STRATIGRAPHIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE TYPE CISURALIAN, SOUTHERN PRE-URALIAN FOREDEEP-II: THE URAL SUB-BASIN AND SAKMARIAN AND ARTINSKIAN PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

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The Ural sub-basin encompasses the northern portion of the southern Pre-Uralian Foredeep and contains the stratotype boundary sections for the Sakmarian and Artinskian substages of the Cisuralian series. The lithofacies of the Ural sub-basin consists of strata that can be organized into a storm-dominated, mixed siliciclastic-carbonate ramp and basinal facies model that is applicable for the Upper Carboniferous to middle Artinskian. Storm-dominated is implied because of the large number of event beds that are interpreted to have been initiated by storms. The Upper Carboniferous and Asselian strata deposited within the Ural sub-basin are generally characterized as silty micritic basinal facies coarsening upwards to sandy grainstones and pebble conglomerates. During the lower Sakmarian stage, deposition was dominated by sedimentation of silty micrites, silty sandy wackestone-packstone event beds and sandy grainstones. An increased influx of siliciclastics occurred just prior to the upper Sakmarian and this portion of the succession is mainly characterized by allochemic sandstones and micritic siltstones. These upper Sakmarian (Sterlitamakian substage) siliciclastic-dominated strata are well documented at Kondurovsky, the Sakmarian and Artinskian boundary stratotype section, in other sections within the Ural sub-basin, and within the Aqtöbe sub-basin including the Aidaralash Creek section. The Artinskian strata is characterized by a return to carbonate-dominated deposition, with silty micrites, silty sandy wackestones-packstones and sandy grainstones. The Artinskian boundary occurs within the lower portion of this phase of carbonate-dominated deposition at Kondurovsky, and elsewhere in the Ural and Aqtöbe sub-basins.