

# **Lightning Sparks Interest in Unconventional Exploration!**

Roice Nelson & Louis Berent Dynamic Measurement, LLC

23-March-2016

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#### Agenda & Outline



Welcome & Introduction Lightning Strikes & Dynamic Measurement – the backstory Lightning, and why it is tracked, stacked & mapped! Natural Source Electromagnetics (NSEM) – a new geophysical data type.

Louis Berent & Roice Nelson Examples of using NSEM to interpret geologic features. NSEM Overview. Current Projects.

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Roice Nelson

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# LIGHTNING, & WHY IT IS TRACKED, STACKED & MAPPED

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# Can Lightning Hit the Same Place Twice?







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# Lightning, An Atmospheric Discharge of Electricity





**Build-up of static charges.** 

**Turbulent winds: ice, hail, water droplet collisions.** 

Clouds become polarized: positive ions @ top of clouds, negative ions @ base of clouds.

When charge strength exceeds insulating property of atmosphere, results in sudden high-voltage static discharge.

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#### Nature of Lightning "Step Leaders" & "Streamers"

Step Leaders: intensely charged channels of downward zig-zagging/branching electrons seeking positive ions to discharge built-up static energy.







Streamers: rising stream of protons attracted to the downward seeking electron step leaders; develop when step leaders within 30' to 300'.



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# Failed Lightning Strikes & Streamers





Two streamers launched from tree but only one connects with step leader to produce a strike.

Note streamer launched from telephone pole also does not connect with a step leader to produce a strike.

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#### Earth: A Self-Repairing Capacitor

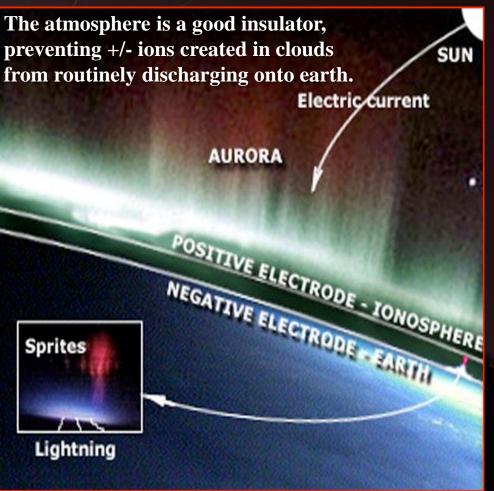


The atmosphere serves as a dialectric between the clouds & earth, each analogous to a capacitor's conductive plate.



#### Lightning Strikes

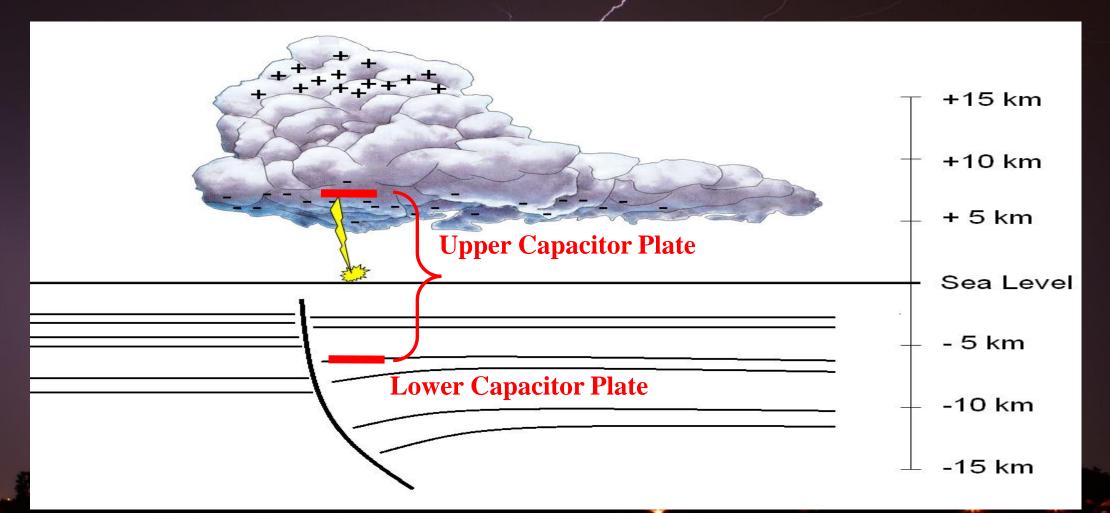
When a cloud charge build-up exceeds the insulating capability of air, electrical energy of the lower atmosphere discharges as lightning, essentially normalizing the earth's capacitor.



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#### Each Strike Represents a Unique Capacitor Base of Capacitor is a Function of Cloud Height



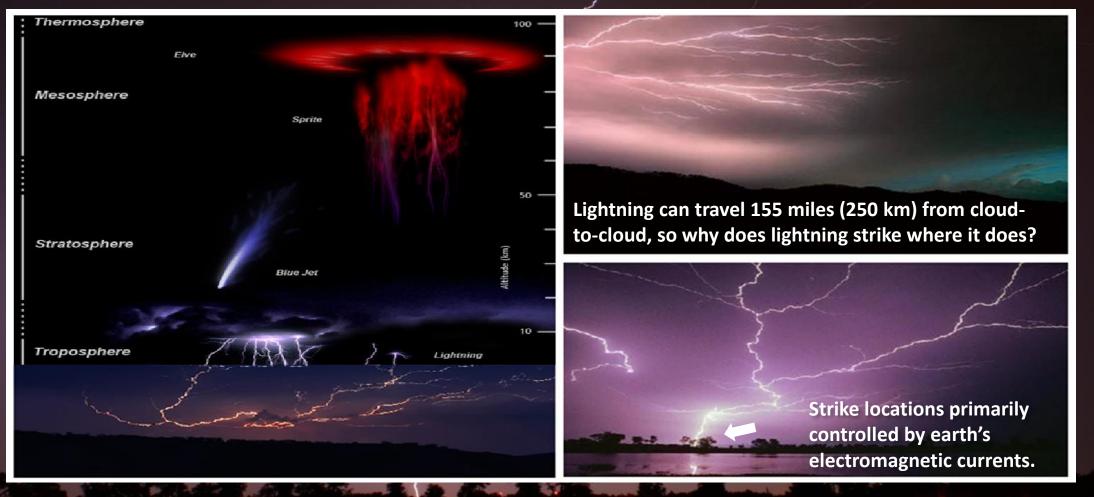


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#### Geologically Controlled Telluric Currents Primary Lightning Influence





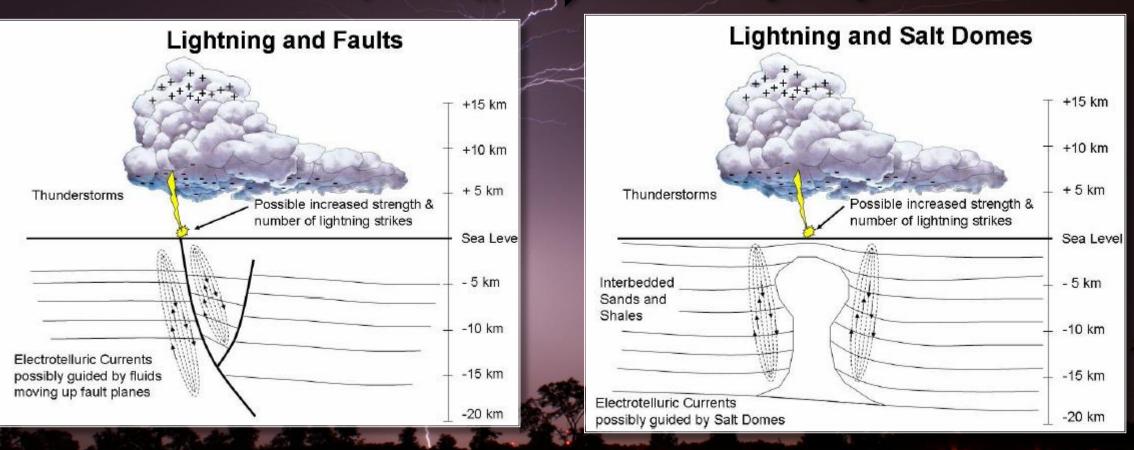
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## Telluric Currents, Lightning & Geology



Earth Currents Modified by Geology



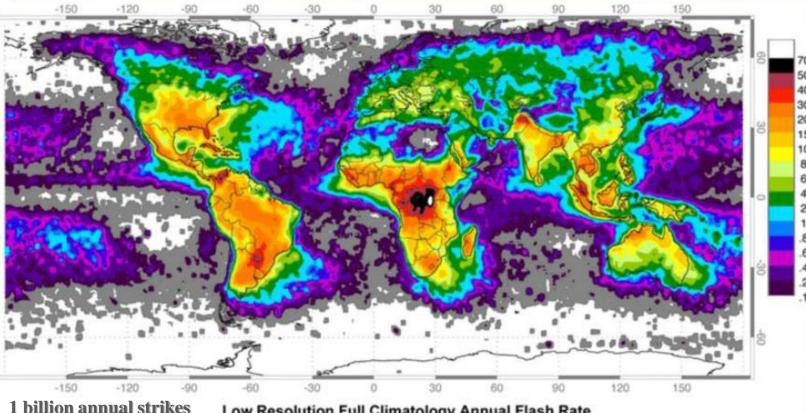
Prone to Lightning

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### 350 Million Annual CG Lightning Strikes **Uneven Distribution, But Not Random!**





Low Resolution Full Climatology Annual Flash Rate

Global distribution of lightning April 1995-February 2003 from the combined observations of the NASA OTD (4/95-3/00) and LIS (1/98-2/03) instruments.

Why is lightning tracked and mapped?

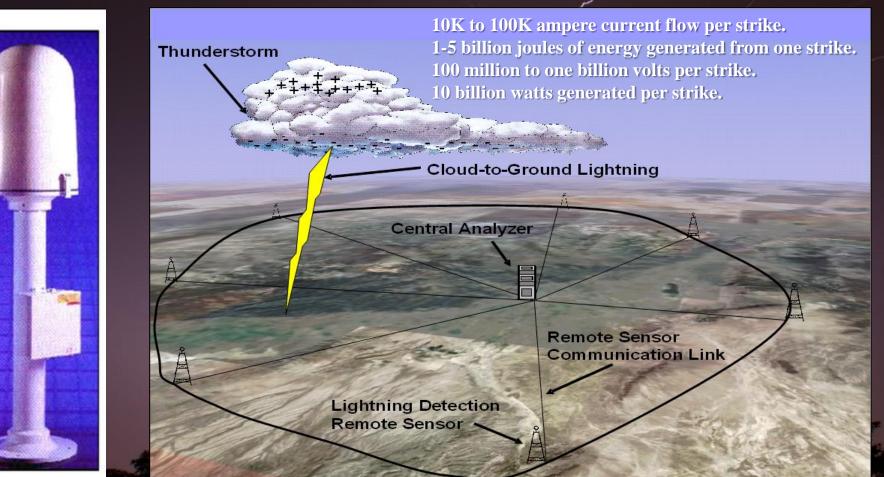
- Storm Tracking
- Safety Warnings
- Insurance
- Forest Fire Forecasting
- Hurricane Tracking
- Research and now...
- Natural Resource **Exploration!**

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# How is Lightning Data Collected? 110 Sensors Record U.S. Lightning Strike Locations





90% of lightning strikes accurate to within 660'.

75% of strikes accurate within 400'.

61% of strikes accurate within 260'.

Error in locating any feature from a reasonably dense database is 35-70'.

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# 25 Million Annual U.S. Lightning Strikes 17 Year Database, Rich Database to Mine



1997 to 2007 Cloud-to-Ground Flash Density Lightning Strike Density Map

Gulf Coast Database: 200-350 strikes/square mile.

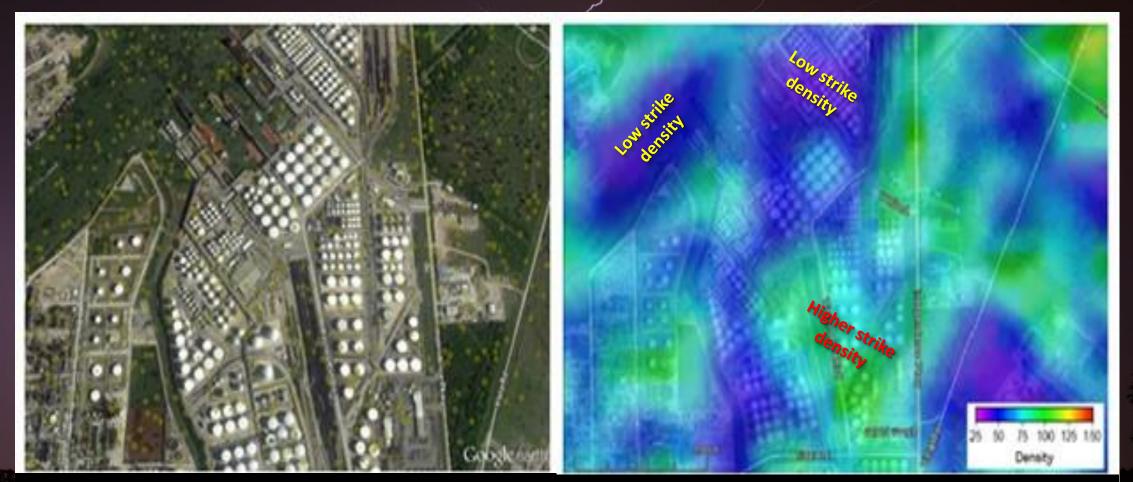
Strike density regionally controlled by meteorology, locally controlled by terralevis (shallow earth) currents.

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#### Does Infrastructure Control Lightning?





Oil Storage Facility (Tank Farm), Ship Channel, Houston

Strike Density Attribute Map

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#### Approximately 60% of Tank Farm Experienced Low Strike Density





Oil Storage Facility (Tank Farm), Ship Channel, Houston

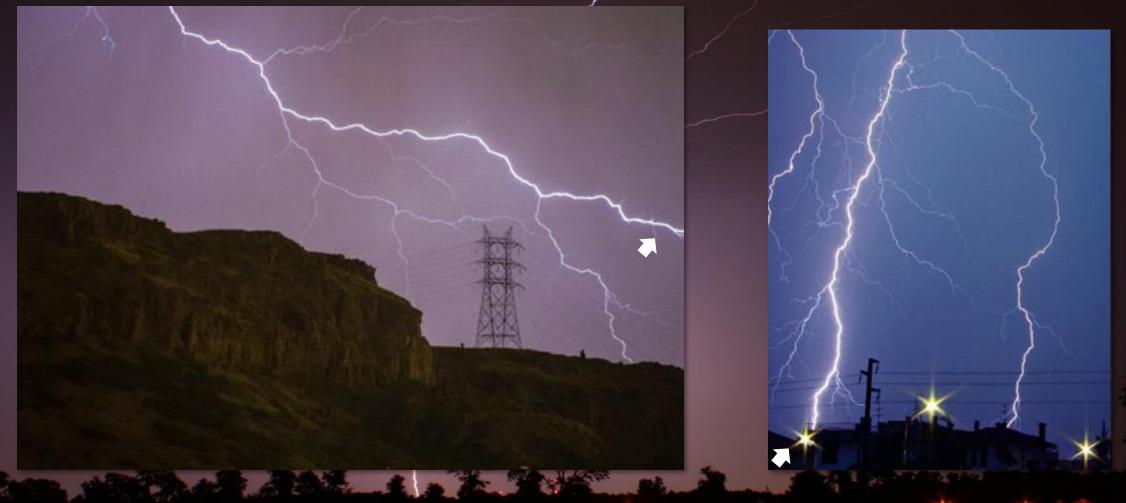
Strike Density Attribute Map

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# Lightning bypasses tall objects and...





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# ... infrastructure expected to attract lightning.









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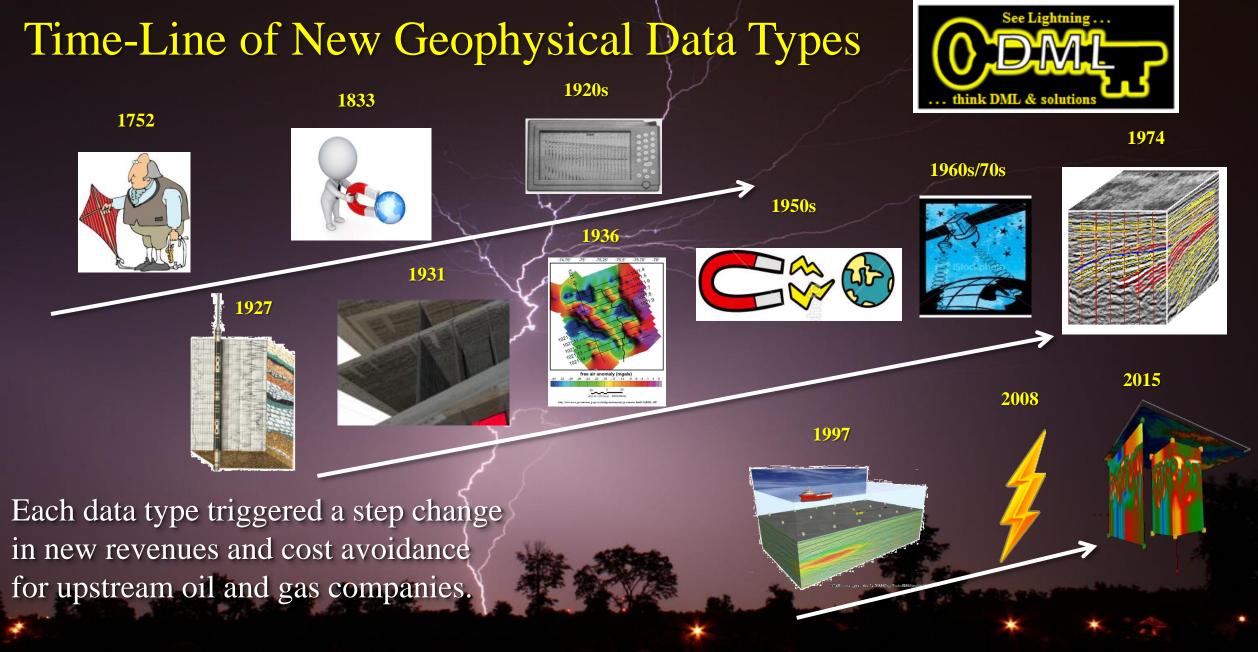
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# NATURAL SOURCE ELECTROMAGNETICS (NSEM) -A NEW GEOPHYSICAL DATA TYPE

