

A faded map of West Virginia and surrounding regions in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. The map shows major cities like Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Charleston, as well as geographical features like the Appalachian Mountains and the Ohio River. The text is overlaid on this map.

# APPALACHIAN STORAGE HUB (ASH) STUDY

**Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations**

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# ASH STUDY – OUR GOAL

- Complete a geologic study of all potential options for subsurface storage of NGLs
- Required a stratigraphic correlation of key units
- Mapping thickness and structure of key units
- Studies of reservoir character
- Developing ranking criteria

# GEOLOGIC INTERVALS OF INTEREST

## **Mined-rock caverns**

- Greenbrier Limestone (>40 ft thick; depths of 1,800 – 2000 ft)

## **Salt caverns**

- Salina Group salts (>100 ft thick)

## **Gas Reservoirs**

- Keener to Berea sandstones
- Upper Devonian sandstones (Venango, Bradford, Elk)
- Oriskany Sandstone
- Newburg sandstone
- Clinton/Medina Group
- Rose Run-Gatesburg sandstones

# OBJECTIVE AND OUTCOME

- **Objective**

- Identify, characterize, evaluate and rank the subsurface storage resources of the AOI as potential options for storage of NGLs

- **Major Outcome**

- Multiple options are present along the Ohio and Kanawha rivers where storage could be constructed in three different types of storage containers

# THREE MAIN PRODUCTS

- **Regional subsurface study** with correlations, cross sections, thickness and structure maps
- **Criteria** with which to rate and eventually rank candidate formations and reservoirs as safe and secure storage containers
- A **project database and website** in which all of the data and research findings are located and can be accessed by the public and potential storage companies

# GREENBRIER MINED-ROCK CAVERNS

- Identified three main facies; mapped net thickness of each
  - Upper grainstone (top seal)
  - Lime mudstone (mine)
  - Lower grainstone (bottom seal)

# SALINA SALT CAVERNS

- Mapped net thickness of upper F4 salt (conservative approach)
- Identified four areas where upper F4 salt >100 ft
- However, due to the presence of a 20-25 ft lower salt, most areas in the middle of the north-south salt trend have good potential
- Salt thickness changes abruptly to the east and west of the main trend
- Important to leave a buffer zone between the caverns and edge of the salt basin

# DRILLING DOWN – 2,700+ GAS FIELDS

- Only 1,500 deeper than 2,000 ft
- Preliminary rating effort resulted in 12 natural gas storage fields and 113 depleted gas fields to be studied further
- 2nd round used a series of detailed rating criteria; this reduced list of candidates to 24 depleted gas fields (production or storage)
- Detailed rating criteria applied to mined-rock caverns and salt caverns added 6 more opportunities to create a short list of 30 candidates

# “THE BEST OF THE BEST”

- Ratings for top 30 NGL storage candidates were normalized using only criteria common to each type of container
- Candidates had comparable rating values for distance to infrastructure, acreage, net thickness and well penetrations
- Distinguishing criteria were average depth, favorable trap integrity and presence of stacked opportunities
- The top 9 received rankings of 1, 2 or 3
- The top 15 that emerged include all types of containers: mined-rock caverns, solution cavities, depleted gas fields and gas storage fields

