

Anatomy of the 'LuSi' Mud Volcano, East Java

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Trees
~ 8 m high

Photo courtesy Sidoarjo Mudflow Mitigation Agency

Lumpur Sidoarjo – a unique geological disaster!

Erupting continuously since 29th May 2006.

Maximum rate ~150000 m³/day, Average >64000 m³/day.



**Source: Sidoarjo Mudflow Mitigation Agency.
Photo: © Greenpeace, reproduced with permission**

Displaced ~40000, 12 villages, >10000 homes, ~100 schools, factories & mosques, >US\$500 million in damage and clean up.

Source: Sidoarjo Mudflow Mitigation Agency, Mazzini et al., 2007, Time Asia 2008, Java Post.



Photos: M. Tingay and Channel 9 Australia, May 2007

Mud has covered area of $\sim 10 \text{ km}^2$ contained within series of dams.

Total mud erupted is $>0.095 \text{ km}^3$ (95 million m^3) at an average rate of $\sim 64000 \text{ m}^3$ per day



Scale of Lusi Mud Flow With Respect to Sydney

Area ~ 3.5x2.8 km, Volume 18% of Sydney Harbour



Video Footage of the Lusi Eruption Area



August-Sept 2006, © Greenpeace, shown with permission

Controversy: What Triggered the Lusi Eruption?

Two distinct and competing theories:

- 1. Eruption was triggered by 27th May 2006 M_w 6.3 Yogyakarta earthquake.**
- 2. Eruption triggered by internal blowout in nearby Banjar Panji-1 gas exploration well.**

Controversy cannot be resolved without understanding Lusi's subsurface geology

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- BACKGROUND
- THEORIES ON SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY
- NEW INFORMATION ON SUBSURFACE GEOLOGY
- IMPLICATIONS AND SUMMARY



Photo: M. Tingay June 2009

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WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT LUSI?

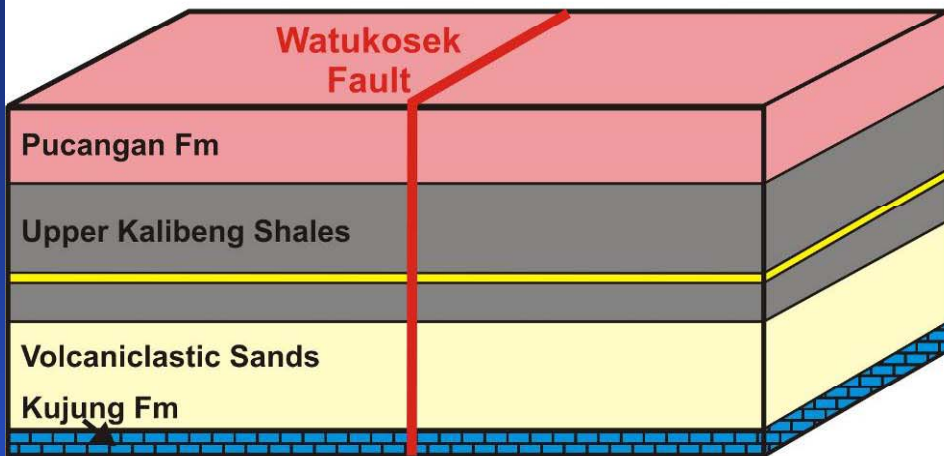
- Solid fraction (clay) is predominately from Pleistocene Upper Kalibeng shales (1200-1800m).
- Water origin unknown, temp/chem suggests >1700m.
- Migration pathway originally along NE-SW fault (Watukosek?), later reactivation of NW-SE fault.
- Limited geology from Banjar Panji-1 well.
- Pre-existing and subsequent structure poorly understood (poor seismic, difficult to do geophysics).

Uncertainty in water origin and subsurface geology leads to two models for Lusi based on different triggering theories.

