shown in tube in lower right.

Figure 6. Hilti rotary hammer used for core sample drilling.



To counter issues experienced with the TR-1 probe in thermal sampling, Decagon provided the AGS with a beta probe with dimensions of 6.4 cm (2.5 in.) long by 0.40 cm (5/32 in.) wide in early 2012. Drilling the appropriate beta probe dimensions within the core was simpler, which greatly increased the thermal contact between the core and probe, providing more reliable thermal measurements. Also, its shorter length allowed for measurements both perpendicular (isotropic) and parallel (anisotropic) to bedding. Overall, the beta

probe provided more consistent results among lithologies and generated lower error values compared to the TR-1 probe. Therefore, only the beta probe was used for further thermal measurements.

It is important to note that all five TR-1 measurements for three wells (permit numbers 21661, 26150, and 25774) are included in thermal conductivity and heat flow calculations (Table 1). However, all five measurements are in doubt due to measurement issues, high error values, and/or abnormally high or low thermal

conductance values, but are still considered relevant by providing the only available data for a specific lithology at a specific depth.

Thermal conductivity (W/m·K), thermal resistivity (°C·cm/W), error, initial temperature of the core sample (°C), sample ID (arbitrary), and read time (ten minutes per sample) data for each sample were uploaded from the device into Microsoft Excel (2010)[®].

According to the KD2 Pro Operator's Manual (2008-2010), error is a measure of how well the model resembles the data set, which is derived from algorithms generated from analyses of Carslaw and Jaeger (1959) and Kluitenberg et al. (1993). An optimal data set will provide errors lower than 0.01 (or 1%). For this project, note that the highest recorded error value of 0.26, measured by the TR-1 probe, was considered legitimate because comparable thermal conductance values were provided by similar lithologies with lower error values.

For each well, thermal conductance (λ_0) was measured at depths of lithologic interest (e.g. limestones, shales, and some sandstones). Lithologic descriptions of the Smackover Formation core samples, consisting primarily of oolitic grainstone to crystalline limestone, dolostone, and shale were also recorded (Table 1). Carbonates were described using the Dunham Classification System. Core sample photos of characteristic Smackover Formation are provided in Figures 7-9, with additional photos in Appendix 2. Thermal conductance results are provided for each well in map view in Figure 10 and listed in Table 1. For each core sample, a measurement was conducted either parallel or perpendicular (listed as para and perp in Table 1) to bedding for the possibility of determining horizontal and vertical components of heat flow in the subsurface, respectively.

However, as shown later in the thermal conductivity and heat flow maps, measurement orientation is not differentiated because thermal conductance values were similar in both directions. It appears measurement orientation had little effect; however, the orientation information may be important for future subsurface related studies in this area.

Thermal Conductance Correction for In Situ Conditions. Beardsmore and Cull (2001) state that thermal conductivity measured in a laboratory should be corrected for *in situ* temperature conditions. Sekiguchi (1984) provided an empirical correction equation that applies to any rock with a temperature range between 0-300°C (273-573 Kelvin (K)) (Equation 1).

$$\lambda = \left(\frac{T_0 T_m}{T_m - T_0}\right)(\lambda_0 - \lambda_m) \left(\frac{1}{T} - \frac{1}{T_m}\right) + \lambda_m \quad (1)$$

where

λ = corrected thermal conductivity

λ_m = 1.05 W/m·K, calibration coefficient

λ_0 = thermal conductivity at laboratory temperature, T_0

T_0 = temperature (K) at which λ_0 was measured (equal to the initial temperature of core sample recorded by the analyzer)

T_m = 1473 K (calibration coefficient)

Equation 1 was used to correct all AGS measured thermal conductance values (λ_{corr}) for *in situ* conditions. For each measurement, the corrected values were then averaged using the harmonic mean method to determine the average corrected thermal conductance (λ_{avg}) per well for the Smackover Formation (Table 1). The average corrected thermal conductance per well was then used to calculate average heat flow per well, described in the Heat Flow section.

Table 1. Smackover thermal conductance results showing measurement ID number, permit number of core, depth measured, thermal conductance, λ , (uncorrected, corrected, and average per well), error, measurement direction with respect to bedding (perp = perpendicular, para = parallel), and lithologic description of each sample. In order of increasing depth per well. TR-1 probe results in bold.

ID #	Permit #	Depth (ft)	W/m·K			Err	Meas Dir	Lithologic Description
			λ_o	λ_{corr}	λ_{avg}			
5	21661	10810	4.04	2.97	1.79	0.02	para	Fine-grained grainstone
2	21661	10811	1.41	1.28		0.07	perp	Fine-grained grainstone
3	21661	10812	2.38	1.44		0.21	perp	Fine-grained grainstone
10	21661	10820	3.06	2.36		0.02	para	Anhydrite
12	21661	10835	3.06	2.38		0.01	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
11	21661	10836	3.68	2.77		0.01	para	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
13	26150	8545	3.76	3.01	2.47	0.01	para	Fine-grained, shaley dolopackstone
14	26150	8547	2.61	2.19		0.01	perp	Fine-grained, shaley dolopackstone
15	26150	8549	2.40	2.03		0.01	para	Crystalline limestone
16	26150	8551	3.85	3.10		0.02	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
17	26150	8551.5	2.55	2.15		0.01	para	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
18	26150	8559	2.59	2.18		0.03	para	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
19	26150	8566	3.94	3.18	0.05	para	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone	
24	25774	9400	2.33	1.93	2.31	0.01	perp	Red shale
23	25774	9402	3.42	2.69		0.01	para	Crystalline dolostone
25	25774	9403	5.48	4.05		0.26	perp	Fine-grained grainstone
26	25774	9406	3.60	2.78		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone
27	25774	9410	1.27	1.20		0.09	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
28	25774	9411	2.53	2.06		0.00	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
29	25774	9416	5.10	3.80		0.12	para	Oolitic, pisolitic grainstone
30	25774	9425	3.18	2.51		0.03	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic grainstone
31	25774	9430	2.91	2.33		0.01	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic grainstone
32	27575	5299	2.24	2.01	1.73	0.01	para	Oolitic, pisolitic grainstone
33	27575	5302	2.61	2.32		0.01	para	Fine-grained, grainstone
38	27575	5305	1.46	1.39		0.01	para	Fine-grained, grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
35	27575	5310	1.94	1.77		0.01	para	Fine-grained oolitic, grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
36	27575	5321	1.18	1.16		0.01	para	Fine-grained oolitic, grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
37	27575	5322	2.10	1.90		0.02	perp	Fine-grained, dolograinstone; oomoldic ϕ
39	27575	5339	2.54	2.26		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone
40	27575	5349	1.85	1.70		0.01	para	Crystalline limestone

Table 1 continued.

