VIPIR News

Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

VIPIR CLARIFIES BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

Finalizing the business area analysis (BAA) requirements of the VIPIR project has confirmed for its team members that "a change is indeed as good as a rest."

The business area analysis report will contain the business process models, data models and business requirements of the shared information registry. The BAA report will be available in June.

VIPIR's earlier conceptual design phase in summer-fall 1999 dealt with the conceptual development of the registry as a tool that facilitates the streamlining and re-engineering of industry and Ministry business processes.

"The business area analysis," explains VIPIR Project Director Jim Nichols, "defines the volumetric and infrastructure business requirements, based on conceptual design findings.

"The BAA report will help technical support and business people in industry and the Ministry understand what the registry will do and what its impacts might be on existing systems.

"The report also documents the registry business requirements that need to be included in the upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) being issued this June. It will give potential RFP respondents the detailed information they need to prepare submissions for developing the registry," said Nichols.

Describing the complex business processes that support the flow of volumetric and related information between industry partners, and between industry and Department of Resource Development royalty and EUB regulatory systems, is no small task.

Business area analysis, which began in January 2000, involved eight business analysts, four of whom are from industry, and eight systems analysts. The industry analysts are: Gary Fiselier, PanCanadian Petroleum Limited; Ann Hagedorn, Alberta Energy Company; Joanne Quirk-Williams, Talisman Energy Ltd.; and Darrell Skoreyko, Canadian Hunter Exploration Ltd. These individuals have been loaned to the project by their companies.

The process itself included:

- analysing the business topics and producing the required business process models, data models and business requirements for the registry.

- conducting interviews and workshops to gather and confirm business information with industry representatives who reviewed material and provided feedback. Team members repeated the process of reviewing, soliciting feedback and modifying the models and reports until the deliverables were complete.

- validating assumptions, concepts, processes and data requirements through informal and formal reviews with a cross-section of industry and Ministry stakeholders.

- developing a process to test different business scenarios under the new VIPIR reporting structure in order to validate the documented concepts.

Nichols explains that the business process models, data models and the registry business requirements received three levels of scrutiny, including:

- detailed reviews within the BAA team to validate registry requirements and proposed concepts to ensure there were no errors, omissions or inconsistencies in the report;

- a second iteration, which took the form of in-depth reviews with knowledgeable people not previously involved in VIPIR; and,

- presenting the findings to industry and Ministry senior management to determine if any changes have occurred since the conceptual design phase.

VIPIR communications included informal "coffee house" sessions as well as presentations by the BAA team as part of its outreach to stakeholders.

The VIPIR team will continue to share its findings with industry and Ministry audiences over the next few weeks. A summary of findings will be published in the June newsletter.

Nichols also advised that the Request for Proposals to build the shared information registry is on schedule and will be issued in early June. The process will include a bidders' conference and give potential respondents six weeks to prepare submissions. The start date for the business system design stage is on schedule for September 1, 2000.

"I want to extend my sincere thanks to the project team for producing a high-quality document and to everyone who reviewed the BAA material and provided feedback," said Nichols. "It shows once again how critical it is to have Ministry staff and industry involved at every stage of the VIPIR project."

COMING UP

MAY 24: The next VIPIR coffeehouse will be from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in Room 537, Monenco Place, 801 – 6th Ave. SW in Calgary. To register, please contact the VIPIR project office.

JUNE: Business area analysis (BAA) report will be available.

JUNE: Request for Proposals will be issued for the business system design of the shared information registry.

The VIPIR project team welcomes comments and questions. We'll do our best to respond in upcoming issues. Please phone or email the Project Office. ❖