



# Society of Petroleum Engineers

New Mexico Tech Campus • 801 Leroy Place • Socorro • New Mexico  
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## SPE Section Meeting

***Robert Balch***

**New Mexico Tech Petroleum Recovery  
Research Center**

will speak on

***“Reducing Impacts of New Pit Rules  
on Small Producers”***

**Wednesday, September 3, 2008**

**12:00 p.m.**



**Yates Petroleum  
Multipurpose room (Enter via courtyard)  
104 S. 4th  
Artesia, New Mexico  
\$10 per person**

### **Abstract**

The objective of this project is to minimize the impact of new “pit rules” on New Mexico’s small producers. The added cost of compliance and increased difficulty of permitting could price these producers, who as a whole produce the majority of New Mexico’s marginal and mature fields, out of future drilling and production—thus reducing future reserves. New compliance will be required for a number of surface and subsurface features such as depth to groundwater, distance to surface water and variety cultural and environmental features. Compliance will require expensive specialist site surveys and significant permitting delays and costs will be acquired by small producers, lacking specialized staff to deal with these expenses.

In partnership with industry (IPANM) and the regulatory agency (NMOCD), this project proposes to make available a wide selection of data needed for compliance, in accepted automated

formats, that will allow faster applications without the necessity of expensive specialist surveys in most areas. In addition, maps of leaching potential and site risk will be generated to allow a quick review of compliance issues and potential remediation expenses for all potential drill sites in New Mexico’s producing regions. Input from producers of all sizes is desired in order to best fit the actual needs due to the pit rule changes.

### **Biography**

Robert Balch is Section Head of the Reservoir Evaluation and Advanced Computational Technologies Group at the Petroleum Recovery Research center, New Mexico Tech.

Dr. Balch’s recent research has been focused on developing and applying artificial intelligence and data mining tools to a variety of problems at many scales using geological, geophysical, and engineering data—including single well studies, field scale analyses and most recently, regional exploration and drilling risk evaluation and optimizing well completions by data mining.

Past work includes reservoir characterization studies using multiple seismic attributes as inputs for non-linear regressions of reservoir properties such as porosity, water saturation and net pay. He has also developed neural networks to predict Formation Micro Imager (FMI) logs and core properties from suites of conventional logs.

Dr. Balch earned a B.S. from the Evergreen State College, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Geophysics from New Mexico Tech and has been with the PRRC since 1997.

#### **PLEASE RSVP to:**

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## **2008-09 SPE Distinguished Lectures**

**Thursday, November 13, 2008** 6:45pm

Luiz Carlos do Carmo Marques

*"The Production Management of Unstable Light Crude Oils Showing Asphaltenes Deposition Problems"*

New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM

**Monday, January 26, 2009**

Ahmed Mousa Al-Hamadah

*"Cutoffs in Gas Reservoirs and Their Implications in Reservoir Simulation"*

Location TBD

**Monday, April 13, 2009**

David S. Hughes

*"The Strategic Significance and Practicalities of CO<sub>2</sub> EOR and Storage"*

Location TBD

## **Roswell Section 2008-09 SPE Officers**

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