ID #	Permit #	Depth (ft)	W/m·K			Err	Meas Dir	Lithologic Description
			λ_o	λ_{corr}	λ_{avg}			
42	28603	9141	1.90	1.65	1.90	0.01	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
43	28603	9145	2.57	2.14		0.01	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
41	28603	9148	2.66	2.20		0.01	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
45	28603	9171	2.38	2.00		0.00	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
44	28603	9174	1.68	1.50		0.01	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
46	28603	9195	2.61	2.16		0.02	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
59	18345	6328	1.82	1.67	1.69	0.01	para	Possible lithic arenite
60	18345	6334	1.40	1.33		0.01	para	Oolitic dolostone
61	18345	6401	1.36	1.30		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone
62	18345	6423	2.25	2.00		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone with organics
63	18345	6425	2.22	1.98		0.01	para	Vugular crystalline limestone
64	18345	6489	2.73	2.40		0.01	para	Vugular crystalline limestone with bitumen
74	28258	6108	4.00	3.37	1.81	0.01	para	Crystalline dolostone
75	28258	6119	1.85	1.68		0.02	para	Oolitic grainstone
76	28258	6125	1.39	1.32		0.01	para	Oolitic grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
77	24087	5770	1.46	1.39	1.37	0.01	perp	Oolitic grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
78	24087	5782	1.43	1.37		0.00	perp	Oolitic grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
79	24087	5868	1.25	1.22		0.01	perp	Fine-grained grainstone
80	24087	5952	1.63	1.53		0.00	perp	Very fine-grained grainstone
81	24227	7933	2.58	2.30	2.17	0.02	perp	Oolitic, crystalline limestone
82	24227	7950	2.05	1.86		0.01	para	Oolitic, fine-grained grainstone
83	24227	7958	2.78	2.45		0.00	para	Fine-grained grainstone with organics
88	26424	4277	4.12	3.63	2.47	0.01	perp	Shaley dolowackestone to dolomudstone
89	26424	4279	3.16	2.84		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone
90	26424	4292	1.82	1.70		0.00	para	Oolitic, fine-grained grainstone
109	30929	11095	3.726	2.86	2.28	0.00	para	Fine-grained dolograinstone
110	30929	11119	2.407	1.97		0.01	para	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
111	30929	11130	2.708	2.18		0.01	para	Oolitic, dense, crystalline limestone
91	26489	7770	2.88	2.45	1.86	0.01	para	Oolitic grainstone
92	26489	7789	1.93	1.72		0.01	para	Oolitic, pisolitic grainstone
93	26489	7846	1.86	1.68		0.03	perp	Oolitic, pisolitic crystalline limestone
104	26677	5470	3.36	2.91	1.55	0.02	para	Fine-grained dolograinstone
105	26677	5472	1.06	1.05		0.01	perp	Fine-grained grainstone
106	28301	5763	5.07	4.23	2.18	0.01	perp	Red shale
107	28301	5794	3.37	2.88		0.01	perp	Gray shale
108	28301	5808	1.32	1.26		0.01	para	Oolitic grainstone

Table 1 continued.

ID #	Permit #	Depth (ft)	W/m·K			Err	Meas. Dir.	Lithologic Description
			λ_o	λ_{corr}	λ_{avg}			
112	21807	10686	2.562	2.07	2.47	0.02	perp	Fine-grained dolograinstone
113	21807	10697	3.079	2.43		0.01	para	Crystalline limestone
114	21807	10700	3.084	2.42		0.00	para	Crystalline limestone, small amt of anhydrite
115	21807	10791	4.282	3.23		0.02	perp	Wackestone to mudstone
116	28591	8217	3.928	3.18	2.57	0.01	para	Crystalline limestone, small amt of anhydrite
117	28591	8222	3.035	2.52		0.00	para	Fine-grained dolograinstone; oomoldic ϕ
118	28591	8243	3.503	2.88		0.02	para	Oolitic, pisolitic fine-grained grainstone
119	28591	8329	2.935	2.45		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
120	28591	8441	2.435	2.08		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
121	29667	8028	1.872	1.66	1.58	0.02	para	Fine-grained, oolitic grainstone
122	29667	8218	1.485	1.37		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone; oomoldic ϕ
123	29667	8528	1.654	1.50		0.01	para	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
124	29667	8531	2.179	1.89		0.01	perp	Dense, very fine-grained mudstone
125	29766	8603	2.329	2.00	1.86	0.00	para	Oolitic grainstone
126	29766	8621	2.113	1.84		0.01	para	Fine-grained, oolitic grainstone
127	29766	8654	2.471	2.10		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone
128	29766	8727.5	1.784	1.59		0.01	para	Fine-grained grainstone



Figure 7. Oolitic grainstone of the upper Smackover Formation. Permit number 26489, western Union County. Core diameter is 8.9 cm (3.5 in.).



Figure 8. Oolitic to pisolitic crystalline limestone of the upper Smackover Formation. Permit number 30929, southwestern Columbia County.



Figure 9. Oolitic grainstone exhibiting oomoldic porosity. Permit number 28301, southeastern Nevada County. Sample length approximately 20 cm (8 in). Probe hole in center of core.

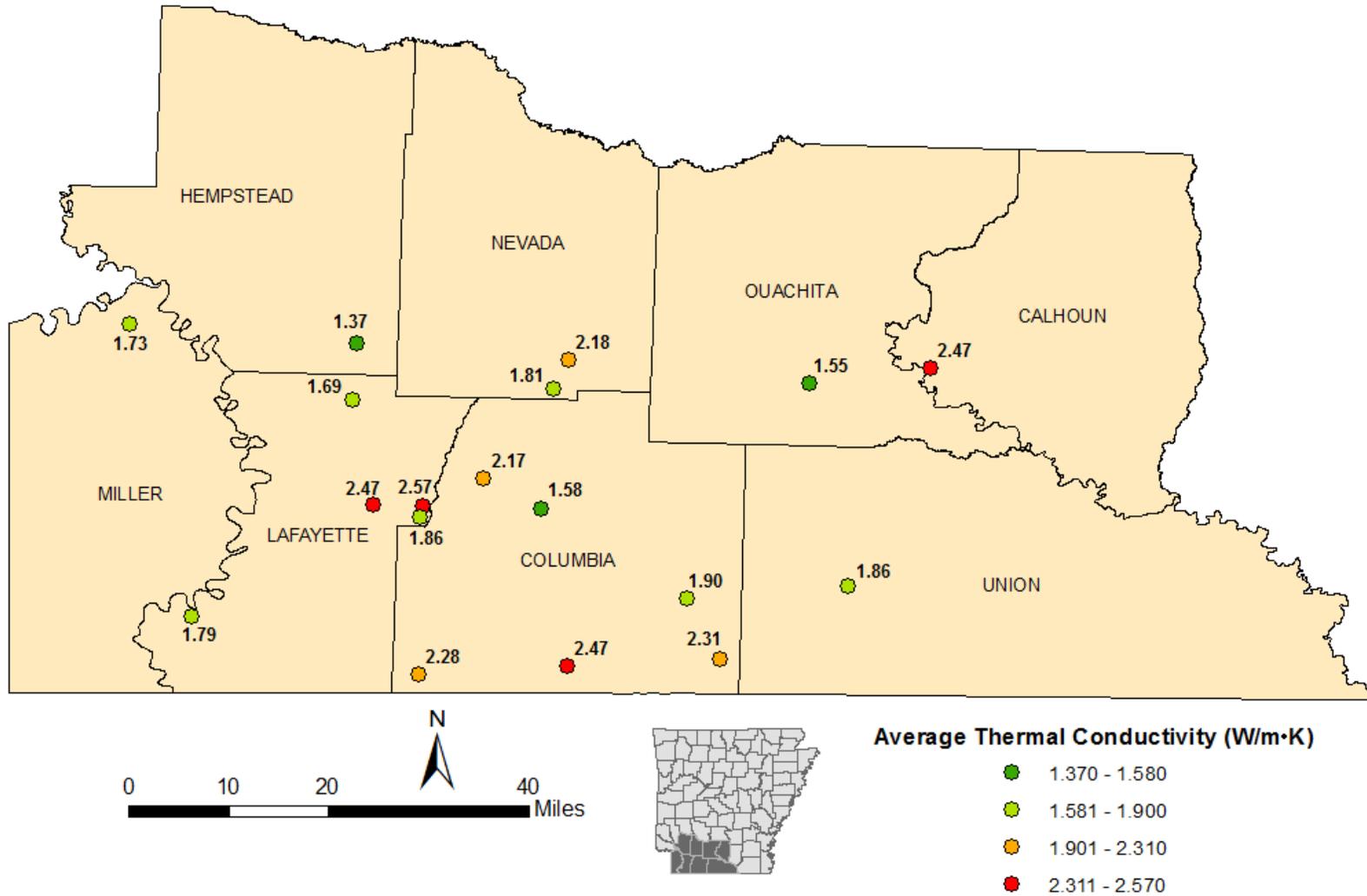


Figure 10. Average thermal conductance values for each Smackover well in W/m·K.

