

Distribution of different quality shale in Wufeng-Longmaxi Formation in the middle and upper Yangtze region and its oil and gas geological significance

FU XIAO DONG¹, CHEN YANA¹, WENZHENG LI² AND WANG XIAOFANG¹

¹PetroChina Hangzhou Research Institute of Petroleum Geology

²PetroChina Hangzhou Research Institute of Geology

Presenting Author: 19217206@qq.com

The Wufeng Formation-Longmaxi Formation (O₃w-S₁l) is an important hydrocarbon source rock and shale gas exploration target layer in the middle to upper Yangtze area. It is of great significance to define the distribution of thickness of different quality source rocks for both conventional and unconventional natural gas exploration. Based on the experimental analysis of a large number of drilling cores and outcrop samples, TOC logging evaluation 2D and 3D seismic data interpretation and inversion, the distribution of different quality source rocks in O₃w-S₁l Formations has been revealed, and the new hydrocarbon generation center has been found.

In the middle to upper Yangtze area, the thickness of shales with TOC>0.5% in O₃w-S₁l formation is 15-250m, the thickness of shale with TOC>1.0% is 10-200m, the thickness of shales with TOC>2.0% is 5-90m, and the thickness of shale with TOC>3.0% is 0-50m. The distribution of excellent shales (TOC>2.0%) is mainly controlled by several archicontinents such as central Sichuan, central Guizhou and southern Hainan, and Yichang underwater paleo-uplift. From deep-water shelf sedimentary area to archicontinent or paleo-uplift, the thickness of excellent shale gradually decreases. The thickness of excellent shale in East Sichuan-West Hubei and South Sichuan-North Yunnan is the largest followed by Northeast and North Sichuan areas. On the contrary, the thickness of excellent shale in northwestern and southwestern Sichuan, western Hunan is small, and the source rocks in central and western Sichuan have been denuded. In different regions, the TOC of the source rocks of the O₃w-S₁l Formations shows five types of vertical variation trends, reflecting different sedimentary evolution processes.

The source rock of O₃w-S₁l Formations has great hydrocarbon generation potential with hydrocarbon gas generation intensity mainly distributed in 10-100×10⁸/km². Five hydrocarbon generation centers have been identified. Based on the distribution of excellent shale of O₃w-S₁l Formations, two types of fine plays for conventional natural gas exploration and favorable zones for deep shale gas exploration are pointed out.