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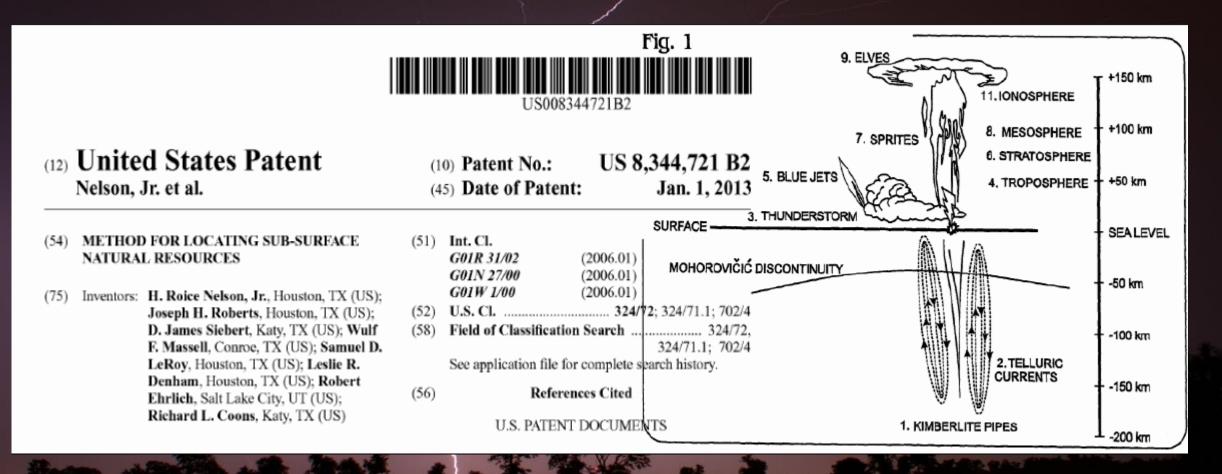


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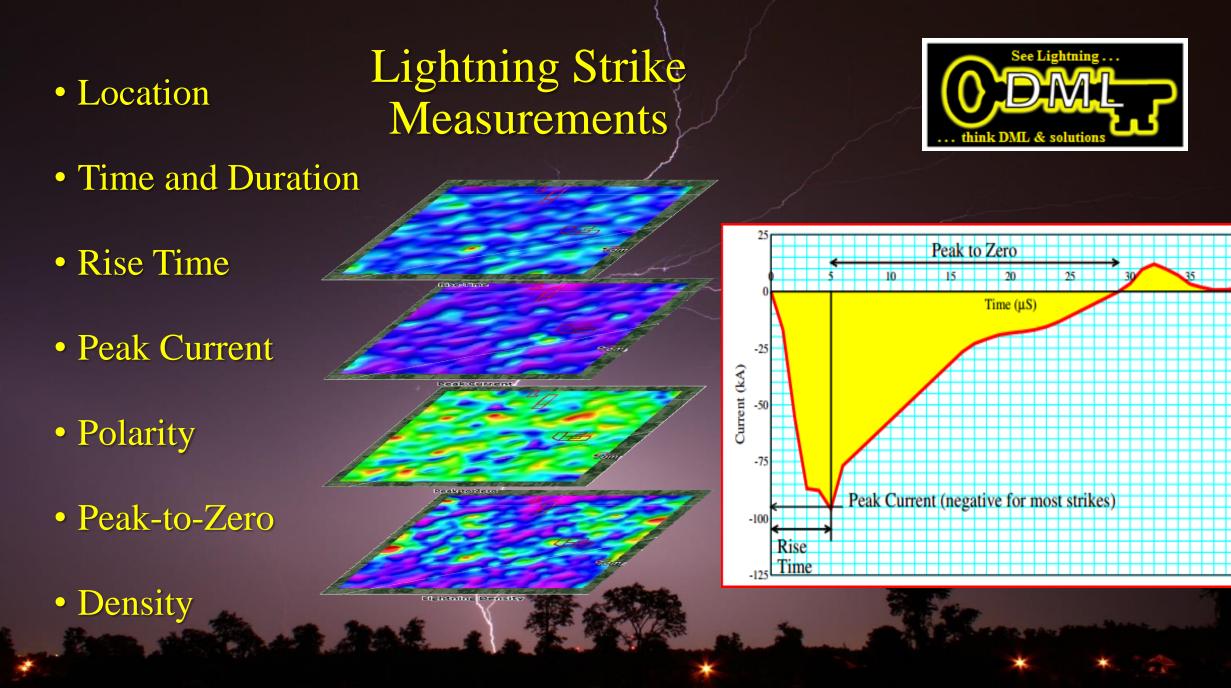
#### **Proven & Patented Technology**





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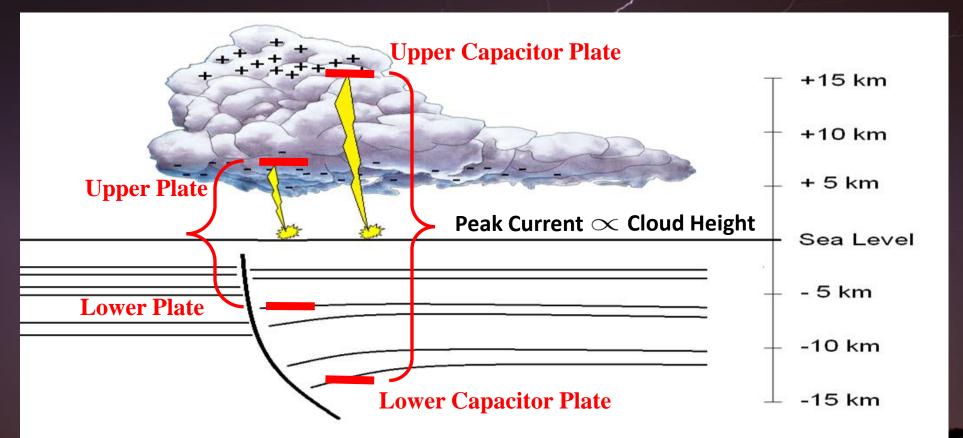


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# Depth of Electrical Energy Penetration -Function of Strike Strength





Millions of lightning strikes grouped by peak current.

Strike data therefore grouped by depth.

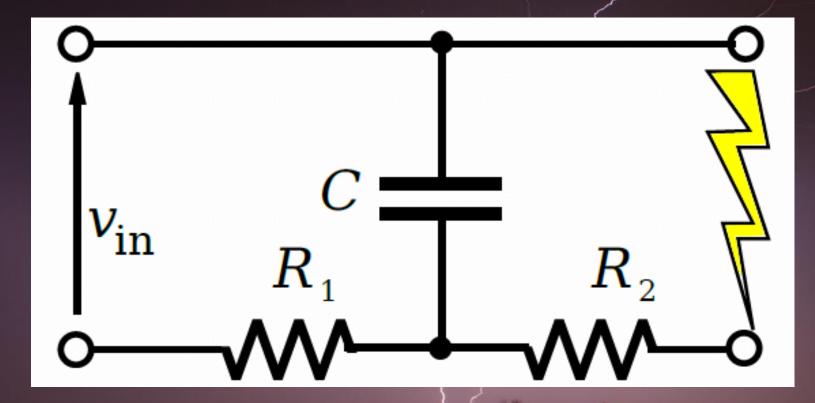
Provides basis for generating 3-D apparent resistivity volumes.

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# Lightning Physics Analogous to Relaxation Oscillator Physics





Enables generation of 3-D apparent resistivity and permittivity volumes.

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#### 3-D Resistivity & Permittivity Volumes



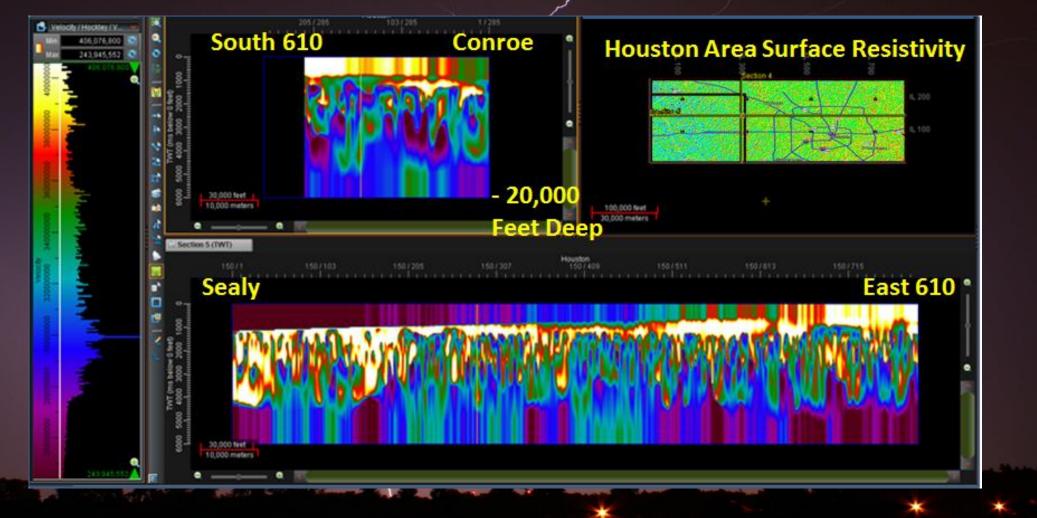
- Data traces uniformly sampled in time/depth with same number samples in each trace as required by 3-D seismic interpretation software.
- For each trace a depth & resistivity/permittivity grid is generated & sampled.
- Resistivity/permittivity values interpolated between sampled points with respect to depth, producing samples at uniform intervals.
- Typical sample interval approximately 160'.
- Typical trace length 125 samples.
- No sample interval/trace length restrictions beyond those imposed by SEG-Y format.

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#### NSEM Correlates To Geology: Houston, TX Resistivity Cross-Section

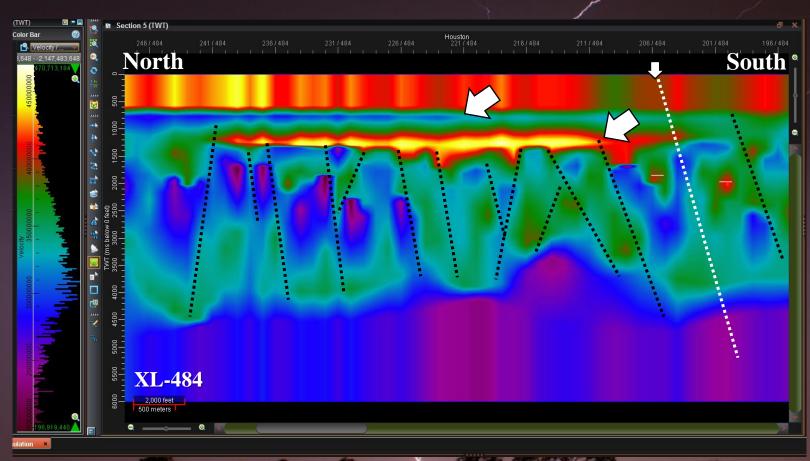




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## NSEM Identifies Stratigraphy & Faulting Houston, TX





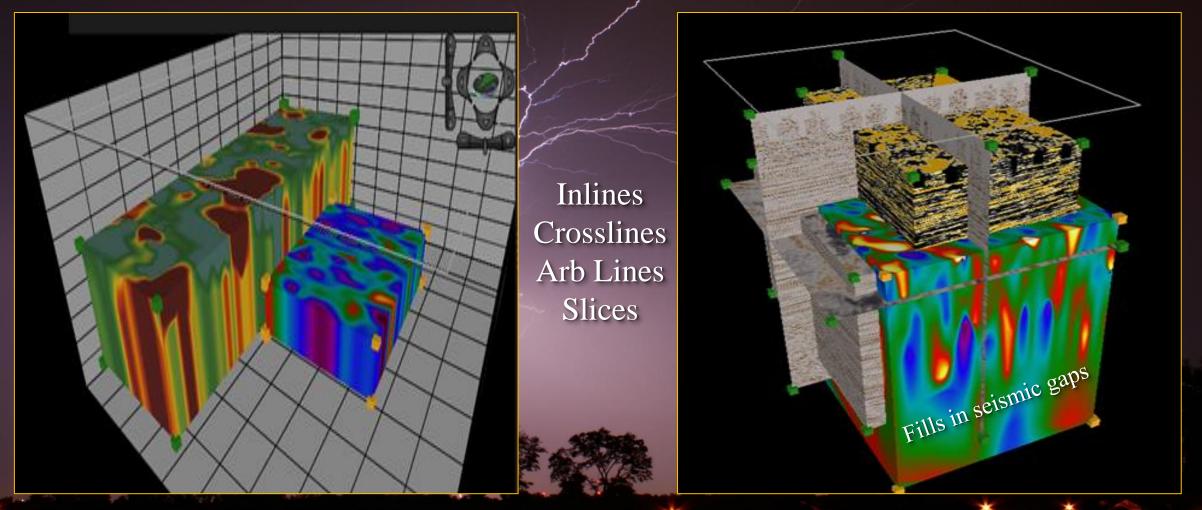
- Crossline extracted from Houston area 3-D resistivity volume.
- NSEM maps subsurface faults, fluid extent & pinchouts.

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#### Resistivity & Permittivity Volumes Easily Integrated with 3-D Seismic & Well Data



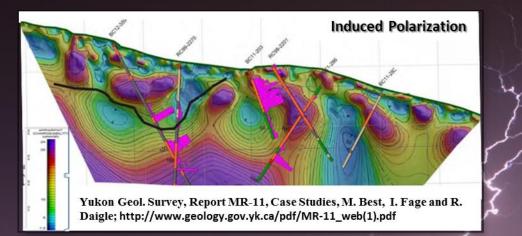


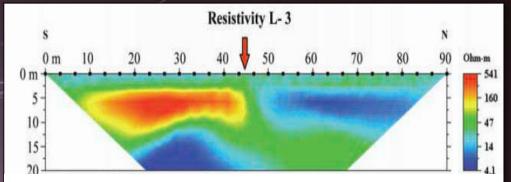
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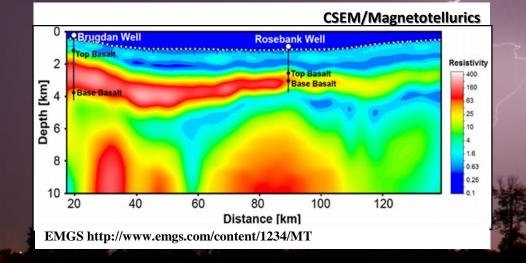
#### Resistivity & Permittivity Volumes Easily Integrated w. Near-Surface Geophysical Data







2D Resistivity Imaging Profile, Willow Creek Fault, Mustafa Saribudak, The Leading Edge, 2006



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# Lightning Strikes Are Not Random!

Influenced by Lateral Changes in Rock Properties:

- Faults
- Fracture Swarms
- Salinity
- Pore Fluids
- Porosity
- Permeability
- Mineralization

Upward lightning shows electrostatic charge builds up in the ground, as well as in the atmosphere.



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# Examples of Using NSEM to Interpret Geologic Features

- Iberia Parish, Louisiana
- Milam Co., Texas
- Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer
- Texas Gulf Coast Régional
- Colorado Co., Texas Prospecting
- Hockley Salt Dome, Harris County, Texas
- Pinal Co., Arizona Rock Properties

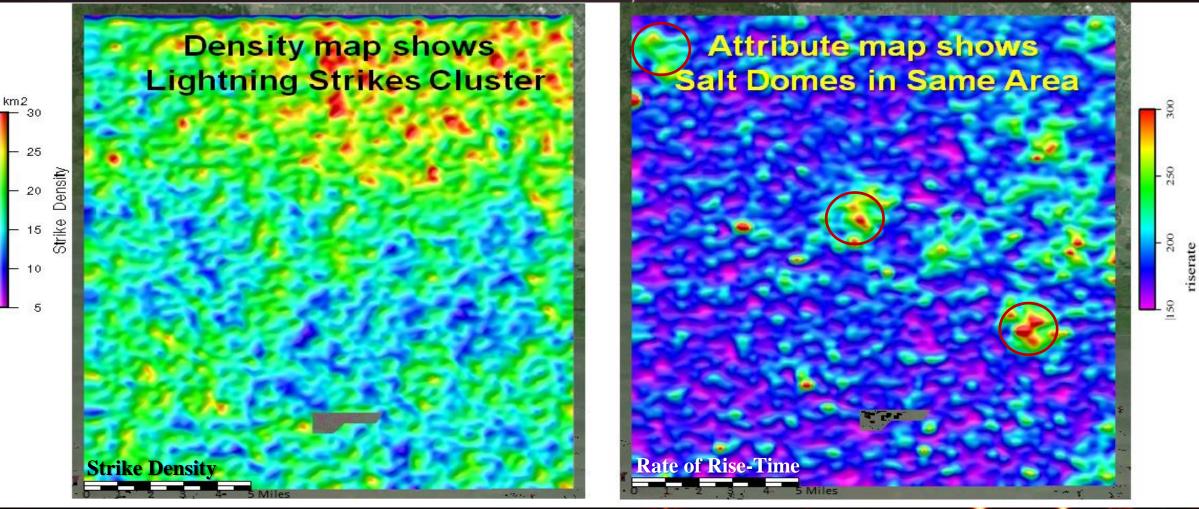


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#### NSEM Correlates To Geology: Iberia Parish, LA Salt Domes



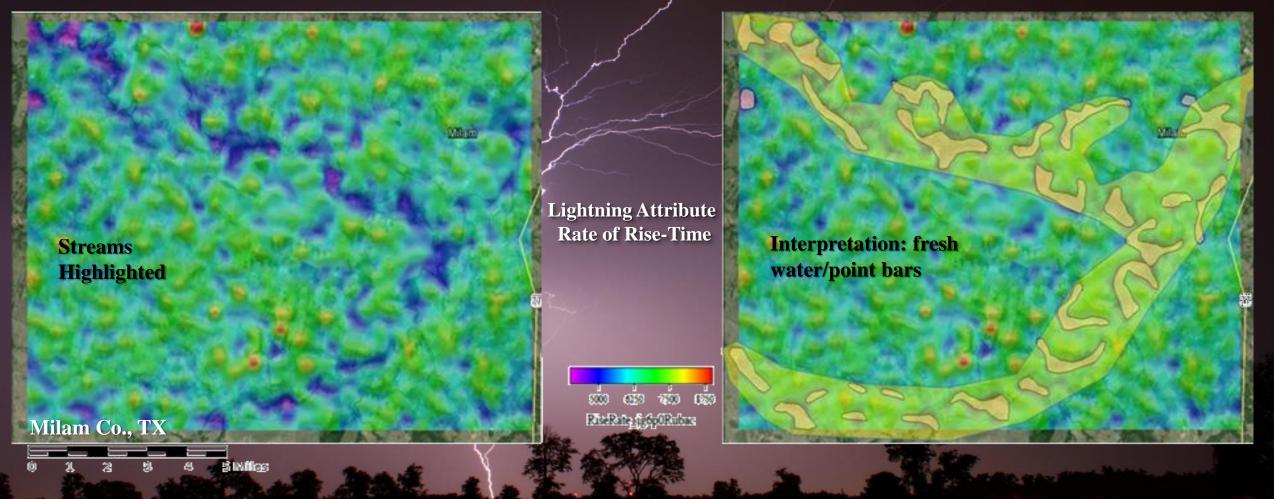


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#### NSEM Correlates To Geology: Milam Co., TX Fluvial Depositional Patterns