Thermal Conductance Results. The highest estimated average thermal conductance value for a Smackover well is 2.57 W/m·K for a fine-grained grainstone, permit number 28591, located in eastern Lafayette County (Figure 10). The next highest average thermal conductance values are for permit numbers 26424 (Calhoun County), 21807 (Columbia County), and 26150 (eastern Lafayette County) all measuring 2.47 W/m·K with lithologies consisting of fine-grained grainstone and crystalline limestone. The highest single, corrected thermal conductivity value for a Smackover well is 4.23 W/m·K for a red shale (lowermost Buckner, uppermost Smackover), permit number 28301 in southern Nevada County. These results indicate an area of higher relative thermal conductance for the Smackover Formation in northeastern Lafayette County and southern Nevada County.

To validate the reliability of the range of values generated by the KD2 Pro Thermal Analyzer, published thermal conductivities (W/m·K) for shale, limestone, mudstone, dolostone, and anhydrite were compared with thermal conductivities of all 83 core samples of the Smackover Formation measured at the AGS (Table 2). Average thermal conductance values for each measured lithology were calculated using harmonic mean. All grainstone and crystalline limestone were categorized as limestone; wackestone, mudstone, dolowackestone, and dolomudstone were classified as mudstone; and all dolograinstone and dolopackestone were classified as dolostone.

Average AGS thermal conductance values for shale, limestone, mudstone, and dolostone lie within the range of at least one published value; however, the single sampled anhydrite value is less than the published value. This discrepancy may be

reduced if more anhydrite samples are measured and averaged and more comparison data is available to validate these results.

Thermal Gradient

According to Beardsmore and Cull (2001), thermal gradient is defined as a vector that is dependent on temperature distributed in three dimensions (x , y , and z axes). Knowing three-dimensional temperature distributions within the crust is ideal for determining the true vector of the maximum thermal gradient, but three dimensional data is rarely available for calculations. To account for this deficiency, it is assumed that maximum thermal gradient is vertical within the upper crust with the Earth's surface forming a horizontal, constant temperature boundary. This minimizes lateral temperature variation at depth. This assumption permits thermal gradient to reduce to one vertical dimension (Equation 2)

$$\Delta T = \frac{\partial T}{\partial z} \mathbf{k} \quad (2)$$

where ΔT is the temperature distribution function, gradient $\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial z}\right)$ is the derivative of temperature with respect to depth, and \mathbf{k} is the vector along the vertical axis (z axis).

To calculate a basic geothermal gradient, temperatures at two or more depths must be known. The more temperature to depth ratios available, the more accurate the gradient values. Borehole temperatures and temperature logs provide temperature to depth data and are the best available resources for calculating geothermal gradients.

Table 2. Comparing published thermal conductance values (W/m·K) with AGS thermal conductance values for varying lithologies.

Lithology	Beardsmore (1996) *	Majorowicz & Jessop (1981) *	Beach et al. (1987) *	Reiter & Jessop (1985) *	Reiter & Tovar (1982) +	AGS Average n = 83 #
Shale	2.9	1.5 ± 0.5	1.4 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.4	2.1 ± 0.4	2.7
Limestone	3.1	2.9 ± 0.9	2.4 ± 0.9	2.8 ± 0.4	2.8 ± 0.3	1.9
Mudstone	2.9	--	--	--	2.0 ± 0.4	2.0
Dolostone	--	5.0 ± 0.6	3.1 ± 1.4	4.7 ± 0.8	4.7 ± 1.1	2.3
Anhydrite	--	--	--	--	5.4 ± 0.4	2.4

* Indicates published compilations of thermal conductivities reported from Beardsmore and Cull (2001).

+ Indicates published thermal conductivity reported from Reiter and Tovar (1982) averaged from Clark (1966) and Reiter (1969).

Indicates AGS average based on harmonic mean.

Correcting for In Situ Borehole Temperatures Using the Harrison Correction Equation. During the well drilling process, drilling fluid is injected and circulated through the well to cool the drill bit. The presence of cool fluid affects thermal equilibrium of the formation and borehole conditions at the base of the well where fluid collects. Upon completion of drilling, logging devices measure certain parameters of the borehole, including BHT. These BHT measurements are unreliable estimates of *in situ* temperatures because of the induced unequilibrated conditions. The amount of time required for the formation to reach thermal equilibrium depends on certain factors, such as drilling conditions, drilling mud temperature at the surface, circulation rate, and thermal conductivity of the surrounding formation (Harrison et al., 1983). According to Beardsmore and Cull (2001), drilling fluids typically reach equilibrium at approximately ten times the total drilling time.

To approximate *in situ* temperature conditions within the well, Harrison et al. (1983) developed the Harrison Correction Equation (equation 3) derived from a correction curve representing the deviation of BHT's from true formation temperature.

$$\text{Meters: } T_c = -2.3449e^{-006}x^2 + 0.018268x - 16.512 \quad (3)$$

where T_c is the corrected temperature subtracted or added to the original BHT values and x is the depth in meters. For wells deeper than 3,900 m (12,800 ft), the correction is a constant increase of 19.1; for wells below 1,220 m (4,000 ft), the correction is negative and is subtracted from the BHT; and under 600 m (2,000 ft), no correction is used.

The Harrison Equation was used to correct all BHT's from the Smackover Formation in southwest Arkansas (Table 3).

The resulting corrected temperature, T_c , was applied to BHT's to generate a temperature value more representative of *in situ* formation fluids and surrounding rock conditions of the Smackover (Corrected Temp °C).

Determining Estimated Geothermal Gradients for Southwest Arkansas.

After calculating corrected temperatures, geothermal gradient values were determined for the 18 Smackover wells. In some instances, multiple runs occurred where several BHT's at varying depth intervals were recorded. To calculate an overall geothermal gradient ($\frac{\Delta T}{\Delta Z}$) for wells with multiple runs, the difference in consecutive BHT's were averaged generating an overall geothermal gradient for the well. In most cases, only one run was conducted for each well where the geothermal gradient was calculated by comparing the temperature at depth to the average surface temperature. Roy et al. (1980) reports that compiled information from weather stations in Arkansas's Gulf Coastal Plain show an average surface temperature of 17.2°C (63.1°F). Table 3 shows Harrison Correction calculations and results along with average geothermal gradient per well in °C/100 m and Kelvin/m (K/m); Kelvin units are necessary for heat flow calculations discussed later. The average geothermal gradients per well from Table 3 were plotted in ArcMap and shown in Figure 11. In conjunction, a raster image was created from the point data using the nearest neighbor method in Spatial Analyst ArcGIS 10.1 and is illustrated in Figure 12. Harrison Correction, corrected temperatures, and geothermal gradient values for the 10 non-Smackover wells are provided in Appendix 3.

Corrected Geothermal Gradient Results and Comparison. Observation of corrected Smackover geothermal gradient values show the highest gradient at 6.28°C/100m (3.4°F/100 ft) for permit number 24227 located in northwestern Columbia County (refer to Figure 11). Next highest gradients of 3.3-3.5°C/100m (1.8-1.9°F/100 ft) are located in southeastern Columbia, southern Nevada, and western Calhoun Counties.

