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To: Fallon FORGE project team
From: Jeff Witter
Re: Summary of rock density measurements
Date: December 5, 2017

Dear Fallon FORGE project team,

This memo is a brief synopsis of rock density measurements which were made in Nov.-Dec. 2017 as part of the Fallon FORGE project. Researchers from University of Nevada, Reno measured rock density on core samples obtained from three different wells: 51-20 (~6 km SE of the FORGE site), FOH2 (within the FORGE area), and BCH-3 (at the Bradys geothermal area ~40 km NW of the FORGE site). The subsurface geology at these three wells is similar and consists of Quaternary sediments (QTs) on top, overlying mafic Tertiary volcanic rocks (Tba) which, in turn, overlie a variety of Mesozoic basement rocks (Mz). In the BCH-3 well, a layer of Oligocene-age rhyolitic ignimbrite (Ttr) is sandwiched in between the Tba and Mz rocks. UNR researchers measured grain density, saturated bulk density, and dry bulk density on the core samples from these wells (although in this memo, only saturated bulk density is reported).

Densities were measured on the following major rock types encountered in each well:

51-20 → only Tba (n = 33)

FOH-2 → only Tba (n = 172)

BCH-3 → Tba, Ttr, and Mz (n = 120)

The Tba rock type (i.e. mega-unit) has been divided into subordinate rock units (i.e. sub-units) according to Table 1. The percent abundance of each rock sub-unit has been estimated by UNR researchers according to the geology well logs.

Mega-Unit abbr.	Sub-Unit abbr.	Sub-Unit Name	Percent abundance	Normalized
Tba	Tba	Basaltic andesite	40%	0.42
Tba	Tbav	Vesicular basaltic andesite	30%	0.32
Tba	Tbab	Basaltic andesite auto-breccia	15%	0.16
Tba	Ttu	Lithic tuff, non-welded tuff, welded tuff	3%	0.03
Tba	Tss	Volcanic sandstone	3%	0.03
Tba	Tbr/Tsb	Basaltic sedimentary breccia	3%	0.03
Tba	Td	Dacite lavas	1%	0.01
		Sum	95%	1.0000

Table 1. Rock sub-units within the Tba mega-unit.

Mesozoic basement rocks have also been sub-divided into mega-units according to Table 2. The Oligocene-age rhyolitic ignimbrite (Ttr) is not divided into sub-units.

Mega-Unit abbr.	Sub-Unit abbr.	Sub-Unit Name	Percent abundance	Normalized
Mzu	--	Undistinguished metamorphics	6%	0.060
Mzm	--	Marble	1%	0.0050
Mzq	--	Quartzite	22%	0.219
Mzgr	--	Granite	5%	0.050
Mzt	--	Ignimbrite/ash-flow tuffs	39%	0.388
Mzaba	--	Altered basaltic andesite	26%	0.259
Mzs	--	Slate	2%	0.020
		Sum	101%	1.0000

Table 2. Rock mega-units in the Mesozoic basement.

Rock Densities Measured in well 51-20

Saturated bulk density values from well 51-20 for the entire Tba mega-unit as well as the individual sub-units are shown in Figure 1.

