

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE MINERALS AND OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIES

By Andy Clay

Earlier last week the AAPG presented their international conference in Cape Town, and, what an event it was. The level and range of presentations, the quality of the poster presentations and the professionalism made me proud to be a member. Significantly, the sophistication of technology applications, scientific content and commercial sharing of information was awe inspiring and should serve as an example to the minerals industry. As a highly experienced sequence stratigrapher commented, "the petroleum industry has extremely sophisticated scientific, sensing and modelling tools but few boreholes whereas the mining industry has many boreholes but limited modelling tools". That really was food for thought.

As a result, Venmyn is in discussions with a number of the exhibitors to try to identify specific modelling tools that could be used cost effectively to assist its mining clients to process its borehole data within more sophisticated modelling environments. One very exciting method is the combination of surface survey and mapping of outcrop and integration of that information into 3D-image modelling, linking structural and sedimentological mapping with seismic information! The way this provides target definition strategies within a scientifically evaluated geological framework is brilliant. Imagine if this can be done to enhance existing work in the Wits, alluvial diamond environments, coal fields and base metal environments? At a time when exploration budgets are being cut, perhaps the time has come to go back to basics with the geological information and boreholes that we have at hand and start to remodel?

There were so many aspects that fascinated me and if you are interested to develop some new ideas with us please give us a call.