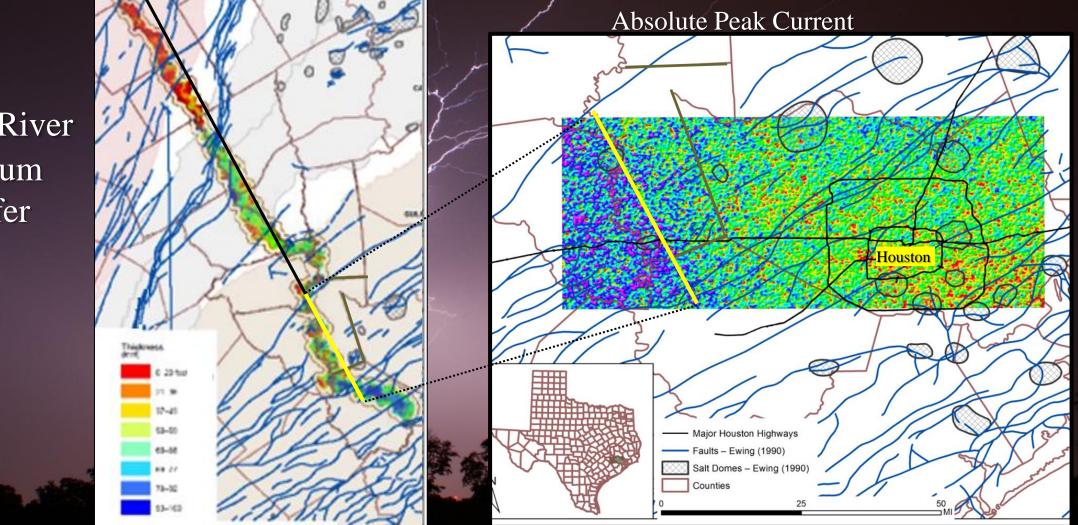


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#### NSEM Correlates To Geology: Alluvium & Cretaceous Transform Fault





Brazos River Alluvium Aquifer

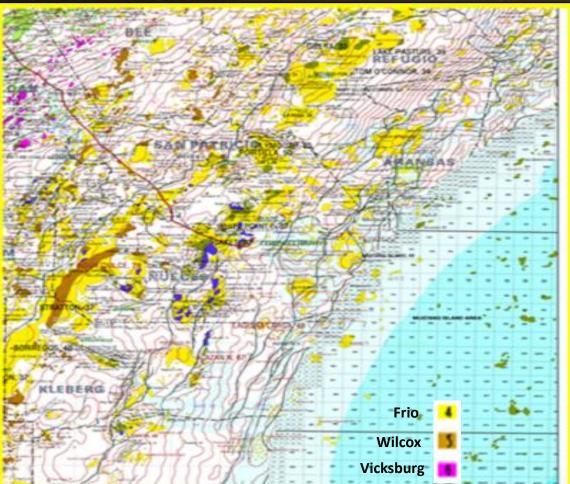
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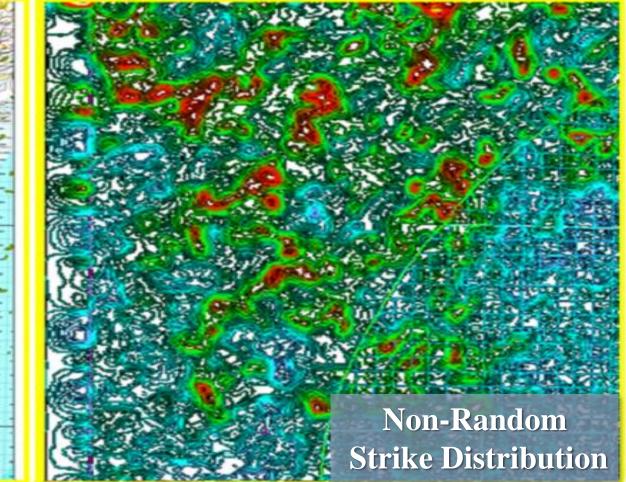
#### NSEM Correlates To Geology: Similar Texas Gulf Coast Regional Trends



#### **Structure & Field Outlines**



**Lightning Strike Density** 



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#### <u>Observations</u>



- Lightning strike locations are not random.
- Show NE/SW lineations similar to field locations.
- Lightning generally strikes parallel to sub-parallel to faults.

# **Conclusions**

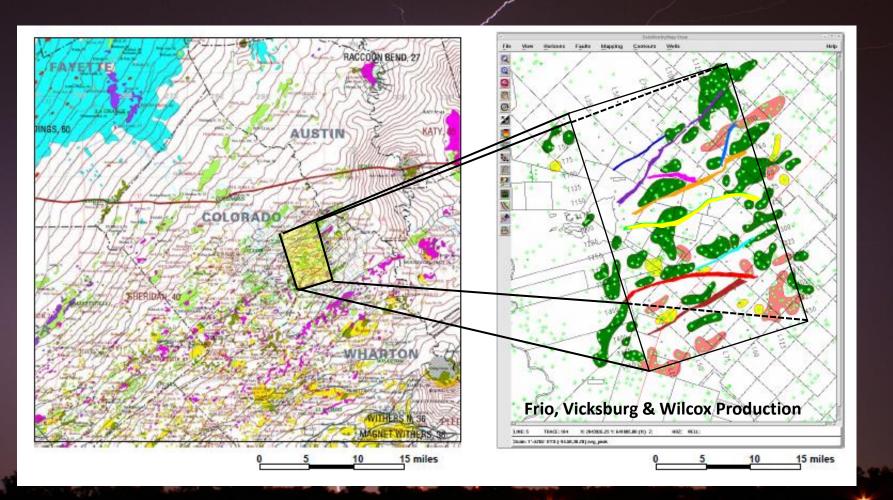
- Local geology can influence where lightning strikes occur.
- Potential to locate hydrocarbons (micro-seepage along faults).
- NSEM has potential to delineate subsurface fault patterns.

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# NSEM Correlates To Geology: Colorado County, TX



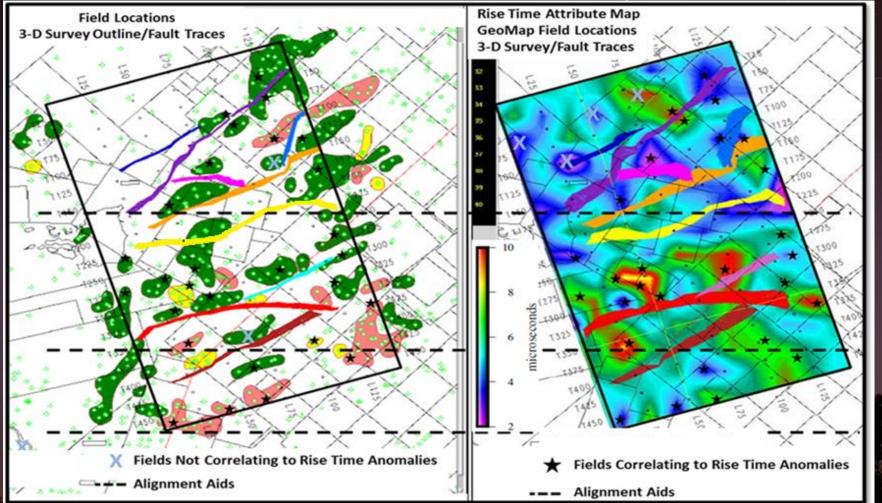


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#### Effective Reconnaissance Mapping <u>Rise Time</u> Prospect Scale Field Correlations





87% of lightningattribute anomalies(Rise Time) correlateto Frio, Vicksburg orWilcox production.

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#### **Observations**



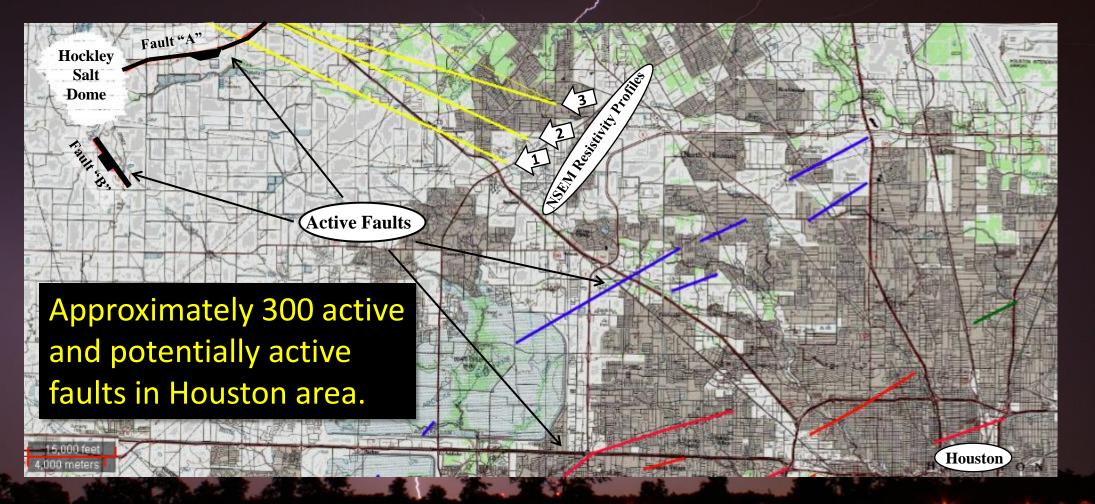
- Rise-Time lightning attribute shows non-random patterns.
- 26 of 28 fields (93%) correlate to Rise-Time anomalies.
  <u>Conclusions</u>
- NSEM identified 32 leads in study area.
- Reconnaissance mapping would have justified seismic data follow-up resulting in the generation of 28 prospects.
- NSEM reconnaissance mapping would have resulted in an 87% drilling success rate.

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#### NSEM Correlates to Geology: Houston/Harris County Area Active Faults



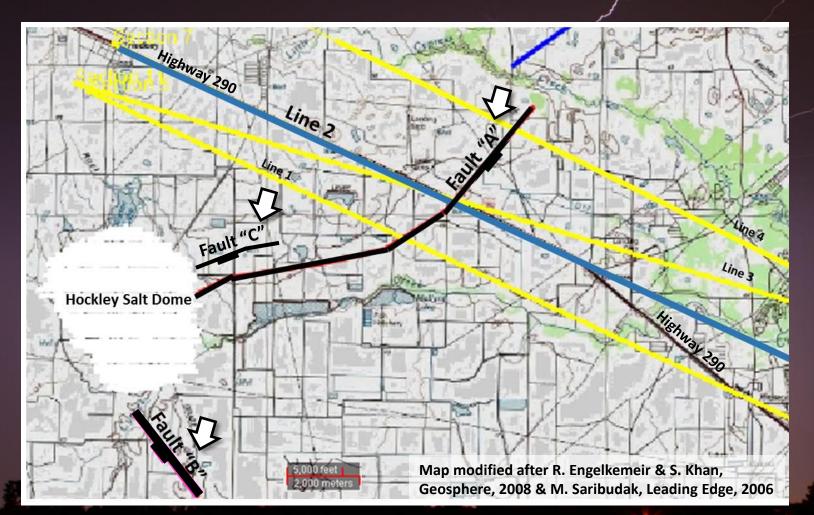


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# NSEM Correlates To Geology: Active Faults, Harris Co., TX





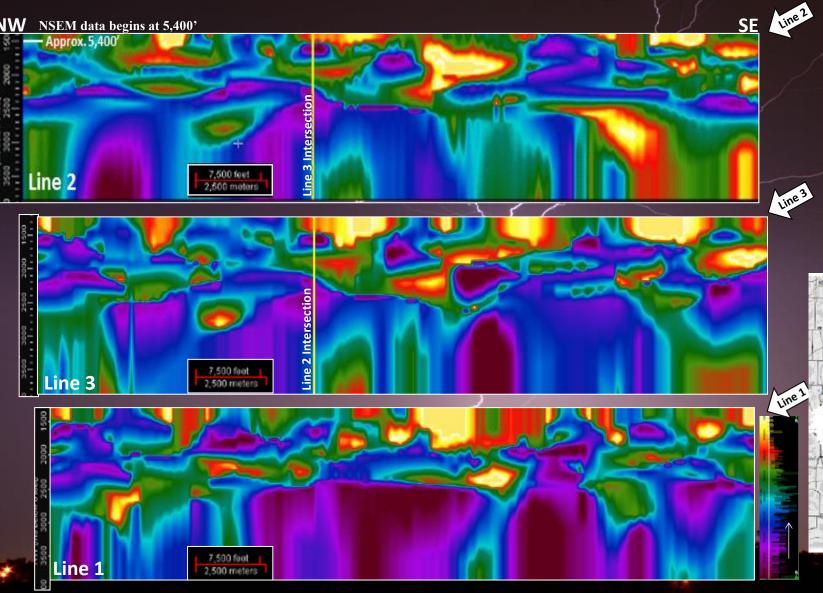
Map shows location of three active faults that have been documented with near-surface geophysical techniques.

The next group of slides will demonstrate how NSEM can identify these faults in the subsurface.

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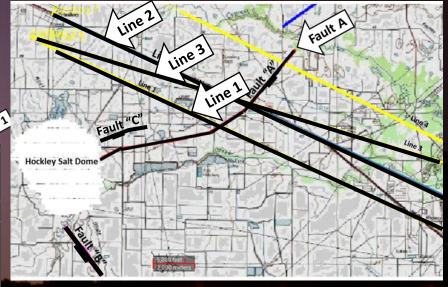
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# NSEM Resistivity Profile Comparisons





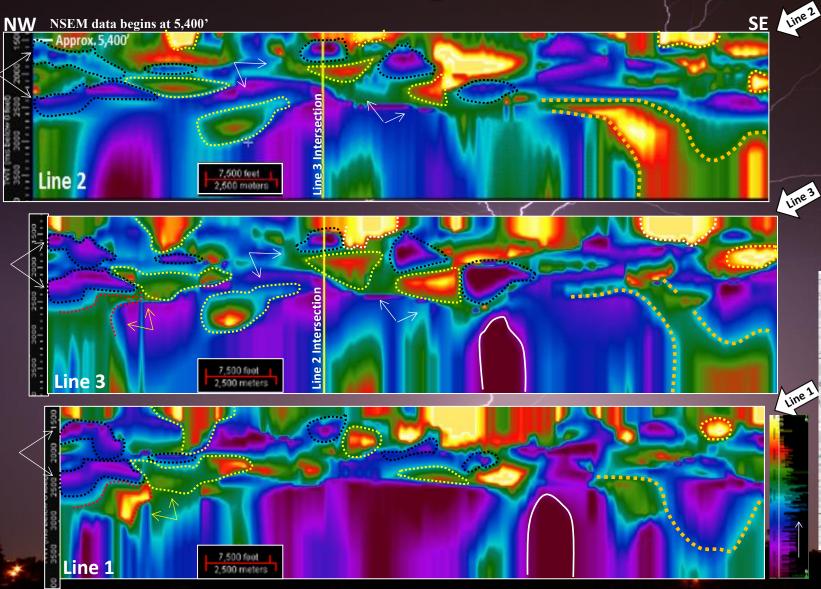
Similar resistivity patterns from line to line would be required to identify consistent fault patterns.



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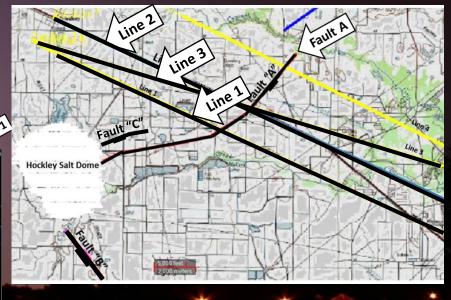
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# Pattern Recognition





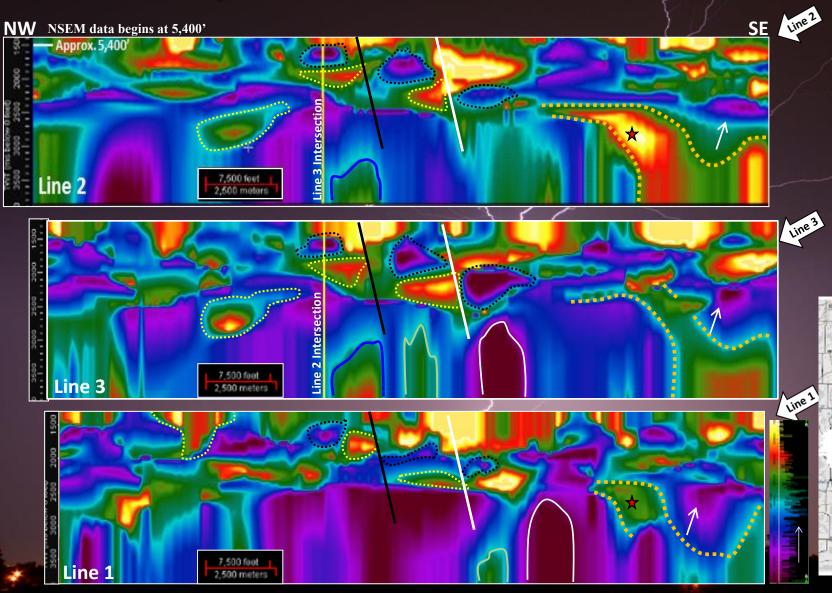
Note similar patterns adjacent to the intersection of lines 2 and 3 and where lines 1 and 3 converge to the northwest.



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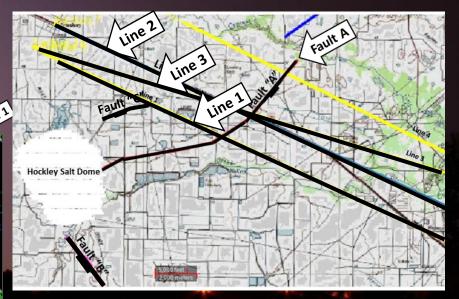
# **Resistivity Discontinuities & Offsets**





Breaks in resistivity and offsets would suggest faulting.

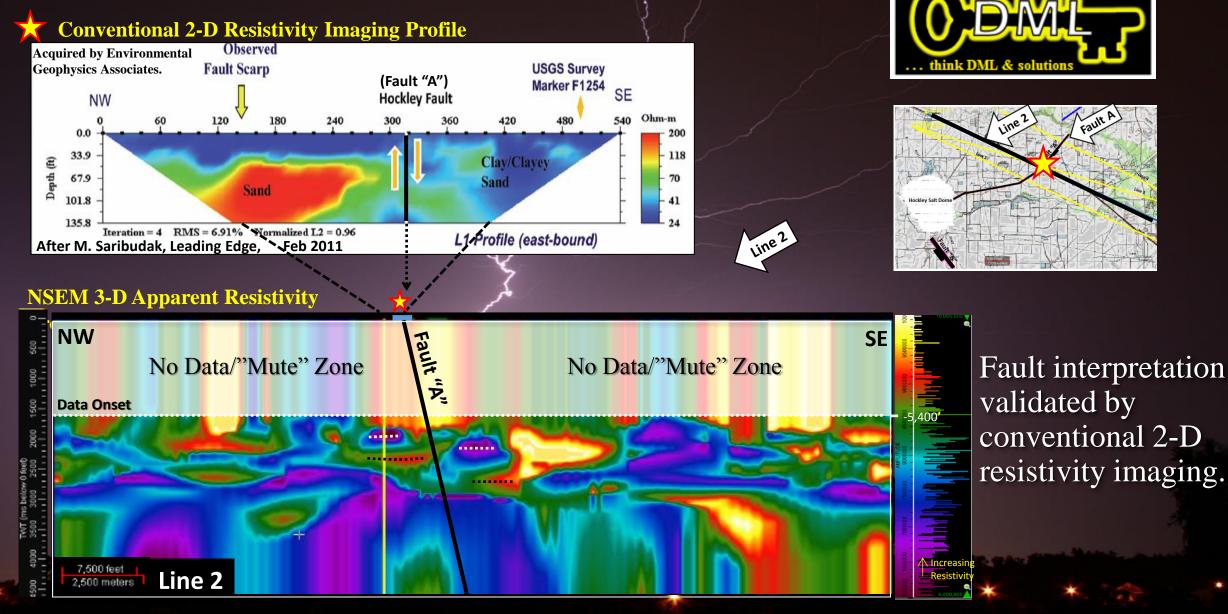
Can documented surface faults validate NSEM-derived subsurface faults?