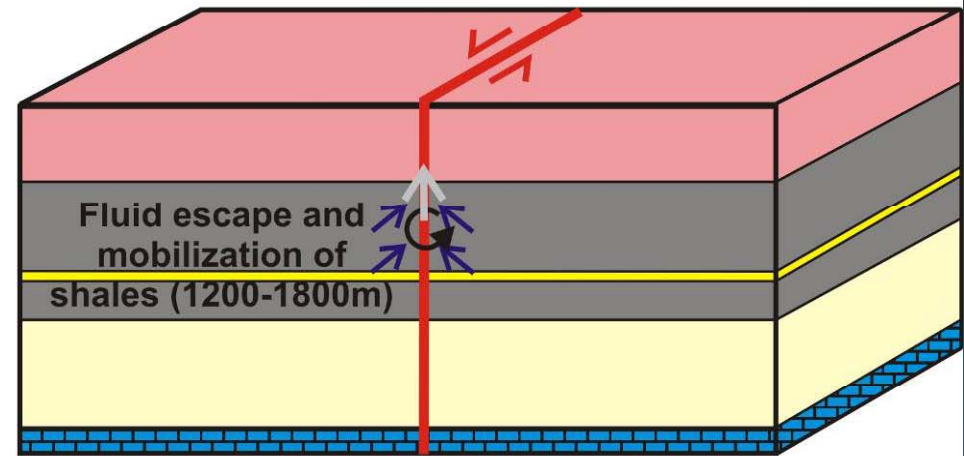
Photo: © Greenpeace, reproduced with permission

Schematic Model for Earthquake Triggering of Lusi

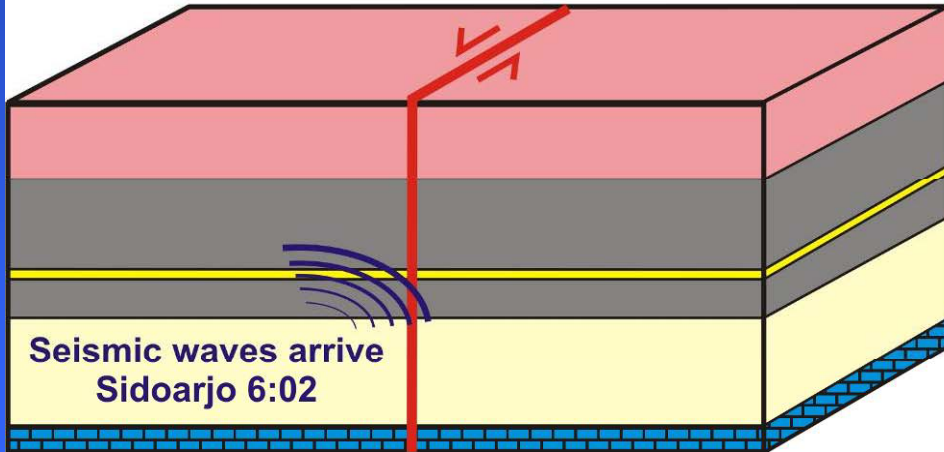
(a) 27/5/06 05:55: Mw6.3 Yogyakarta earthquake



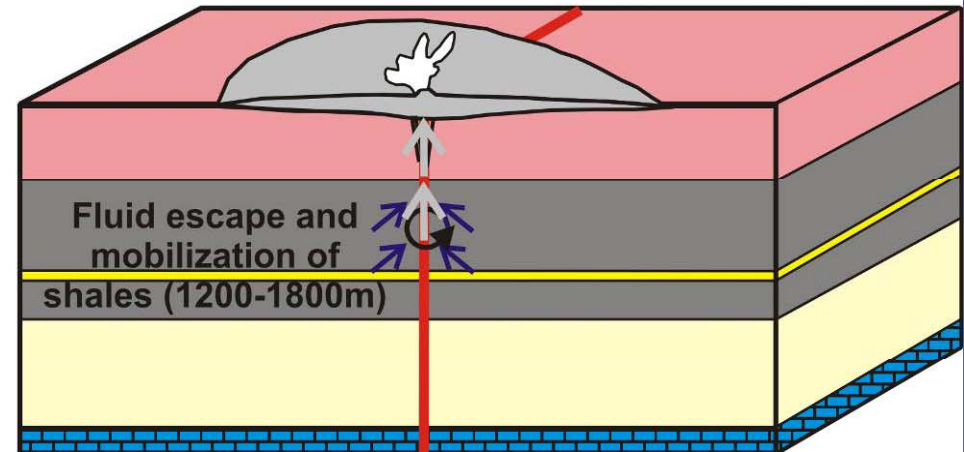
(c) 27-28 May: Fault permeable, mud ascending