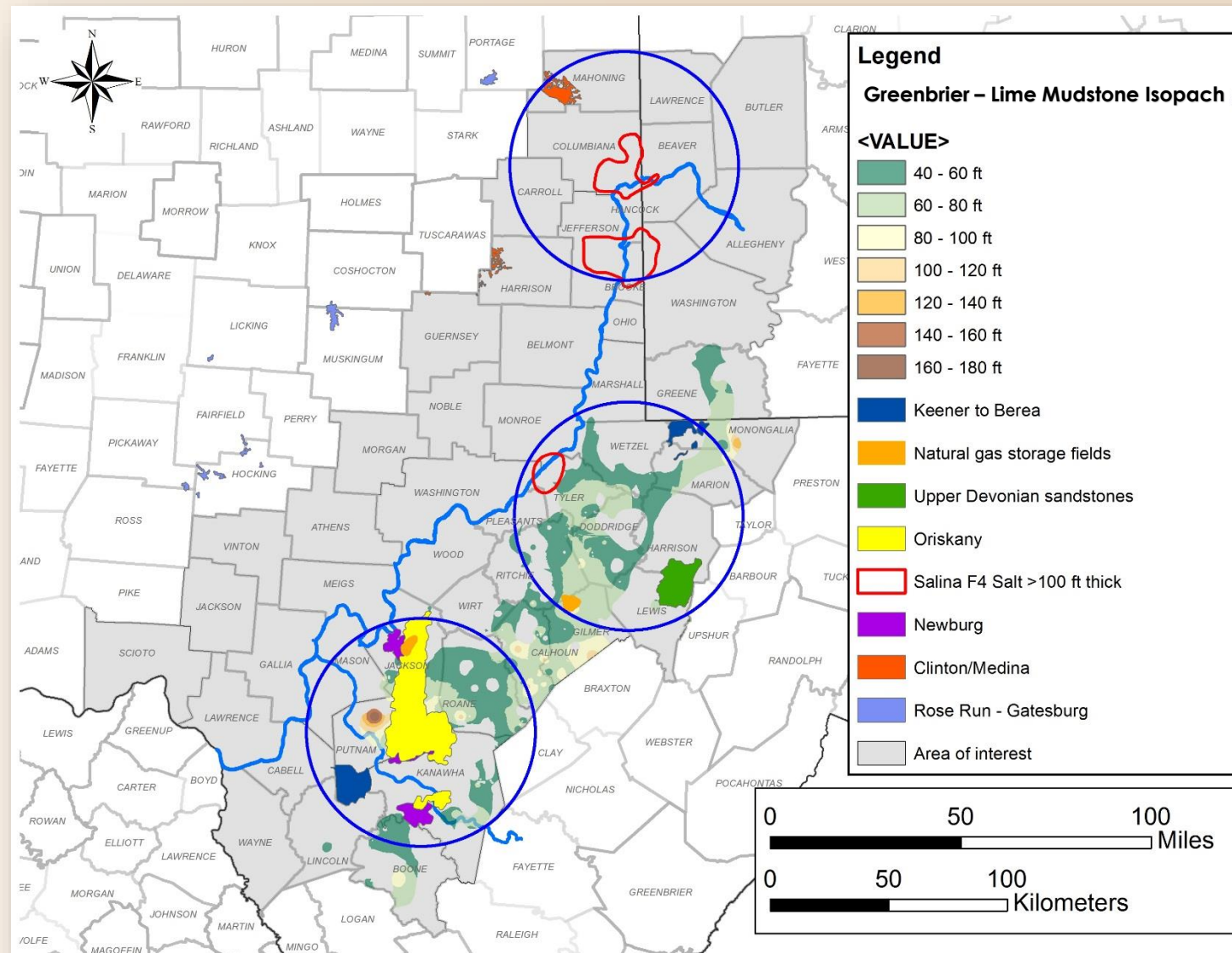
# THE TOP 30 INCLUDED...

- Three Greenbrier mine-rock cavern options in top 7
- Two F4 Salt cavern options in top 10
- Three Newburg depleted gas fields in top 5
- One Oriskany gas storage field at #13

Ranking	Container Type	Field/Location	Geologic Interval	Normalized Rating
1	mined-rock cavern	5	Greenbrier	19
2	depleted gas reservoir	NORTH RIPLEY	Newburg	16
2	depleted gas reservoir	ROCKY FORK	Newburg	16
2	depleted gas reservoir	KANAWHA FOREST	Newburg	16
2	mined-rock cavern	4	Greenbrier	16
3	depleted gas reservoir	CAMPBELL CREEK	Oriskany	15
3	mined-rock cavern	2	Greenbrier	15
3	salt cavern	1	Salina F4 Salt	15
3	salt cavern	2	Salina F4 Salt	15
4	depleted gas reservoir	WESTON-JANE LEW	Elk	14
4	depleted gas reservoir	CANTON CONSOLIDATED	Clinton/Medina	14
4	depleted gas reservoir	COOPER CREEK	Newburg	14
4	depleted gas reservoir	ABBOTT-FRENCH CREEK	Venango	14
4	natural gas storage field	RIPLEY	Oriskany	14
5	depleted gas reservoir	MAPLE-WADESTOWN	Keener to Berea	13
5	depleted gas reservoir	ELK-POCA (SISSONVILLE)	Oriskany	13
5	gas storage field	RACKET-NEWBERNE (SINKING CREEK)	Venango	13
5	salt cavern	4	Salina F4 salt	13
4	depleted gas reservoir	CANTON CONSOLIDATED	Clinton/Medina	13
5	depleted gas reservoir	CANTON CONSOLIDATED	Clinton/Medina	13
5	depleted gas reservoir	RAVENNA-BEST CONSOLIDATED	Clinton/Medina	13
6	depleted gas reservoir	BURDETT-ST. ALBANS	Keener to Berea	12
6	depleted gas reservoir	CONDIT-RAGTOWN	Keener to Berea	12
7	depleted gas reservoir	DUMM RIDGE	Rose Run-Gatesburg	11
7	depleted gas reservoir	FRAZEYBURG	Rose Run-Gatesburg	11
8	depleted gas reservoir	KIRKERSVILLE	Rose Run-Gatesburg	10
8	depleted gas reservoir	DUMM RIDGE	Rose Run-Gatesburg	10
8	depleted gas reservoir	DUMM RIDGE	Rose Run-Gatesburg	10
8	depleted gas reservoir	ROCKBRIDGE	Rose Run-Gatesburg	10
8	depleted gas reservoir	RANDOLPH	Rose Run-Gatesburg	10