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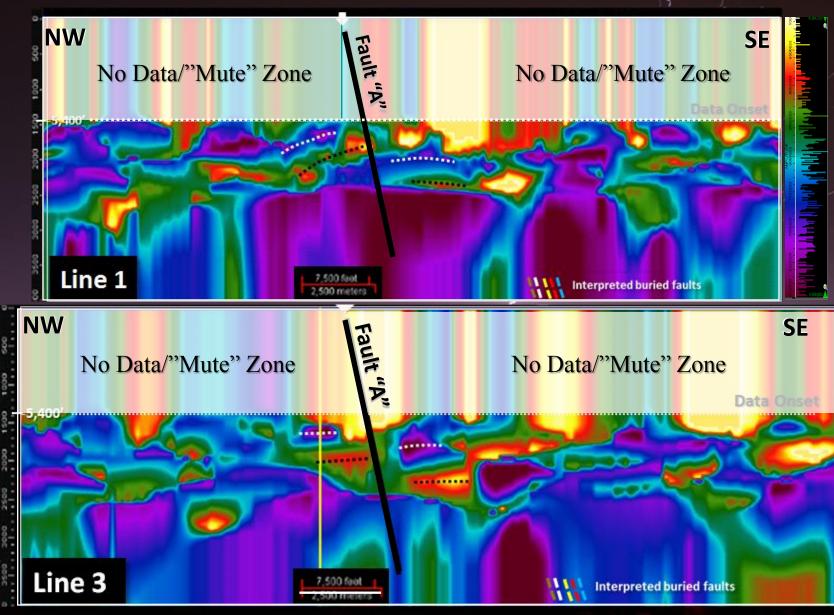
#### Line 2 Ties Active Fault "A" to Subsurface



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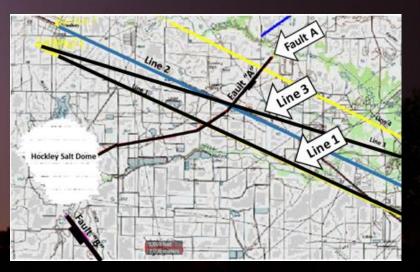
#### Lines 1 & 3 Also Tie Fault "A" to Subsurface





White arrow marks intersection with documented fault trace. NSEM demonstrates consistency identifying

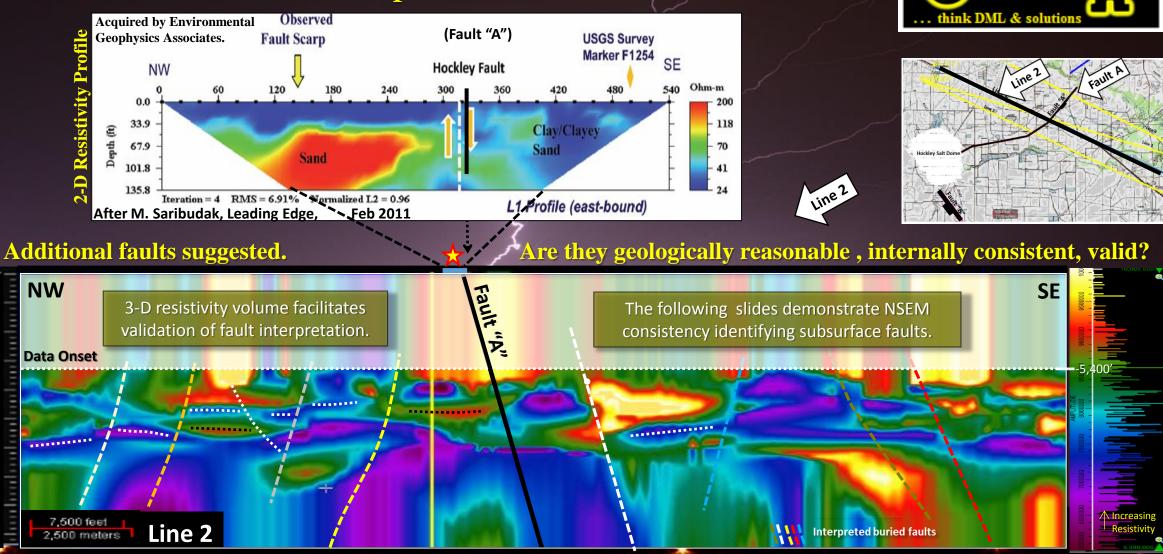
this active fault at depth.



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#### **NSEM Line 2 Reveals Additional Faulting** 3-D Data Provides Interpretive Checks & Balances



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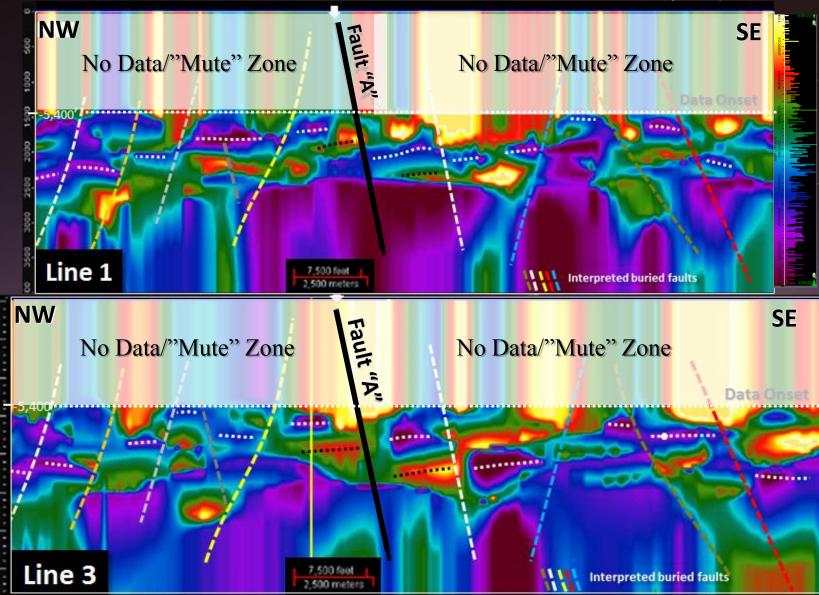
in line

3

SBN

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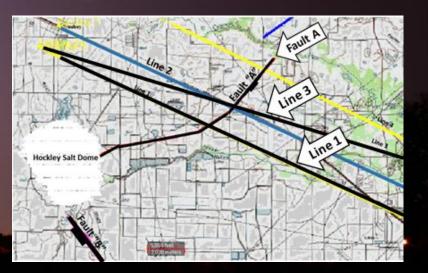
#### Lines 1 & 3 Also Reveal Additional Faults





The same 9 color coded faults are identified on all 3 lines.

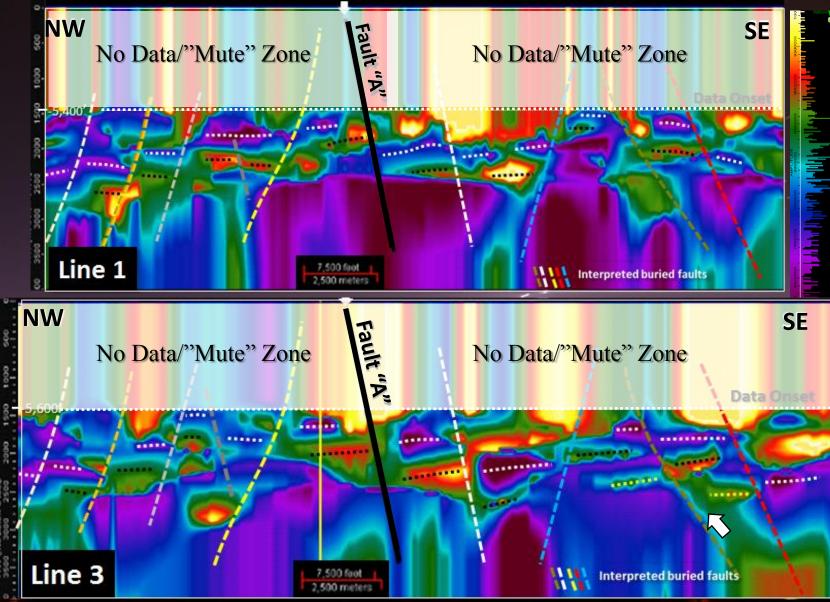
NSEM demonstrates internal interpretive & structural consistency & ability to map faults at the prospect level.



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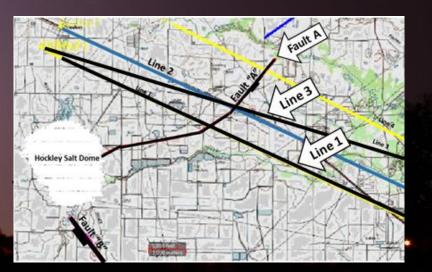
#### NSEM Builds Reliable Structural Framework





Of 20 faults displayed on these profiles, 19 defined by two resistivity layer offsets; one by three (see white arrow line 3).

3-D NSEM enables structural & fault plane mapping.



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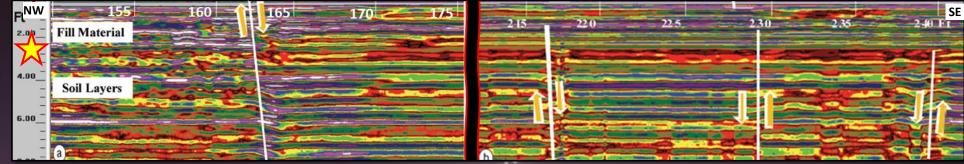
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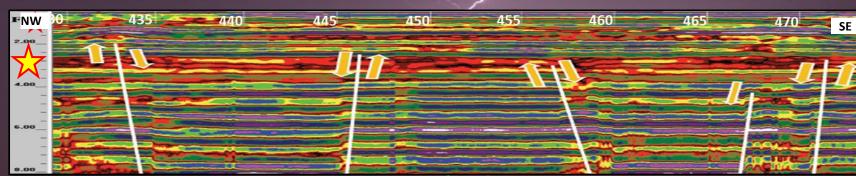
# Ground Penetrating Radar Shallow Micro-Faulting Adjacent to Fault "A"



Hockley Fault (Flt. "A")

GPR acquired by Environmental Geophysics Associates





Modified after M. Saribudak, Leading Edge, Feb 2011



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# GPR & NSEM Similar Micro/Macro Structural Styles

450

455

160



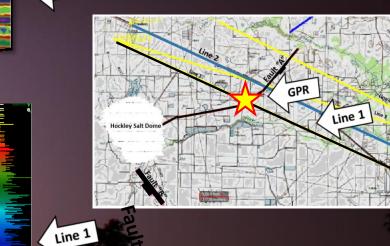
**GPR** 

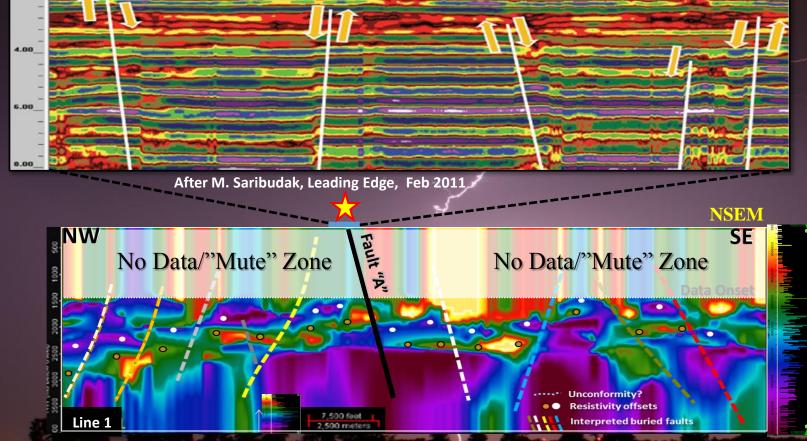
SE

GPR

470

Horsts, grabens & halfgraben structures identified.





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**GPR** acquired by Environmental Geophysics Associates

445

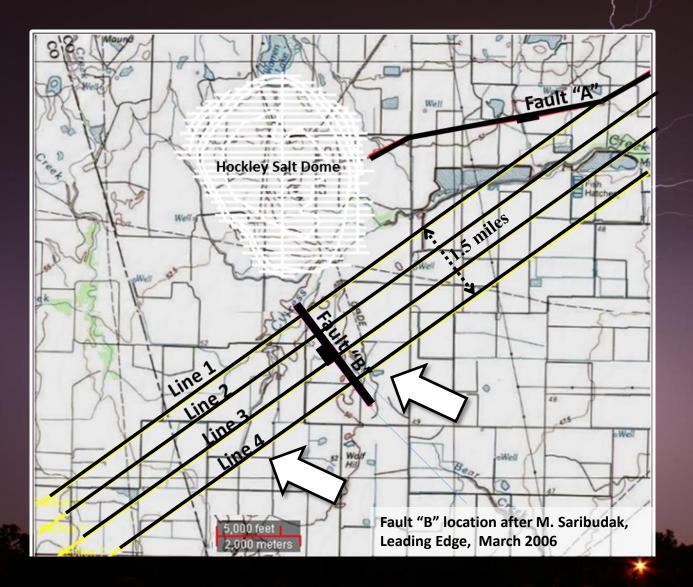
435 440

NW

2.00

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# Hockley Radial Fault "B"



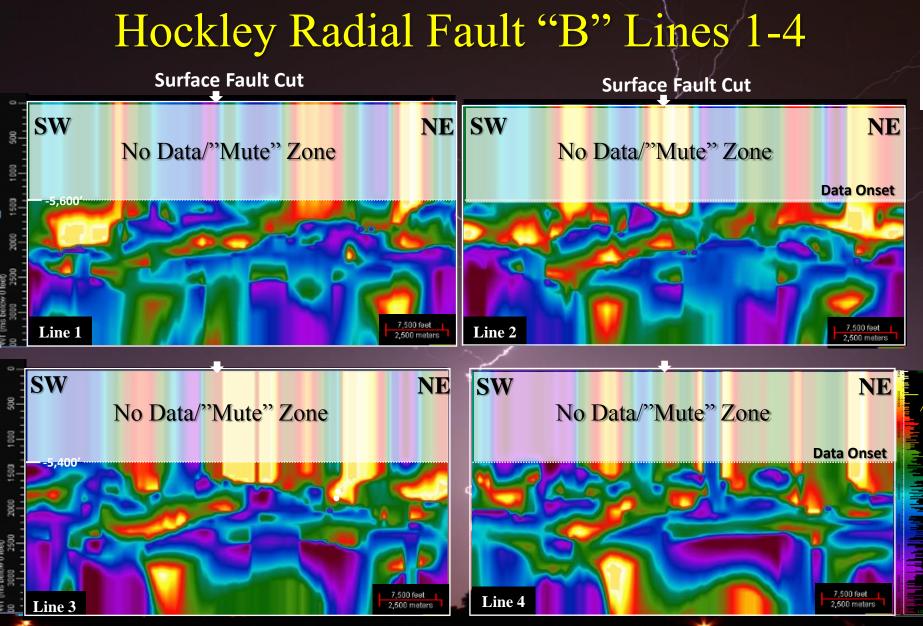


A 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mile distance along the Fault "B" trace is sampled with resistivity profiles.

Resistivity Lines 1-4 are displayed on the next slide.

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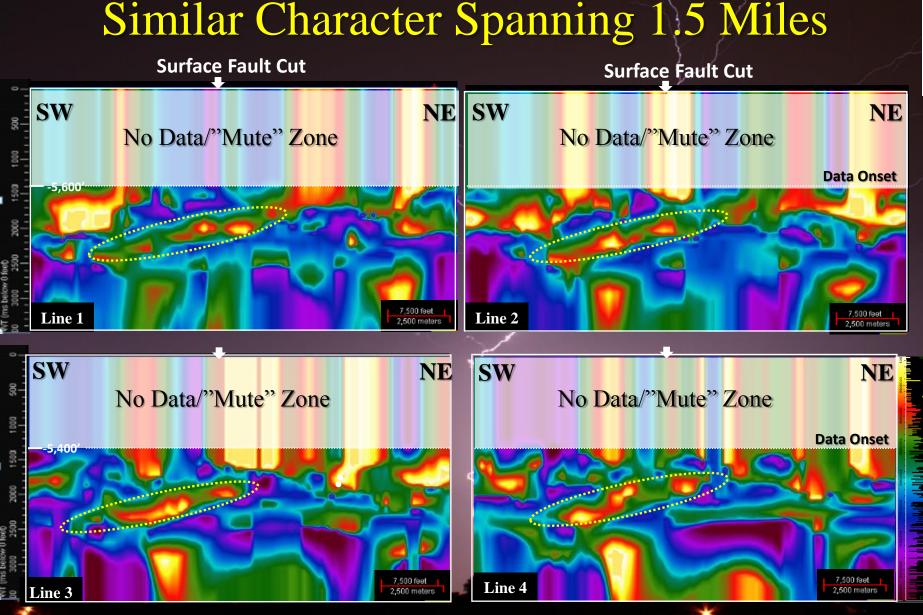


#### Lines ½ mile apart. Note similar character.



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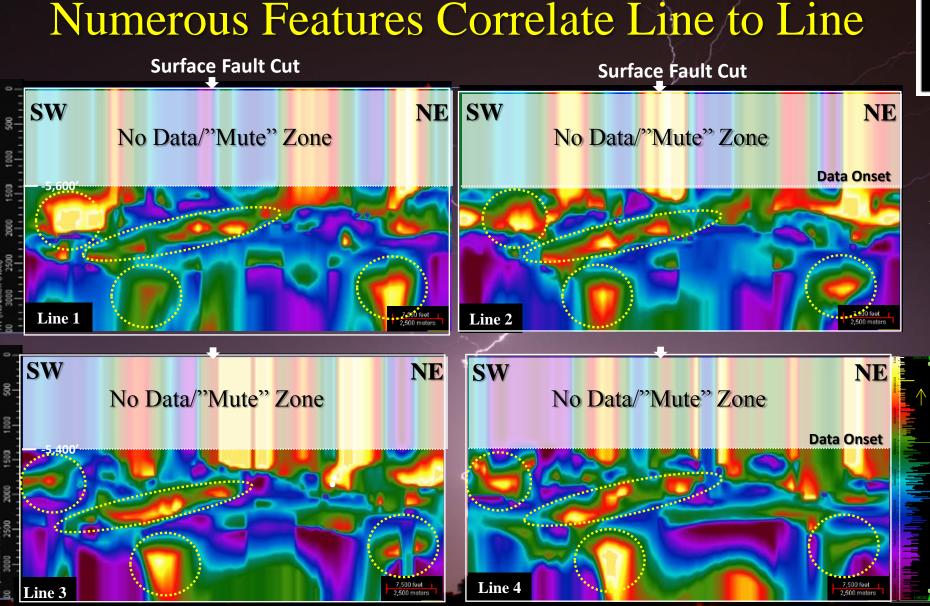
See Lightning ... DIAL & solutions

#### Lines ½ mile apart. Note similar character.



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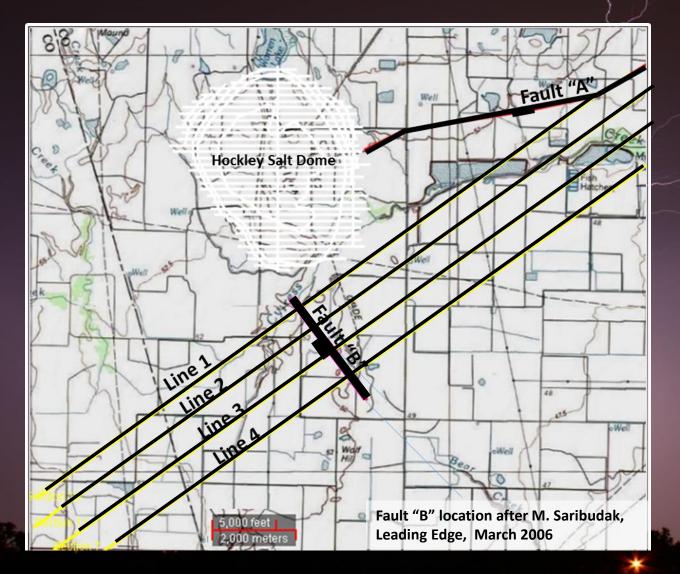
#### Lines ½ mile apart. Note similar character.



