

IPA  
C  
CO2

**THE KERR INVESTIGATION:  
TECHNICAL BRIEFING**

# Today's Agenda



- Why
- What
- Results

# IPA CCO<sub>2</sub> MISSION

**Promote the advancement and exchange of  
geologic storage knowledge through  
international understanding and co-operation**

# IPA CO<sub>2</sub> MISSION

**Increase public, government and regulator confidence in the safety and permanence of geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>**

**Contribute to creating an emerging Carbon Capture and Storage value chain**

# IPA C CO<sub>2</sub> MISSION

**Participate in applied CCS research.**

**Participate in the practical application of  
commercial scale geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>**

# IPA CO<sub>2</sub> MISSION

**Not-for-profit organization focusing on the geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>**

**Risk assessment, risk management,  
risk mitigation techniques, risk communication**

The logo features the text 'IPAC' at the top, 'CO2' in the middle, and 'MISSION' at the bottom, all in white. A green circle is positioned to the left of the 'C' in 'CO2'. The text is reflected below it. A horizontal light flare is visible behind the text.



# IPAC CO2 MISSION

**Committed to providing independent, objective  
information, best practices, advice and assessments**

# CLIENTS:

- governments
- industry
- academia
- stakeholder groups
- international organizations


The poster features a central graphic of a globe with a green ribbon-like shape wrapped around it. The text is arranged in a clear hierarchy, starting with logos at the top, followed by the event title, location and dates, organizers, and sponsors. The bottom right corner shows a partial view of the globe graphic.

 **ieaghg**  **BGR**

**Natural Releases of CO<sub>2</sub>:  
Building Knowledge for  
CO<sub>2</sub> Storage Environmental  
Impact Assessments**

Maria Laach, Germany,  
2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Organised and Hosted by  
IEAGHG, CO<sub>2</sub>GeoNet and BGR

Sponsored by  
IPAC-CO<sub>2</sub>  




# THE IPAC CO<sub>2</sub> MISSION



- The world's first performance standards for geologic storage of CO<sub>2</sub>
- The Incident Response Protocol (IRP)

# INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

## 9 steps

1. Response to allegations of the unintentional release of a gas or gases associated with a specific CCS project.
2. Irrespective of the outcome of Step 1, what was the response to the allegations by:
  - The operator of the CCS project
  - Other participants in the CCS project
  - The provincial and federal governments

# INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

- 3. If there has been an unintentional release, what substances were released and what was the scope of the release?**
- 4. If there has been an unintentional release, what were the release mechanisms?**
- 5. If there has been an unintentional release, when was the release detected?**

# INCIDENT RESPONSE PROTOCOL

6. If there has been an unintentional release, what was the response to the release?
7. If there has been an unintentional release, what were the consequences of the release?
8. If there has been an unintentional release, was there compliance with applicable industry performance standards / best practices?
9. Conclusions and recommendations

# THE KERR INVESTIGATION

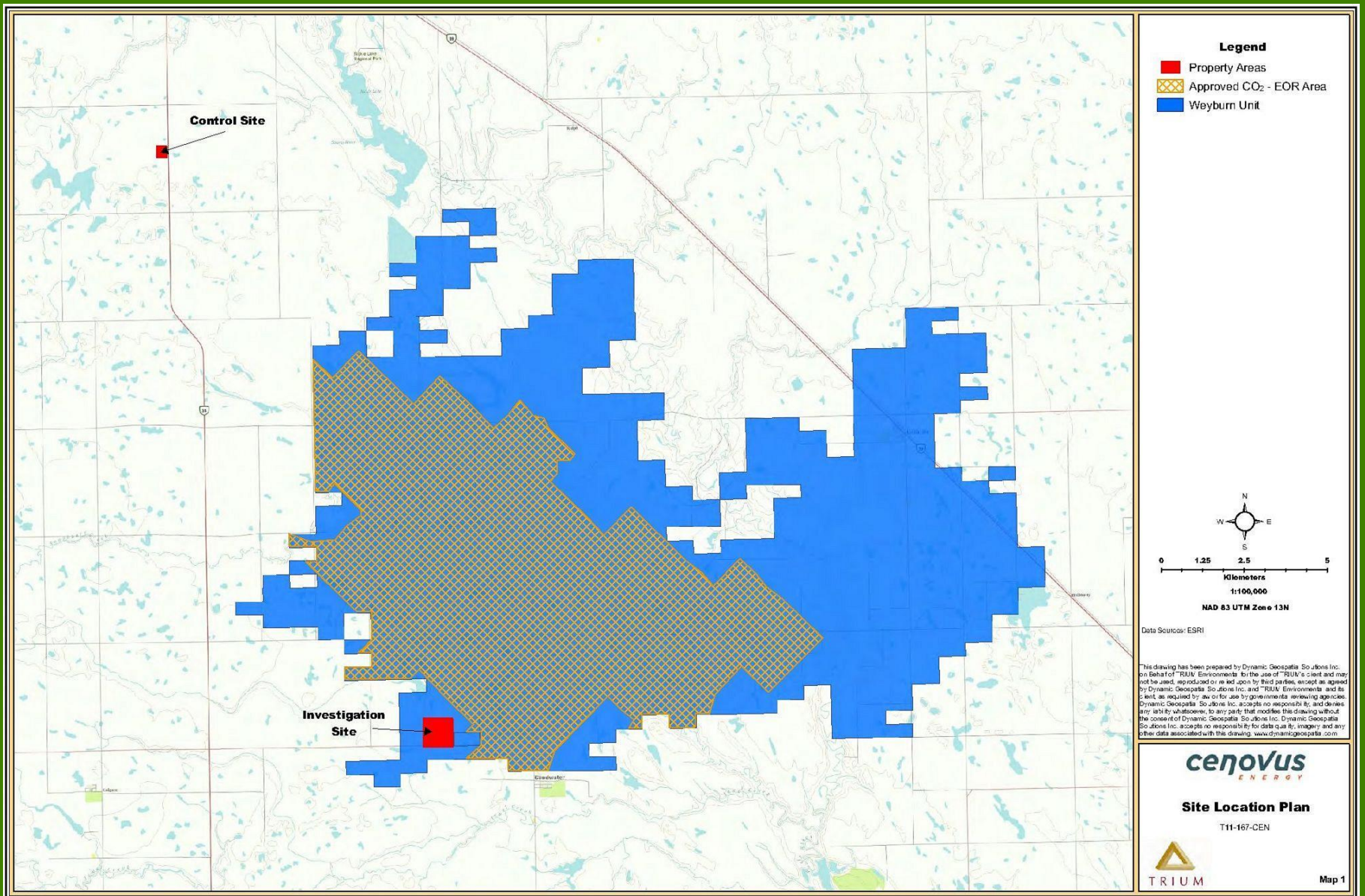
To reduce the uncertainty regarding the carbon dioxide anomaly reported to exist on the property owned by Cameron and Jane Kerr