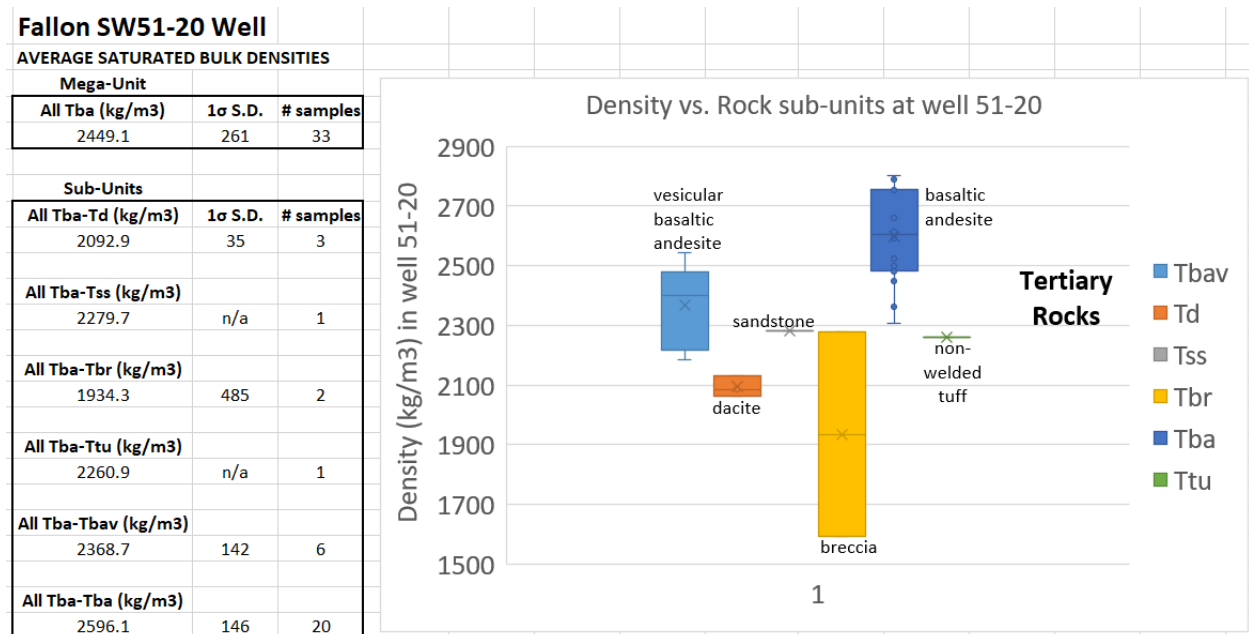


Figure 1. Left: Average saturated bulk densities of Tba mega-unit and sub-units in well 51-20. Right: Box and whisker plot of the saturated bulk density of each sub-unit.

An alternate approach to estimate the density of the Tba mega-unit is to calculate a weighted sum using the densities of the individual sub-units and the estimated proportion of each sub-unit (Figure 2).

Bulk Density of Tba Mega-Unit based upon well 51-20					
	Sub-Unit abbr.	Density	Proportion	Density contribution	
	Measured Tba	2596.1	42%	1093.1	
	Measured Tbav	2368.7	32%	748.0	
	Assumed from FOH-2 Tbab	2226	16%	351	
	Measured Ttu	2260.9	3%	71.4	
	Measured Tss	2279.7	3%	72.0	
	Measured Tbr/Tsb	1934.3	3%	61.1	
	Measured Td	2092.9	1%	22.0	
			100%	2419	Bulk Density (kg/m3)

Figure 2. Saturated bulk density of the Tba mega-unit in well 51-20 weighted by the proportions of each rock sub-unit. Note: sub-unit Tbab does not occur in well 51-20 so a density value from well FOH-2 has been used.

Rock Densities Measured in well FOH-2

Saturated bulk density values from well FOH-2 for the entire Tba mega-unit as well as the individual sub-units are shown in Figure 3.