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# Hockley Radial Fault "B"





Now let's review these four apparent resistivity lines to determine whether they can identify Fault "B" in the subsurface.

As with Fault "A", trigonometric constraints based on depth, heave, fault surface dip and sense of throw must be satisfied.

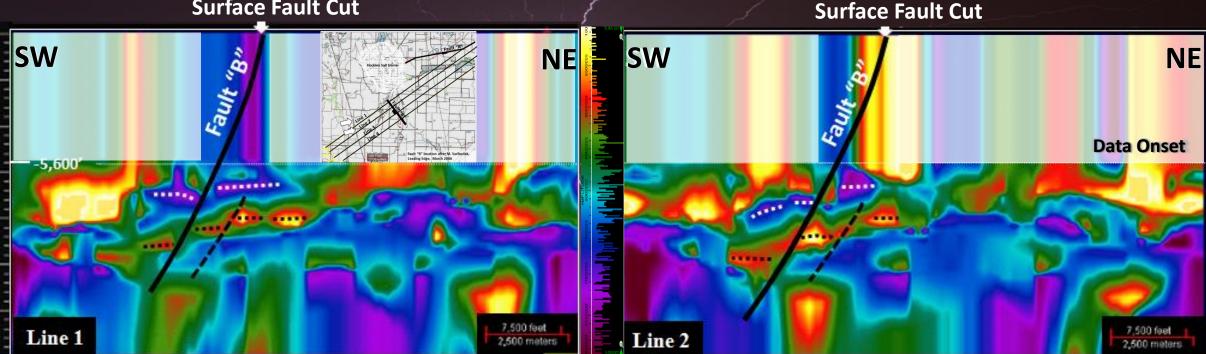
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# NSEM Ties Surface Fault "B" to Subsurface



**Surface Fault Cut** 



Lines 1 & 2 show consistent subsurface fault criteria.

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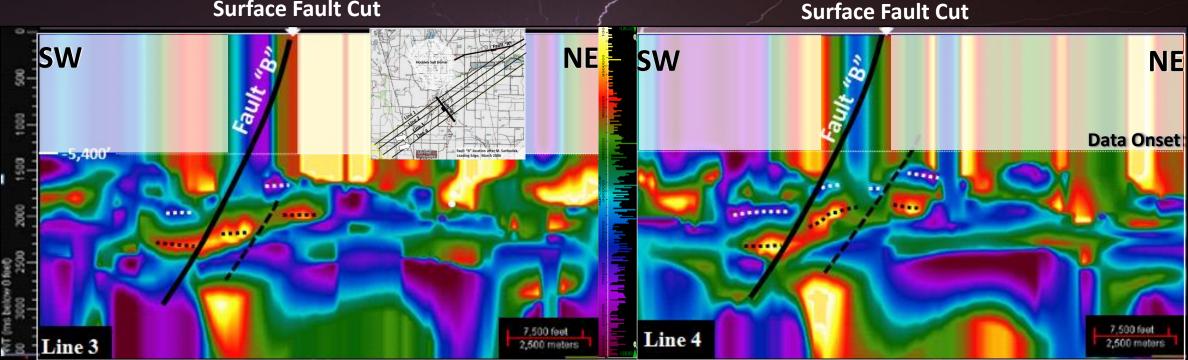
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### NSEM Ties Surface Fault "B" to Subsurface

AR MALL, T



**Surface Fault Cut** 



Lines 3 & 4 show similar consistent subsurface fault criteria.

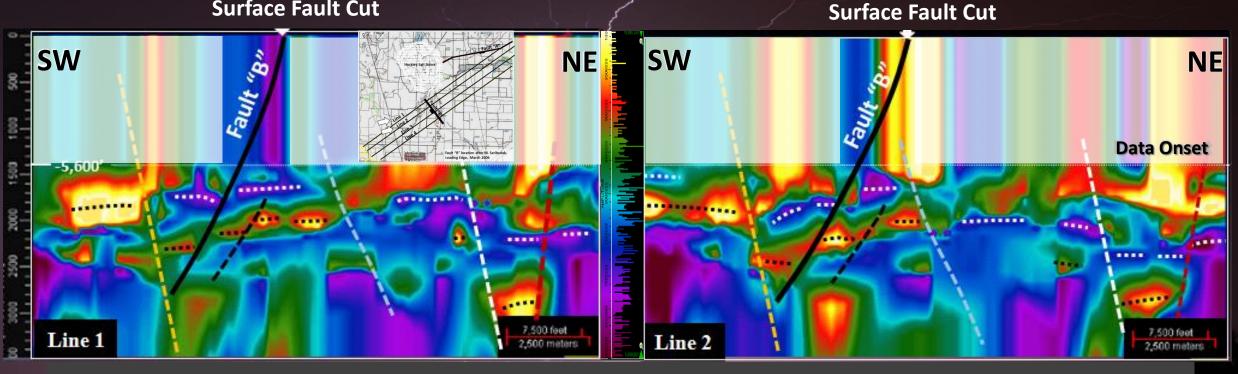
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# NSEM Shows Additional Faulting Lines 1 & 2



**Surface Fault Cut** 



Six geologically reasonable faults consistently interpreted on both lines.

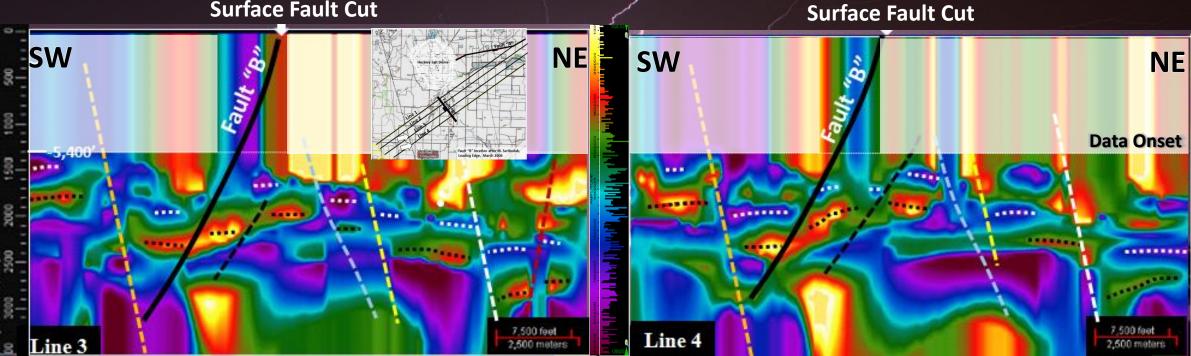
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### NSEM Shows Additional Faulting Lines 3 & 4



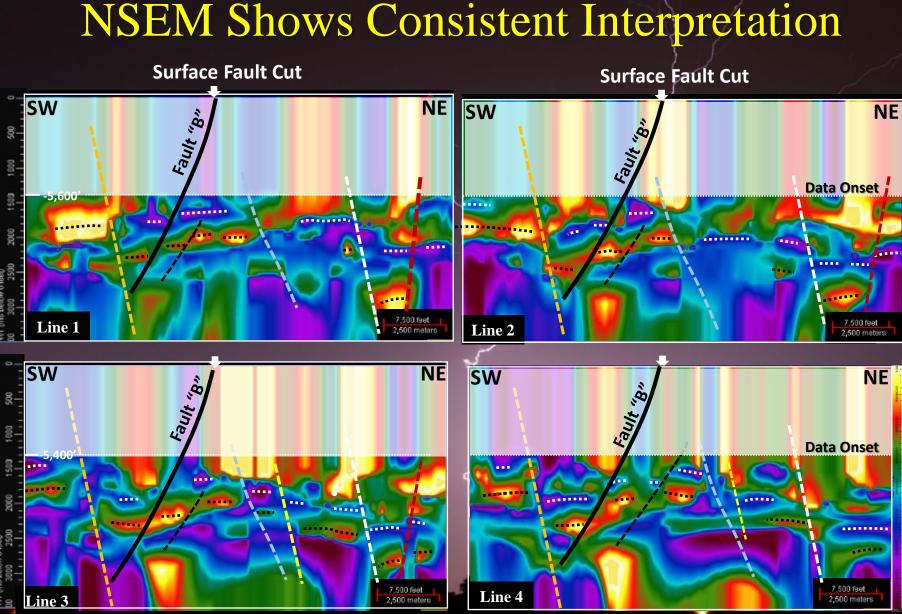
**Surface Fault Cut** 



The same fault patterns on the previous slide can be interpreted on these lines.

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As many as 7 faults consistently identified on 4 resistivity profiles spanning 1.5 miles.

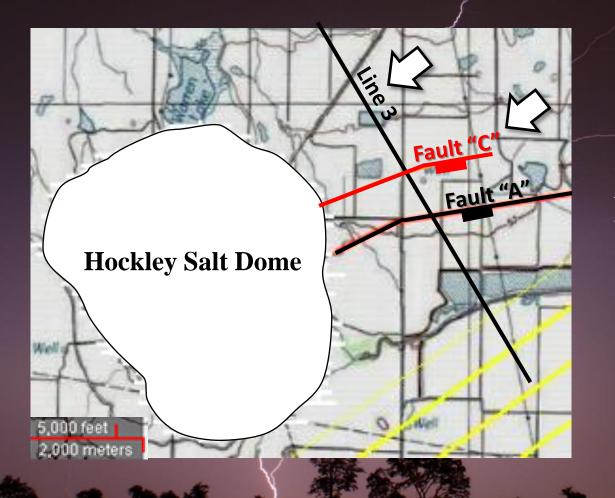


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# Hockley Radial Fault "C"





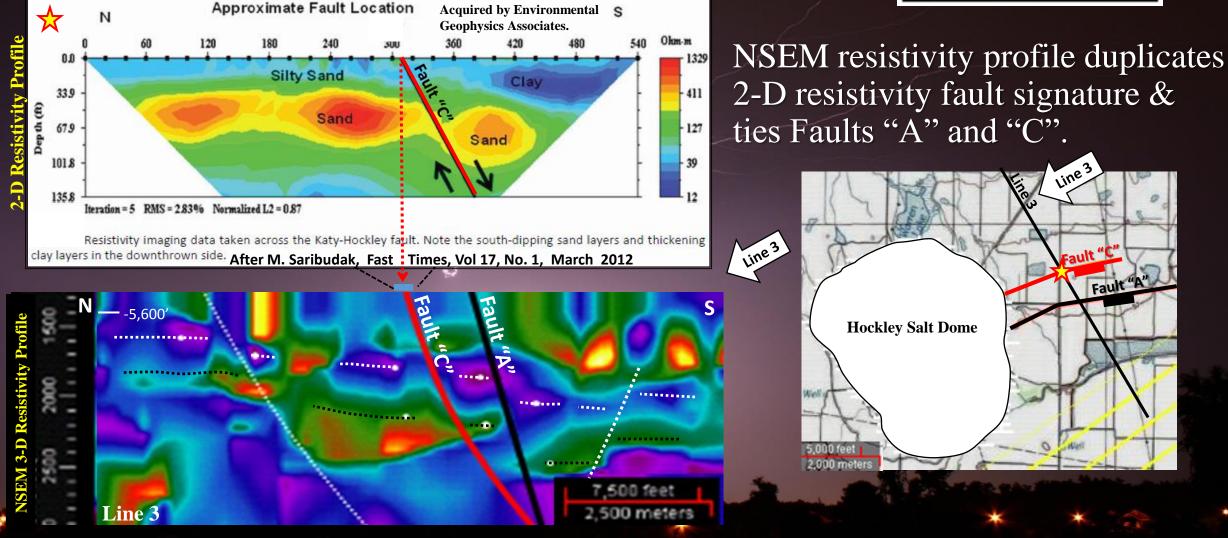
Apparent resistivity profile "Line 3" displayed next.

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#### NSEM Ties Fault "C" to Subsurface





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#### Observations



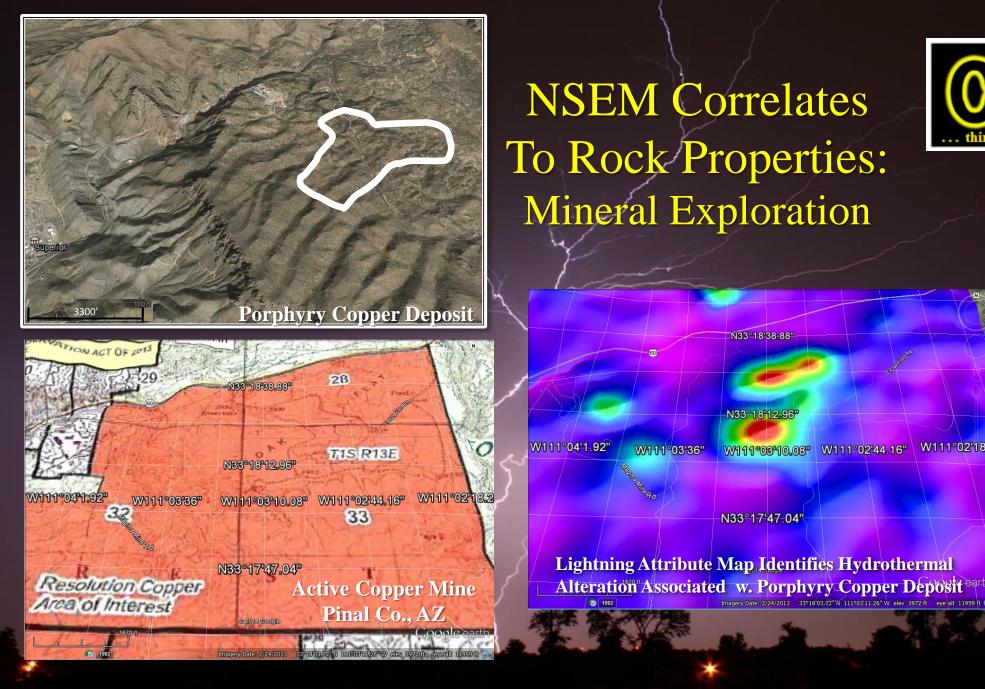
- 3-D NSEM resistivity data was able to tie surface faults and extend fault interpretations to deeper than 5,600'.
- 3-D NSEM fault criteria was credible and at least as good as conventional 2-D resistivity imaging.
- In most cases NSEM fault criteria was based on the offset of two resistivity layers.

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# Hockley Fault Conclusions



- 3-D NSEM resistivity can be interpreted similar to 3-D seismic data to build structural frameworks.
- 3-D NSEM resistivity can be integrated with & calibrated to other near-surface and potential field geophysical data to expand the depth & aerial extent of investigated areas.
- NSEM is scalable & can provide both reconnaissance data for follow-up detailed geophysical evaluation or it can focus on specific faults and previously identified anomalies.





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# Mapping of Porphyry Copper Deposits



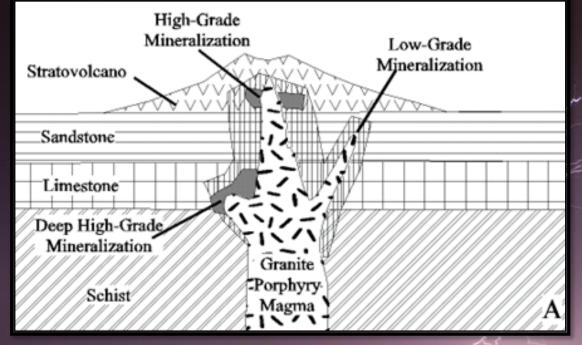
NSEM - a patent pending, successfully blind-tested, rock property mapping tool.

Following a brief description of the general geology of porphyry copper deposits & the near-surface geophysical exploration technique used to identify these deposits, a case study is presented.

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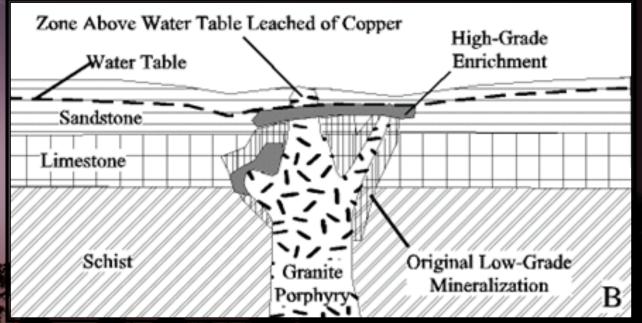
# Formation of a Porphyry Copper Deposit





- Magma chamber feeds upward intrusion of molten rock into shallow sedimentary rocks.
- Magma & associated hot mineral-rich fluids come in contact with host rocks & generate chemical/mineral changes creating low-grade copper mineralization.

- Erosion strips away overburden subjecting low-grade mineralized areas to weathering.
- Rainwater leaches Cu and redeposits it below at the water table, creating concentrations of high-grade Cu deposits.



