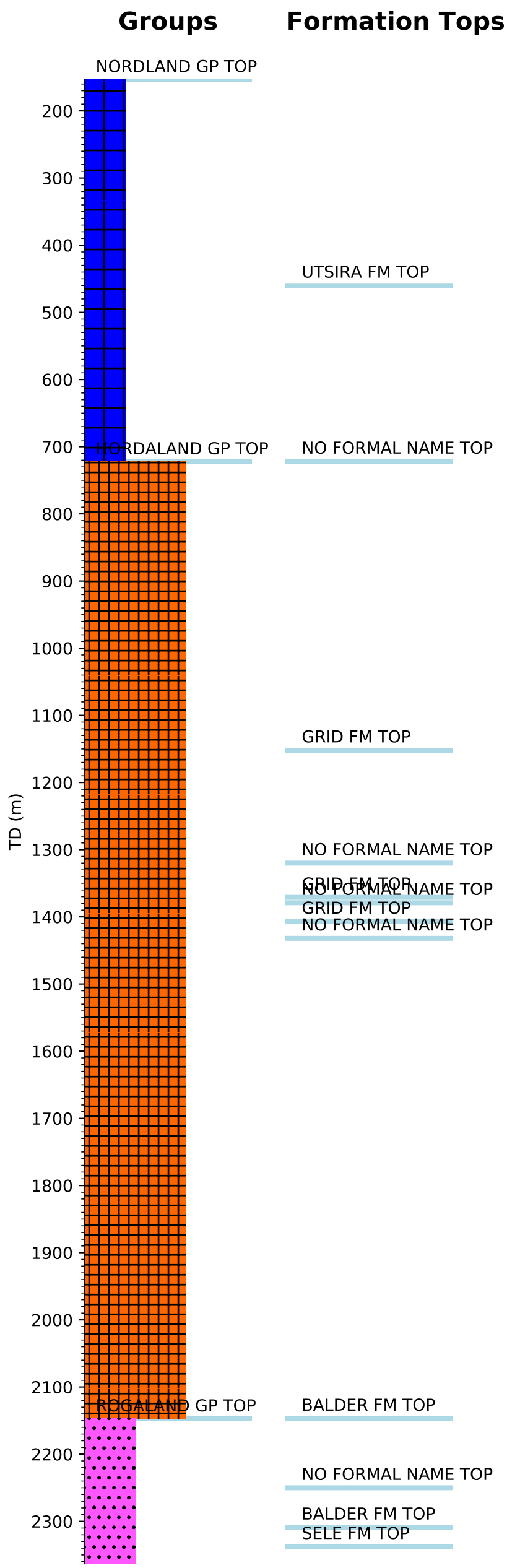

LITHOSTRATIGRAPHY & HISTORY FOR WELL: 24/9-7 C

Wellbore History

GENERAL

Well 24/9-7 was drilled on the Hamsun prospect located immediately to the west and south west of the Gekko structure in PL203 (Figure 1). The prospect was a "horse-shoe" shape around the Grieg structure, drilled by wells 24/9-5 and 24/9-6 in 1993 and 1994. The Hamsun prospect was defined by the recognition and interpretation of a series of distinct seismic anomalies and mapped as a sandstone injection complex, sourced from early Eocene Hermod Formation sands. These anomalies were interpreted to represent oil-filled, highly porous sandstone dykes and sills. Several well bores were proposed to test the prospect. The prime vertical well was planned to intersect the thickest part of the injection complex to test bright amplitude, low acoustic impedance seismic reflectors interpreted to represent major sandstone dyke complexes. A sidetrack well bore was planned depending on the results of the first well.

OPERATIONS AND RESULTS

A total of four wells were drilled from the surface location for 24/9-7 (the planned vertical well, an unplanned down-dip sidetrack 24/9-7 A, the planned up-dip sidetrack 24/9-7 B and a further unplanned lateral sidetrack 24/9-7 C). Taken as a whole, the four well bores took a total of 43.11 days to drill. All were drilled from the semi-submersible installation Deepsea Delta. No significant problems were encountered in the operations. Well 24/9-7 was drilled with seawater down to 953 m. From this depth to TD 24/9-7 and all sidetracks were drilled with Versavert oil based mud.

The prime vertical well bore 24/9-7 was spudded on 2 March 2004 and drilled to TD at 2280 m in the Late Paleocene Heimdal Formation. The well was plugged back for sidetracking on 24 March 2004. Well 24/9-7 A was kicked off at 1500 m and drilled to TD at 2277 m (2216.9 m TVD) in Heimdal Formation sandstone. The well was plugged back for a second sidetrack on 28 March 2004. Well bore 24/9-7-B was sidetracked from 1060 m and drilled to TD at 2230 m (2120.1 m TVD) in Lista Formation claystone. This well bore was plugged back for the final sidetrack on 2 April 2004. Sidetrack 24/9-7 C was kicked off at 1000 m and drilled to TD at 2363 m (2078.5 m TVD) in Sele Formation claystone.

Well 24/9-7 encountered hydrocarbons in two injected sandstone dyke complexes ("upper" and "lower"), together with numerous thin injectites distributed throughout the formations in proximity to the main dyke features. Thin injectite sands were first noted at 1822.6 m TVD, ca 54 m TVD shallower than the main injection feature. The upper, gas-bearing complex was penetrated at 1876.9 m TVD and the lower oil-bearing complex was penetrated at 1961.8 m TVD. Average porosities in the pay zones were estimated to 31.7% in the upper complex and 31.3% in the lower complex. The gas-oil and oil-water contacts were not seen directly on logs or core, but were interpreted at 1920 m TVD and 2024.8 m TVD respectively, based on formation pressure gradients.

Based on these results, sidetrack 24/9-7 A was permitted to evaluate the upper dyke complex down-dip in the oil leg with the intention of encountering an OWC in the lower complex. This sidetrack encountered the upper and lower complexes, approximately 126 m to the north of the original well, at 1927.6 m TVD and 2032.4 m TVD respectively. Gas-bearing pay was encountered distributed in thin breccia injectite intervals above the upper complex, which was oil-bearing throughout with ca 31.6 m vertical oil pay with average porosity of 32.2%. The lower complex was entirely water bearing as it was penetrated below the previously noted OWC. Wire line log interpretation and formation pressure analysis confirmed the oil column data and results recorded in 24/9-7 and the well was plugged back for the programmed up-dip sidetrack.

Well 24/9-7B was drilled to the planned target location up-dip of the main dyke feature but at 1794 m TVD encountered only thin, sporadic, gas-bearing injectites in the fringe complex.

Well 24/9-7C was drilled with LWD tools to a tight target 728 m northeast of the initial vertical well. The well encountered oil-bearing injected sandstone with a clearly defined OWC at 2024.3 m TVD. Confirmation of the OWC was obtained through formation pressure analysis and a total of 29 m vertical oil pay was recognized with an average porosity of 33.5%.

Four conventional cores were cut from 1830 m to 1916 m in 24/9-7 and one