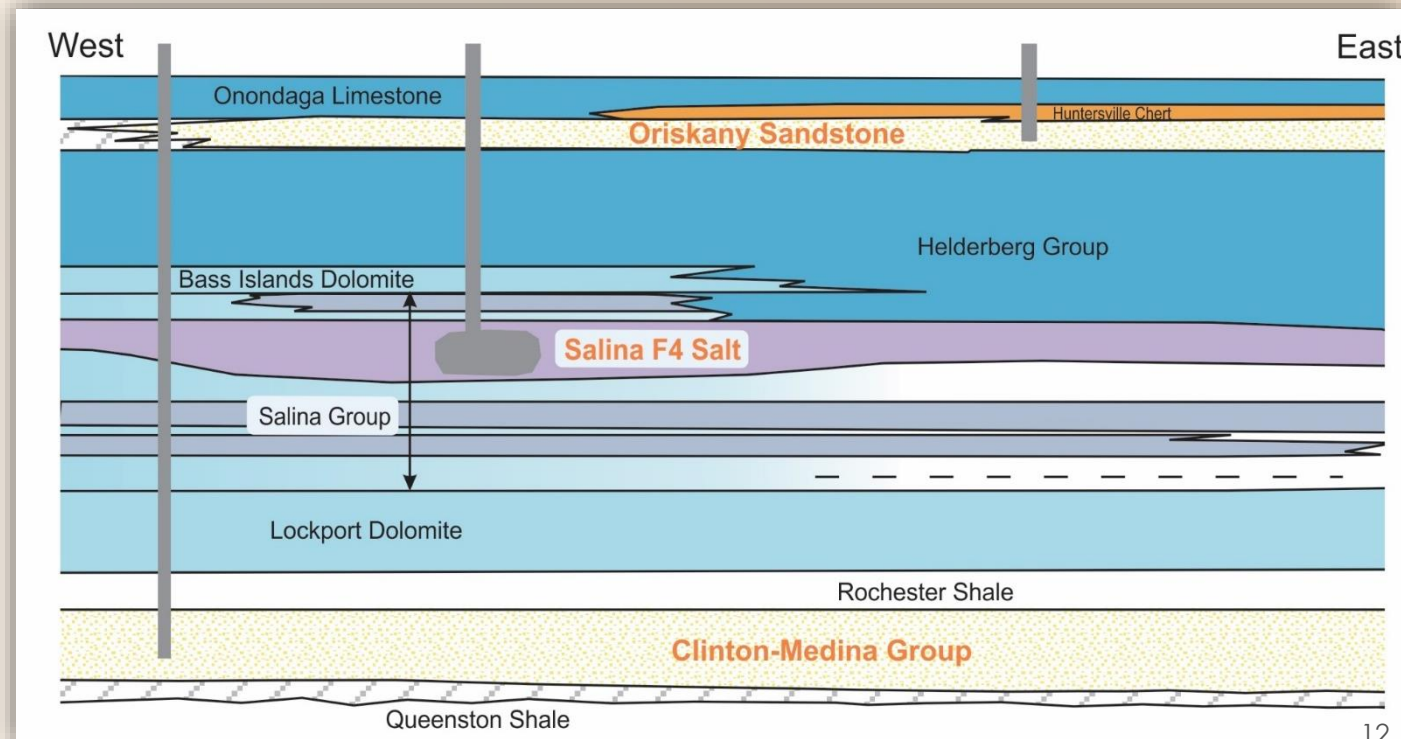
# THREE PROSPECT AREAS

- Each prospect differs in number and type of opportunities
- Demonstrate how this Study's geologic data can be applied in underground storage siting work
- Stacked storage is important



