
VIPIR News

Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

Volume 3, Issue 4

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WHO IS YOUR REGISTRY CHANGE LEADER?

The VIPIR Industry Readiness team is asking each company to identify a *Change Leader* to assist with the VIPIR project. *Change Leaders* will act as the primary point of contact between their company and the VIPIR team. All companies need to choose a *Change Leader*, regardless of size or type (producer, vendors, pipelines, etc.). Key qualities of a *Change Leader* include the ability to understand and manage all changes related to VIPIR, and the influence to make them happen. *Change Leaders* could be production accounting managers; senior production accountants, project managers, or I.T. professionals.

A *Change Leader's* "Handbook" is being developed. This handbook will outline the steps companies should consider to successfully implement VIPIR.

Change Leaders may:

- identify specific benefits and opportunities for their company
- facilitate optimal arrangements with software vendors
- establish an internal VIPIR implementation taskforce; and
- consider any incremental I.T., human resources or financial requirements

To best serve you, we would like to know the name of your *Change Leader* by the end of August 2001. To register your *Change Leader*, please contact Sheryl Moody at: sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca or call 403-297-5217.

WANTED: SENIOR PRODUCTION AND ROYALTY ACCOUNTANTS

The Industry Readiness team is looking for Senior Production and Royalty Accountants to contribute to

work on the VIPIR project. Based in Calgary, you will assist the Industry Readiness team in getting the registry ready for industry use and making sure industry is ready for registry implementation.

Ideally, you will come into this job with 10 years of diverse production and/or royalty accounting experience. Your duties will include registry development, testing, documentation, training, design, and acting as an industry liaison. You will be an integral part of the VIPIR Industry Readiness team, which operates under the auspices of CAPP and SEPAC.

To Apply:

Send your resume, with references, by e-mail to: Industry Readiness Manager, VIPIR Project at: VIPIR.Energy@gov.ab.ca

RESULTS STILL COMING IN FROM VIPIR WORK PROCESS REVIEW

On May 23rd, 2001 roughly 250 participants, from more than 80 oil and gas companies, attended the VIPIR work process review. A synopsis of the meeting was released in the May, VIPIR Update. There were two main objectives to this gathering; the first was to increase industry's general knowledge of the VIPIR project.

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The second objective was to receive feedback on the Business System Design phase of the VIPIR project.

"We are sensitive to the fact that attending an information meeting is not an approval process." said Ross Weaver, VIPIR Industry Readiness Manager "That's why we are following up with a phone survey to gather more comments, and questions, about the VIPIR project."

This feedback is to ensure that there are no concerns that would halt the Industry Readiness team from signing off on the BSD. "To date, no showstoppers have been identified and the feedback from the meeting has been very positive." says Weaver, "Having said that, we have received a number of excellent questions and suggestions. These are being evaluated by the VIPIR team."

A total of 112 questions were submitted during the Work Process Review. Look to pages 3 and 4, for a sampling of the questions and answers from the May 23rd meeting.

The balance of these Q&A's will be posted on the VIPIR web page, as they are completed. Check out the FAQ section of our web site to see if your question has already been answered.

BIG CHANGES ARE COMING!

In the fall, expect a new look as VIPIR changes its name and adopts a new logo and bi-line. Other VIPIR changes will include a redesign of our web site and newsletter. These changes will make it easier, and faster, for stakeholders to offer feedback. This ensures that they will be informed, and prepared, for the significant changes and benefits associated with the project.

As the VIPIR project begins to ramp up for implementation in October 2002, many other initiatives are underway to ensure a quality relationship with stakeholders. One of our first efforts to strengthen this relationship is a number of readiness surveys. These surveys are designed to gauge the industry's general awareness and knowledge of the VIPIR project and it's readiness for implementation. We will also be studying the current technological capabilities of those who will be using VIPIR. This will ensure that development of the VIPIR software meets the needs of our stakeholders.

INDUSTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR INDUSTRY READINESS TEAM

The Industry Readiness team is currently seeking volunteers to sit on a number of its committees. The Calendar Committee, Reports and Queries Committee, and Testing Committee are all looking for new members.

Membership on any of these committees offers the volunteer the ability to influence the development of a system that will affect the oil and gas industry in its entirety.

Those interested in participating should contact Ann Hagedorn at (403) 297-8651 or by e-mail at ann.hagedorn@gov.ab.ca.

VIPIR ADVISORY GROUP SEEKS WIDER REPRESENTATION

The VIPIR Advisory Group provides strong leadership and input to the design and management of the VIPIR project. The contributions of this group are greatly appreciated.

Currently, the group is looking to add members to increase the diversity of its industry representation.

These are:

- Services providers
- Small producers
- Oil pipelines
- Software vendors

Industry membership on the group currently consists of: David VanKampen (Talisman), Ross Weaver (VIPIR Industry Readiness Manager), Ann Hagedorn (VIPIR Industry Readiness Team) Dave Allan (Canadian Hunter), Roland Gay (PanCanadian), Lorie May (AEC), Al Davis (Mobil/Esso/Exxon), Doug Miller (TransCanada Pipeline), Jackie Daunhauer (Murphy Oil), and Darren O'Dell (PWC).