Based on an average thermal gradient value of 3.51°C/100m along with relatively high thermal conductivity values, southern Nevada, northeastern Lafayette, and northwestern Columbia Counties have the greatest geothermal potential for southwest Arkansas. Heat flow values are needed to further establish these areas as having the greatest geothermal potential.

Table 3. Harrison correction (equation 3), corrected temperature, and estimated average geothermal gradient values for 18 Smackover wells in southwest Arkansas. Bold indicates wells located in the area with the highest geothermal gradient, northeastern Lafayette and northwestern Columbia counties.

Permit #	Total Depth (m)	MaxTemp (°C) from well log	Harrison Correction (T _c)	Corrected Temp °C	Geothermal Gradient °C/100m	Geothermal Gradient K/m (for determining heat flow)	Heat Flow mW/m ² (refer to heat flow section below)
21661	3343	107	18.35	125.35	3.24	0.0324	58.1
26150	2632	80	15.33	95.33	2.97	0.0298	73.4
25774	2972	100	17.07	117.07	3.36	0.0337	77.6
27575	1699	64.4	7.75	72.20	3.24	0.0325	56.1
28603	2889	90	16.69	106.69	3.10	0.0310	59.0
18345	1981	68.89	10.47	79.36	3.14	0.0315	53.3
28258	1983	73.89	10.49	84.38	3.39	0.0340	61.7
24087	1755	60	8.33	68.33	2.91	0.0292	40.0
24227	977	79.44	-0.90	78.54	6.28	0.0630	137
26677	1758	66.67	8.35	75.02	3.29	0.0330	51.1
28301	1934	71.11	10.04	81.16	3.31	0.0332	72.4
30929	3414	105	18.52	123.52	3.11	0.0312	71.2
21807	3303	110	18.25	128.25	3.36	0.0337	83.3
28591	2591	85	15.08	100.08	3.20	0.0321	82.4
29667	2609	87.78	15.19	102.96	3.29	0.0330	52.2
29766	2731	87.78	15.89	103.67	3.17	0.0317	59.0
26489	2438	77.78	14.09	91.87	3.06	0.0307	58.1
26424	1372	60.56	4.13	64.69	3.46	0.0348	85.8
Harmonic mean for Southwest Arkansas					3.29	0.0330	63.8

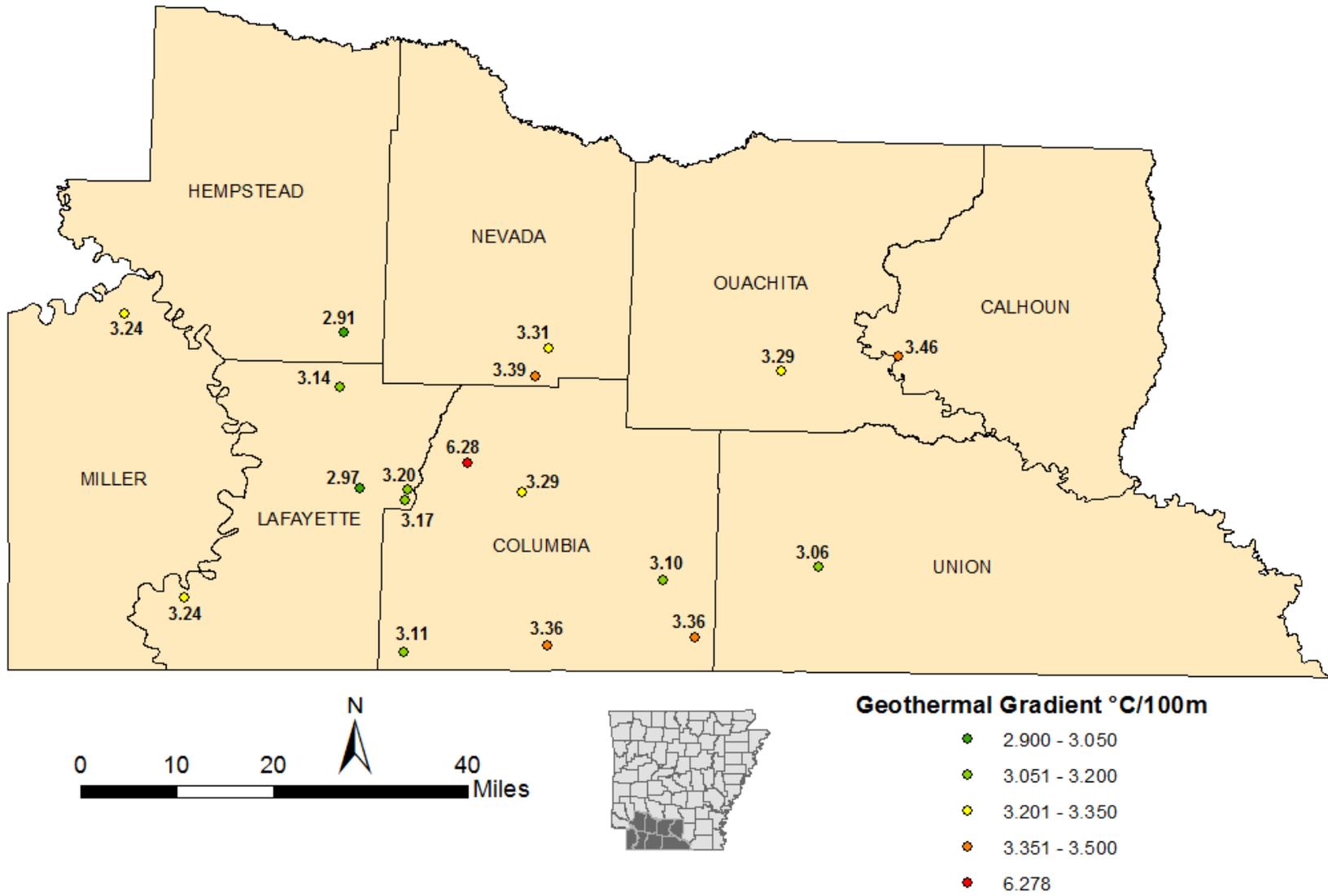


Figure 11. Geothermal gradient ranges for each well of the Smackover Formation in °C/100m.