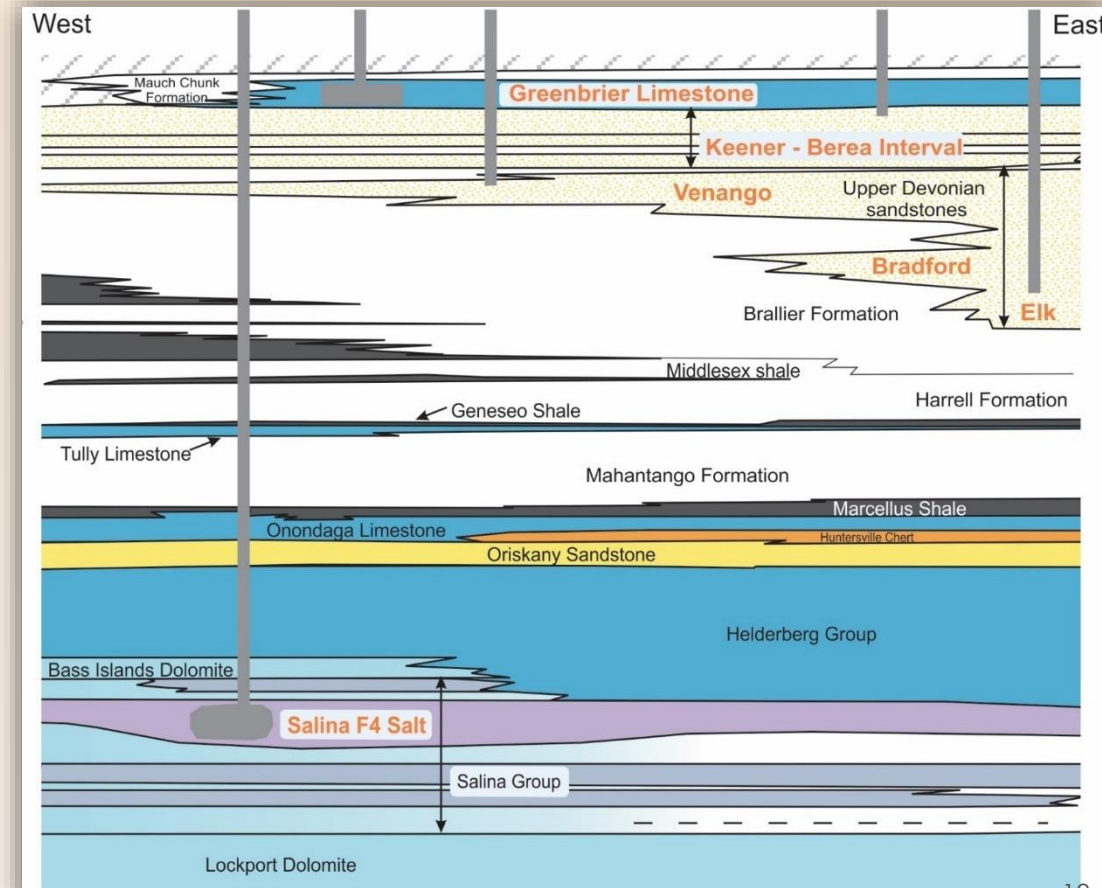
# NORTHERN PROSPECT AREA

- **Clinton/Medina** sandstones in Ohio's Ravenna-Best Consolidated Field
- Two **Salina F4 Salt** cavern opportunities on both sides of the Ohio River
- **Oriskany** core data indicates another opportunity; suggests stacked potential



