

13 March 2012

ASX release

Operations Update – Mercury Stetson

- **Currently drilling through the Barnett Shale**
- **Elevated gas shows observed**
- **TD expected later this week.**

13 March 2012: Challenger Energy Ltd ("Challenger") is pleased to announce that the well is currently drilling through the Barnett Shale where elevated gas shows have been observed.

As of 6am Tuesday 13 March 2012, the well is at a depth 11,100 ft MD, and is drilling ahead. The drilling cuttings indicate that the drilling encountered the Lower Barnett shale at a depth of 10,936ft (MD) approximately 56ft lower than the original well bore which is located approximately 500 ft away.

The gas shows have increased significantly since entering the Lower Barnett, and are currently running in excess of 550 Units (5.5%) in spite of the 12.2 ppg mud weight. The well bore is in good condition, albeit with slower drilling rates than in the upper part of the well.

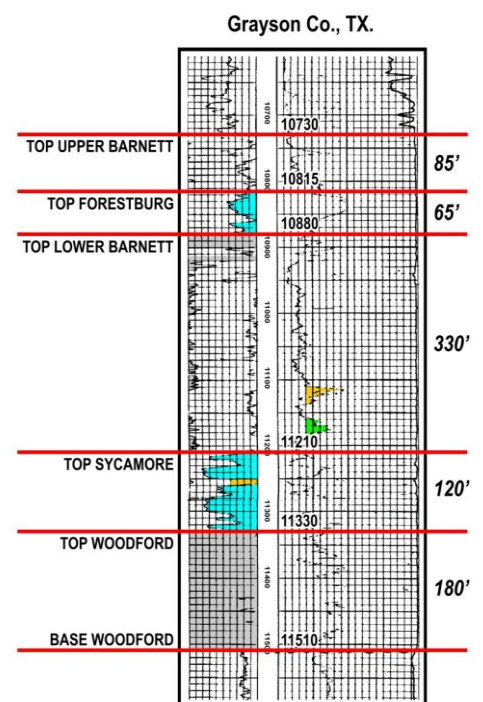
The Woodford shale remains to be drilled and Challenger expects to reach TD for the well at the base of the Woodford shale later this week. The well will then be conditioned ahead of logging operations after which the well will be cased and cemented and the drilling rig demobilised ahead of the next phase of testing.

Following demobilisation of the drilling rig, fracture stimulation and production testing equipment will be procured and mobilised to site to conduct these operations.

Prospect Overview.

The Mercury Stetson Prospect contains two of the premier shale formations in the US – the Woodford and Barnett shales – in geological extensions of the core producing areas in the Arkoma and Fort Worth Basins.

Original Well Bore




The key well on the Mercury Stetson Prospect was drilled in 1978 before the development of any of the shale gas plays in the US. It identified that both shales present in the well had the same log signatures, geochemical characteristics and thicknesses as those found in the core producing areas of both the Barnett and Woodford shales.

Based on the technical information available from this well, the two shales are estimated to contain in excess of 360 BCF/sq mile of gas in place. Interpretation of the current seismic data suggests that the prospect area is ~ 55,000 acres (85 sq miles).

The core objective of the testing program is to demonstrate that gas can be delivered to surface from both the Barnett and Woodford shales in the prospect area. This is the critical piece of information that will underpin the validity of the massive gas in place and commercial potential of the prospect area.

Challenger Energy has agreed to farm in to earn 50% of the Mercury Stetson Prospect which includes the Barnett and Woodford shales - both proven shale formations. The prospect which is potentially up to 55,000 acres (86 sq miles) has a massive potential gas in place with OGIP estimated at 360 BCF/sq mile. The JV area initially includes 26,000 acres contiguous land position with three pipelines across prospect with an initial target of 35,000 acres across the prospect.

Further updates will be provided in due course.



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Managing Director
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About Challenger

Challenger Energy Limited is a public company listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX:CEL) with a growing portfolio of exciting Oil and Gas exploration opportunities in South Africa and the USA.

Challenger's strategy is to utilise its network of global contacts to identify and acquire material upstream oil and gas exploration opportunities at a low entry cost which enables it to focus its exploration expenditure on drilling wells and other direct expenditure.

Challenger is targeting opportunities where it can act as operator, and which have significant scale and materiality (more than 1 TCF of gas or 10 Million bbl of Oil). The scale of these opportunities provides potentially significant upside for the company.

Forward Looking Statements

This announcement contains “forward-looking statements”. Such forward-looking statements include, without limitation: estimates of future earnings, the sensitivity of earnings to oil & gas prices and foreign exchange rate movements; estimates of future oil & gas production and sales; estimates of future cash flows, the sensitivity of cash flows to oil & gas prices and foreign exchange rate movements; statements regarding future debt repayments; estimates of future capital expenditures; estimates of reserves and statements regarding future exploration results and the replacement of reserves; and where the Company expresses or implies an expectation or belief as to future events or results, such expectation or belief is expressed in good faith and believed to have a reasonable basis. However, forward looking statements are subject to risks, uncertainties and other factors, which could cause actual results to differ materially from future results expressed, projected or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks include, but are not limited to oil and gas price volatility, currency fluctuations, increased production costs and variances in reserves or recovery rates from those assumed in the company’s plans, as well as political and operational risks in the countries and states in which we operate or sell product to, and governmental regulation and judicial outcomes. For a more detailed discussion of such risks and other factors, see the Company’s Annual Reports, as well as the Company’s other filings. The Company does not undertake any obligation to release publicly any revisions to any “forward looking statement” to reflect events or circumstances after the date of this release, or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events, except as may be required under applicable securities laws.