EPSP Meeting – February 20, 2018
Texas A&M University
College Station, TX

Meeting called to order by Chair Barry Katz at 08:30.

Meeting logistics was presented by meeting host Mitch Malone.

Self-introductions were presented by all in attendance.

EPSP Members in attendance: Earl Doyle, Brandon Dugan, Martin Hovland, Barry Katz (Chair), Philippe Lapointe, Dave Long, Jacek Lupa, Donald Potts, Craig Shipp, Dieter Strack

Guests and liaisons: Paul Baker, Laurel Childress, George Claypool, Brad Clement, Helen Feng, Sheri Fritz, Kevin Grigar, Tom Dunkley Jones, Stephen Jones, Adam Klaus, Leah LeVay, Mitch Malone, Tim McHargue, Ken Miller, Clive R. Neal, Chris Olson, Katerina Petronotis, Tadeu Reis, Cleverson Silva, Brittany Stockmaster

Approval of 2017 EPSP meeting minutes as modified.

Preview of Proposal 864 - Equatorial Atlantic Gateway – Tom Dunkley Jones presented a scientific overview of the proposal. He highlighted the science objectives which were: 1) examination of the early rift history of the Equatorial Atlantic by the direct drilling of time-equivalent strata to the South Atlantic salt basins; 2) study of the biogeochemistry of the hydrographically restricted Equatorial South Atlantic; 3) characterization of the long-term paleoceanography of the Equatorial Atlantic Gateway; and 4) examination of the limits of tropical climates and ecosystems under conditions of extreme warmth. This was followed by the review of the available dataset and a site-by-site review.

Site	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Proposed Depth (m)	Recommendations and Remarks
PER-07A	-9.2317	-33.8136	1015	No site-specific guidance.
PER-04A	-9.3160	-33.8728	999	Consider this as the primary site.
PER-05A	-7.5799	-33.5767	947	No site-specific guidance.
PER-10A	-8.4664	-33.4818	1000	Consider passing on site.
PER-11A	-9.9413	-33.3834	1420	Reconsider position and maximum depth.
PER-12A	-8.5634	-33.9750	600	Consider relocation.
PER-09A	-8.5660	-33.9233	600	There needs to be a minor shift to the west.

Site	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Proposed Depth (m)	Recommendations and Remarks
PER-08A	-8.5625	-33.9904	400	Potentially deepen.
PER-06A	-8.4580	-33.9700	920	Consider relocation.

For the full review the panel has requested that interpreted and uninterpreted seismic data be provided at a common scale. The data be displayed at less of a vertical exaggeration than at the current meeting and that the vertical exaggeration be stated. Ensure that the depths requested include the logging tool length. Clear scales need to be incorporated into all graphics. Depth of proposed penetration needs to be clearly depicted by the "well sticks" on the seismic data. Detailed sea bed morphology/bathymetry is required for the shallower water sites. The discussion should include a discussion of the available surface geochemistry data.

Preview of Proposal 859 – Amazon Margin – Cleverson Silva presented an overview of the scientific rationale for the proposal. Sampling of the offshore Amazon basin would: 1) aid in the examination of the Amazon Cenozoic climatic evolution; 2) assist in the reconstruction of Cenozoic South American and South Atlantic climate; 3) better define the origins of the transcontinental Amazon River and the Amazon Fan; 4) extend the onshore sedimentary record into the marine system; and 5) gain a further understanding of the origins and evolution of the neo-tropical rain forest and it biodiversity. This discussion was followed by an overview of the available data and the proponents' perspective on environmental and safety issues. The site-by-site summary followed.

Site	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Proposed Depth (m)	Recommendations and Remarks
AM-03B	4.661765639	-50.025231	1631	No site-specific guidance.
AM-08A	4.68465323	-50.09770589	1605	No site-specific guidance.
AM-13A	4.69819453	-50.11117101	1519	No site-specific guidance.
AM-05A	4.590211167	-50.06301725	1591	Site should be relocated or depth reduced.
AM-06A	4.620270472	-50.00417692	1705	No site-specific guidance.
AM-07A	5.073426194	-50.40431625	2203	Concern expressed below green reflector, need a better explanation, better image or a new location.
AM-11A	4.76049915	-50.18515796	1995	No site-specific guidance.
AM-12A	4.71438277	-50.13066275	2213	Shift in a direction toward a lower shot point number.

Site	Latitude (°)	Longitude (°)	Proposed Depth (m)	Recommendations and Remarks
AM-10A	4.949105111	-50.25615075	2236	Shift in a direction toward a lower shot point number.
AM-04B	4.628938222	-50.08949344	2176	No site-specific guidance.

The panel requests that for the formal review the potential for overpressure in the study area be modeled. The position of the drill sites need to be better positioned with respect to the data (i.e., the hole should be positioned closer to the center of the image. The gain on the seismic section should be reduced to minimize clipping and improve contrast. Consider presenting depth sections rather than solely time sections. Reconfirm seismic picks. The seabed morphology needs to be presented. Stratal slices of the intervals below the yellow reflector should be constructed. Reexamine the time/depth conversion and reconfirm the requested depths of penetration. Add identified surface seeps (indicated by proponents on a regional map) to the detailed bathymetry and location maps.

Next meeting – September 4-6, 2018 – College Station, TX

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 15:05.