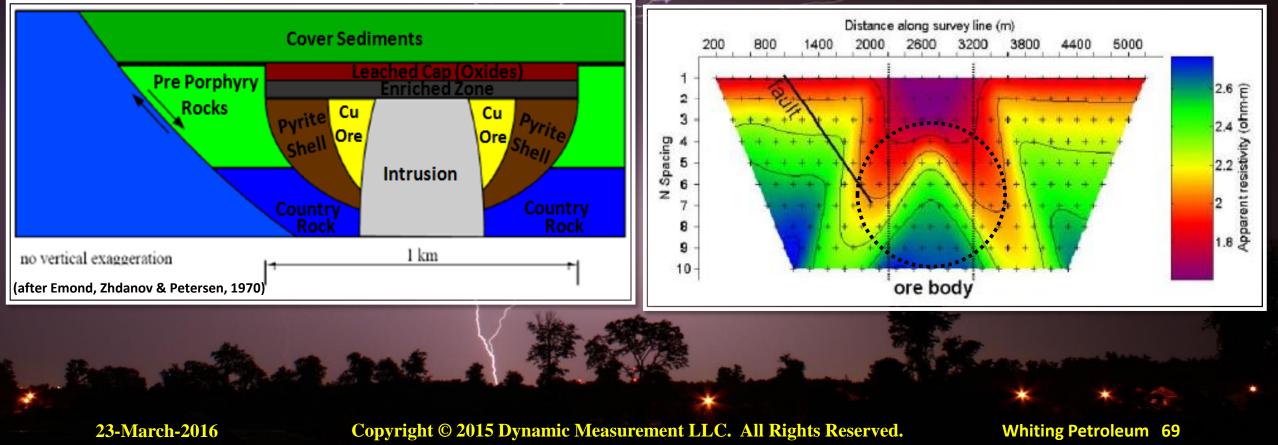
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# Simplified Porphyry Copper Deposit Model Typical Mineral Zones of a Porphyry Deposit

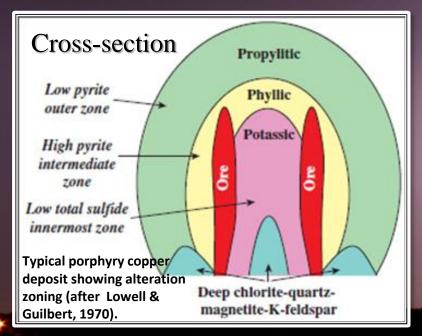


**Conductivity anomaly surrounds more resistive ore body in center.** 



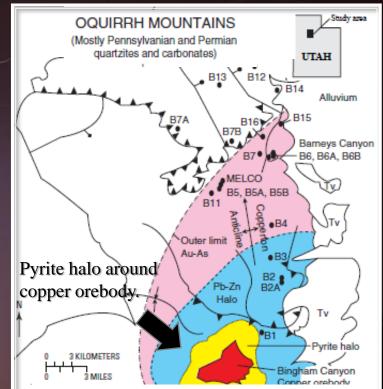
# Porphyry Copper Deposit <u>Signature</u>

- Multiple igneous intrusions present.
- Contact metamorphism/alteration halos.
- Inner high resistivity zone partially or completely enclosed by outer conductive zone.



Map View Lower Resistivity Halo Higher Resistivity



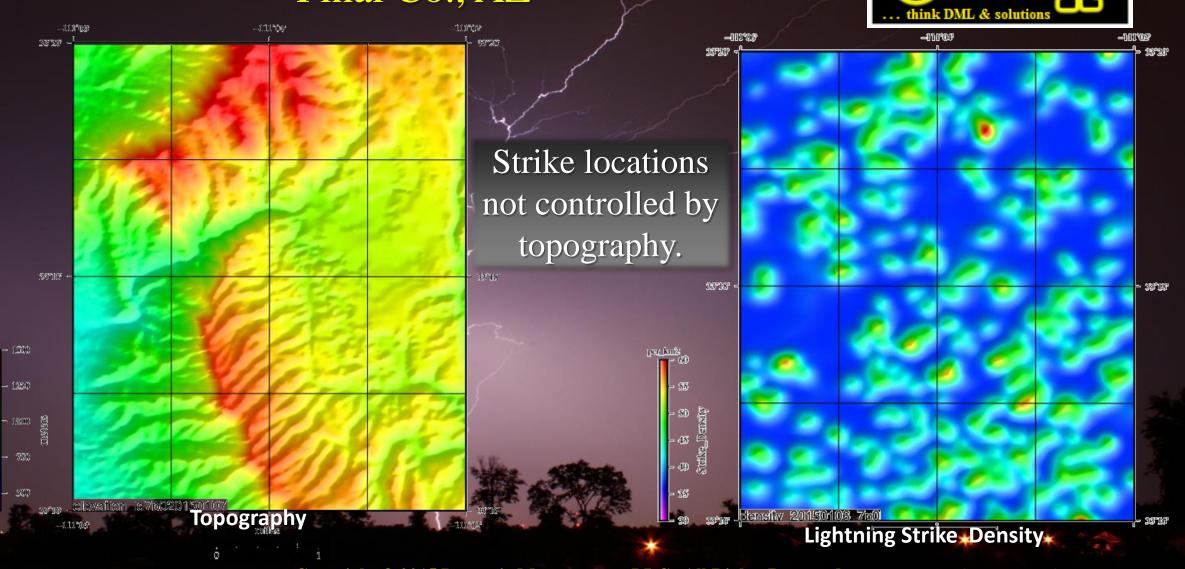


Geochemical zoning around the Bingham Canyon deposit, Utah (modified from Cunningham & others, 2004, their Fig. 1). USGS Report 2010-5070-B, David John, Editor.

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#### Case Study: Resolution Copper Mine Pinal Co., AZ

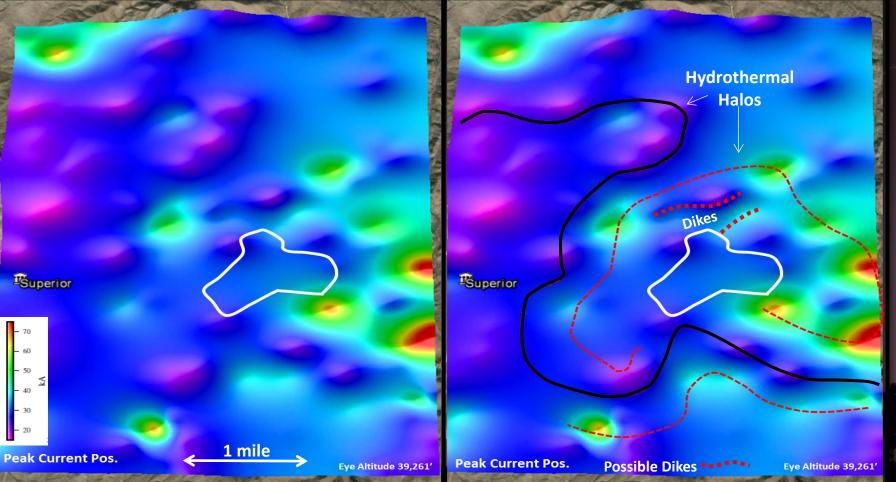


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#### Positive Peak Current Resolution Copper Mine





Geology Influences Peak Current

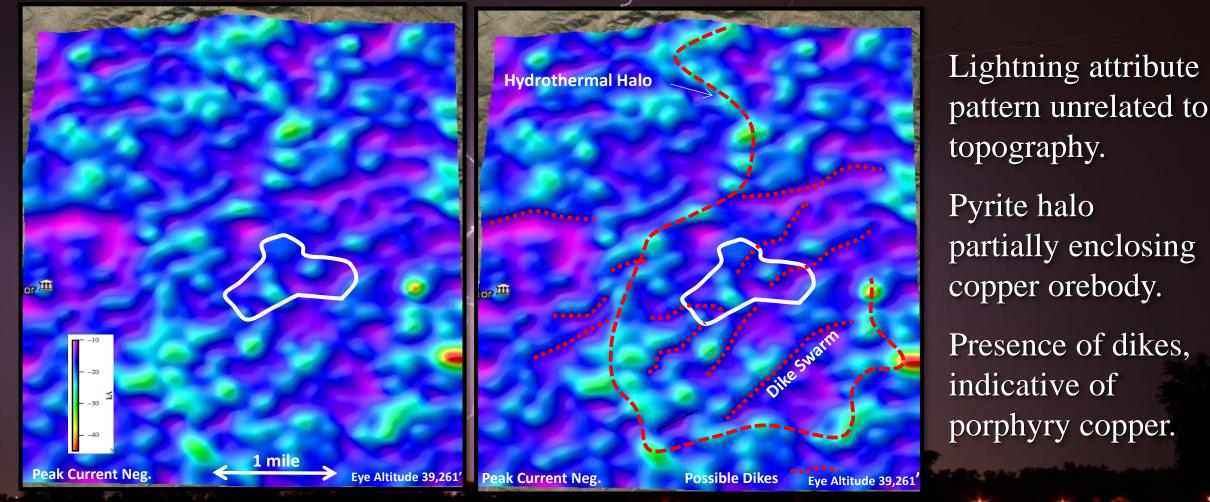
Hydrothermal Alteration & Dike Interpretation

23-March-2016

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## Negative Peak Current Resolution Copper Mine



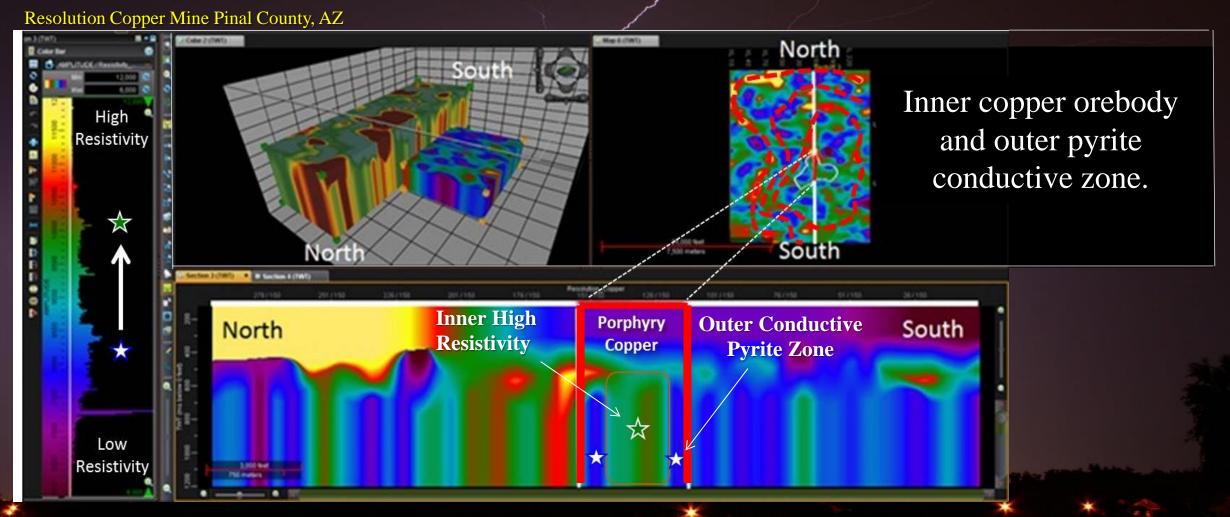


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## 3-D Resistivity Profile Through Mine Reveals Porphyry Copper Signature





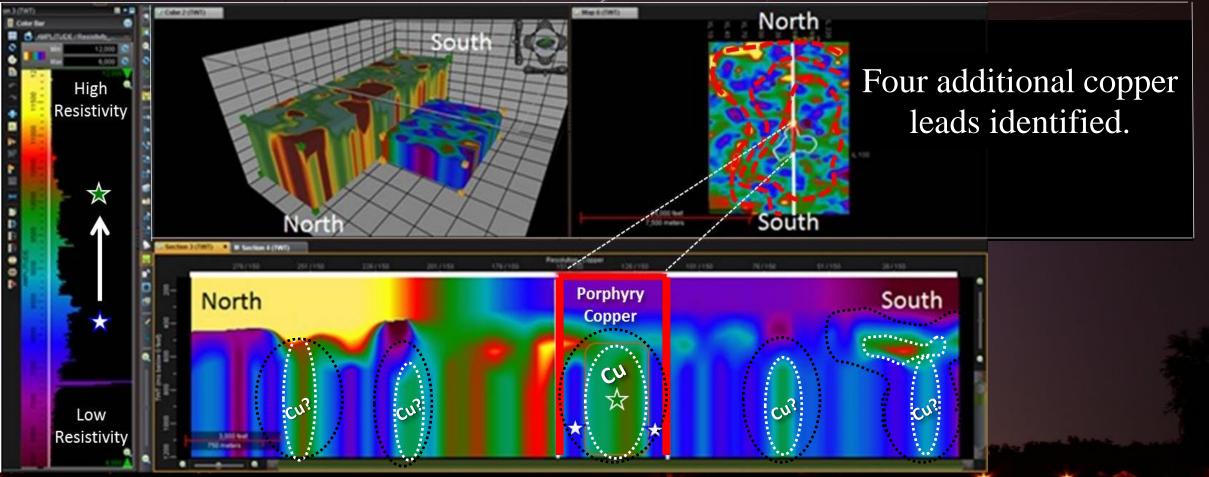
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# Mapping Rock Properties with Lightning



#### Resolution Copper Mine Pinal County, AZ

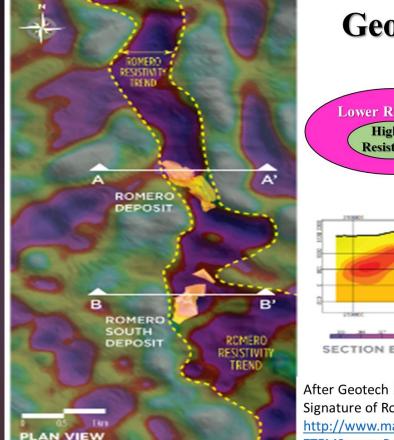


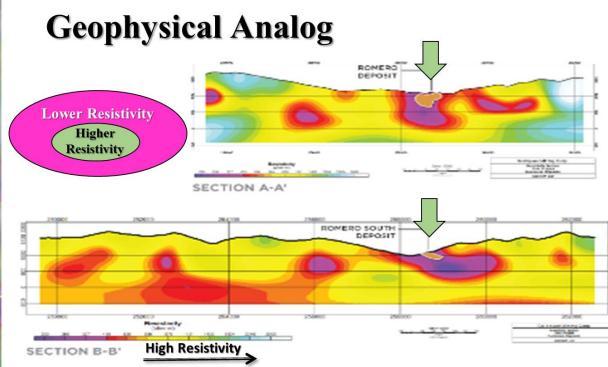
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## Copper Deposit Analog Romero Resistivity Trend, Dominican Republic







After Geotech 2014 ZTEM Survey for Goldquest (www.goldquest.com) , Seismic Resistivity Signature of Romero Au/Cu Resistivity Trend, Dominican Republic, <u>http://www.marketwire.com/library/MwGo/2014/4/14/11G014504/Images/GQC-2014-</u> ZTEMSurvey-ResistivitySignature(April1520-1141602677010.jpg Traditional resistivity profiling shows same Cu signature as NSEM.

Note same inner high resistivity core that is surrounded by a lower resistivity halo.

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## Observations



- Annular lightning attribute clusters suggest lateral resistivity changes caused by igneous intrusion & hydrothermal alteration.
- Linear trends of positive & negative peak current believed to be guided by igneous dikes/sills emplaced during igneous intrusion.
- 3-D NSEM resistivity data shows same electromagnetic signature used by mining industry to map porphyry copper deposits.

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# Mineral Exploration Conclusions



- NSEM data has the potential to explore for any mineral commonly found by conventional electrical geophysical prospecting methods.
- ★ NSEM data has the ability to map subsurface <u>rock properties</u> which can be applied to unconventional oil and gas exploration.

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The Same Rock Properties Influencing NSEM May Help Define <u>Unconventional Sweetspots</u>

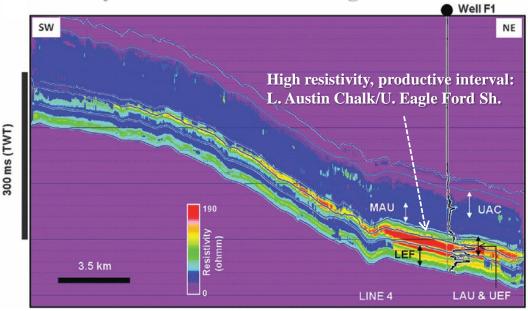


BEG: Lower Austin Chalk/Eagle Ford-Sh. Maverick Basin, S. TX

Combination of the Following:

- High Resistivity
- High Total Organic Carbon
- High Acoustic Impedance (brittleness)
- Low Bulk Volume Water

#### **Resistivity volume transect through Austin Chalk.**



\*After Ogiesoba and Eastwood, see reference cited below.

\*"Seismic multiattribute analysis for shale gas/oil within the Austin Chalk and Eagle Ford Shale in a submarine volcanic terrain, Maverick Basin, South Texas," Osareni C. Ogiesoba and Ray Eastwood BEG, Interpretation, Nov. 2013.

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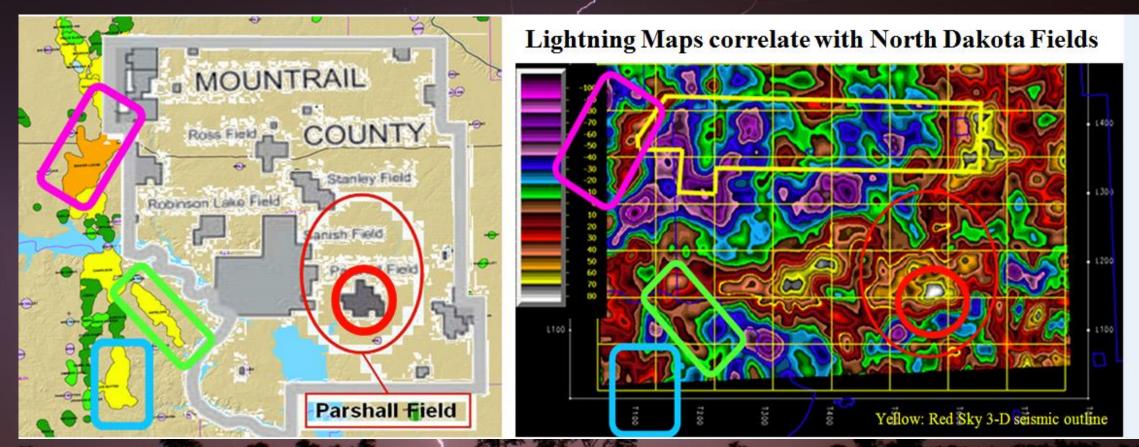


NSEM Applications to Whiting Petroleum Exploration & Enhanced Oil Recovery Operations

- North Dakota Field Correlations
- Hydrothermal Dolomites
- Monitoring CO<sub>2</sub> Injection

Lightning Strike Density Anomalies Correlate to Bakken/Three Forks Fields Williston Basin, North Dakota



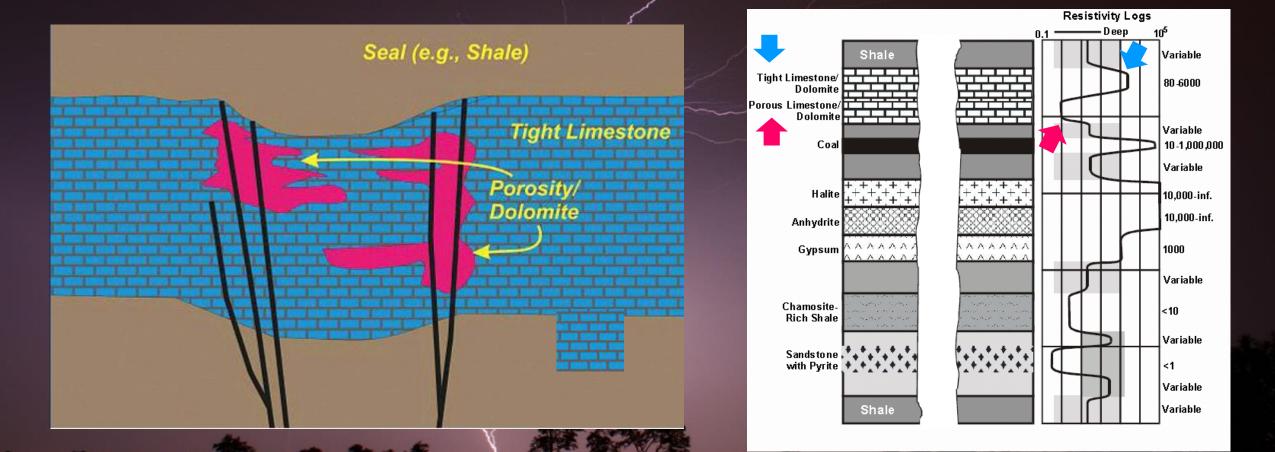


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# Hydrothermal Dolomites Large Resistivity Contrasts → NSEM Anomalies





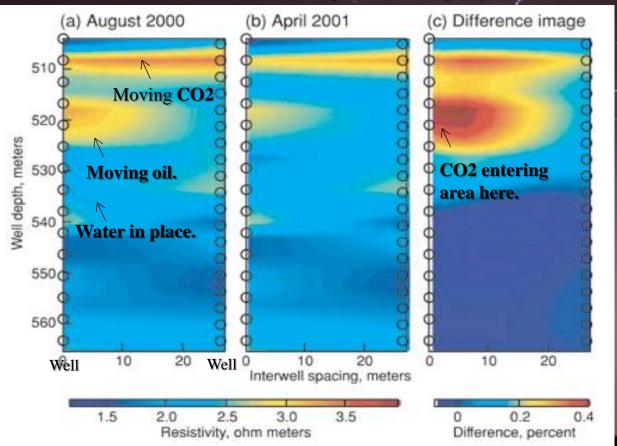
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## CO<sub>2</sub> Enhanced Oil Recovery Operations Monitoring Operations with Electrical Methods



#### **Crosswell Electromagnetic Imaging**



Electrical methods such as Crosswell Electromagnetic Imaging & Electrical Resistivity Tomography are useful for monitoring the migration of  $CO_2$ in the subsurface.

