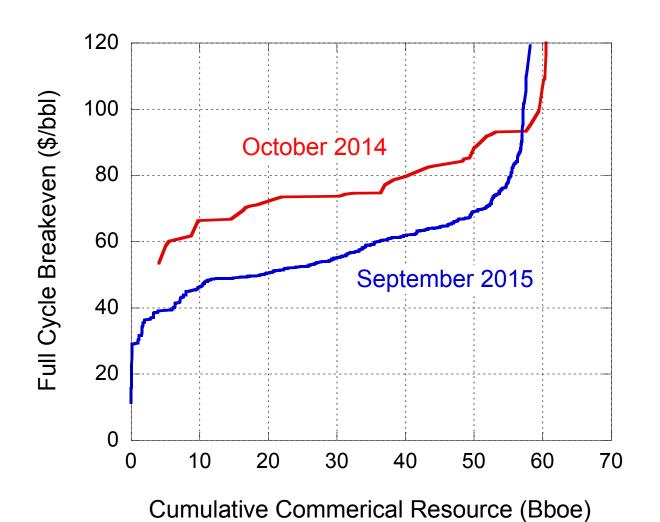
Center for Energy Economics 20th Annual Meeting December 9-10, 2015

Technology White Space &

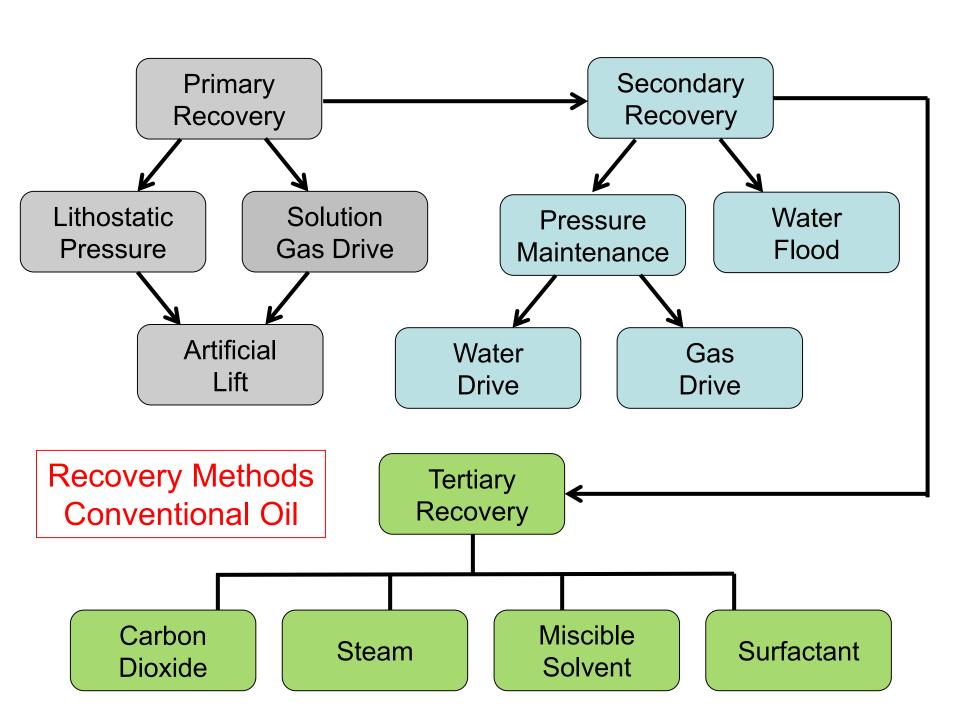
The Effect of Oil Price Decline on Innovation

Robert Kleinberg Schlumberger

# Brilliant New Technology, Or Something Else?



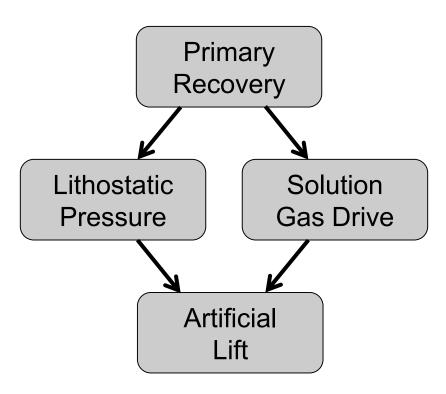
151125-01



# Primary Recovery Lithostatic Pressure Solution Gas Drive Artificial Lift

EIA Conference, July 2014

Recovery Methods Tight Oil



Recovery Methods Tight Oil

# Today

## Same Techniques, Even More Brute Force

- No more derisking
  - ♦ Retreat to sweet spots
- Superfracks
  - ♦ Longer laterals
  - ♦ More water
  - ♦ More proppant
- Back to slickwater
  - Replacing technically superior gel fracks
  - Propane fracks have died
- Focus on OPEX breakeven

# Does a Low Price Environment Encourage Innovation?

## No

Familiar prospects developed in familiar ways

Operators: An end to "science experiments"

Service companies: Major cuts in resources, including R&D

Scaling back or withdrawal from university collaborations

Hiring freeze cuts off major source of new ideas

# Case Study: Service Company A

Massive layoffs: ~ −25% yoy

Easy-to-replace personnel first, but Company A quickly reached bone

Clearing out of senior staff

No costly retirement incentives, but old-timers know the party is over (again) and is unlikely to resume soon.