(b) 27/5/06 06:02: Watukosek Fault reactivates



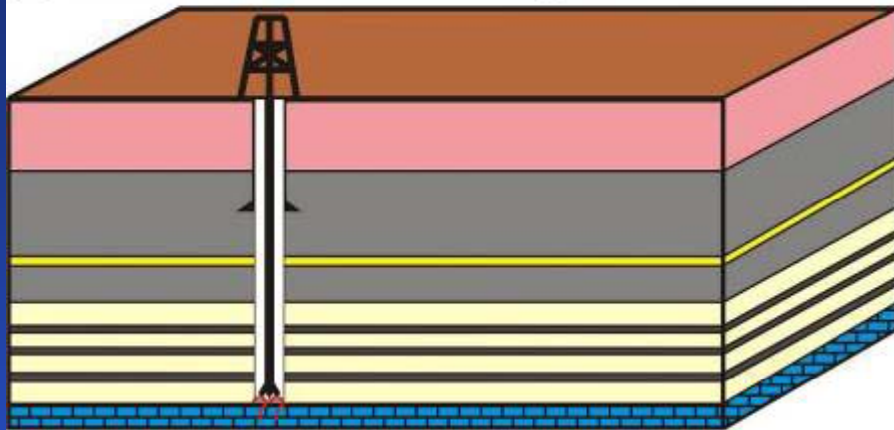
(d) 29/5/06 ~05:00: Mud reaches surface, Lusi born



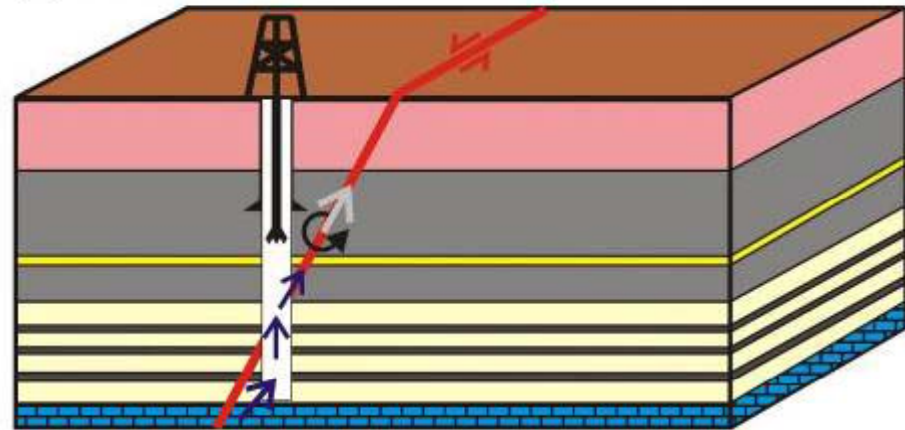
Earthquake trigger theory suggests Lusi result of remote reactivation of Watukosek fault. Seismic shaking caused reactivation, mobilization (& liquefaction?) of Kalibeng Shales.