# CENOVUS ENERGY



# CENOVUS SITE LOCATION PLAN



**PROTOCOL  
IMPLEMENTATION**

**The Kerr Property**

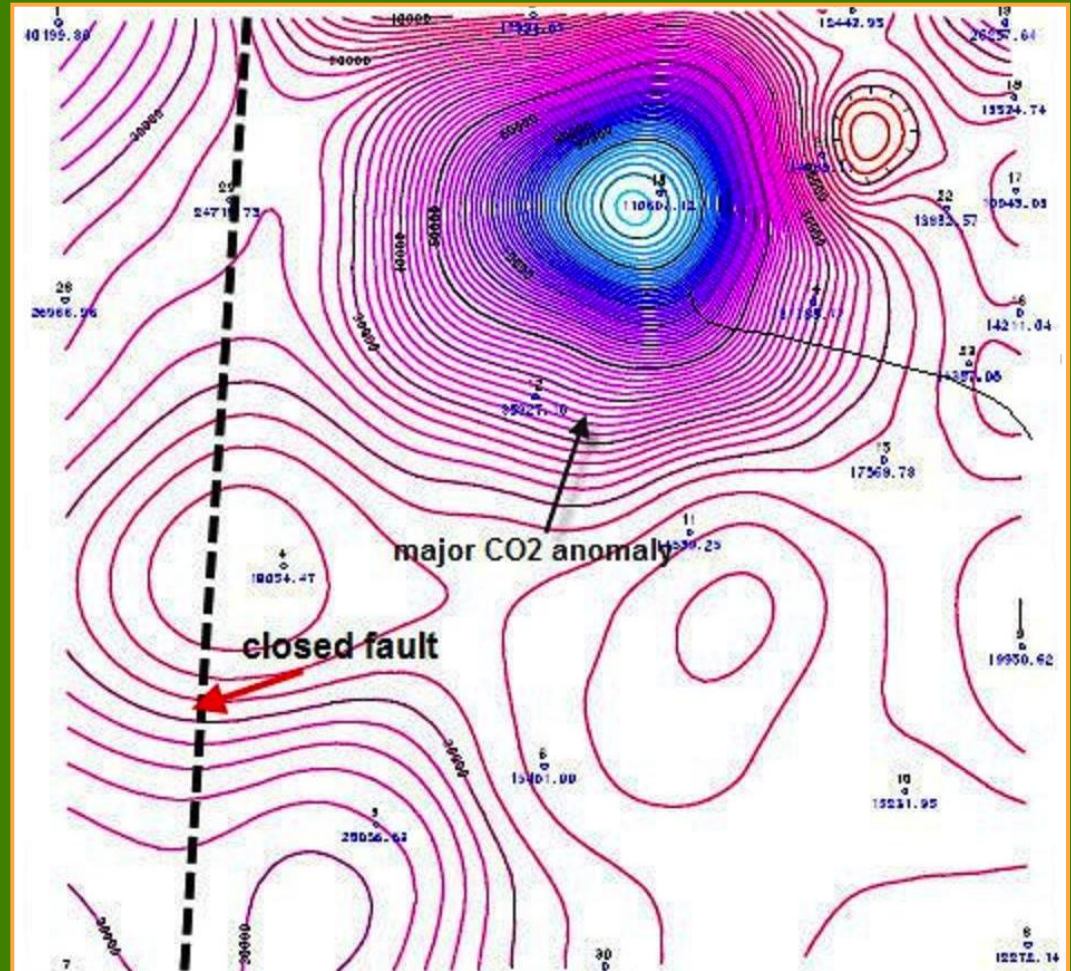




# PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION

## The summer CO<sub>2</sub> anomaly

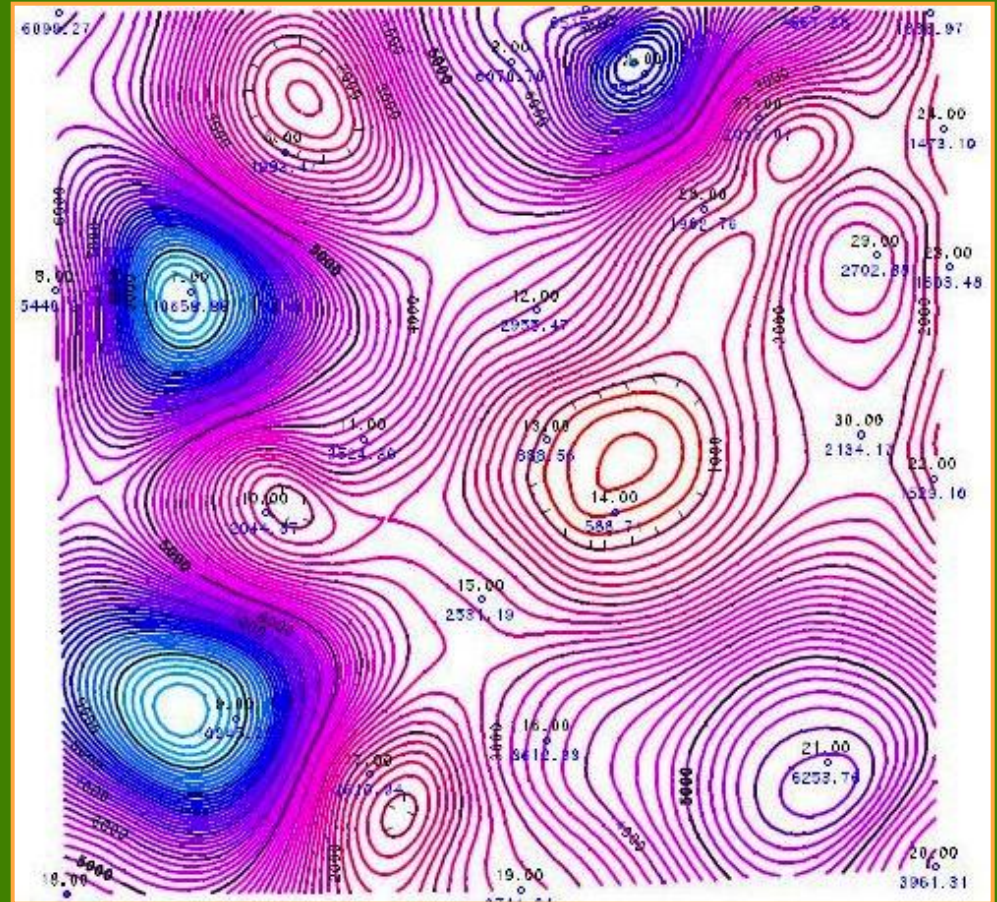
Source: Lafleur, P. 2010. *Geochemical Soil Gas Survey: A Site Investigation of SW30-5-13-W2M Weyburn Field, Saskatchewan.* Saskatoon, SK: Petro-Find Geochem Ltd.)



# PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION

## The winter CO<sub>2</sub> anomalies

Source: Lafleur, P. 2011. *Geochemical Soil Gas Survey: A Site Investigation of SW30-5-13-W2M, Weyburn Field, Saskatchewan, Monitoring Project Number 2.* Saskatoon, SK: Petro-Find Geochem Ltd.



# PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION: QUALITY ASSURANCE

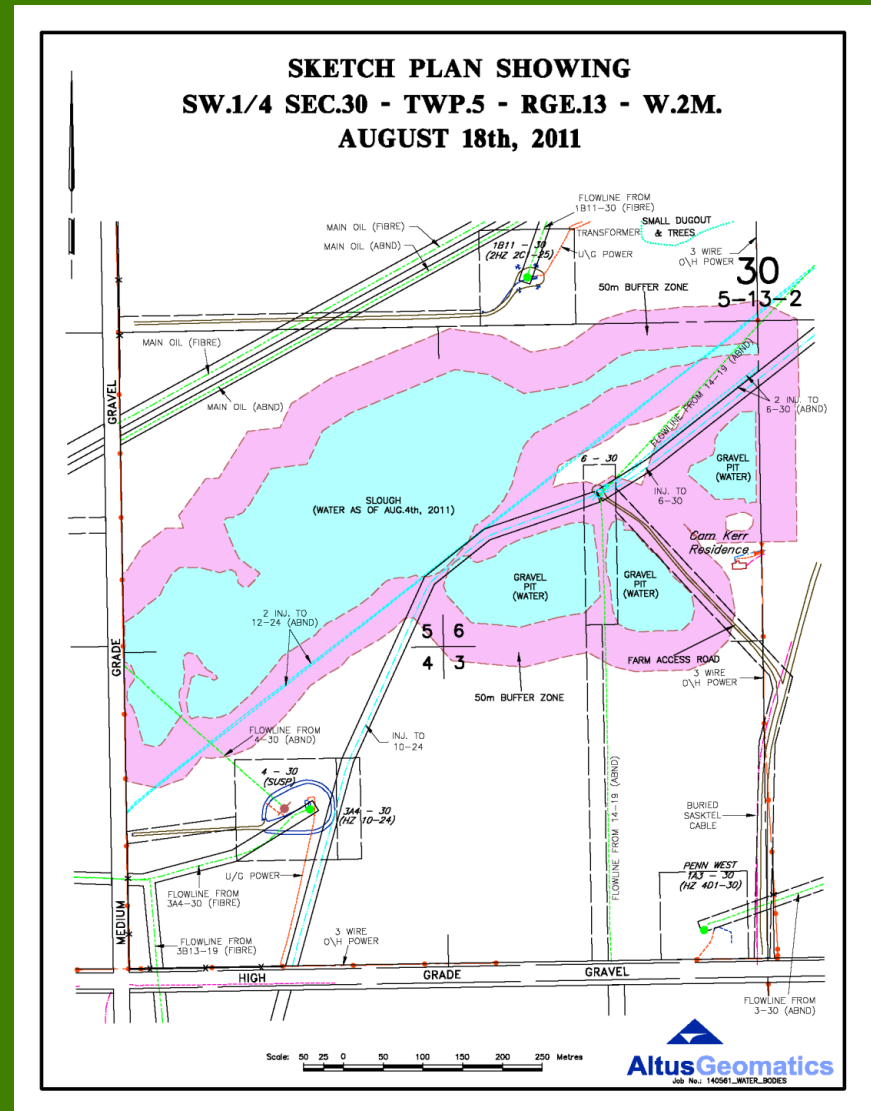


**MR. ERIC S. RINGLER**  
Consultant, Research  
Triangle, North Carolina,  
U.S.A

# Protocol Implementation: Constraints

Northern Leopard  
Frog (*Lithobates  
pipiens*)

National Energy Board  
pipeline setback  
requirements



# PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION

- **Vicinity inspection:**
  - **Overview**
  - **Wells (active and abandoned)**
  - **Pipelines (active and abandoned)**
  - **Injection sites**
  - **Monitoring sites**
  - **Study sites**

# PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION

- **Vicinity history:**
  - **Chronology of events**
  - **Injection history (substances, depth, formations)**
  - **Land use history**
  - **Incidents in vicinity (e.g., hydrocarbon spills)**
  - **Release history (if any)**

# THE KERR INVESTIGATION TEAM

- **Dr. Janis Dale, Department of Geology, University of Regina, Canada**
- **Dr. Stuart M.V. Gilfillan, Scottish Carbon Capture and Storage, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh, Scotland**
- **Mr. Eric S. Ringler, Consultant, Research Triangle, North Carolina, U.S.A.**

# THE KERR INVESTIGATION TEAM

- **Dr. Katherine D. Romanak, Principle Investigator, Gulf Coast Carbon Center, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.**
- **Dr. Brad D. Wolaver, Gulf Coast Carbon Center, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.**
- **Dr. Changbing Yang, Gulf Coast Carbon Center, Bureau of Economic Geology, University of Texas at Austin, U.S.A.**