Members of the group who represent the Ministry are: Jim Nichols (VIPIR Project Director), Dave Breakwell (Department of Energy), Graham Jenkinson (Alberta Energy and Utilities Board), and John Finlaison (VIPIR Ministry Readiness Manager).

Leaving the Advisory Group is Chris Dodd. We would like to offer our warmest thanks to Chris for all the hard work she did on behalf of the group.

MINIMUM TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRY USERS

We have been fielding questions of late, asking what technical requirements have to be met for a user to access and use VIPIR. Below is a list of the proposed minimum client configuration that will be needed to access VIPIR.

- Hardware
 - Pentium 133 Mhz
 - 32 MB Win 95/98 or 64 MB for Win NT or 2000
- Software
 - Windows 95/98/NT 4.0/2000/XP
 - Internet Explorer 4.0+ or Netscape 4.0+
 - JavaScript enabled
 - Screen size 800x600
- Networking
 - Internet Access at 28.8 kbps or greater

VIPIR PROJECT APPOINTS COMMUNICATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

As VIPIR moves closer to implementation in October 2002, the VIPIR team decided it needed a full-time person located in Calgary to handle the increased communications needs of the project. New to the VIPIR team is Mark Dickey, who will be acting as Communications Co-ordinator for the project. Mark has a varied background in the field of communications. He began his career with the media, where he worked both as a reporter and as a news director. Since leaving the media, he has handled communications duties for the NWT Metis Nation, the Speaker of the NWT, and the former Member of Parliament for Calgary Centre.

"I'm looking forward to working with a project as exciting as VIPIR." says Mark "I think open, two-way communications is key to maintaining the unique joint strategic initiative that government and industry have established. I hope stakeholders in both industry and government will pass along any ideas they have for enhancing VIPIR's communications capabilities. My goal will be to find the best ways to reach all those affected by the changes, and benefits, that will come about with the implementation of VIPIR."

Many thanks to Joan McCracken, who handled the project's communication needs, along with her other ministry duties, for the past year. Mark will be based in VIPIR's Calgary office, for closer contact with the Industry Readiness team. If you have any comments, or communications ideas, to pass on to Mark, you can contact him at:

Calgary: 403-297-3615
Edmonton: 780-415-6175
e-mail: mark.dickey@gov.ab.ca

WORK PROCESS Q&A's

Here is a sample of the questions and answers from the May 23rd VIPIR Work Process meeting.

- Q –** Will there be a support group/help desk set up to assist with any problems?
- A –** Yes, there will be a VIPIR help desk. We will also continue to post questions and answers on the project website, as well as in the VIPIR newsletter.
- Q –** What format will the output be in?
- A –** The Queries and Reports Committee will be looking at the data that industry requires and the best format for the output. Industry input on the committee is welcome. Please contact Darrell Skoreyko at 403-297-3612 for more information.
- Q –** Will the industry (operator) have a chance to test the registry and get familiar with it before the actual implementation?
- A –** Yes, this will be part of the acceptance testing and training plan.
- Q –** Can a new Business Associate code be set up on-line?
- A –** Yes. Companies can apply for a Business Associate code directly from the registry web site or via the Department of Energy client registry group.
- Q –** What is the purpose and the advantage to the industry in using the Stream Allocation and Owner Allocation factors?

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- A –** The purpose is to minimize provisional assessments and Crown favour volumes. Factors will ensure that the volume to be allocated is always completely distributed. Once the factors are applied to the volume reported at the facility level, the volume can never be over or under allocated – it will always equal the total.
- Q –** Has the Freehold Mineral Tax process been considered with respect to VIPIR?
- A –** Although the Department of Energy will extract some data from the registry, the Freehold Mineral Tax, is not in the scope of this phase of the project.
- Q –** Will infrastructure data be available in the registry?
- A –** Yes. All valid Business Associates will be able to view infrastructure data in the registry, with the exception of confidential/experimental well and facility information.
- Q –** Errors. At what level are they rejected? The well level, battery level, batch level?
- A –** This depends on where the error occurs. If a reported well does not exist in the registry, or is not active, then only that well's volumetrics will be rejected. If the facility I.D. is not valid, then all volumetrics reported for that facility would be rejected, including any well information. For well and facility errors that are filed as part of a batch submission, only the wells/facilities in question would be rejected – all valid submissions in the batch would be accepted. An entire batch would be rejected if the batch itself were not acceptable to the registry. For example, the submitter does not have the authority to make batch submissions.
- Q –** How will Gas Cost Allowance reporting be handled?
- A –** The following Allowable Cost (AC) documents will be submitted to the DOE, via the registry: AC1, AC2, AC3, AC4, and AC5. The remaining cost forms will continue to be submitted as they are today.
- Q –** Will gas analysis need to be input into the registry?

- A –** No gas analysis data will be required in the registry. Each operator will continue to do their allocations based on their current methods and simply report the results to the registry.

For another look at the Work Process presentation, Go to: <http://www.energy.gov.ab.ca/vipir/whatsnew> and look under presentations.

All are welcome to review this material, and other material on the website, and send in their feedback.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

VIPIR News will not be producing an August issue. Please look for more VIPIR updates when our September issue comes out at the end of August.

THE VIPIR PROJECT IS A JOINT STRATEGIC INITIATIVE OF THE ALBERTA MINISTRY OF ENERGY IN COOPERATION WITH INDUSTRY PARTNERS.

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