Schematic Model for Drilling-Induced Triggering of Lusi

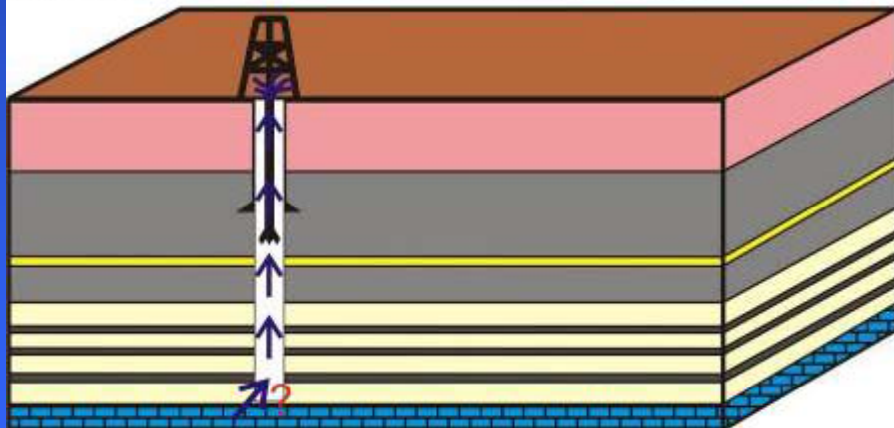
(a) 27/5/06 12:50: Total losses @ 2834m



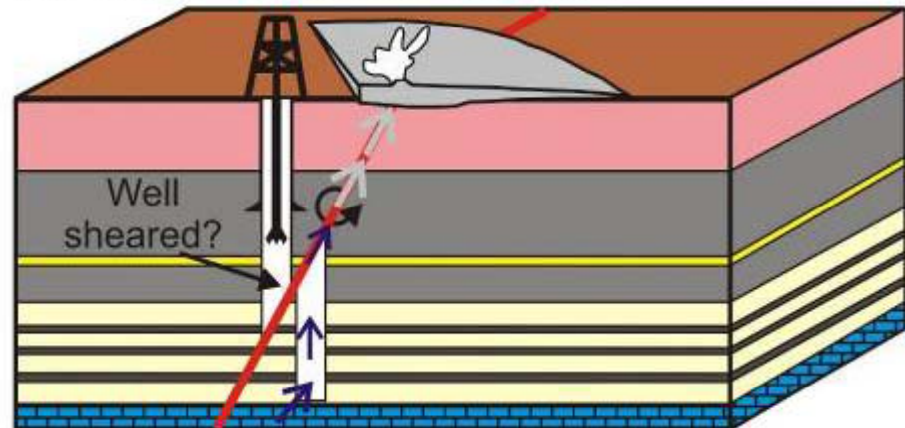
(c) 28/5/06 07:50+: BOP closed, fault reactivated?



(b) 28/5/06 05:00: ~360bbl water kick while tripping



(d) 29/5/06 05:00: Lusi born 150m from BJP-1



Drilling-induced trigger theory suggests that mud eruption results from a surface rupture following an **'internal blowout'**.

Modified from Davies et al., 2007, based upon Champion blowouts in Brunei (Tingay et al., 2005) and other underground blowouts.

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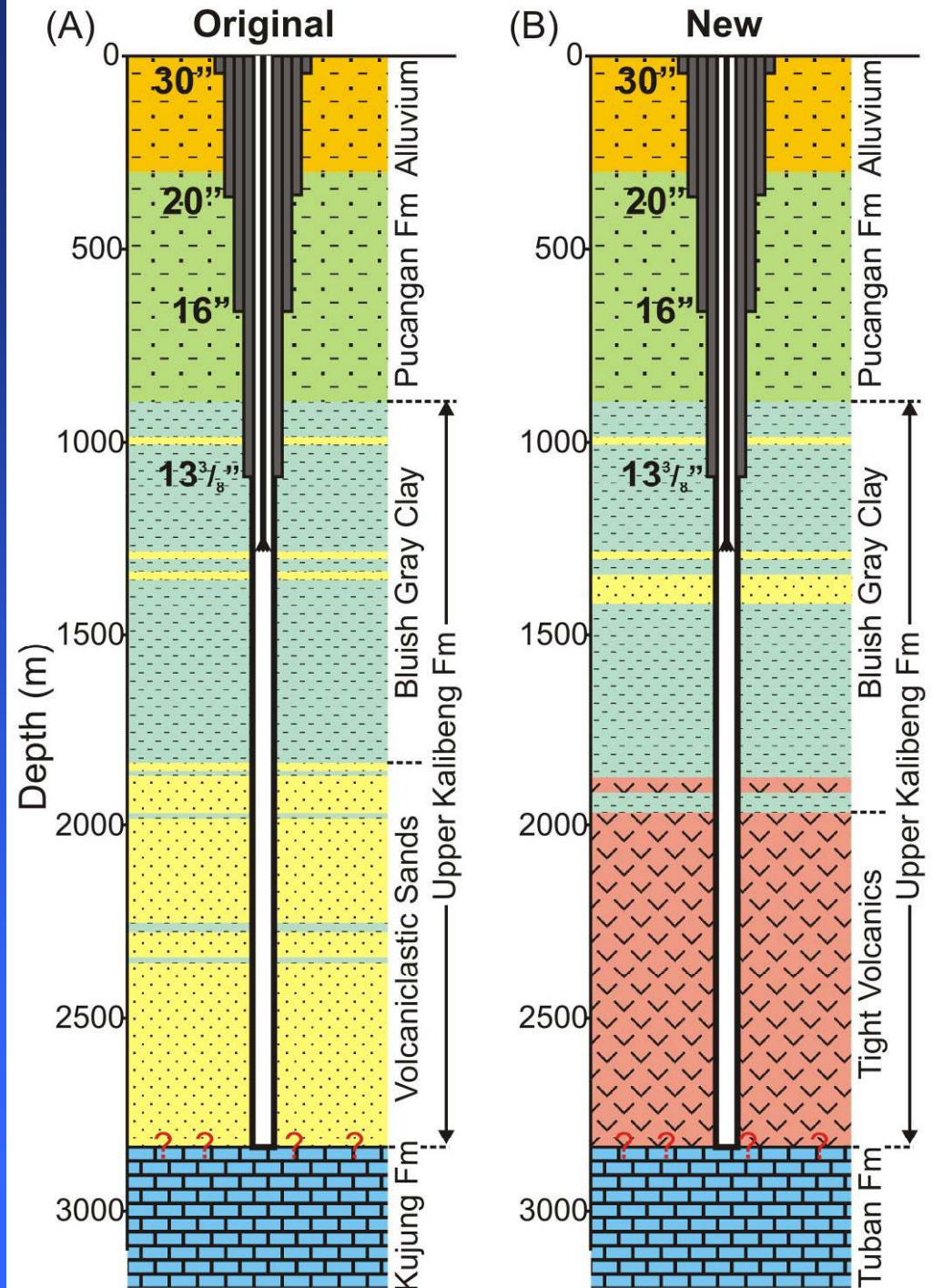
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Photo: M. Tingay May 2007

