

20.03 **Oil Shale Occurrence in South Volga Region, Russia**

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My paper is a descriptive study of geological setting, history of use, and ways for future development of the South Volga oil shale. The Upper Jurassic organic-carbon rich facies are widely distributed in the Precambrian East European and Hercynian West Siberian Platforms and they are an important segment of the Mesozoic oil shale generation. Shallow oil shale of the East European Platform is now under consideration as a future source of hydrocarbon. The main prospect for this enterprise is the South Volga oil shale basin located in the eastern parts of Saratov and Samara Regions. Proved amount of oil shale is to 55 billion tons, recoverable reserves of oil are put at 5 billion tons.

Origin of oil shale is considered as the sediment deposition in large lake systems during anoxic events. The different feature of shale is high content of sulfur, up to 4-6%. It proves that H₂S injection from deep sediment to the Jurassic sedimentary basin may be a reason for sulfur enrichment of organic matter.

The exploitation of South Volga Basin shale began in the 1930s but the use of such shale has been abandoned owing to economic and environmental problems. Now some projects of shale oil processing are under consideration. Production of high quality organic sulfur compounds can accelerate the realization of these projects. Prospects of combined schemes (on surface and in-situ heating) are more reasonable for retorting the great part of rocks as well as for solving the environmental problems.