



## **NT Pioneer Targets Paradox Basin**

NORTHERN Territory shale pioneer Marc Bruner's new vehicle, MGX Minerals, is looking for additional projects around the world where it can apply its lithium extraction technology developed in Alberta's oil sands fields.

Bruner, who founded Beetaloo Sub-basin pioneer Falcon Oil & Gas and remains involved in the NT with Paltar Petroleum, recently joined MGX, which has filed patent production applications in the US so it can run a ruler of suitable projects around the globe, where saltwater brines are developed with oil and gas. The company has moved quickly to commercialise its promising technology since promising tests in Alberta last year by securing direct oil and gas rights in the Paradox Basin, close to its existing Lisbon Valley lithium project.

The Lisbon valley oil and gas field was discovered by Pure Oil Company in 1959, essentially the first real discovery in the prolific basin. The basin, which stretches between Utah and Colorado, is already home to the former Rio Algom uranium mill facility, an active copper mine operated by Lisbon Valley Mining Company and a natural gas processing plant and is well suited to MGX's historic well.

The junior believes the access to the oil and gas leases could not only open up access to oil and gas production, but the brine-bearing aquifer systems of the basin from which it can extract the lithium as a valuable side project. Once finalised, MGX plans to conduct well-sampling and collect data to advance understanding of the Paradox Formation, starting with the Petrolithium-1 borehole.

The company plans to conduct well-sampling and collect seismic data to advance hydrogeological understanding within the Pennsylvanian-age Paradox Formation, which consists of a 3660m thick evaporite sequence. To secure the lease it will need to pay \$US2 million (\$A2.6 million) by September 2018, but it can secure the leases for just \$1.7 million by making a payment by this September. MGX has also agreed to meet all the expenses from petroleum production operation until it has completed drilling of at least one well and made

all required payments, or until February 2020. Once it has earned its 75% interest the unidentified vendor will meet all pro-rata payments.

The Lisbon Valley oil field is adjacent to MGX's existing tenements, on the southwest edge of the Paradox Basin where historic lithium brine content has been reported as high as 730 parts per million lithium. The company's technology partner, PurLucid, has achieved an upgrading of Sturgeon Lake brine from 67ppm to 1600ppm lithium in the filtration and pre-treatment phase of the lithium extraction process, a 20-fold increase.

MGX believes that if it can achieve similar results in Utah it could easily rival South America, the largest lithium brine producing area in the world. Brine and conventional oil can be produced from zones in the Paradox Formation, Cane Creek Marker and others, and MGX will be seeking to establish a large and sustained brine flow from a reservoir of sufficient size from the porous Mississippian dolomites and limestones, which appear to be promising, particularly where they have been faulted into contact with rich Paradox salt beds. Past drilling did not focus on measuring brine flowed, and artificial lift may be needed.