

**Society of Petroleum Engineers  
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**SPE Distinguished Lecturer Presentation:**

**“Dry Hole Analysis: What I have Learnt about the Upstream Petroleum Industry from My Failures”**

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**Abstract:**

Finding and producing oil and gas are the major objectives of any upstream oil and gas company. Both, however, can be highly elusive. Dry hole analysis is an exploration methodology to determine what can be learnt from drilling failures.

Using a series of case studies from my own career I look at what we can learn from "failures" - not just those that occur during exploration, appraisal and development but also those that relate to the business as a whole. Having worked for all types of companies - multinationals (both European and USA), local Australian companies and even my own consulting I have been exposed to many and varied management and organizational models. In each case the distilled learnings are universal and applicable at any stage of a career. Originally aimed at Young Petroleum Professionals, the concepts have been expanded to help all professionals see the industry as a business.

As well as uncovering technical findings from failures we can also find out a great deal about the industry that will help working in it become more rewarding and exciting!

**Biography:**

Steve Mackie has a BSc (geophysics and sedimentology), MBA (strategy) and PhD (decision-making) together with 35+ years' experience in the upstream petroleum industry functioning in both regional and field specific geoscience and engineering. As well as running his own successful consultancy he has worked with multinationals and local explorers in both technical and managerial roles.

He has been forming, managing and developing asset teams, including virtual teams, associated with exploration and development geoscience and engineering for the last 20 years. He currently is Manager – Geophysics at Santos Ltd. He is also an adjunct at the Australian School of Petroleum, University of Adelaide; a member of the Advisory Board to the Australian School of Petroleum; chairman of the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association (APPEA) Technical Program Committee; editor of the APPEA Journal (2009 – 2015) and Technical Program Co-Chair for the 2015 AAPG/SEG/PESA ICE.

Steve is the Federal President of the Petroleum Exploration Society of Australia (PESA) and a past president of both the SA/NT and Qld branches. He is an honorary life member of APPEA and an active member of SPE, AAPG and EAGE.