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Paper No. 195-3

Presentation Time: 9:00 AM-6:30 PM

EVALUATION OF THE MAGNOLIA GROWTH FAULT, PLAQUEMINES PARISH, SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA

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As oil and gas industry seismic data becomes available for university research, evidence indicating fault-induced subsidence in southern Louisiana becomes more apparent. A geologic investigation of the Lake Hermitage area west of the Mississippi River in Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana suggests an active, regional growth fault has caused rapid local subsidence. The Magnolia growth fault is a down-to-the-south, deep-seated listric fault bounded on the west and east by two salt diapirs. Growth faults in southern Louisiana are a fundamental structural element of the northern Gulf of Mexico Salt Basin and deep subsurface data shows that they have been locally active through much of the Cenozoic. Previous research has suggested that areas of hot-spot subsidence correlate to the known location of faults such as the Lake Hermitage area where the Magnolia growth fault has been mapped. Evidence from 3D seismic data, well logs, and biostratigraphy, in addition to local geomorphology, suggests the fault has been active since the Miocene and is causing submergence of wetlands on the hanging wall side. The fault plane was projected upward to the surface from the shallowest definitive interpretation in the 3D seismic survey. Like many regional growth faults in southern Louisiana the Magnolia growth fault's projected surface trace is indicated by an abrupt, linear boundary between emergent wetlands and open water. Wetlands overlying the footwall have been stable in recent decades whereas wetlands overlying the hanging wall have experienced rapid subsidence and a change from land to open water. Stratigraphic relationships in the 3D seismic survey and well logs clearly indicate an increase in fault throw with depth and an expansion of stratigraphic intervals from the footwall to the hanging wall. Fault throw has been measured to be more than 360 meters in some well logs around depths of 3350 meters. Shallow vibracores (~10 m) are currently being analyzed to determine near-surface offset of the fault and to assess Holocene fault motion and rates of fault slip using radiocarbon dating at key stratigraphic intervals. A complete understanding of fault-induced subsidence in southern Louisiana is necessary to maximize the benefits of coastal management.

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[D60. Structural Geology \(Posters\)](#)

Tuesday, 6 November 2018: 9:00 AM-6:30 PM

Halls J-K (Indiana Convention Center)