1) Volcaniclastic sands
reinterpreted as tight volcanics.

2) Deep carbonates reinterpreted as Miocene Tuban or Prupuh Fm reefal carbonates.

Stratigraphy modified from Tingay et al., 2008



Why Volcanics and Not Volcaniclastic Sands?

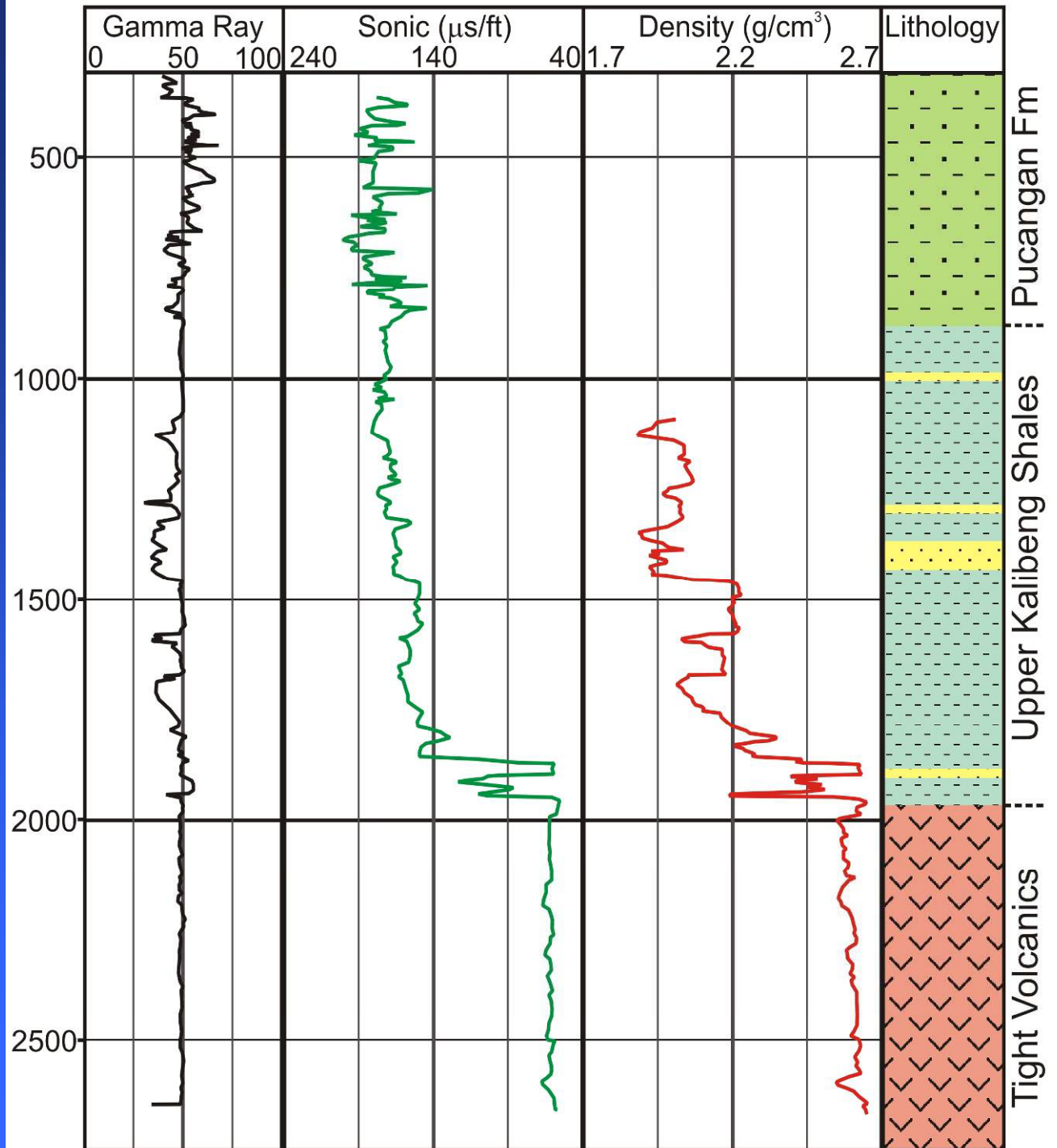
- Close inspection of cuttings reveals error in original mud logger interpretation.
- Cuttings comprised of andesite, dacite, welded tuffs - lava flows, ash and maybe lahars.
- Rocks primarily ground down to sand and gravel sized fragments by bit (very low ROP, high WOB).
- Pleistocene-Recent Penanggungan volcanic complex 15km SW of Lusi.