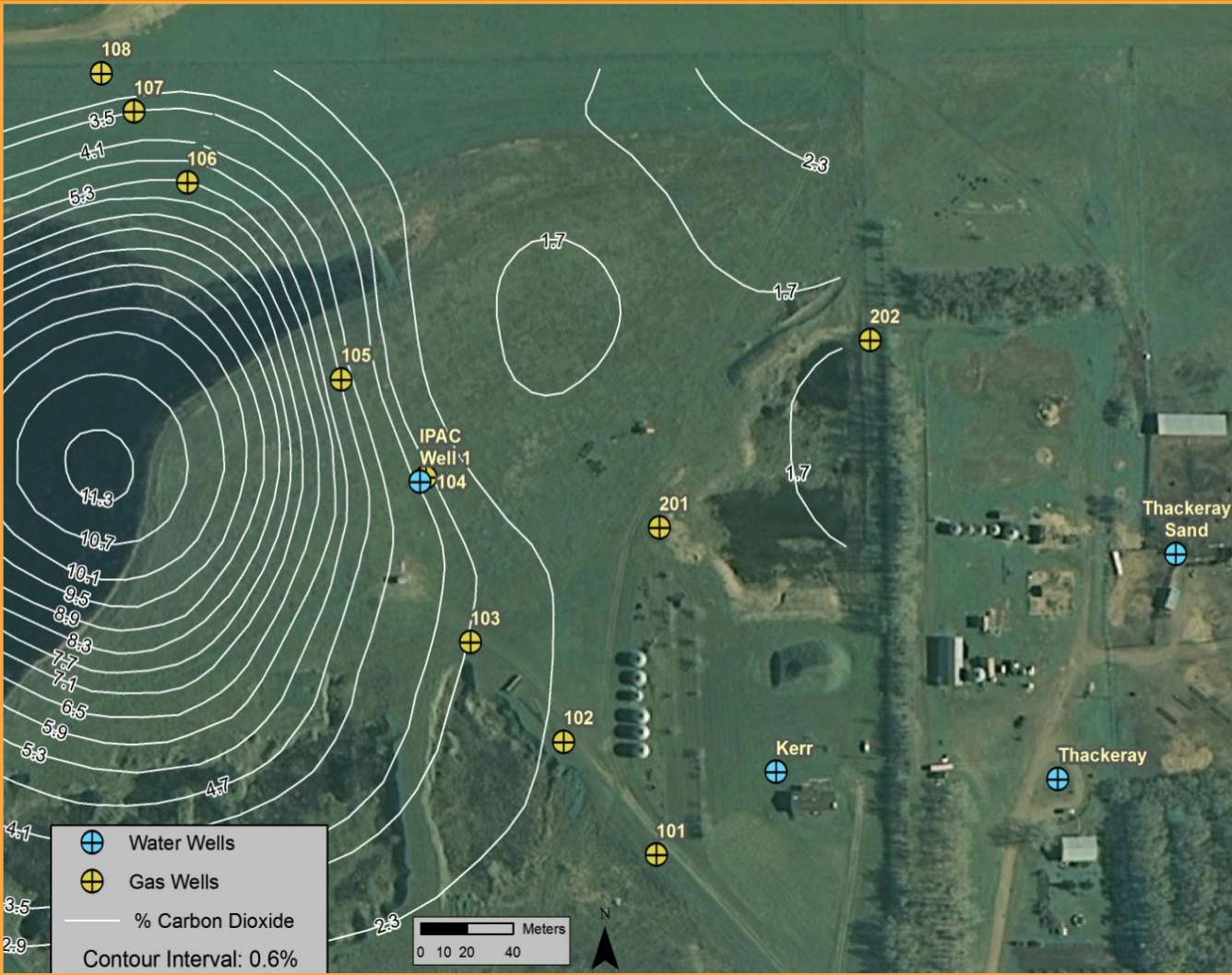
# SOIL GAS ANALYSIS

**DR. KATHERINE D. ROMANAK**

**Principle Investigator,  
Gulf Coast Carbon Center,  
Bureau of Economic  
Geology, at the University  
of Texas in Austin**