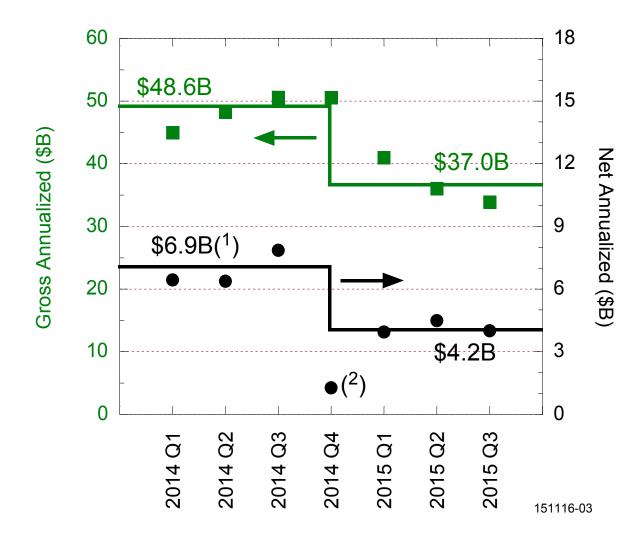
## R&D budget reduced

No new hires
No CAPEX
No interns
No travel budget
No pay increases
No Christmas Party



E. Scrooge, CEO Company A

# Schlumberger Gave Back 24% of Its Revenue 40% of Its Net Income



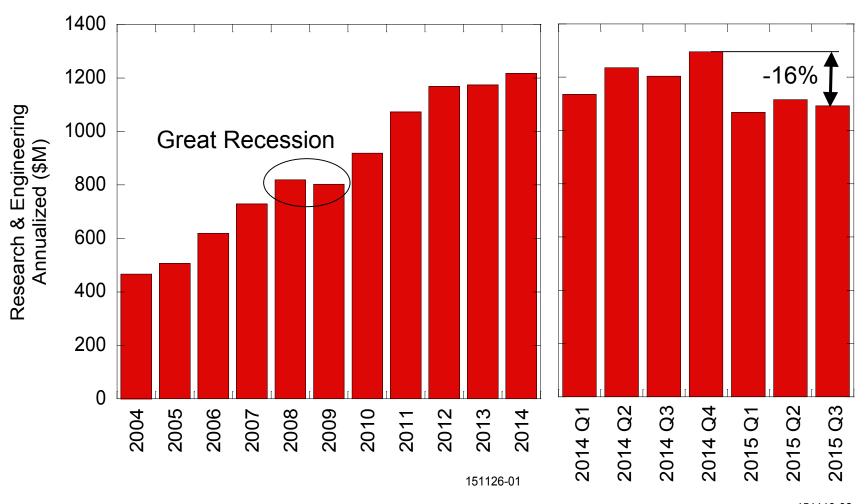
- (1) Annual rate, excluding fourth quarter
- (2) Includes charge against earnings



P. Kibsgaard, CEO Schlumberger

## Schlumberger Research & Engineering

2004-2014: Laissez les bon temps roulez 2015: Short Sharp Shock



#### Refrac

Realization that there are many ways to do it wrong Remediation of heel but not toe Screen outs

Incremental technology improvements

Service company marketing push Fiscal incentives, some with Wall Street involvement

## In-Fill Drilling

No longer controversial, now part of the business plan Cross-well interference is usually temporary

Multi-well pads: 5 wells destined to increase to 30

Maintains roughly-even flows in gas gathering systems As do DUCs (drilled uncompleted wells)

Especially attractive in stacked plays
Marcellus-Utica
Middle Bakken-Three Forks
Permian Basin: Wolfberry et al.

## Tight Oil EOR?

## Huff & Puff is the Most Promising Method

System	Carbon Dioxide	Miscible Gas
Supported by	Government	Industry
Ancillary Problem Addressed	Climate Change	Flaring
Barriers	see below	Gas processing
Activity	Many academic papers; some lab tests	A few SPE papers

## Petroleum industry lives in a CO<sub>2</sub> constrained world

- Limited supply, in the absence of carbon capture regime
- Carbon capture is expensive
  - → greater than the social cost of carbon
- Pipeline infrastructure limited

End