Petrophysical logs suggest volcanics

- Uniform log responses
- High density ($\sim 2.6 \text{ g/cm}^3$)
- Fast sonic ($\sim 65 \mu\text{s/ft}$)
- Indicates porosity $< 5\%$

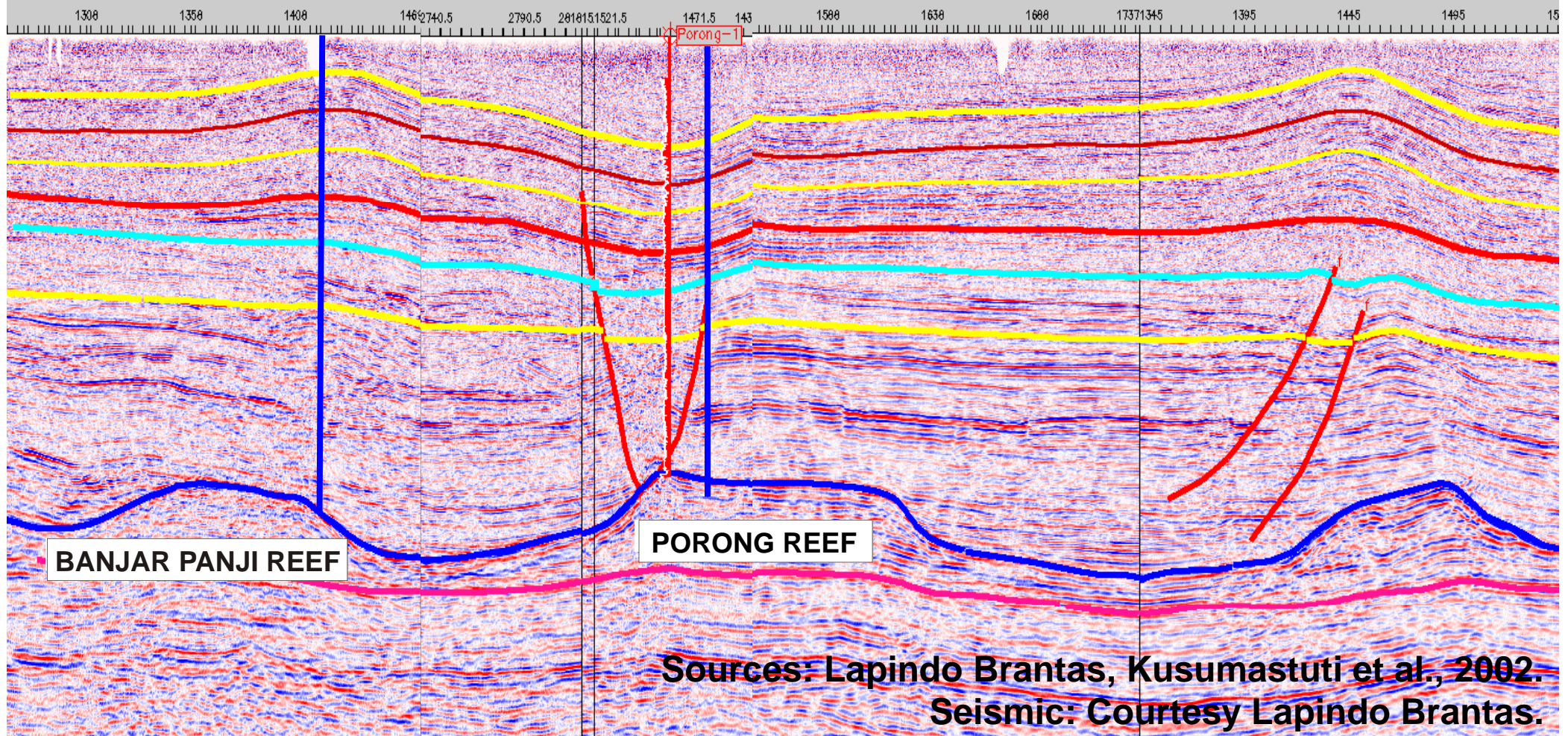
Likely very low matrix permeability (high fracture permeability?).