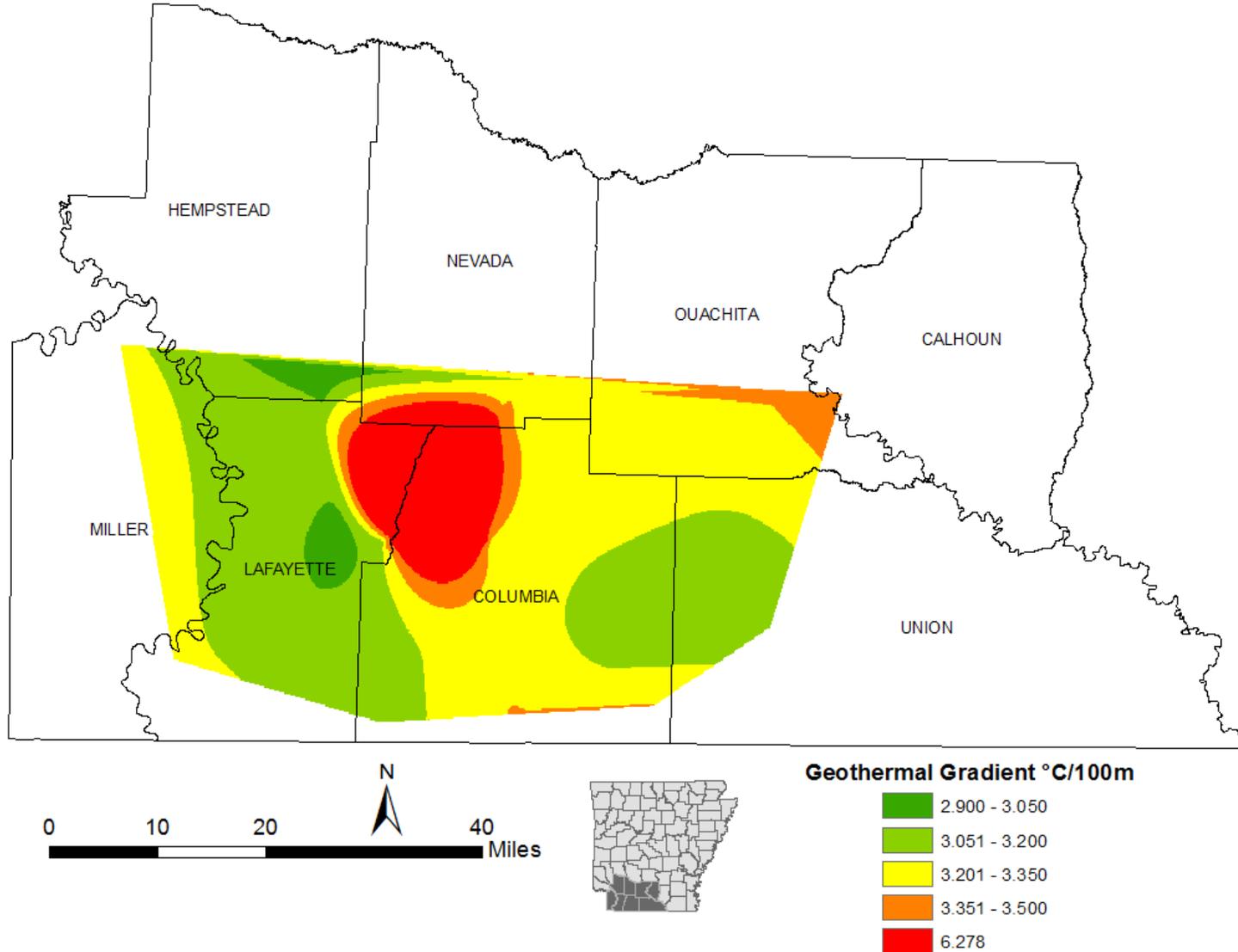


Figure 12. Geothermal gradient raster image of the Smackover Formation in °C/100m. Generated using the nearest neighbor method in Spatial Analyst in ArcGIS 10.1

Heat Flow

Heat flow is the transfer of thermal energy from one body to another or a transfer of temperature. As aforementioned, heat within the crust is generated by either radioactive decay, primarily from uranium, thorium, and potassium, or through conduction and convection from the Earth's interior. The conveyance of heat through the crust is primarily related to rock type and structure (Smith and Fishkin, 1988).

Calculating Geothermal Heat Flow. Heat flow (Q) is the product of the harmonic average thermal conductivity (λ_{avg}) and the harmonic average geothermal gradient $\left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial z}\right)_{avg}$ (Equation 4).

$$Q = \lambda_{avg} \times \left(\frac{\partial T}{\partial z}\right)_{avg} \quad (4)$$

Heat Flow, in units of milliwatts per meter per meter (mW/m^2), was determined for the 18 Smackover wells using calculated geothermal gradients from the last column in Table 3 (K/m) and harmonic mean thermal conductivity (λ_{avg}) from Table 1 (W/m·K) (last column, Table 3).

Discussion of Estimated Heat Flow Maps. Three heat flow maps (Figures 13-15) were generated for the 18 wells of the Smackover Formation in southwest Arkansas. Figure 13 shows the estimated heat flow values per well. A raster heat flow map (Figure 14) was generated from the heat flow values of Figure 13 using the nearest neighbor method in Spatial Analyst, ArcGIS 10.1. Heat flow contours were generated from the raster image and are shown in Figure 15.

The harmonic average heat flow for the 18 Smackover wells is $63.8 mW/m^2$. For rate comparison, an MIT panel (Tester et al., 2006) reports geothermal heat flows through

the Earth's crust at an average rate of $59 mW/m^2$. A previous heat flow investigation in Arkansas (Smith and Fishkin, 1988) indicated a heat flow value of $68 mW/m^2$ located near the town of Jerome in Drew County, southeast Arkansas.

Figure 13 shows a well in northwestern Columbia County having the highest estimated heat flow value near $137 mW/m^2$ (permit number 24227). Figure 14 shows the area of highest heat flow is in northwestern Columbia County, likely influenced by the significant geothermal gradient value of $0.0630K/m$ ($6.30^\circ C/100m$) for permit number 24227. This heat flow value is nearly twice the harmonic geothermal gradient for southwest Arkansas. The last column of Appendix 3 lists the estimated heat flow data for the 10 non-Smackover wells.

Heat flow values for most of southwest Arkansas range from 47 to $81 mW/m^2$ (Figure 13) and are lowest in southeast Hempstead County ($40 mW/m^2$). A geothermal study conducted by SMU's Geothermal Laboratory (2011) shows heat flow values for southwest Arkansas to range from 60 to $100 mW/m^2$ (google.org/egs, 2011). Figure 16 shows SMU's calculated heat flow data in raster format. The map shows the highest heat flow for southwest Arkansas to be in southeast Hempstead and southwest Nevada Counties ($\sim 100mW/m^2$), just slightly translated to the northwest of the highest heat flow value projected by the AGS, illustrated in Figure 14. Unfortunately, core samples were not available to verify if the heat flow hot spot extends into southeast Hempstead and southwest Nevada Counties as indicated by SMU. However, note that AGS data shows the lowest heat flow value in southwest Arkansas in southeast Hempstead County.

