
VIPIR News

Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

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WATCH FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

VIPIR is currently in transition as we make plans for province-wide implementation. Our focus is changing from working on the product itself, to ensuring that the thousands of people who will use the new systems will be ready for the change. Our priority is on making a smooth transition for both industry and the Ministry, and providing you the information, the training and the support you need.

We are currently working on a detailed project implementation schedule that calls for a "go-live" date later in 2002. Please watch for more information in upcoming newsletters. In preparing the schedule, we are considering the impacts of the change on each industry user group. For example, we're staying away from busy year-end periods for production accountants, and prime holiday periods, and factoring in the time software vendors will need to make changes to their systems.

We've got a big job ahead. Implementation will involve every oil and gas company in Alberta and a wide range of service providers,¹ software vendors, pipeline companies, data vendors,² associations and educational institutions. It will involve training more than 2,000 people and ensuring more than 5,000 people are kept informed. These include large, medium and small operators, and their CEOs, CFOs, accounting supervisors and production accountants.

We're looking forward to working with you to get ready for VIPIR.

FRED LAVITT JOINS THE VIPIR TEAM

The VIPIR project welcomes Fred Lavitt. Fred has taken on the role of Project Manager, Interoperability for industry systems affected by VIPIR, reporting to

¹ Service providers are production revenue accounting contractors who provide these services to oil and gas companies.

² Data vendors sell value-added products using information purchased from the Ministry of Energy and other sources.

Ross Weaver, Industry Readiness Manager. "Interoperability" means the interaction between VIPIR and industry systems.

Fred will be the senior liaison between the VIPIR development team and those responsible for managing and maintaining industry software. His primary focus will be production accounting software vendors, producers with in-house production accounting functions and pipeline companies. He will also focus on service providers and data vendors that have an interest in VIPIR.

With over 18 years' experience developing production accounting software solutions for oil and gas operators, Fred, who is with AGTI Consulting Services (an IT management consulting and project management firm) is uniquely qualified to manage this functional area. He brings senior experience with several software product companies, project management of integrated software suite implementations, and the management and delivery of several software development projects.

Continued – Page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 VIPIR team to meet with software vendors
- 2 Laurelie Jackson joins VIPIR
- 2 A little late-night reading anyone?
Find out how you can contribute your expertise to VIPIR
- 3 VIPIR project organizational chart

As a result of changes in government, the name of the Ministry responsible for the VIPIR project has been changed from the Ministry of Resource Development to the Ministry of Energy. It includes the Department of Energy and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board.

The VIPIR Web address and e-mail address reflect this change:

<http://www.energy.gov.ab.ca/vipir/index.htm>

e-mail: VIPIR.Energy@gov.ab.ca

He was Senior Vice-President, Canada, for Applied Terravision Systems Inc., a partner with Ernst & Young, and a project manager at SHL Systemhouse. He was also involved in developing and managing the Triangle production and revenue accounting system and ALLMARK production accounting software.

"I guess you could say 'I've been there' when it comes to managing production accounting systems changes for the oil and gas industry. I was involved with royalty simplification that led to the new royalty rules of 1994 and understand how these changes impact business and the bottom line," said Fred. "I look forward to keeping the communication flowing so that everyone can move ahead with what they need to do."

Fred will work out of the VIPIR office in Monenco Place in Calgary (3rd floor, 801 - 6th Avenue SW) Phone: (403) 297-3610. His e-mail address for VIPIR is Fred.Lavitt@gov.ab.ca. He can also be reached at (403) 512-9935 and fred.lavitt@agti.ca.

VIPIR TEAM MEMBERS TO MEET WITH SOFTWARE VENDORS

Within the next few weeks, software vendors will be invited to an update on the VIPIR project and to meet with Fred Lavitt, VIPIR's Project Manager, Interoperability for industry systems. The session will be an opportunity for two-way discussion: the VIPIR team will pass on the latest information related to the Business Systems Design process currently underway. They will also discuss scheduling and planning for activities that will need to be coordinated as the system moves towards implementation.

"We will look to these stakeholders for input on project timelines, technical matters, issues and opportunities to make the project a success," says Lavitt.

Invitations will be sent out shortly. If you haven't received one in the next few weeks, and want to attend this software vendor session, please contact Sheryl Moody at (403) 297-5217 or by e-mail at Sheryl.Moody@gov.ab.ca.

LAURELIE JACKSON BRINGS FRESH EYES TO VIPIR

Laurelie Jackson joined the VIPIR industry readiness team in February. She's a production accounting specialist with over 19 years' experience with all sizes of companies and the main production accounting software packages.

Laurelie's work experience includes doing "absolutely everything" for some of her client organizations,

working in highly specialized areas, as well as production audit and oil marketing.

And, because she did not have a lot of previous exposure to VIPIR, she brings a fresh perspective to the Business Systems Design of the registry on behalf of an ever-changing industry. This is proving very useful in the core team reviews of Business Systems Design work processes that she is currently engaged in. (See "A Little Late-Night Reading Anyone?" below.)

"It's a great experience as a production accountant to be able to make an impact on how industry provides information to the Ministry and to other companies," says Laurelie. "People on the project team and in the Ministry have been very helpful about bringing me up to speed on a very detailed project and I look forward to working with them."

Laurelie can be reached at the VIPIR office in Monenco Place in Calgary (3rd floor, 801 - 6th Avenue SW) at (403) 297-3615. Her e-mail address for VIPIR is Laurelie.Jackson@gov.ab.ca.

A LITTLE LATE-NIGHT READING ANYONE?

By Ross Weaver

The VIPIR team is busy completing "work process" documentation, a key aspect of the "Business Systems Design" phase. This phase of the project is one where the concepts and elements of the "Conceptual Design" and "Business Area Analysis" phase documents are expanded upon in greater detail. We often describe the Business Area Analysis as the "**What**" of VIPIR and Business Systems Design as the "**How**" of VIPIR.

There are over 30 major "work processes" associated with the project, which must be described in enough detail for the DMR team to model and eventually code into the registry software. These "work processes" often have several sub-processes that must be described. The net result is... a lot of paper. And all of this documentation must be reviewed for errors, omissions and consistency. While the documents have been reviewed by the authors, and by industry and government members of the core teams, it is also worthwhile to get a fresh perspective.

Enter Laurelie Jackson of the industry readiness team. Laurelie has the unenviable task of reading every document. We call this role the "Industry Independent Reviewer." Being relatively new to the VIPIR team, and having a broad and deep understanding of the production accounting function, Laurelie brings a "fresh set of eyes" and acts as a key

Continued – Page 3

part of our quality assurance process in this design phase. Apart from helping to ensure each process “works,” Laurelie will be in a position to ensure consistency between the work process documents and identify activities that might otherwise “fall between the cracks” in such a big project.

Laurelie and the authors of each work process have another responsibility. They will prepare an “Executive Summary” of each process. These Executive Summaries (and the detailed process, for reference) are being circulated to knowledgeable stakeholders in industry and the Ministry of Energy for review and comment. We want to have as many knowledgeable people as possible look at these processes to ensure we haven’t missed anything. With this stakeholder input, we will feel confident in “signing off” on the work process documents that make up the Business Systems Design phase of the project.

Late-night reading anyone?

YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE

Sound interesting? If you are interested in reviewing the work process Executive Summaries, contact Laurelie at (403) 297-3615 or Laurelie.Jackson@gov.ab.ca

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VIPIR Project Organizational Chart