DML can generate multi-year time lapse maps and potentially support EOR operations.

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# Current DML R&D Projects



- Sequence Stratigraphy Hockley, Texas
- 3-D Seismic Calibration Project South Texas
- Mapping Active Faults North Houston

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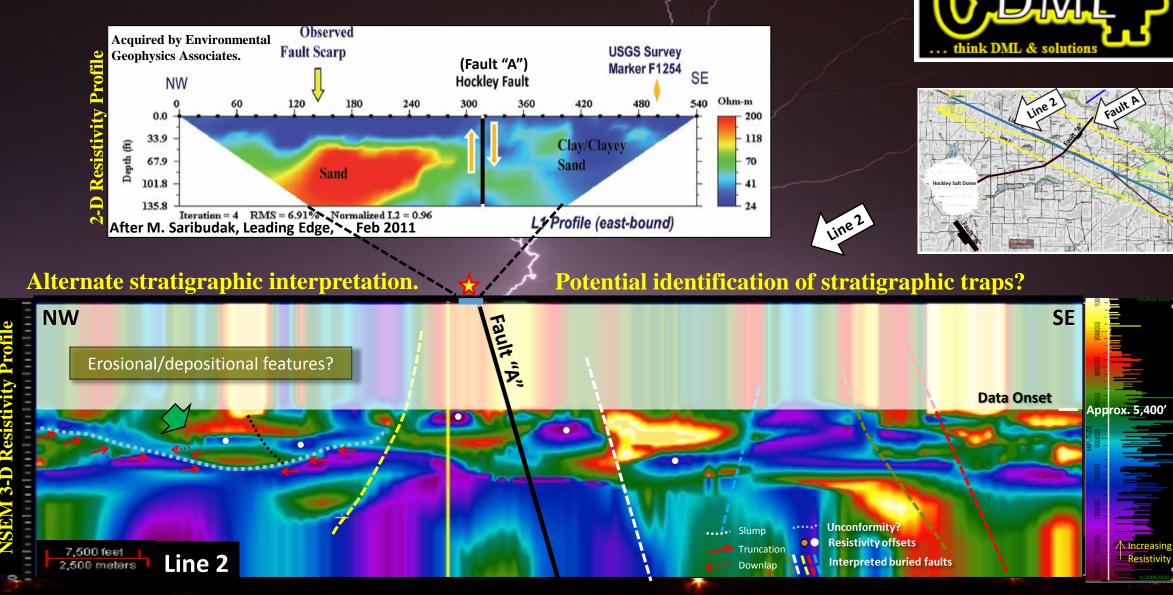


# Hockley, Texas

- Recent evaluation suggests NSEM may have resolution to identify & map erosional & depositional features.
- Comprehensive interpretation of entire 3-D resistivity volume in progress to properly distinguish between structural & stratigraphic features.

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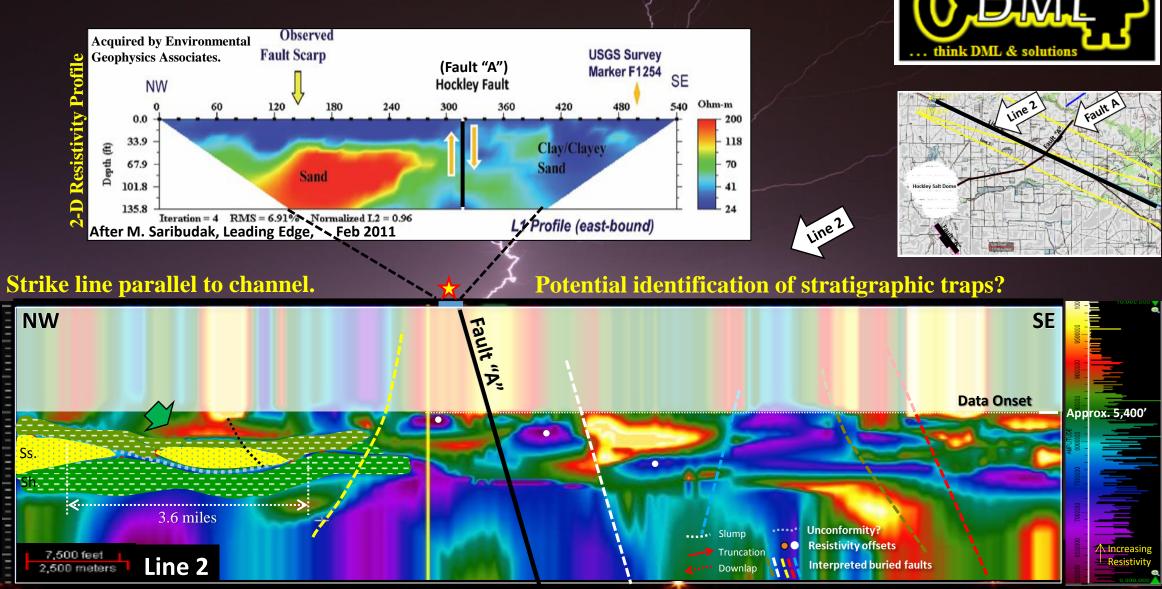
### Sequence Stratigraphy



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### Sequence Stratigraphy



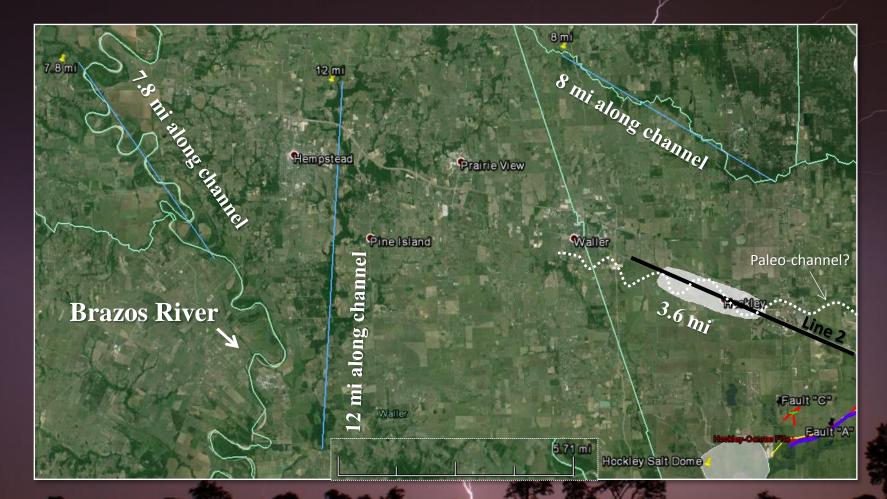
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**3-D** 

**NSEM** 

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### Fluvial Analogues





Possible analogues provided by nearby Brazos River and other meandering fluvial systems.

Line 2 possibly parallel to paleo-channel, encountering 3.6 miles of coalescing point bars within meander belt.

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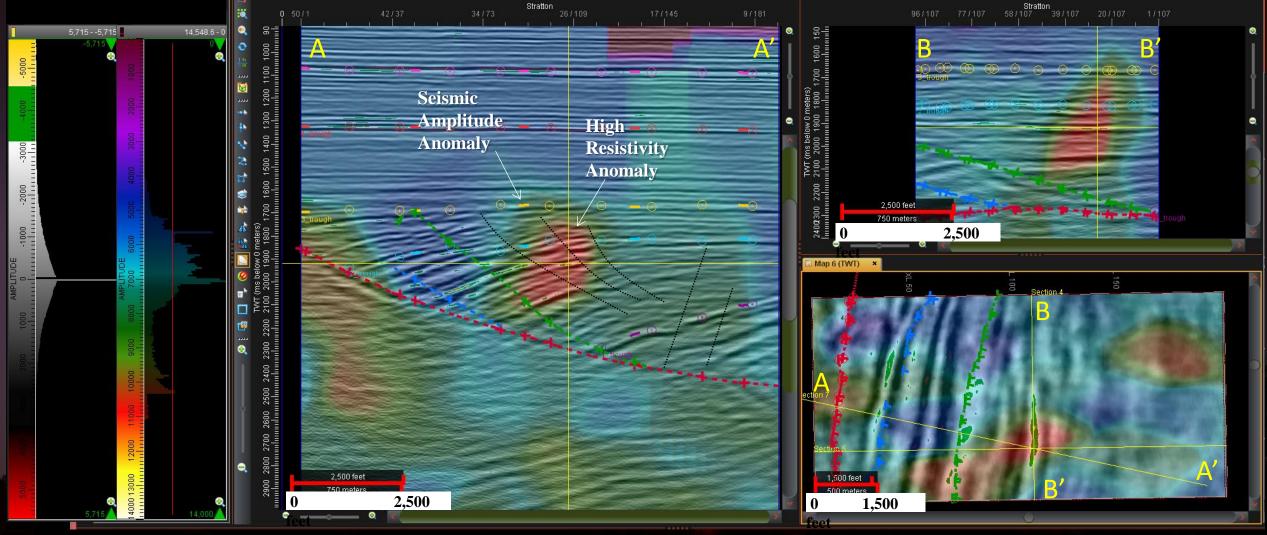
## South Texas



- Hydrocarbon Indicator?
- Resistivity Slices
- Mapping Faults & Rock Properties

# Resistivity Cross-Section over BEG Seismic



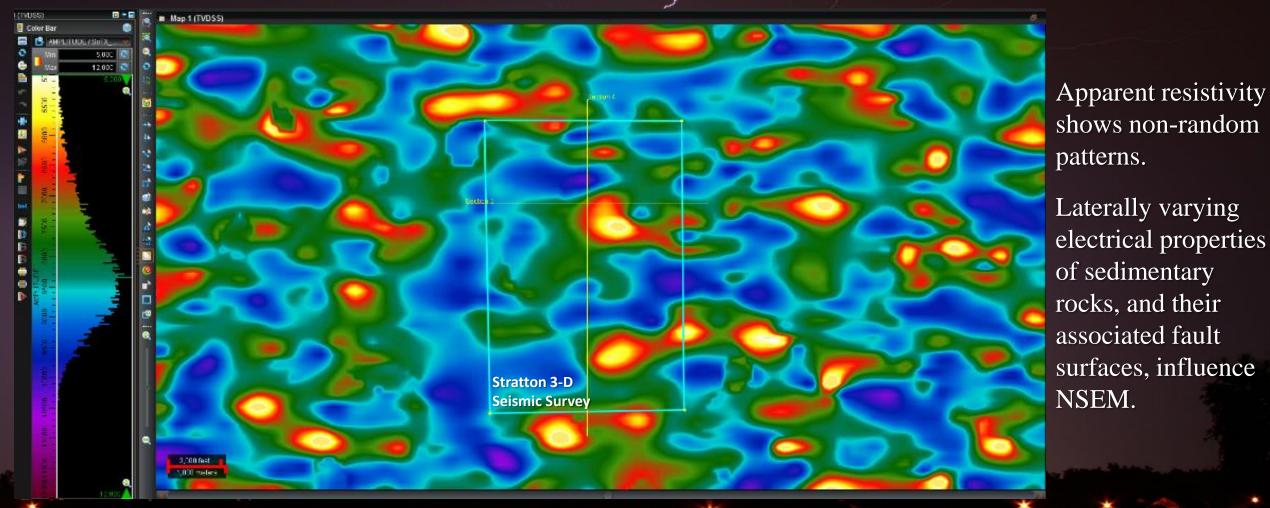


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## Resistivity Slice, South Texas Interpretation in Progress



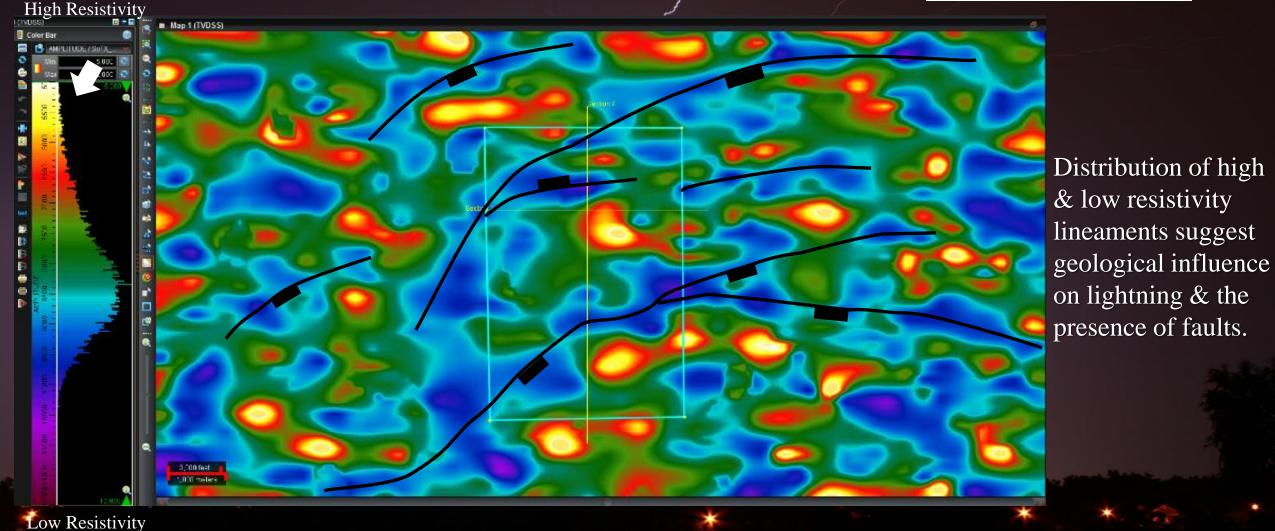


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# Another Interpretive Tool: Potential to Map Faults



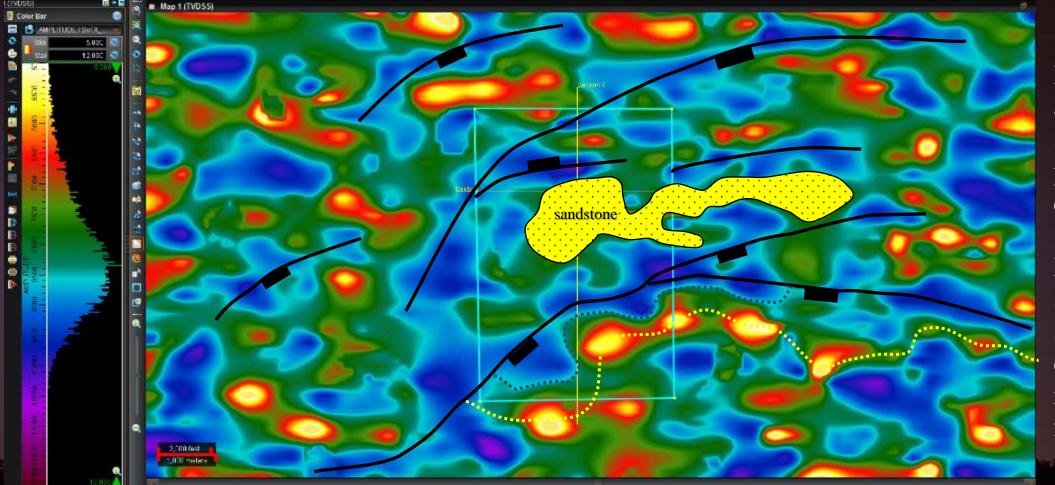


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# Another Interpretive Tool: Potential to Map Rock Properties/Hydrocarbons





High resistivities associated with sandstones, i.e. potential reservoir quality rock.

NSEM resistivity slice analogous to subcrop showing distribution of reservoir quality formation.

