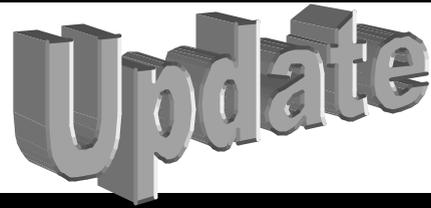


VIPIR News



Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

About this Update

*This update supplements VIPIR News (Volume 3, Issue 3 May 2001). The newsletter contains an article written before the May 23, 2001 Work Process Review meeting. **The article is updated by the meeting summary on this page. The project team considered it important that industry receive the results of the meeting as soon as possible.** If you missed the May 23rd meeting and would like to review the presentation materials, please check out the VIPIR project website (address below). **Please also see the May 2001 newsletter for important information on the VIPIR implementation date and other developments.***

INDUSTRY SHOWS SUPPORT

Attendance at the May 23rd VIPIR Work Process Review exceeded expectations with the participation of a broad cross-section of industry representatives. Initial planning had been for about 125 attendees and it was necessary to book additional space at the Telus Convention Centre in Calgary to accommodate the approximately 250 participants.

The all-day meeting attracted representatives from more than 80 oil and gas companies, including both SEPAC and CAPP members. Representatives also attended from pipeline companies, software vendors, service providers, the Department of Energy and the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board. The meeting was organized and presented by the VIPIR Industry Readiness Team.

The session was designed to allow the Industry Readiness Team to communicate to industry and receive feedback on the summarized details of approximately 30 different work processes, which provide the functionality of the registry. The work processes covered during the day included global topics such as security and notifications, as well as specific volumetric-related processes including pipeline splits, allocations and volumetric reporting.

Some participants said they found the session long and somewhat grueling. Most agreed, however, that the all-day format was necessary given the difficulty of bringing together broad industry representation and the need to provide so much information on so many aspects of VIPIR.

INDUSTRY COMMENTS ON MEETING

"I found the VIPIR Work Process Review to be very informative and a good overview of the entire project," said Tracy Knibbs of Pengrowth Corporation. "Some of the benefits that stand out in my mind are that the data edits will be almost instant, allowing you to correct data errors before provisional assessments and penalties apply. If industry uses the data registry to its full potential, the ability to share data online will eliminate the need to mail or fax most or all paper documents between business associates. I think this is a very exciting and positive change for industry."

Renee Koblin of Thunder Energy called the session "intense but worthwhile." Judy Jean of Burlington Resources found the day to be "very informative on the status of the new system."

Vi Mayrl of Keyspan Energy Canada said the meeting provided "a better understanding of how VIPIR will work and how it will impact the upstream petroleum sector." Like many of the participants, Vi had some specific feedback: "I believe further discussion is needed to properly address and clarify various areas of concern which include the removal of paper batteries and the delivering of gas to multiple destinations, for example bi-directional flows and dual pipelines."

"People are busy and need certain push-points such as this meeting to get them involved, said Janice Klein of ATCO Pipelines. "That creates much better feedback."

She added that industry is beginning to see the benefit of a standardized way of presenting pipeline information rather than having to learn several different systems, depending on the pipeline company.

VIPIR Project Director Jim Nichols chaired the meeting, taking over on short notice from Industry Readiness Manager Ross Weaver. Ross was called away because of an urgent family matter.

Jim said he felt the meeting achieved its goals of increasing awareness and understanding of the project, announcing the October 2002 implementation date and facilitating industry input.

FEEDBACK IS KEY

The Industry Readiness Manager has the responsibility to sign off (approve) the various work process documents that define the functionality of the registry. Feedback from industry on these documents is a key factor in determining whether the registry will be able to meet industry's business needs.

Ross is very upbeat about the initial feedback from this session. "It will take time to fully evaluate all the questions and concerns raised at the meeting but it seems clear that there are no show stoppers. Some items and work processes will need additional clarification but in general the feedback has been very positive."

The Work Process Review session presentation is posted at <http://www.energy.gov.ab.ca/vipir/whatsnew/Presentations/Presentations.htm> The questions and applicable answers will be included shortly afterwards. Individuals who were not able to attend the May 23rd meeting are invited to review this material and other documents on the site and send in their feedback.