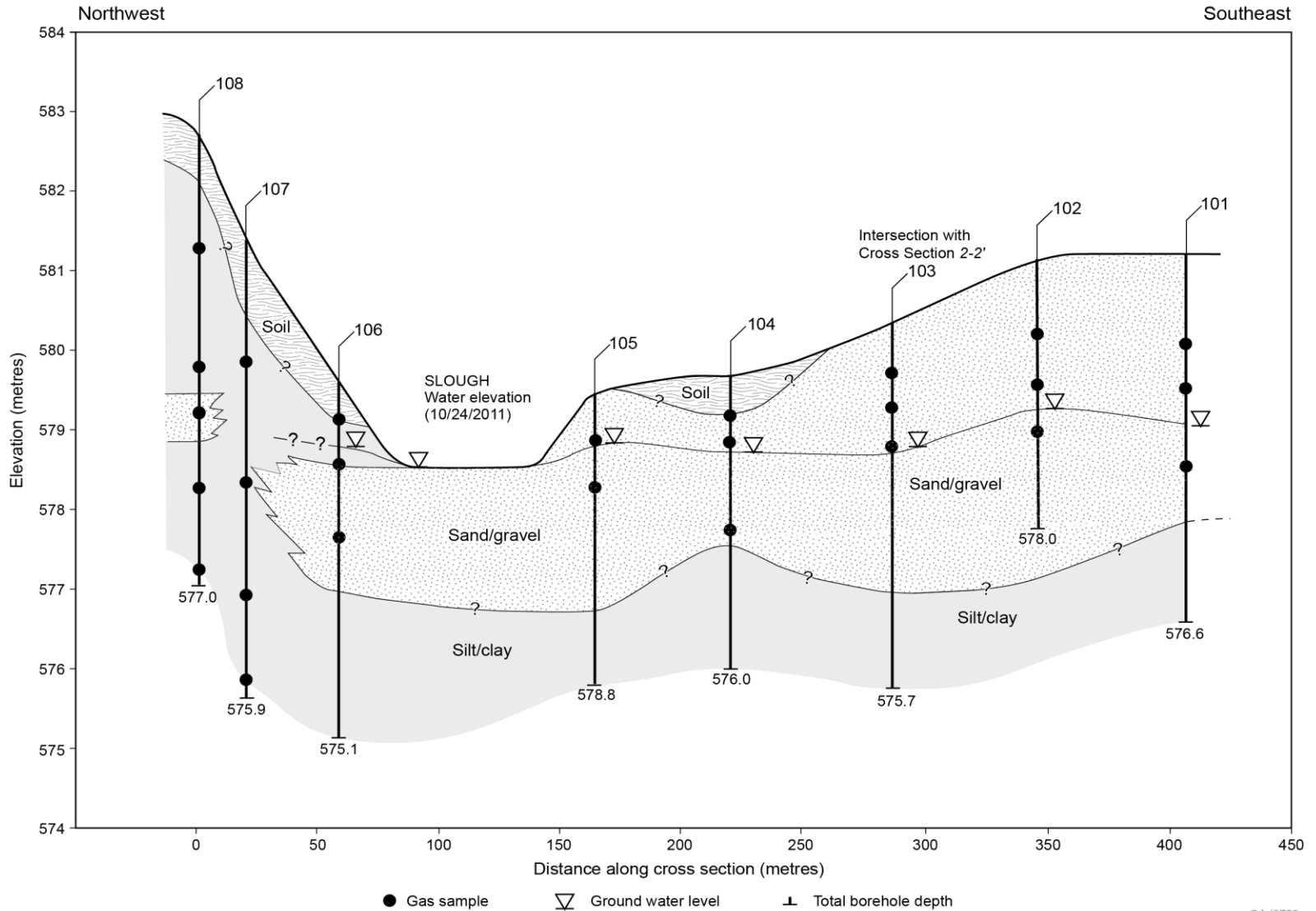
# THE KERR PROPERTY



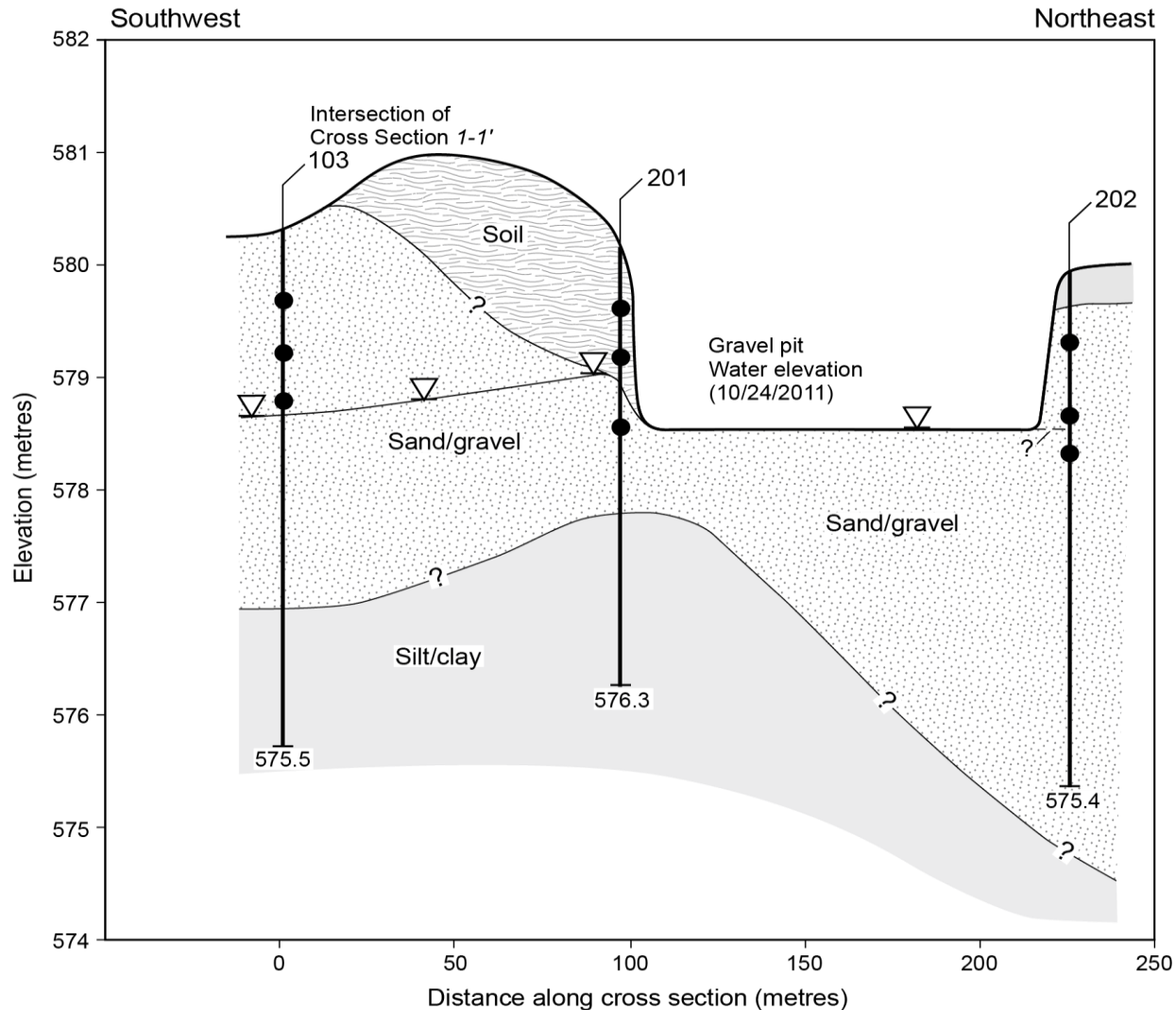
# THE KERR PROPERTY



# SOIL-GAS SAMPLING STATIONS: NW-SE TRANSECT



# SOIL-GAS SAMPLING STATIONS: SW-NE TRANSECT



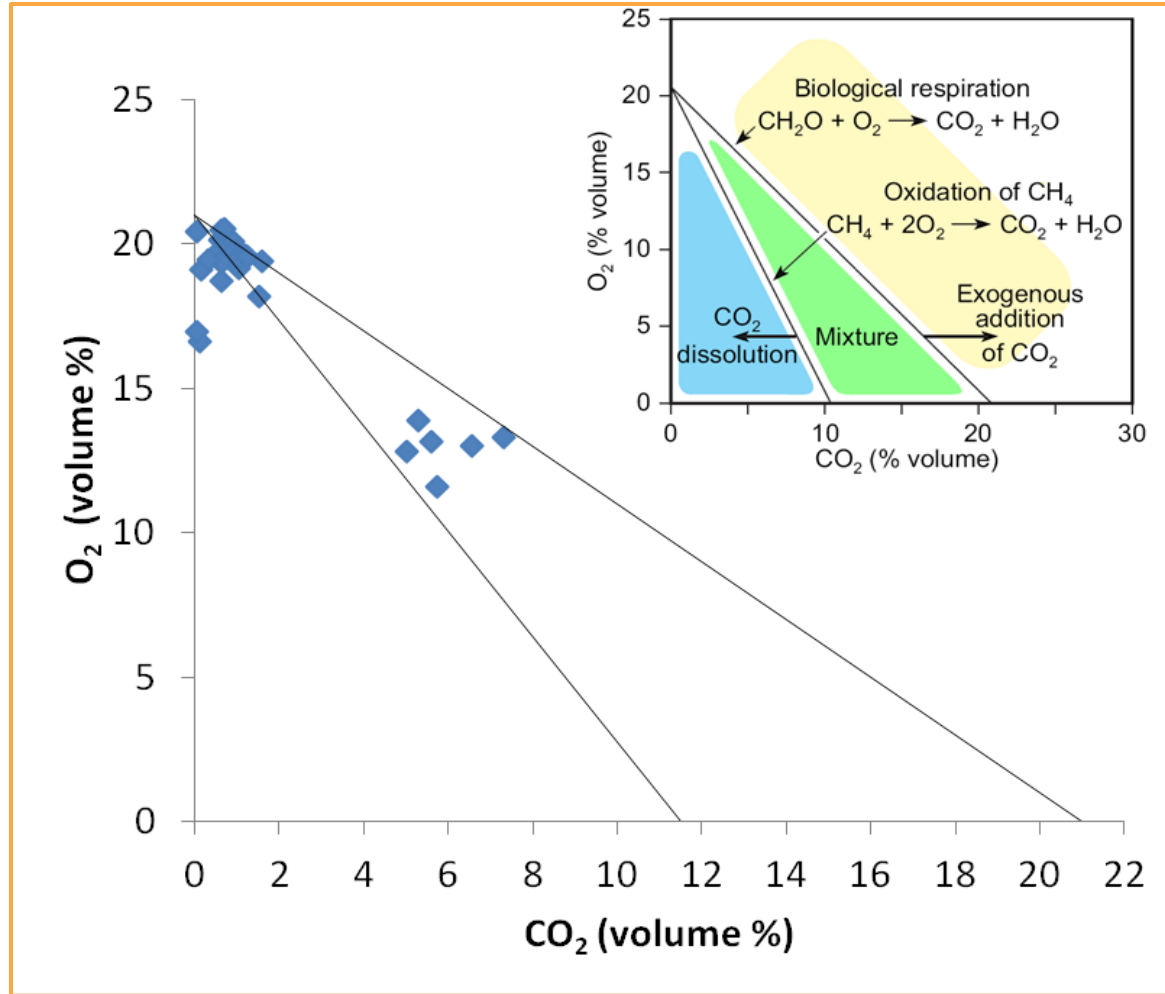
● Gas sample

▽ Ground water level

└ Total borehole depth

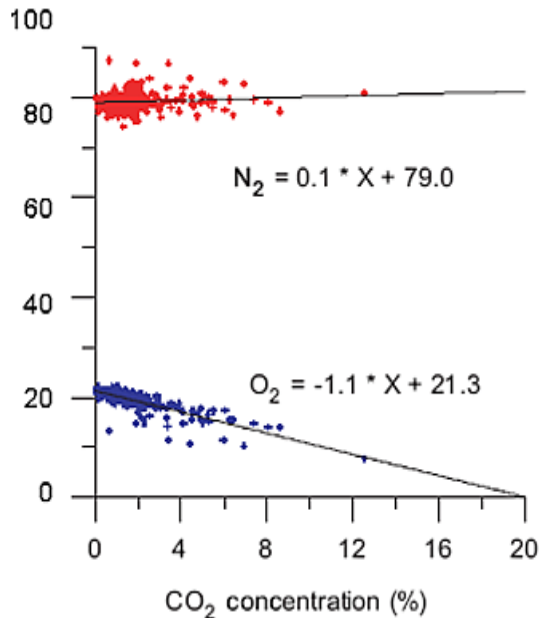
QAd9729

# O<sub>2</sub>:CO<sub>2</sub> RELATIONSHIPS



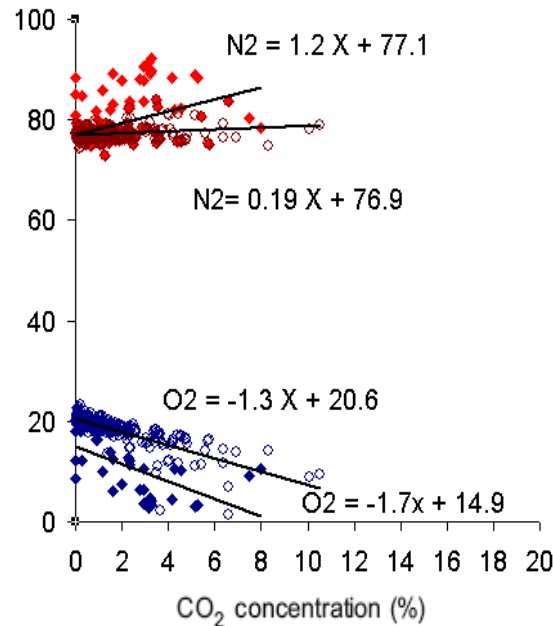
# GAS CONCENTRATION RELATIONSHIPS

Weyburn Background  
