

Exploration Services Participants: Shelby Peterie, Julio Gonzales, Brett Bennett, Brett Wedel, Joe Anderson, Anthony Hoch, John Intfen, Rex Buchanan, Rick Miller, and bucket load of undergraduate students coming and going.

## Dynamic Seismicity in Kansas

History of Seismicity Current Statewide Network Sub-Regional Network Interesting Clusters What Does It All Mean?













## History Studying Earthquakes in Kansas







13 years, 171 earthquakes, M0.5 to M4.0



1990-2014

15 years, 18 earthquakes, M2.2 to M3.5

# Earthquake Monitoring Restart at the KGS in 2015 Basic Make-up and Operations



- 7 KGS permanent stations—2 vertical & 2 horizontal
- 5 KGS temporary station—1 vertical & 2 horizontal
- ▲ 3 USGS stations occasionally used by KGS

2013-2016 Gov Task Force, KGS working with KS Dept of Health an Environment (KDHE) and KS Corp Commission (KCC)
2015-2017 Installed temporary & permanent networks Real-time

email alerts

 $M \ge 2$ 

Near-real time

Waveforms and preliminary catalog open access Full catalog (1 week lag, currently 10,213 events) manual analysis of continuous data (M1 locally) M ≥ 1.8 statewide (4,886 events, 2015 to present) Since 2016 KGS working with KDHE & KCC developing online mapping & real time notifications, both in beta

# **Ordered Reduction in Fluid Injection**

In 2015, the KCC ordered phased reduction in Arbuckle injection within 5 high seismicity zones Vast potential of microseismic activity to understand and delineate sensitive structures



Order fully in place



2015

2017

2016



## **Combined Kansas Networks**

Dense networks provide for enhance location accuracy and improves depth determinations

- USGS has more than 20 stations in Kansas, with all but two in southcentral Kansas focused on Harper and Sumner Counties
- Sub-regional (5) initially sponsored by the KCC, but is currently operated and funded by KGS and designed to monitor for any expansion in the two county area where earthquakes were prominent during 2013-14
- Regional network (7) designed in 2015 to capture elevated seismicity occurring during 2014 and into 2015
- Continued escalation in several earthquake clusters is providing the catalyst for expanding the regional network further with 6 more permanent stations in under sampled areas



Seismic sensor (\$15,000) Seismometer Digitizer Real-time communications (\$4,000) cellular modem cellular antenna **RTP** server Power (\$1,200) 120 watt 12 V solar panel charge controller two deep-cycle marine batteries Operation (\$2,000/year) cell data line annual maintenance











## Hutchinson Cluster M3.6 Earthquake March 8, 2018 4:48 AM



#### Historical Compared to New Normal

Nearly 150 years of consistent seismicity began abruptly transitioning in 2013

Only locating more earthquakes because more stations





1867 - 2012

2013 - Today

1977-2009 (33 years) there were 35 earthquakes reported > M2.5 and 15 > M3.0 2010-2013 (4 years) there were 4 earthquakes reported > M2.5 and 2 > M3.0 2014-2017 (4 years) there were 618 earthquakes reported > M2.5 and 178 > M3.0

























structural contours (Arbuckle Group)



#### Areas of research with focus on seismicity

#### <u>Spatio-temporal progression of seismicity into</u> <u>central Kansas (Peterie, et al 2018)</u>





#### Mapping Arbuckle Group hydrostatic surface and pressure



Arbuckle Working Group is a multiagency effort to more completely characterize the Arbuckle by working across all UIC classes. KGS is lead working with KDHE and KCC

# Areas of research with focus on seismicity

aeromag w/lineaments interpreted in 1983



earthquakes (2015-present)

Seismicity in the Salina Basin



2015-present earthquakes 1983 aeromag w/lineaments

#### Comprehensive Fault Mapping from Published Data

KANSAS





Baars and Watney, 1991

Cole 1976





Berendsen and Blair, 1986

Yarger 1983

# Summing Up

- Seismicity in Kansas has dramatically changed since 2013 and continues to change
- Clusters and swarms rarely have the same characteristics
- Seismicity in Kansas (earthquakes above 2.5) spiked in 2015 and has been on the decline since that time.
- Spike in Kansas seismicity was consistent with measured, regional increase in pore pressure in the Arbuckle
  - 1. As injection volumes decreased, seismicity has declined and Arbuckle pressures have stabilized.
  - 2. Induced earthquakes occurred as Arbuckle pressures exceed triggering thresholds of critically stressed faults.
  - 3. Future increases in pore pressure could re-energize seismicity in previously active areas and induce felt earthquakes in areas currently only experiencing micro seismic.
- O&G prices today ~\$63/Bbl up from \$35 a year ago with rig count currently at 47 last year 33
- Several areas have been identified with potential to produce large numbers of minor earthquakes.
- Kansas networks have proven invaluable, continued operation is dependent on funding.

# Trends Along Known Structures 2016-2017

