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# VIPIR News

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Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

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## COME SHAPE THE REGISTRY DESIGN AT IMPORTANT MAY 23 MEETING

Industry stakeholders are invited to an important one-day VIPIR Work Process Review on May 23 in Calgary that will help to shape the design of the new electronic shared information registry.

**To register, or to confirm your attendance, contact Sheryl Moody at (403) 297-5217 or email her at [sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca](mailto:sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca).** Sheryl will send all registered participants an information package that they can review before the meeting.

"The meeting will be a chance to gain a good understanding of how VIPIR will work and how it will impact the upstream petroleum sector," says Ross Weaver, VIPIR Industry Readiness Manager. "Most importantly, it is a chance to help stakeholders shape the design of the new registry."

Ross says these sessions are open to producers, software vendors, service providers, pipeline representatives, anyone who is interested in this significant project.

Laurelie Jackson, a member of the industry readiness team, says preliminary support for the session has been "extremely encouraging among a cross-section of industry representatives."

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## VIPIR IMPLEMENTATION DATE IS OCTOBER 1, 2002

VIPIR's implementation date is October 1, 2002. Effective with the production month of September 2002, all reporting of volumes and Crown royalties in Alberta will be electronic via the registry using the Internet.

"Based on input from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), the Small Explorers and Producers Association of Canada (SEPAC), the Department of Energy and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board, an October 2002 implementation will best fit the timetables of those affected," said VIPIR project director Jim Nichols.

The decision was based on the following factors affecting industry and the ministry:

- Year-end accounting activities and responsibilities.
- Avoiding vacation periods (i.e., July-August) and holidays (i.e., Christmas).
- Allowing sufficient time for training (1-2 months).
- Allowing time for software vendors and service providers (who sell production accounting software and services to industry) to adapt their programs.
- Allowing time for software vendors to test the changes with their clients.
- Allowing six months to test all the systems that must communicate with the registry.

"Developing a quality product is the main driver in making the change, followed by budget and scheduling considerations. CAPP, SEPAC, the Department and the EUB have had a chance to carefully consider what will work for their stakeholders and are comfortable with these timeframes," says Jim.

Watch for detailed information on implementation timing and key activities for stakeholders.

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## CALENDAR COMMITTEE NEEDS INPUT FROM PRODUCTION ACCOUNTANTS

The VIPIR Calendar Committee has been formed with the goal of centralizing in the registry all the various deadlines that a production accountant must meet each month to report data to pipelines, industry partners and ministry agencies (EUB, APMC and DOE).

The committee has held two meetings to date, one in April and the other in May. Additional broad-based industry participation is needed at future meetings. It is expected there will be one or two half-day meetings per month for the next several months. This is your opportunity to discuss the current deadlines and how they impact your work.

Please contact Ann Hagedorn at (403) 297-3618 or [ann.hagedorn@gov.ab.ca](mailto:ann.hagedorn@gov.ab.ca) if you wish to participate on the Calendar Committee.

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## STAKEHOLDER MEETING TO REVIEW BUSINESS DESIGN PHASE

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"We are planning for well over 125 attendees," says Laurelie after a one-day phoning blitz.

The meeting is part of a key aspect of the VIPIR project development: the Business Systems Design phase. In this phase, the various business "work processes" are written into detailed documents. These documents are then reviewed by key stakeholders to confirm that the processes they describe accurately reflect what is to be coded into the computer system.

Industry and ministry stakeholders are involved in parallel review and sign-off processes. These reviews are essential before the ministry and industry stakeholders can formally sign off on the documents.

Meetings being held with staff from the Department of Energy and Alberta Energy and Utilities Board involve detailed reviews of approximately 30 work process documents.

Industry is involved in a parallel review and sign-off process. The industry review will involve lots of opportunity for input, notably at the May 23 meeting. "As the Industry Readiness Manager for VIPIR, it's my job to ensure that we receive a strong, positive consensus that industry is comfortable with the business system design of the registry before I sign it off," says Ross.

For this reason, a three-part process has been designed to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the review:

- Generate and distribute executive summaries of each work process to as many industry participants as possible.
- Prepare and distribute an overall executive summary consolidating all the work process summaries. This roundup summary will include a spreadsheet that highlights for reviewers:
  - The functions of each work process.
  - Key changes in these work processes from how the work is conducted today.
  - Key benefits of the new work process.
  - Issues and key items that we specifically would like industry input on.
- Invite a broad cross-section of industry to a one-day session (the May 23 meeting) to review the work processes and provide input.

In addition to the review of each work process on May 23, DMR Consulting Inc. of Calgary, the project developer, will demonstrate its latest prototype model and some of the functionality that is to be built into the system.

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## WHAT CAN YOU GET OUT OF THE REGISTRY?

In addition to enhancing communication, an important benefit of the registry is improved access to information. Currently, industry must rely on their partners or the government to send them information by mail or fax. The registry will enable users to sign on and generate a series of reports based on selection criteria for viewing and/or downloading.

To date, the team's primary focus has been designing processes to get data into the registry. The Queries and Reports processes focus on getting **information out** of the registry.

The project team is putting together a committee to review the proposed information outputs, seek ideas for reports and ensure that the results are useful. Anyone interested in participating should contact Darrell Skoreyko at (403) 297-3612 or by e-mail at [darrell.skoreyko@gov.ab.ca](mailto:darrell.skoreyko@gov.ab.ca). This is your chance to help determine what you will get out of the registry.

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## VIPIR WANTS YOU!

Various opportunities exist for industry to participate in the VIPIR Project. Team members are actively seeking your input in a variety of areas.

The training team will require people to:

- Critique course materials.
- Pilot training courses.
- Review on-line help materials.

Three committees could use additional help and participation:

- The VIPIR Advisory Group
- The Calendar Committee
- The Reports and Queries Committee

Acceptance testing will also require a large number of people to help test the various systems that must integrate with the registry.

If you are able to participate in any of the areas listed above, please contact Sheryl Moody at (403) 297-5217 or sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca.

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## SOFTWARE VENDORS BRIEFED

Vendors who provide software for production, revenue accounting and related applications are up-to-date on VIPIR team progress and the plans and schedule for the rest of the project.

Vendors met with the VIPIR project team on May 9, 2001 for the update. The meeting was well attended, with representatives of 11 companies present.

DMR Consulting Inc., the project developer, provided an overview of the system prototype, and described the application and technical architecture of the registry and the development methodology. The Alberta Energy and Utilities Board and the Department of Energy provided insights into the strategic directions being considered for implementation over the next couple of years.

The meeting concluded with discussions and commitments that the project team and the software vendors would collaborate to meet the needs of all stakeholders.

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## CAN WE HELP?

Would you like to learn more about VIPIR and how it will affect you? The Industry Readiness Team would be pleased to arrange for a presentation on VIPIR in your offices.

Any company that is interested in hosting an information session should contact Sheryl Moody at (403) 297-5217 or sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca

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