Microbial near-surface  
No impact on N<sub>2</sub>  
Slope N<sub>2</sub>:CO<sub>2</sub> = 0



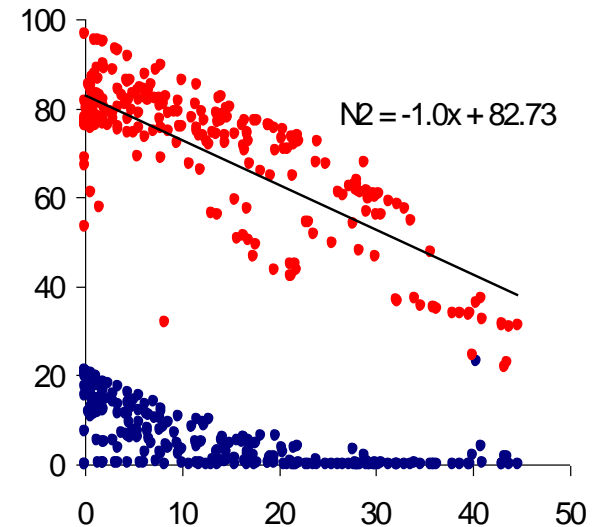
Riding and Rochelle, 2005

Natural Wetland Soils  
CO<sub>2</sub> dissolution  
Slope N<sub>2</sub>:CO<sub>2</sub> is positive



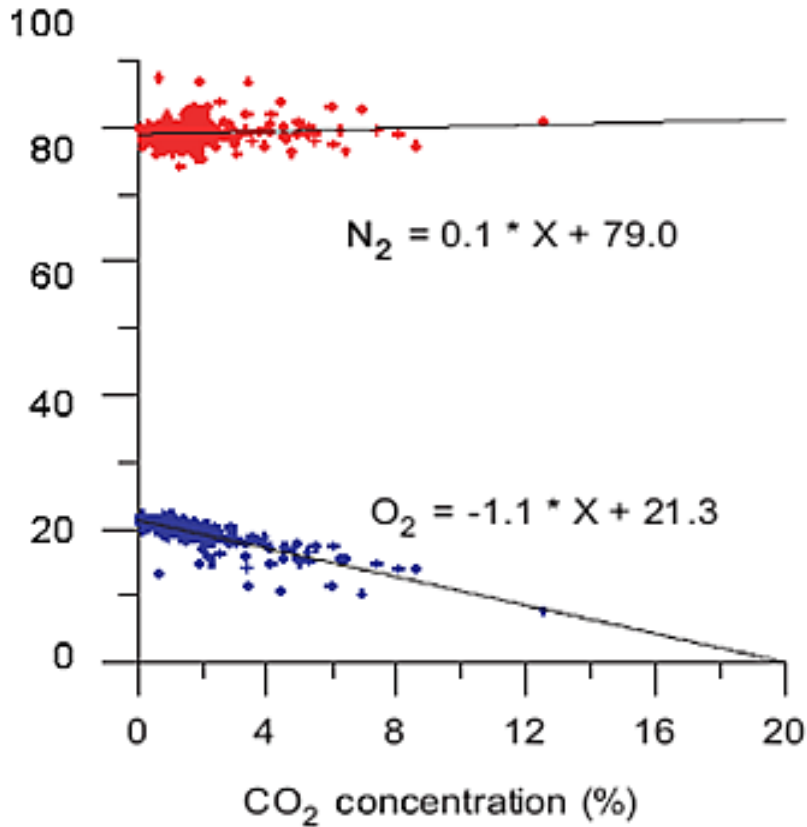
Romanak, 1997  
Romanak and Bennett, 2009

Industrial Site  
Input of deep gas  
Dilution of N<sub>2</sub>  
Slope N<sub>2</sub>:CO<sub>2</sub> is negative