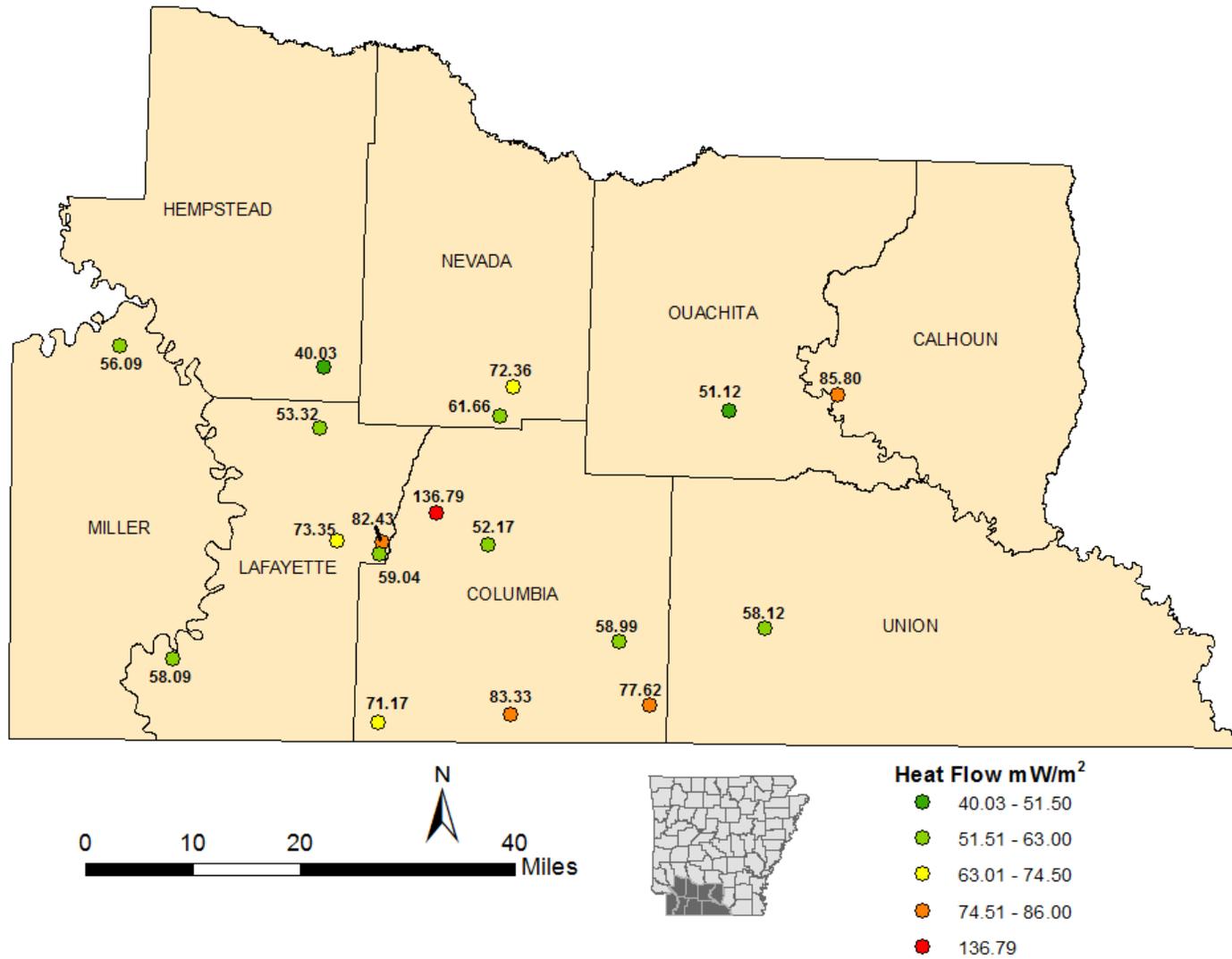


Figure 13. Estimated heat flow for each Smackover Formation well in mW/m^2 . The harmonic mean heat flow value is approximately $64 mW/m^2$. Labeled according to actual heat flow values.

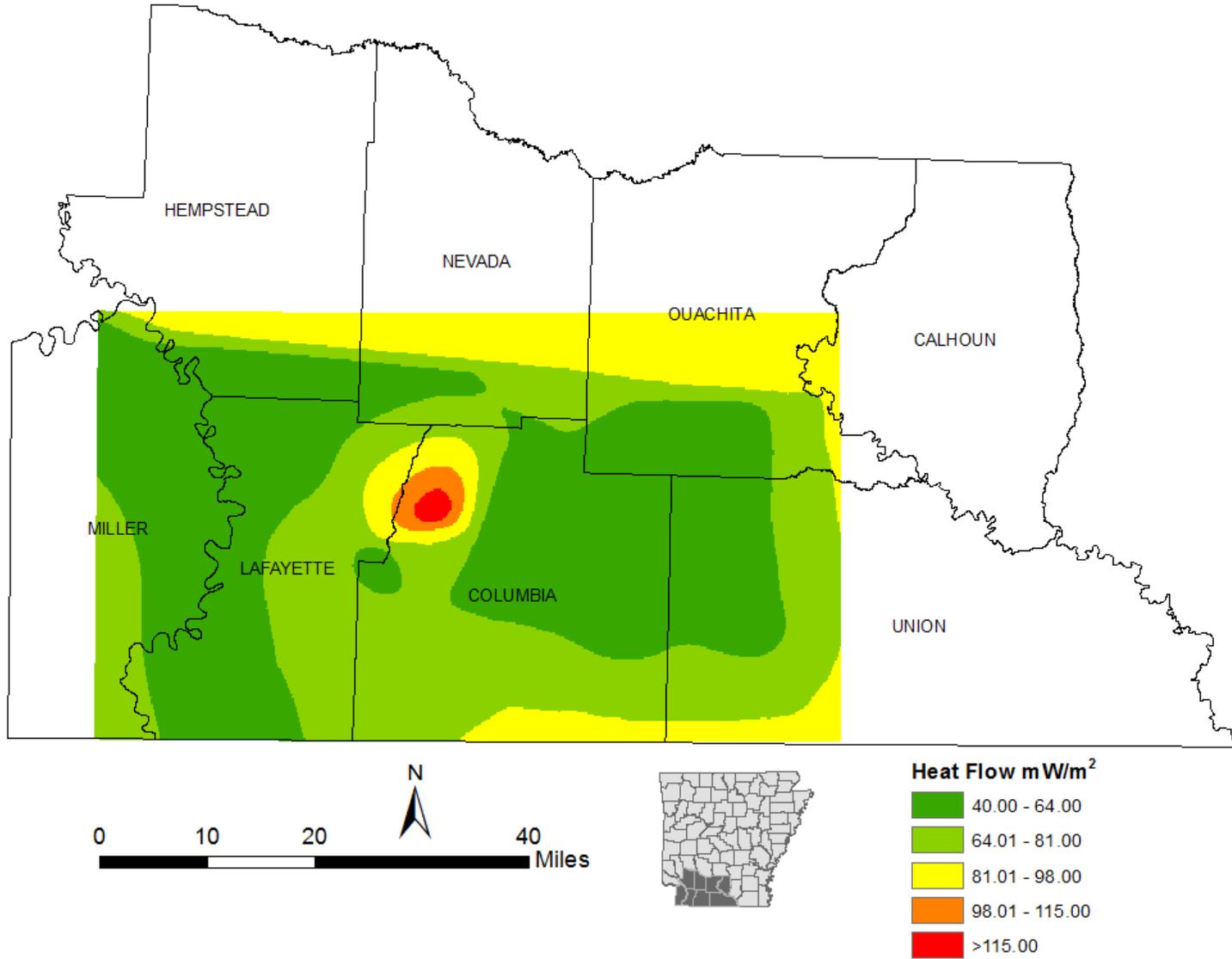


Figure 14. Estimated heat flow map of southwestern Arkansas. Generated using the nearest neighbor method in Spatial Analyst in ArcGIS 10.1