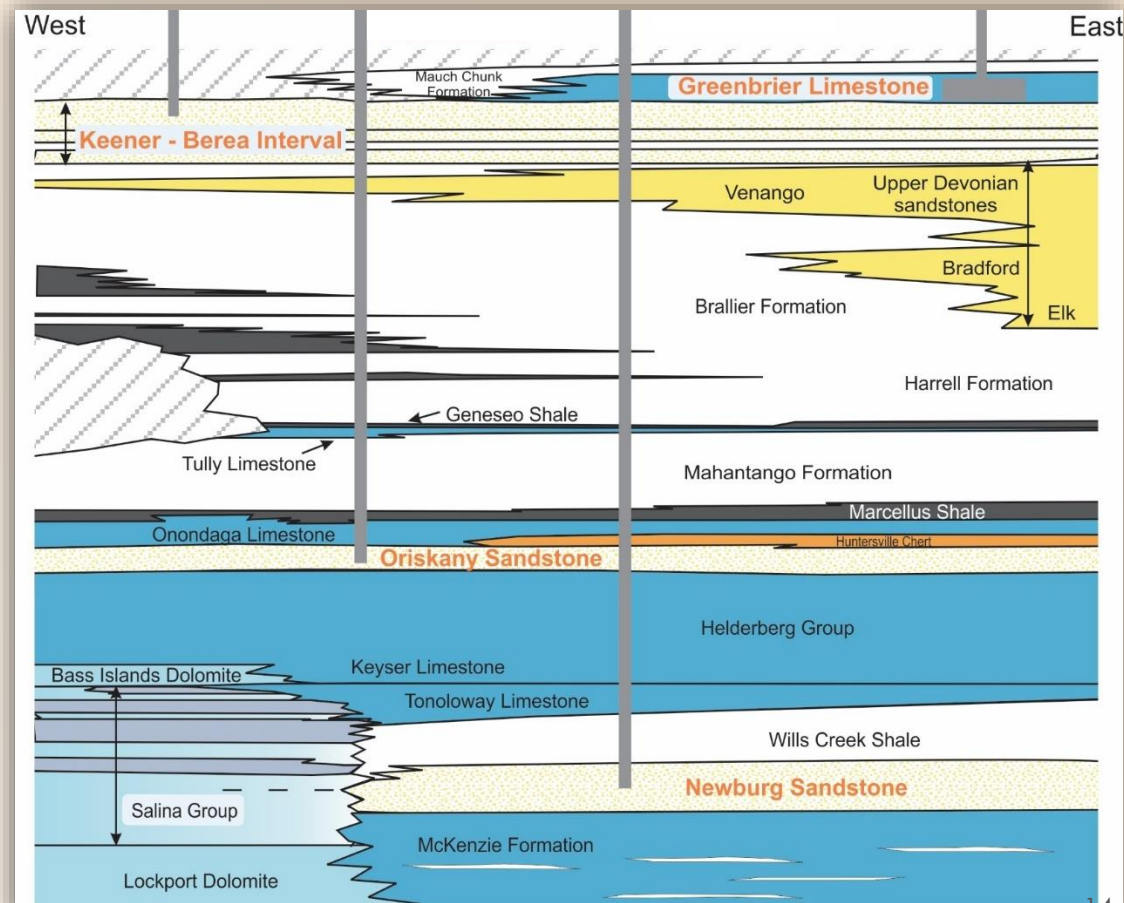
# CENTRAL PROSPECT AREA

- **Greenbrier Limestone** mines throughout the area; key facies, thickness and depth
- **Keener to Berea** Interval depleted gas field
- **Venango Group** inactive gas storage field
- **Upper Devonian** depleted gas field to the east
- **Salina F4 Salt** near Ben's Run



# SOUTHERN PROSPECT AREA

- **Greenbrier Limestone** mined-rock storage
- Depleted gas fields in the **Keener to Berea** Interval
- **Oriskany** gas storage in part of Elk-Poca field
- **Newburg** fields (North Ripley, Rocky Fork, Cooper Creek and Kanawha Forest) are among the very best of all depleted gas fields



# WHAT WE DID NOT CONSIDER

- Who owns or operates a depleted gas field or gas storage field that was rated highly
- Or if this operator would be interested in NGL storage
- Who owns the rights to the Greenbrier Limestone or Salina Salt
- And again, if the owner might be interested in NGL storage
- If a candidate is in an area of future Marcellus or Utica drilling
- Surficial activities, other than towns or cities
- Cost implications for storage and pipelines (next step)
- Focus was entirely on subsurface geology

# ADDRESSING STATE REGULATORY ISSUES RELATED TO A STORAGE HUB

- Workshop held last week (8/22) in Morgantown
- Speakers did address the ownership issue
- Summary of current laws, rules and regulations in three states
- Heard from speakers in TX and KS who have gone through the process of developing regulations related to subsurface storage of NGLs

# AND, IN THE REPORT APPENDIX...

- Jessica discussed mined-rock caverns, solution-mined caverns and porous reservoirs
- Addressed infrastructure requirements, timelines and cost estimates of each
- Considered three scenarios for volume to be stored
- Listed the advantages/disadvantages of each of the three storage options

# OTHER FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED

- Follow up site-specific engineering and geological studies
- Design & construction parameters
- On-site drilling, coring and logging of potential storage unit
- Core tests for porosity, permeability, mechanical strength, etc
- Core and sample thin section descriptions (porosity, salt purity)
- Thickness and homogeneity of the desired limestone facies
- Descriptions and testing of upper, lower & lateral seals
- **Result – detailed feasibility and economic evaluation of site**



THANK YOU!

...from all the members of the Appalachian Storage Hub  
Research Team