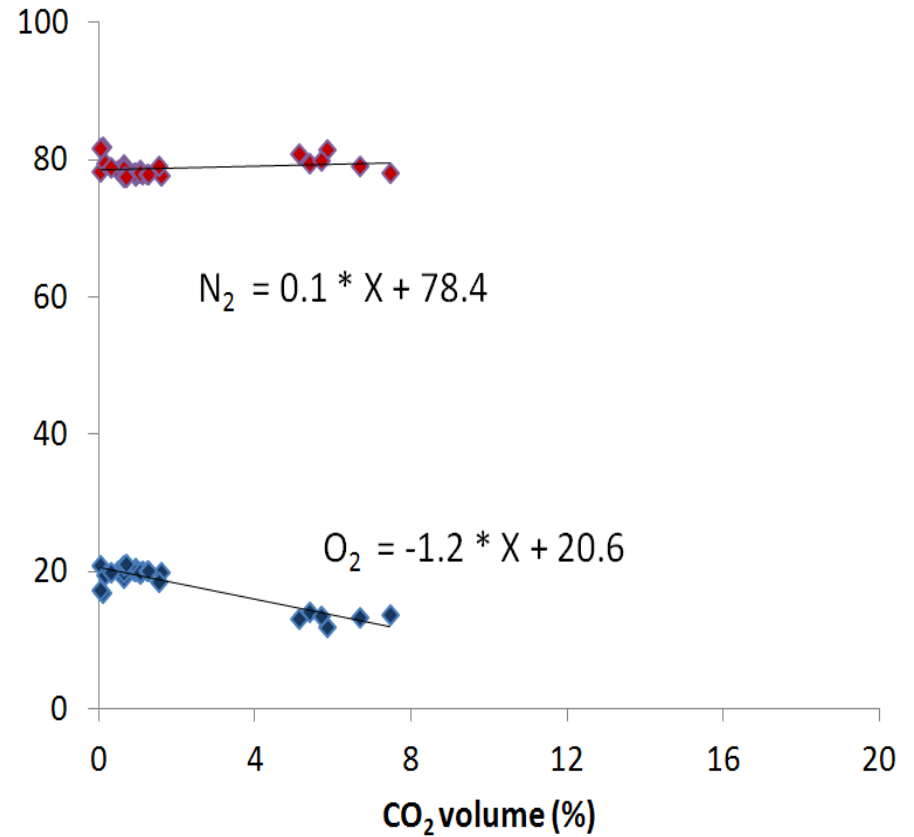


Romanak et. al., 2010

# GAS CONCENTRATION RELATIONSHIPS



Weyburn Background



Kerr Investigation



# CARBON ISOTOPIC SIGNATURES OF VARIOUS POTENTIAL CO<sub>2</sub> SOURCES

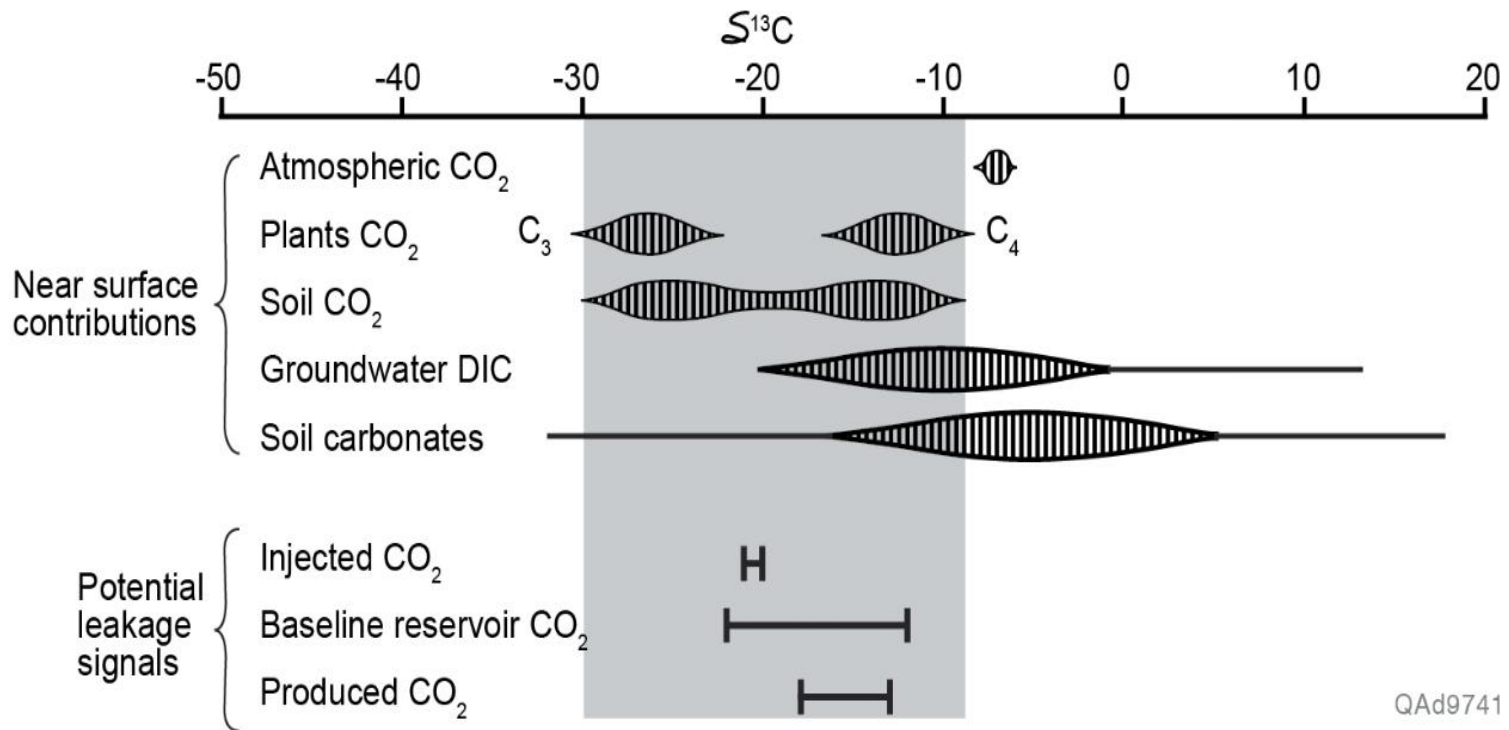


Figure is modified from Clark and Fritz, 1997, with data for potential leakage signals from Emberley et al., 2005.

