X-Ray Imaging Lab Opens at OPIC

The Oklahoma Geological Survey's Oklahoma Petroleum Information Center (OPIC) is now providing x-ray imaging services to help users determine more about the characteristics of cores that are available for examination through the facility. The majority of OPIC's cores are from Oklahoma, although some originated in other states as well.

Survey Director Dr. Charles J. Mankin notes that the equipment will provide yet another asset at OPIC for those involved in exploration and production of hydrocarbons.

"This equipment gives OPIC's patrons another way to examine the material they use to make better decisions about their investigations. We have combined core, samples, and an extensive collection of important well data so that anyone can come to this one location and research the data that were collected from wells that have been drilled in Oklahoma and other states. We are priced only to recover costs, and we are here to serve the State of Oklahoma by helping people make the best use of the natural resources of this State."

The equipment was set up and is being run at OPIC by Gene Kullman, OPIC manager, who ran the x-ray lab in Tulsa before BP, a global oil and gas production and refining company, donated it to the OGS and OU along with a sizeable core collection.

Video x-ray fluoroscopy is a unique, analytical imaging technology that produces a continuous, real-time, in-motion, x-ray image of a core. This image can be used to study:

1. The size, shape, and characteristics of the internal features of the core to determine the processes that produced them.
2. Whether there is damage to the core from drilling or handling.
3. The orientation and positioning of the core so that the plugging process will ensure an accurate sample.
4. Selected rock properties and internal structures that are not discernible in visible light.

Through data provided by these x-ray images, it is possible to save time and money in oil and gas exploration through better information about the core itself. Sometimes the core will not have to have a plug taken from it for further examination, preserving the core for future use, while at other times the user might be able to take a more accurate plug that will provide better information. Students also will be encouraged to use the information obtained from the imaging in their work, and will be able to see the equipment in operation on pre-arranged tours.

For appointments to tour the facility or get images from the lab, contact Kullman at 405/360-2886 or e-mail him at kull9839@gcn.ou.edu**.** OPIC is located in Norman, Oklahoma, at 2020 Industrial Blvd.