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# North Houston

- Mapping Subsurface Faults
- Calibrating to active Addicks Fault System

## Active & Subsurface Fault Mapping In Progress North Houston, Harris County, TX



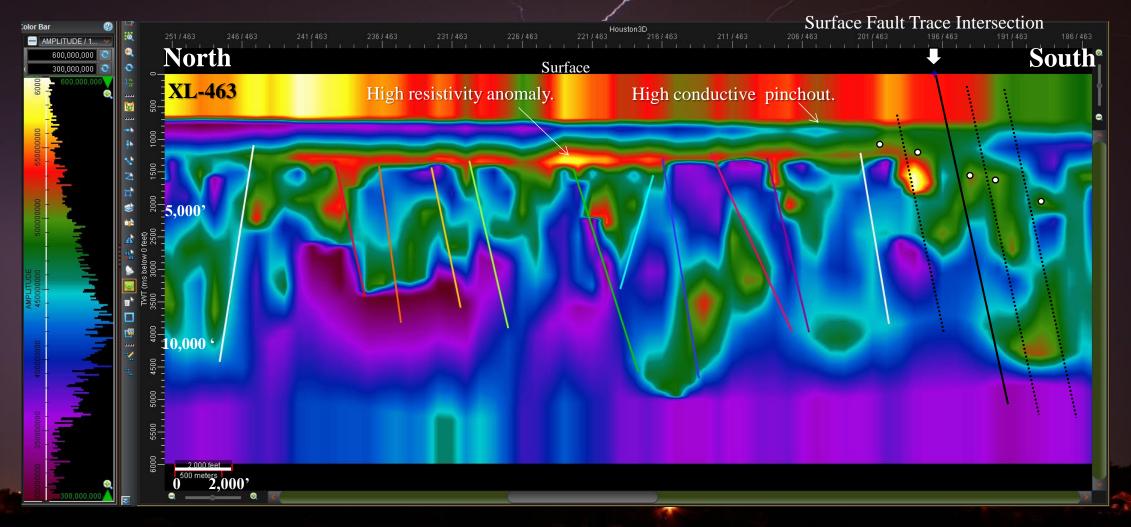


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# NSEM Reveals Structure & Stratigraphy Potential Faults, Pinchouts & Resistivity Anomaly



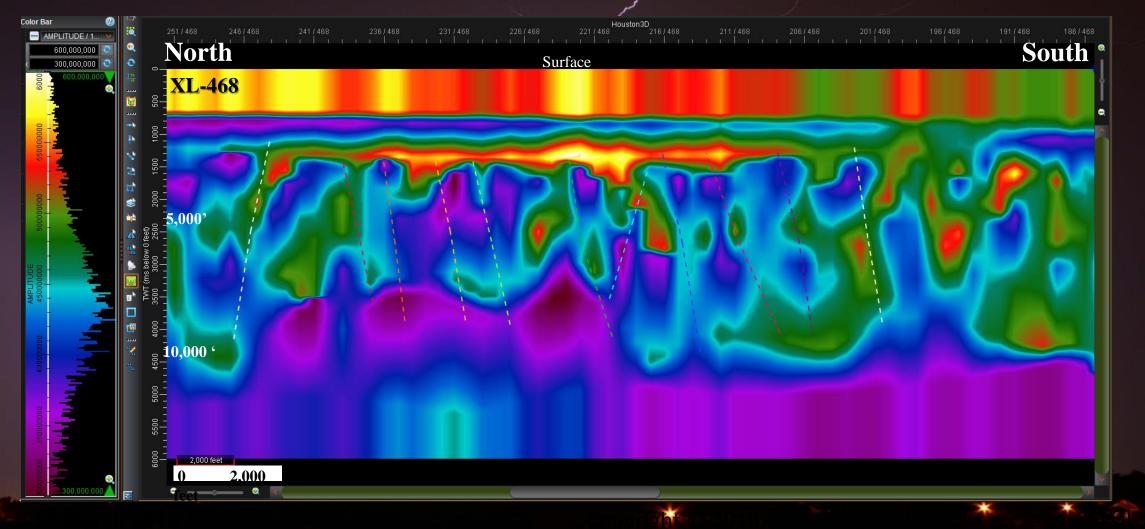


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# 3-D Fault Analysis Capability Triangulated Fault Segments & Fault Plane Maps





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### NSEM OVERVIEW



- NSEM can map regional & individual faults, rock properties & the presence of minerals; it can generate leads, & has demonstrated remarkable potential to identify hydrocarbon accumulations.
- NSEM can be calibrated to, & integrated with, seismic & subsurface geology, potential field & near surface geophysical data.
- NSEM can fill in between or extend existing data & when combined with other data, narrow down feasible interpretations.

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Lightning data is available world-wide and can be utilized as a reconnaissance tool to generate leads as part of frontier, new venture and exploration programs.

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# DML's Technology is being Recognized





#### **GULF COAST ASSOCIATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES**

www.gcags.org



Dear Kathleen.

Congratulations! You have been selected to receive the First Place Grover E. Murray Best Published Paper Award for your paper, "Aguifers, Faults, Subsidence, and Lightning Databases" published in the 2014 GCAGS "Best Paper" 2 yrs. running! 2014/2015 Transactions.

Mary Broussard 2013-2014 GCAGS President Email: Mary Broussard@fmi.com



#### **Recent Presentations:**

Annual SW AAPG Conv., Wichita. Falls, TX Annual AAPG Convention, Denver, CO WTGS Fall Symposium, Midland, TX Annual SEG Convention, New Orleans, LA Annual GCAGS Convention, Houston, TX 2nd Annual Hydro Geo Workshop, Boerne, TX Landmark Innovation & Forum, Houston, TX Miss. River Comm./Corps Engineers, Baton Rouge, LA AGU/SEG Potential Field/EM Workshop, Keystone, CO New Orleans Geological Society Luncheon Lafavette SIPES Luncheon South Texas Geological Society Luncheon, San Antonio Geoph Soc. Houston Potential Fields SIG Dinner Meeting SW Louisiana Geophysical Society Luncheon, Lafayette Baton Rouge Geological Society Luncheon

> **Two Papers & Posters** Accepted for 2016

23-March-2016

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### <u>Acknowledgments</u>



Thanks to Les Denham of Dynamic Measurement, LLC for his resistivity and permittivity algorithms that helped produce the 3-D apparent resistivity volumes from which these resistivity profiles were extracted.

Appreciation to Roice Nelson of Dynamic Measurement, LLC for his assistance extracting the resistivity profiles displayed in this presentation and for the slides borrowed from his image inventory.

# Dynamic Measurement, LLC.



### For questions regarding:

- Proprietary/Speculative Data Sales
- Project Design/Management
- Seismic, Subsurface, NSEM Data Integration
- Seismic Structural/Stratigraphic Interpretation
- Lead & Prospect Generation
- Exploitation Mapping/Drill-Site Delineation
- Detailed Fault Analyses

Contact: Louis Berent P.O. Box 690388 Houston, TX 77269 Office: 281 370-5296 Cell: 832 352-3795 Ijberent@dynamicmeasurement.com

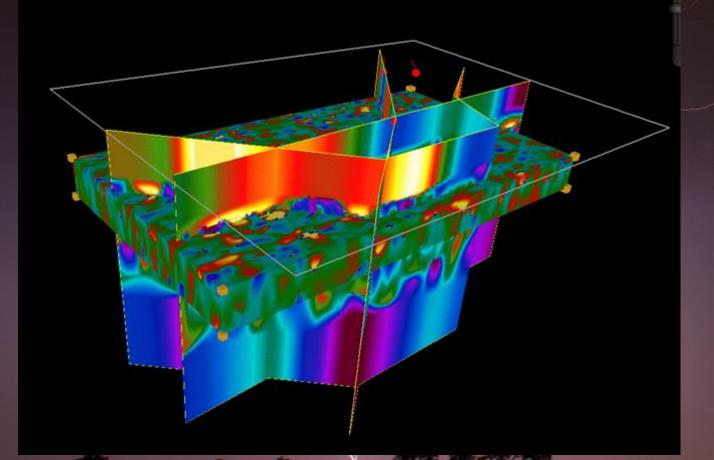
Roice Nelson 2155 West 700 South #31 Cedar City, Utah 84720 roice@dynamicmeasurement.com

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# Appendix



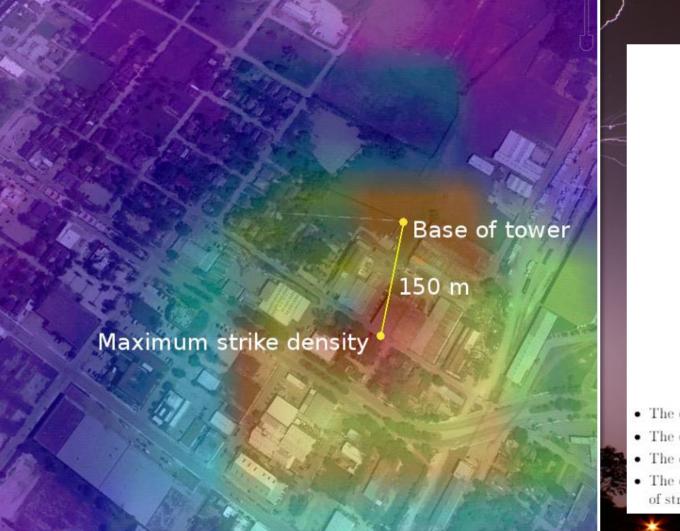


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# Accuracy Locating Lightning Strikes





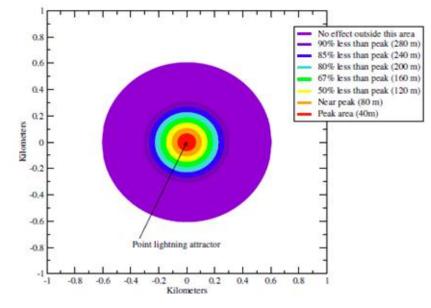


Figure 3: Summary of strike location variation

- The error in location for 90% of strikes is less than 200 m.
- The error in location for 75% of strikes is less than 120 m.
- The error in the location of 61% of strikes is less than  $80\,\mathrm{m}.$
- The error in the location of a feature interpreted from a reasonably dense database of strikes is 10-20 m.

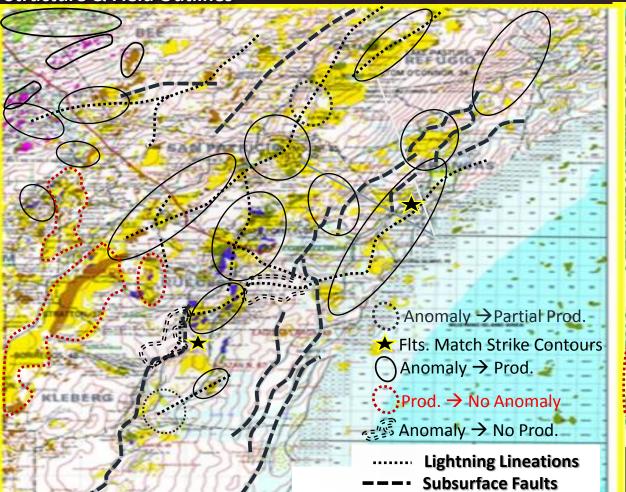
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## NSEM Correlates To Geology: Fault Patterns and Hydrocarbon Accumulations

See Lightning... DIAL & solutions

**Structure & Field Outlines** 



**Lightning Strike Density** 



The only well-defined anomaly that does not correlate to production.

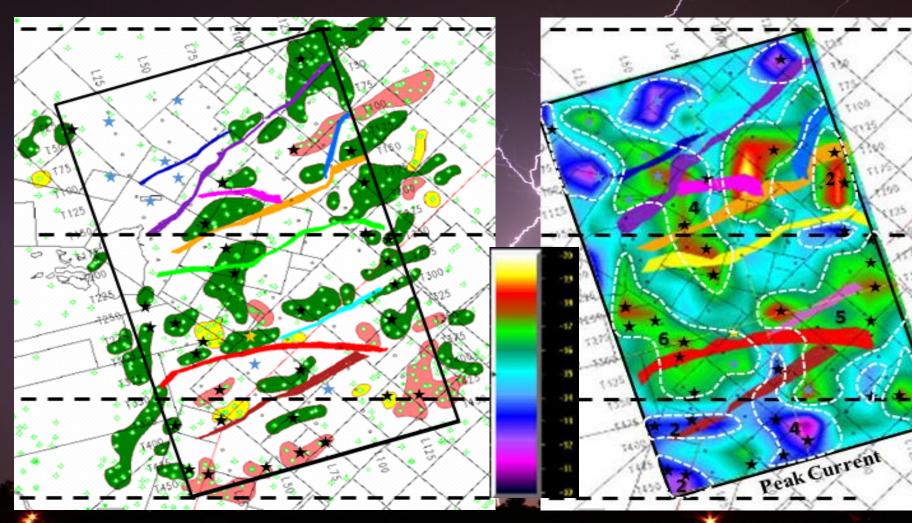
Lightning LineationsSubsurface Faults

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## Interpretation of Peak Current Clusters: Duplicates Rise Time Reconnaissance Mapping





In this slightly different interpretive technique, 81% of lightning Peak Current clusters correlated to Frio, Vicksburg or Wilcox production, again illustrating how NSEM can be used for reconnaissance mapping.

★ Field correlations.
 ★ Missed Production
 ★ False positives
 Alignment markers.

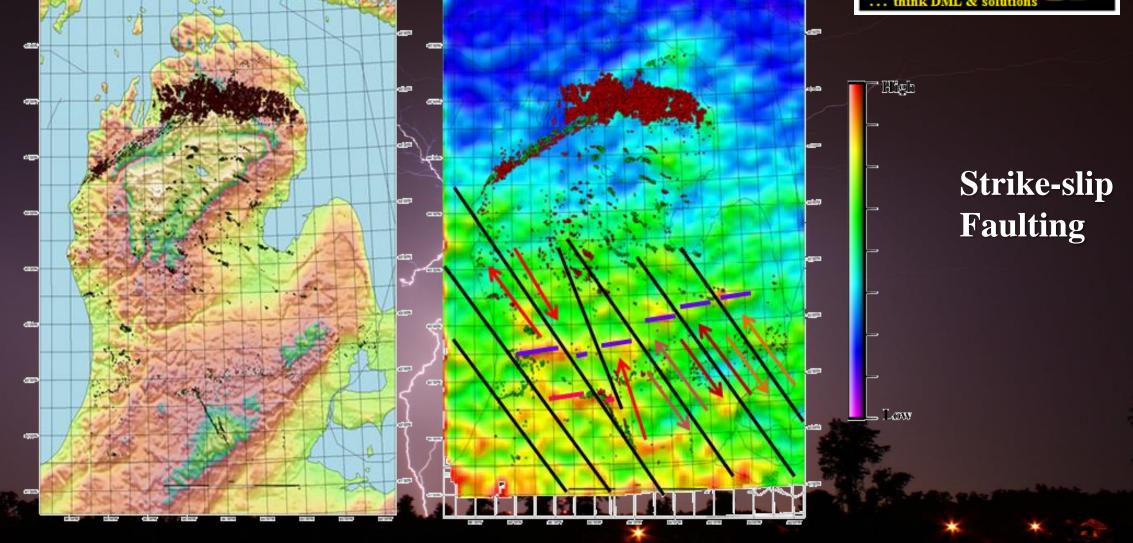
42 anomalies 34 correlate to production. 8 false positives

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# Michigan Basin Topography & Strike Density





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# The Earth as a Capacitor , Generating & Displaying 3-D Resistivity Volumes

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### The Atmosphere is an Effective Insulator



The electrical conductivity of air is 0.3-0.8 \* 10<sup>-14</sup> S.m<sup>-1</sup> (Siemens per meter).

> Air's effectiveness as an insulator is evident in its ability to separate high voltage transmission lines from the ground, from the towers used to support the lines, and from lines carrying different voltages and different phases.

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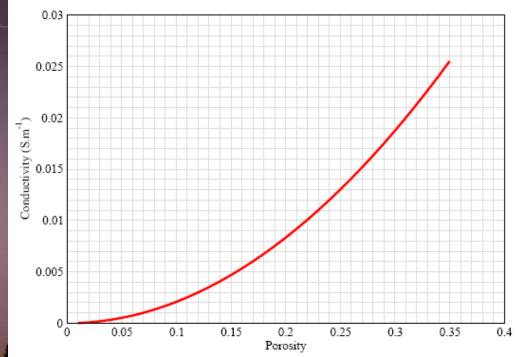
## Discussion of Electrical Conductivity



The earth is much more conductive than air, which is why air acts as a dialectric.

Assuming 5% porosity, a typical sedimentary rock's electrical conductivity is 5.0 \* 10<sup>-4</sup> S.m<sup>-1</sup> or about <u>10<sup>10</sup> times the conductivity of air.</u>

Rock Conductivity Graph: computed from Archie's equation for a porous rock with 100% brine saturation.



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## The Atmospheric Capacitor



Upper Plate

- The charged thundercloud is one plate of a capacitor.
- The other plate of the capacitor is the earth underlying the charged cloud.

#### Dielectric

- The dielectric is the air.
- Energy from a lightning strike is converted to heat, partly in the air, but largely in the subsurface.

Lower Plate

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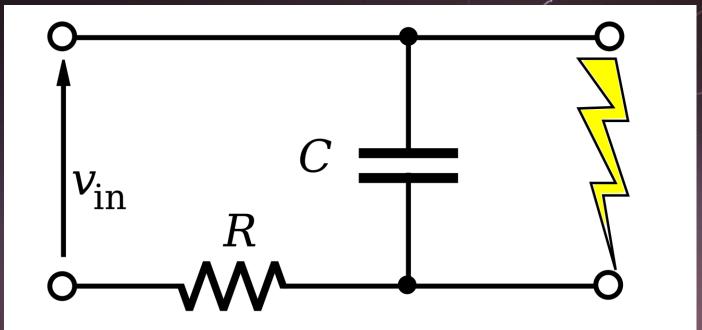
# Lightning: Dielectric Breakdown



- Lightning occurs when the voltage across the atmospheric capacitor exceeds the dielectric strength of the air.
- Resistance in the atmosphere is very low once the path is ionized.
- Resistance in the subsurface is approximately constant over long periods of time.

## Relaxation Oscillator (Nonlinear Electronic Oscillator)





• Outputs repetitive nonsinusoidal signal.

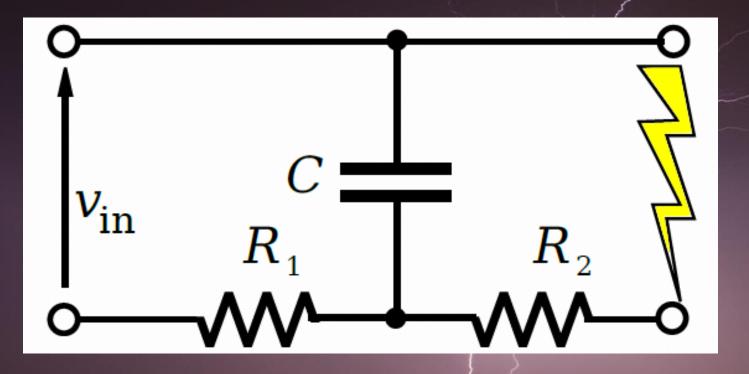
Circuit for relaxation oscillator has one resistor.

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# Lightning Physics Analogous to Relaxation Oscillator Physics





• The physics of a lightning discharge is similar to the physics of a neon-tube relaxation oscillator.

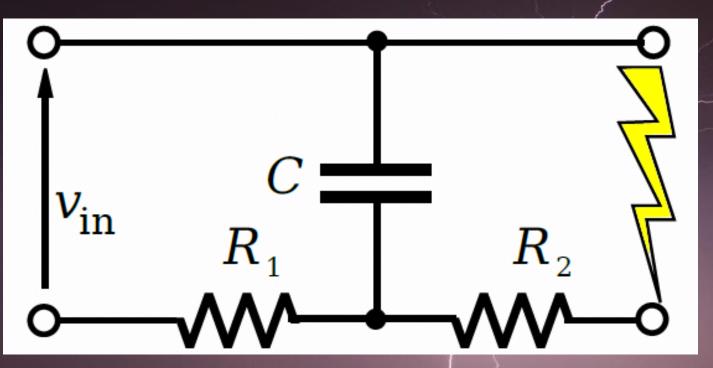
 In each case, voltage builds across a capacitor until an insulating gas ionizes & becomes a conductor.

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# Lightning Physics Analogous to Relaxation Oscillator Physics





- Lightning capacitor has an additional resistance, R2, limiting current associated with lightning.
- R2 is resistance between lightning strike point & bottom plate of capacitor.
- This relationship is the theoretical basis for generating 3-D apparent resistivity/permittivity volumes.

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