## CONCLUSIONS

**CO<sub>2</sub> is biological in origin, not the result of leaks associated with the CO<sub>2</sub> storage reservoir**

**No evidence suggests that gases originating in the deep subsurface migrated to the near surface**

# ANALYSIS OF NOBLE GAS, CARBON STABLE ISOTOPE AND HYDROGEN CARBONATE $\text{HCO}_3$



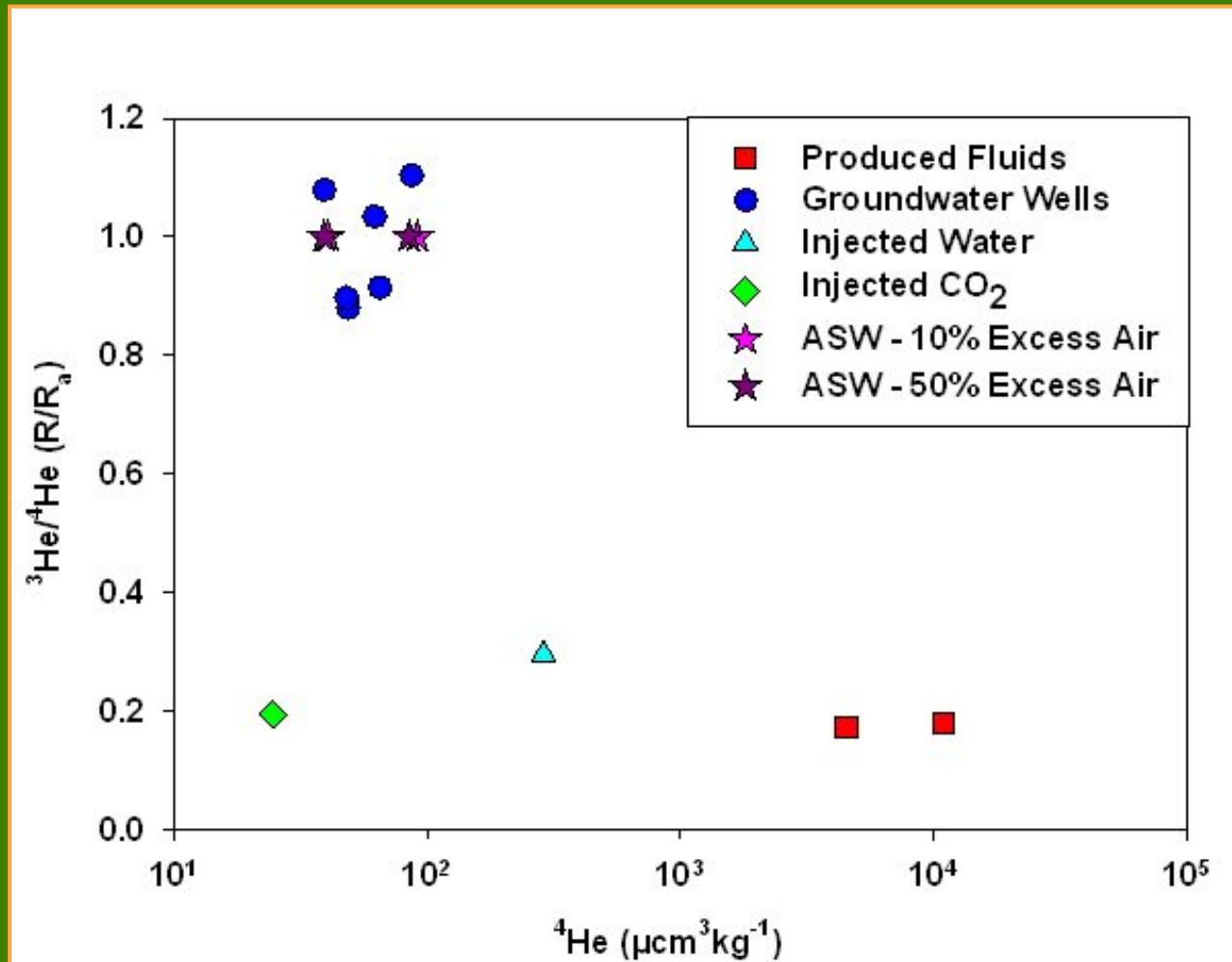
**DR. STUART GILFILLAN**

**Scottish Carbon  
Capture and Storage,  
School of Geosciences,  
University of  
Edinburgh, Scotland**

# NOBLE GAS ANALYSIS: SAMPLES OBTAINED

- Water injected into the oil field
- CO<sub>2</sub> injected into the oil field
- Fluids produced from the oil field
- Ground water wells on the Kerr and adjacent Thackeray farms

# NOBLE GAS ANALYSIS: $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$ PLOTTED AGAINST $^4\text{He}$ CONCENTRATIONS IN THE PRODUCED RESERVOIR FLUIDS, GROUNDWATER WELLS AND WATER INJECTED INTO THE RESERVOIR SURROUNDING THE KERR QUARTER



## CONCLUSIONS

**“We find no evidence in any of the noble gas data derived within the ground waters surrounding the Kerr quarter that there is a detectible presence of noble gases derived from the deep injected water or CO<sub>2</sub> or the fluids produced from the Weyburn field.”**

# HYDROGEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

**DR. BRAD D. WOLAVER AND  
DR. CHANGBING YANG**  
Gulf Coast Carbon Center,  
Bureau of Economic  
Geology, University of  
Texas at Austin, U.S.A.

**DR. JANIS DALE**  
Department of Geology,  
University of Regina



# HYDROGEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: METHODS







# HYDROGEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: PROCESS



# HYDROGEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS: WATER CHEMISTRY ANALYSIS - 1

Sample	Well	Sampling date	EC	TDS	Alkalinity	pH	Total Hardness	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> +CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>2-</sup>	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup>	Sodium	Potassium	Calcium	Magnesium	Chloride	Sulfate	NO <sub>3</sub> +NO <sub>2</sub>		
			mS/cm	mg/L	mg CaCO <sub>3</sub> /L		mg CaCO <sub>3</sub> /L	(mg/L)	mg/L	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg/L)	(mg N/L)	
Saskatchewan's Drinking Water Quality Standards and Objectives		MAC															10	
		IMAC																
		AO		1500	500	6.50-9.00	800			300			200	250	500			
1	IPAC-1	9/1/2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	109	14.4	116	94.4	30.8	300		0.74	
2	Kerr House	9/1/2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34.4	7	111	46.8	5.5	180		3.3	
3	Thackeray House	9/1/2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.4	10.9	111	71.8	43.5	120		18.4	
4	Thackeray Farm	9/1/2011	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	56.6	242	205	87.4	150	167		64	
5	Kerr House	6/30/2011	0.74	546	288	7.80	292	351	351	25	9	69	29	8	54		0.54	
6	Thackeray House	6/30/2011	1.66	1187	405	8.00	645	495	495	103	20	118	85	86	250		29.9	
7	Thackeray Farm	6/30/2011	2.25	1369	471	7.50	707	575	575	67	133	148	82	136	180		48.1	



# SUMMARY

Regardless of whether CO<sub>2</sub> was measured in the soil gases or in groundwater, it was produced by natural processes



# THE KERR INVESTIGATION: FINAL REPORT