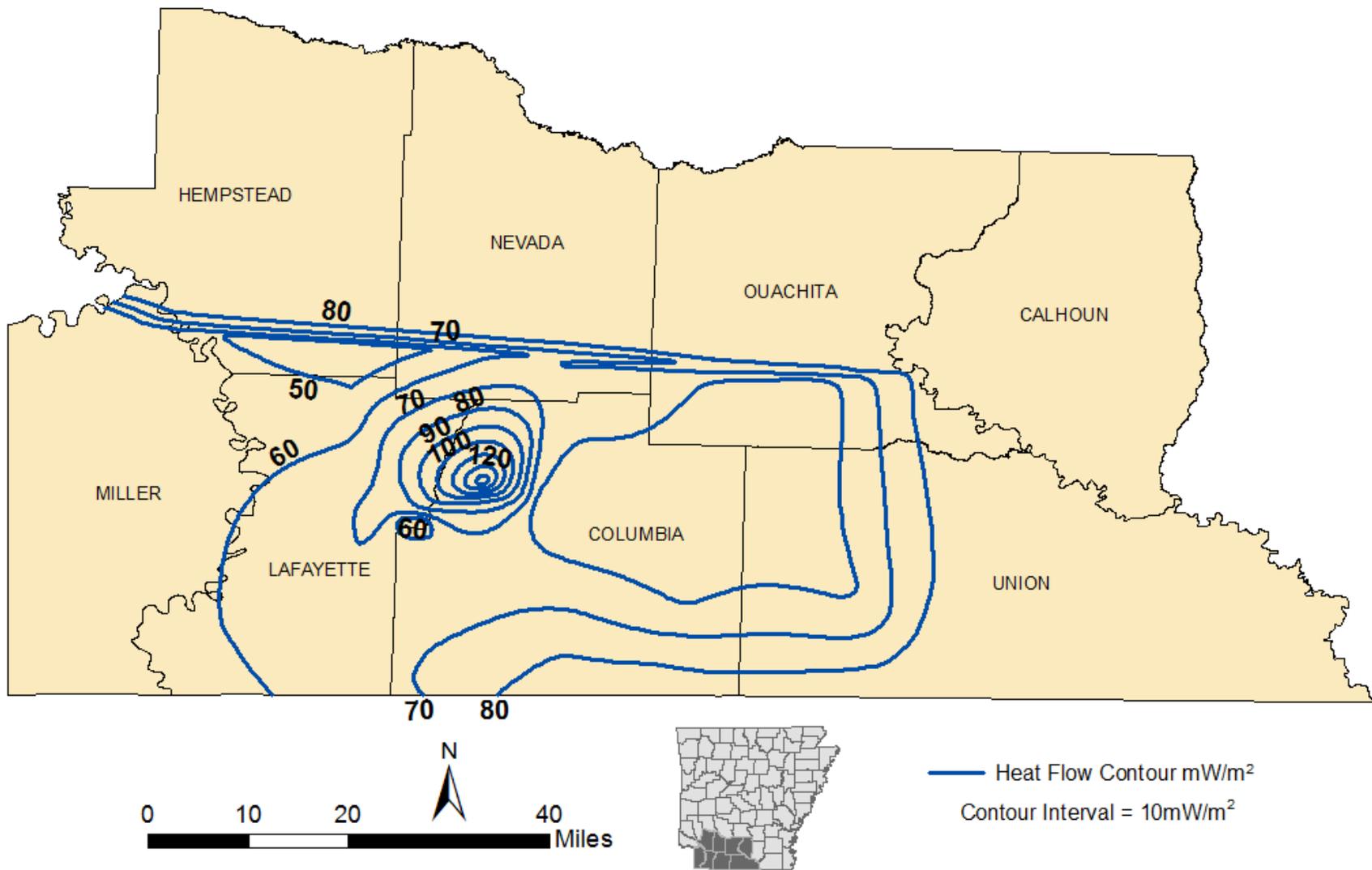


Figure 15. Estimated heat flow contour map of the Smackover Formation.

Verification of Data

Near the conclusion of this publication, two Smackover samples, permit numbers 21661 (southwest Lafayette County) and 25774 (southeast Columbia County), were sent to the University of North Dakota (UND), Harold Hamm School of Geology and Geological Engineering Laboratory for thermal conductance testing. This was at the request of the State Geothermal Data team to verify thermal conductance results measured by the AGS. The samples were chosen by an AGS staff member for the geothermal project and not for this publication. However, the laboratory results provide the only exclusive verification of the thermal conductivity data measured at the AGS, thus it is important to discuss this information briefly.

The UND samples were measured using a Portable Electronic Divided Bar (PEDB), a device that uses an upper and lower brass plate to measure thermal conductivity under *in situ* conditions. For these samples, thermal conductance was measured through an isolated system with heat flow running vertically and maintained at a constant temperature of 20°C (68°F). Samples were cut into small pieces and polished to create smooth flat surfaces for proper contact with the plates. Conductivity values were calibrated using polycarbonate disks. Each sample was measured twice and averaged.

For permit number 21661, the measured depth interval was 3,304 m (10,839 ft) for an oolitic to pisolitic, crystalline limestone. For permit number 25774, the depth interval was 2,878 m (9,441 ft) for a fine-grained grainstone. These intervals are higher than the intervals measured at the AGS; therefore, the UND results were considered to be average thermal conductivities for each well and

were compared to the AGS average thermal conductivity values for the corresponding well, λ_{avg} (Table 1).

UND results for permit numbers 21661 and 25774 are 2.91 and 2.47 W/m·K, respectively (the device manufacturer claims an accuracy of $\pm 3.5\%$). These values are higher than the corrected values calculated at the AGS. However, as shown in Table 1, both of these wells include TR-1 probe measurements. As aforementioned, TR-1 results are questionable due to measurement issues related to the dimensions of the probe, but are still considered relevant by providing the only available data for a specific lithology at a specific depth. After removing the TR-1 results from these two wells, leaving only the beta probe results, the average thermal conductance for permit number 21661 was 2.59 W/m·K, and for permit number 25774 was 2.48 W/m·K, values much closer to the UND results.

Using these recalculated averages, heat flow values increase to around 84 W/m·K for both wells. If the heat flow maps were redrawn, the increase would affect the positions of the heat flow raster and contour values (refer to Figures 14 and 15, respectively). The heat flow raster map values of 64.01 to 81 and 81.01 to 98 W/m·K would shift slightly north and more west extending from southern Columbia County into southeastern Miller County; the contour values of 70 and 80 W/m·K in southern Columbia County would also shift in the same respects. These changes are minor and, therefore, it is considered unnecessary to revise the heat flow maps.

All in all, the UND results are similar to the corrected results measured by the beta probe, verifying that the AGS results are representative estimations of *in situ* thermal conductivity of the Smackover Formation.

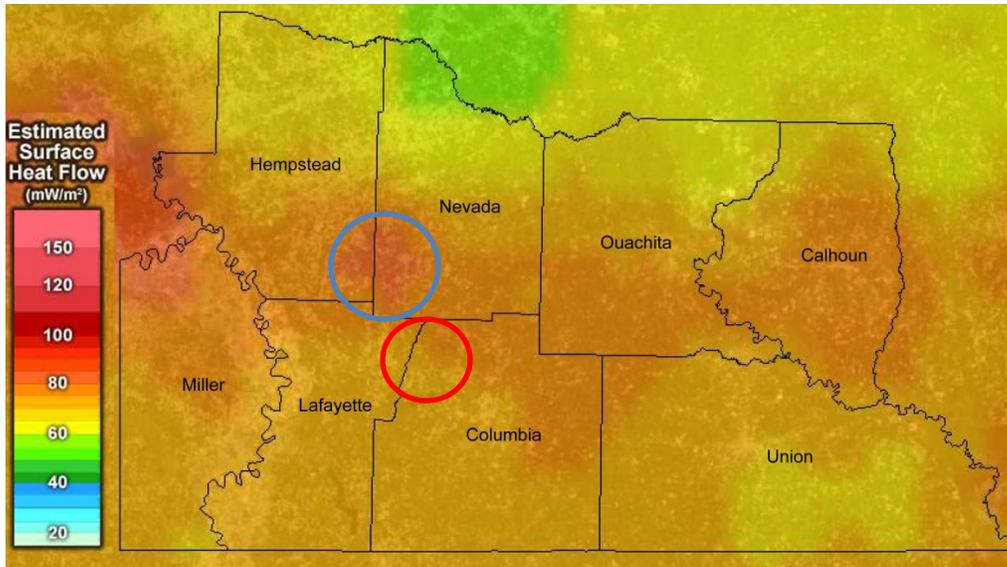


Figure 16. Southern Methodist University (SMU) (google.org/egs, 2011) heat flow data from southwest Arkansas for comparison with heat flow data generated by the AGS. Blue circle shows SMU’s projected area of highest heat flow; red circle shows AGS’s projected area.