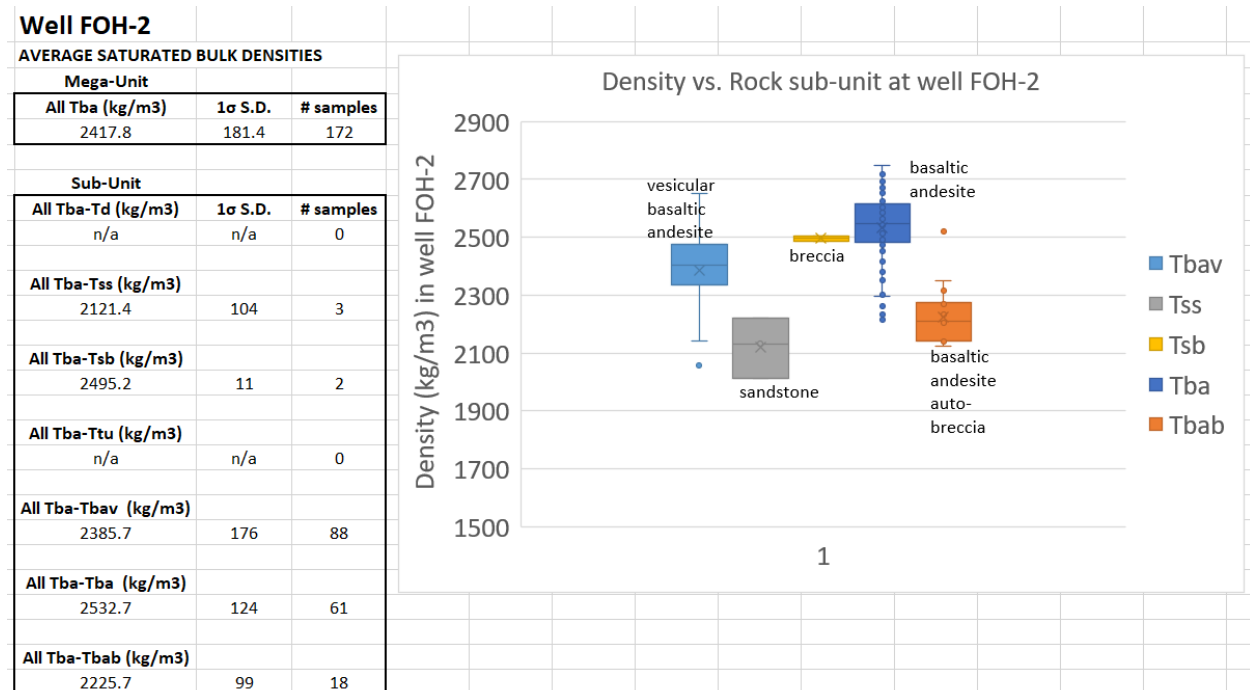


Figure 3. Left: Average saturated bulk densities of Tba mega-unit and sub-units in well FOH-2. Right: Box and whisker plot of the saturated bulk density of each sub-unit.

Bulk Density of Tba Mega-Unit based upon well FOH-2					
	Sub-Unit abbr.	Density	Proportion	Density contribution	
	Measured Tba	2532.7	42%	1066.4	
	Measured Tbav	2385.7	32%	753.4	
	Measured Tbab	2225.7	16%	351	
Assumed from 51-20	Ttu	2261	3%	71.4	
	Measured Tss	2121.4	3%	67.0	
	Measured Tbr/Tsb	2495.2	3%	78.8	
Assumed from 51-20	Td	2093	1%	22.0	
			100%	2410	Bulk Density (kg/m3)

Figure 4. Saturated bulk density of the Tba mega-unit in well FOH-2 weighted by the proportions of each rock sub-unit. Note: sub-units Ttu and Td do not occur in well FOH-2 so density values from well 51-20 have been used.

Densities in well BCH-3

Saturated bulk density values from well BCH-3 for the Tba, Ttr and Mesozoic mega-units as well as the individual sub-units are shown in Figure 5.