Source: Schlumberger
BJP-1 Data Montage



WHY NOT THE KUJUNG CARBONATES?

- Oligocene Kujung Fm is primary reservoir unit in East Java Basin.
- Strontium ratios from Porong-1 (7 km away) show carbonates 16 Ma.
- Suggests carbonates Mid Miocene Tuban or Prupuh Formations.



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Photo: M. Tingay June 2009

Implications of Tight Volcanics

- Volcanics seal overpressures in the carbonates (not an aquifer).
- Drilling trigger model not possible with earlier volcanoclastic sands.
- Fracture initiation/reactivation in volcanics modifies both models?

Source: Abidin et al., 2008; Mazzini et al., 2007. Photo: Channel 9 Australia

IMPLICATIONS OF MIOCENE CARBONATES

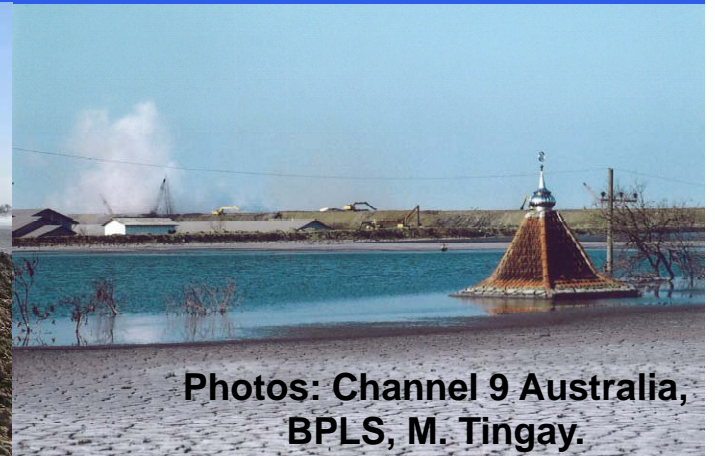
- Kujung Fm typically low pressure, moderate permeability.
- Suggestions that 150000 m³/day impossible from Kujung Fm.
- Tuban and Prupuh Fms are highly overpressured, known good porosity and permeability.

Sources: Kusumastuti et al., 2002; Sawolo et al., 2010

Photo: Channel 9 Australia, 2007

SUMMARY

- Subsurface geology and plumbing system largely unconstrained (H_2O ??).
- New analysis revises stratigraphy: shales now interpreted to be underlain by tight volcanic sequences and Miocene Tuban or Prupuh Fm carbonates.
- Volcanics offer a seal to overpressures in carbonates.
- Carbonate age suggests unreliable to use Kujung Fm as analogue.
- Both models still have unexplained issues: uncertainty means 40000 people left displaced with minimal aid and only partially compensated.



Photos: Channel 9 Australia,
BPLS, M. Tingay.

Acknowledgements and Thanks:

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Refugee shelter



Thank You!!



Photos: M. Tingay and Channel 9, May 2007