Conclusion

For the Smackover Formation, northwestern Columbia and northeastern Lafayette Counties show an area of high geothermal potential. This area exhibits relatively high thermal conductivity, thermal gradient, and heat flow. Permit number 24227 has the highest geothermal gradient ($6.3^{\circ}\text{C}/100\text{m}$) along with a moderate thermal conductivity (2.2 W/mK), producing an overall high heat flow value at around 137 mW/m^2 . Surrounding wells also show high geothermal gradient and thermal conductivity values, generating an overall high heat flow hot spot for this area.

Thermal gradient, thermal conductance, and heat flow values are estimations of the Smackover Formation. Thermal conductance estimations were verified through comparison with thermal conductance values measured at UND and through comparison with available published data.

Some observed borehole temperatures for the Smackover Formation across south Arkansas are near boiling. If using the Smackover Formation as a geothermal resource for industrial purposes, the binary geothermal power plant is the most feasible option. The binary power plant utilizes formation fluid temperatures near or below boiling to heat a secondary fluid which operates a turbine to generate electricity. In south Arkansas, a binary power plant operated intermittently in mid-1979, but was quickly shut down due to operating issues.

New borehole technology is capable of determining more accurate *in situ* BHT’s and thermal conductance values. Therefore, further investigations characterizing the Smackover Formation’s *in situ* BHT’s and thermal properties are recommended for future geothermal feasibility studies of southwest Arkansas, specifically for northwestern Columbia and northeastern Lafayette Counties, and should eventually include all of southern Arkansas.

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Appendices

Appendix 1. Results of the 10 non-Smackover wells showing measurement ID number, permit number of core, depth measured, thermal conductance, λ (uncorrected, corrected, and average per well), error, measurement direction with respect to bedding (perp = perpendicular, para = parallel), and lithologic description of each sample.

ID #	Permit #	Depth (ft)	W/m·K			Err	Meas Dir.	Unit	Lithologic Description
			λ_o	λ_{corr}	λ_{avg}				
47	25103	4912	1.43	1.37	1.51	0.01	perp	Sligo	Oolitic, fine-grained grainstone
48	25103	4915	1.54	1.47		0.01	para		Oolitic, fine-grained grainstone
49	25103	4917	1.61	1.53		0.01	para		Oolitic, crystalline limestone
50	25103	4930	1.83	1.70		0.02	para		Fine-grained wackestone
65	22027	2493	1.26	1.24	1.32	0.02	perp	Tuscaloosa	Tan, fine-grained, quartz arenite
66	22027	2525	1.16	1.15		0.01	para		Tan, fine-grained, quartz arenite
67	22027	2528	1.71	1.65		0.01	perp		Tan, fine-grained, quartz arenite
68	22549	2488	3.07	2.92	3.32	0.02	para	Tuscaloosa	lt.- gray, v. fine-grained, quartz arenite, low porosity
69	22549	2510	3.26	3.10		0.01	perp		lt.- gray, v. fine-grained, quartz arenite, with 1" shale bed at top of sample, low to med porosity
70	22549	2531	4.39	4.16		0.00	perp		dk-brown to black, fine-grained quartz arenite, low porosity Org/petro residue on sample
71	24755	2063	2.65	2.63	2.63	0.02	perp	Nacatoch	Md.-gray, v fine-grained packestone to wackestone
84	21198	3939	1.27	1.23	1.34	0.00	para	Intrusion	Igneous Phonolite with pyrite
85	21198	3943	1.56	1.46		0.01	para		Igneous Phonolite with pyrite
86	21198	5044	3.81	3.29	3.28	0.01	para	Unknown	Dk- gray, crystalline limestone
87	21198	5067	3.78	3.26		0.02	perp		V. dk-gray to black, crystalline limestone
94	27520	2130	3.80	3.71	2.86	0.06	perp	Nacatoch	Dk.-gray. Fine-grained wackestone to mudstone. Org/petro residue on sample
95	27520	2133	2.37	2.33		0.01	perp		Md.-gray, fine-grained dolomitic wackestone to mudstone.

Appendix 1 continued.

ID #	Permit #	Depth (ft)	W/m·K			Err	Meas. Dir.	Unit	Lithologic Description
			λ_o	λ_{corr}	λ_{avg}				
96	27370	4376	2.5	2.26	2.28	0.03	para	Sligo	Lt.-gray, grainstone w/interbedded crystalline limestone
97	27370	4376	2.1	1.94		0.02	para		Sandstone, mudstone with flaser bedding. Jumbled zone
98	27370	4384	2.7	2.43		0.01	perp		Lt.-gray, fossiliferous grainstone, almost boundstone-like, high porosity
99	27370	4399	3.4	3.06		0.01	para		Brown fine-grained mudstone with shale interbeds, jumble zone
100	27370	4405	2.2	2.03		0.01	para		Shaley dolomudstone with flaser-like bedding
101	20071	11282	2.36	1.92		2.09	0.01		perp
102	20071	11289	3.03	2.37	0.01		perp	Dk.-gray, dense, v. fine-grained crystalline limestone, little to no porosity	
103	20071	11310	2.51	2.02	0.01		perp	Dk.-gray, dense, v. fine-grained crystalline limestone, little to no porosity	
129	25837	3693	4.67	4.23	2.61	0.03	perp	Tuscaloosa	Gray, fine-grained, friable quartz arenite with laminations of dk-gray shale
130	25837	3701	2.00	1.89		0.02	para		Gray, fine-grained, friable quartz arenite with coalified markings throughout
131	23829	7489	2.06	1.76	1.76	0.01	perp	Eagle Mills	Red, fine-grained crystalline limestone with fossil fragments

Appendix 2. Additional photographs of Smackover Formation core samples.



1. Dolostone with anhydrite, likely part of the upper Smackover Formation or lower Buckner Formation. Permit number 28591, eastern Lafayette County. Hand lens for scale. Notice fingernail mark in anhydrite underlined in red.



2. High amplitude stylolite filled with organics in upper Smackover Formation. Permit number 28591, eastern Lafayette County. Hand lens for scale.

Appendix 2 continued.



3. Possible allochems within crystalline limestone sample of upper Smackover Formation. Permit number 30929, southwestern Columbia County. Core diameter approximately 8.9 cm (3.5 in.). Hand lens for scale.



4. Coalified surface in fine-grained grainstone, upper Smackover Formation. Permit number 25774, southeastern Columbia County. Ruler for scale.

Appendix 3. Harrison Correction, corrected temperatures, and geothermal gradient values for 10 non-Smackover wells in south Arkansas.

Permit #	Location	Total Depth (m)	MaxTemp (°C) from well log	Harrison Correction (T _c)	Corrected Temp °C	Geothermal Gradient °C/100m	Geothermal Gradient K/m (for determining heat flow)	Heat Flow (mW/m ²)
25103	Western Miller Co	1515	54.4	5.78	60.2	2.84	0.0285	43.0
22027	Northern Lafayette Co	793	48.9	-3.49	45.4	3.55	0.0358	47.2
22549	Northern Lafayette Co	734	44.4	-4.36	40.1	3.12	0.0314	104.2
24755	Eastern Ouachita Co	671	34.4	-5.31	29.1	1.78	0.0180	47.6
Run 1: 21198 (phonolite)	Northeastern Ashley Co	1717	68.3	7.94	76.3	3.44	0.0345	46.2
Run 2: 21198 (limestone)								113.1
27520	Central Union Co	710	37.8	-4.72	33.1	2.23	0.0226	64.7
27370	Southwestern Union Co	1433	57.8	4.85	62.6	3.17	0.0318	72.7
20071	South-central Columbia Co	3939	113	18.8	132	3.25	0.0325	67.9
25837	Central Miller Co	1155	55.0	1.46	56.5	3.40	0.0342	89.1
23829	Southeastern Ashley Co	3039	103	17.4	120	3.39	0.0339	59.7