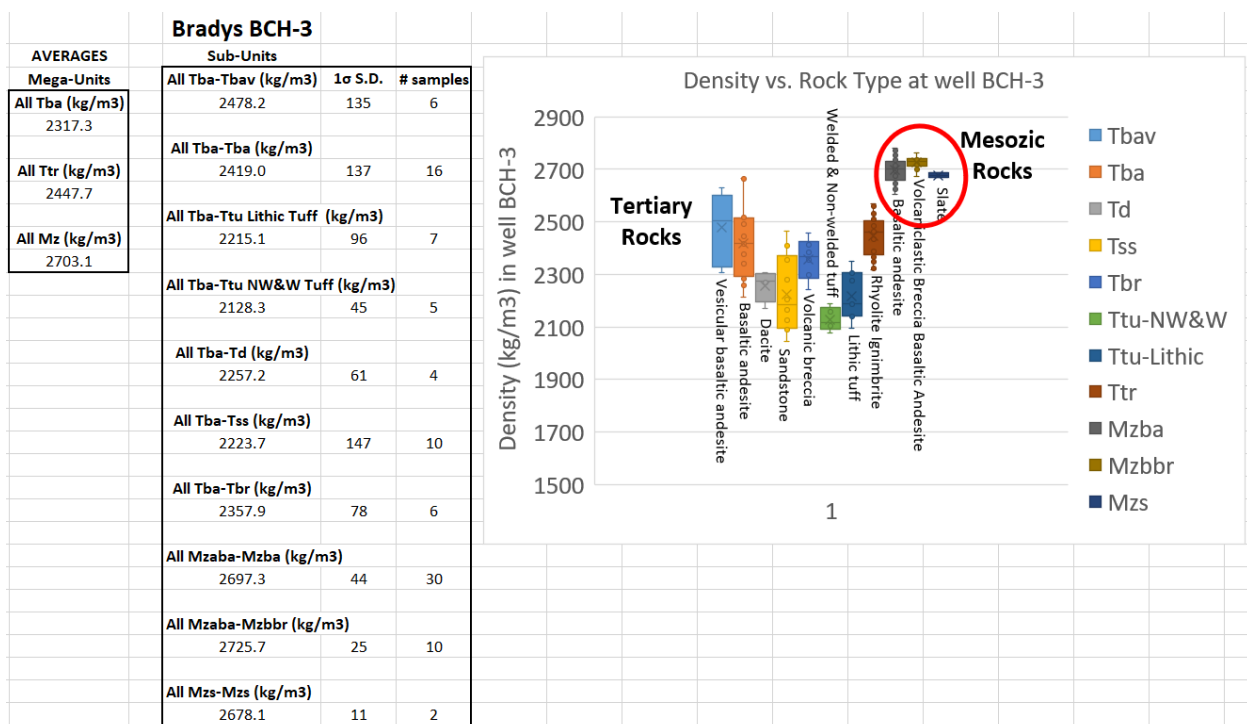


Figure 5. Left: Average saturated bulk densities of mega-units and sub-units in well BCH-3. Right: Box and whisker plot of the saturated bulk density of each sub-unit.

	Bulk Density of Tba Mega-Unit based upon well BCH-3						
	Sub-Unit abbr.	Density	Proportion	Density contribution			
	Measured Tba	2419.0	42%	1018.5			
	Measured Tbav	2478.2	32%	782.6			
Assumed from FOH-2 Tbab		2226	16%	351			
	Measured Ttu	2178.9	3%	68.8			
	Measured Tss	2223.7	3%	70.2			
	Measured Tbr/Tsb	2357.9	3%	74.5			
	Measured Td	2257.2	1%	23.8			
			100%	2390	Bulk Density (kg/m3)		
	Bulk Density Ttr Mega-Unit based upon well BCH-3						
	2447.7	Bulk Density					
	Bulk Density of Mesozoic Basement based upon well BCH-3						
	Mega-unit abbr.	Density	Proportion	Density contribution			
	Assumed Mzu	2600	0.060	155.2	Undistinguished metamorphics		
	Assumed Mzm	2800	0.005	13.9	Marble		
	Assumed Mzq	2600	0.219	569.2	Quartzite		
	Assumed Mzgr	2600	0.050	129.4	Granite		
	Assumed Mzt	2600	0.388	1009.0	Ignimbrite/ash-flow tuffs		
	Measured Mzaba	2704.4	0.259	699.6	Altered basaltic andesite		
	Measured Mzs	2678.1	0.020	53.3	Slate		
			1.000	2630	Bulk Density (kg/m3)		

Figure 6. Top: Saturated bulk density of the Tba mega-unit in well BCH-3 weighted by the proportions of each rock sub-unit. Note that sub-unit Tbab does not occur in well BCH-3 so a density value from well FOH-2 has been used. Middle: Saturated bulk density of the Ttr mega-unit in well BCH-3 (n=24). Bottom: Saturated bulk density of the Mesozoic basement rocks in well BCH-3 weighted by the proportions of each rock unit. Note that several rock units observed in the basement do not occur in well BCH-3 so assumed density values have been used.

Summary

The average saturated bulk density of the mafic Tertiary volcanics (rock mega-unit Tba) in the three wells 51-20, FOH-2, and BCH-3 is 2449, 2418, and 2317 kg/m³, respectively. These values are straight averages of the measured data and do not take into account the relative abundance of the different rock sub-units.

When weighted by the proportions of the different rock sub-units, the saturated bulk density of rock mega-unit Tba is 2419, 2410, and 2390 kg/m³ in wells 51-20, FOH-2, and BCH-3,

respectively. Using this approach, the density estimate for the Tba mega-unit is quite consistent from one well to the next with a value of $\sim 2400 \text{ kg/m}^3$.

The average saturated bulk density of the Oligocene ignimbrite (rock mega-unit Ttr) in well BCH-3 is 2448 kg/m^3 . This is only slightly denser than the overlying Tba unit.

The average saturated bulk density of the Mesozoic basement rocks found in well BCH-3 is 2703 kg/m^3 . This value doesn't take into account the relative abundance of the different rock types in the Mesozoic basement. When weighted by the proportions of the different rock types, the saturated bulk density of basement is 2630 kg/m^3 in well BCH-3. However, this value may not be accurate as it assumes literature values for the densities of 5 out of the 7 rock types that occur in the basement.

Density measurements of the Quaternary sedimentary cover (QTs) were not performed.