VIPIR News

Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry

OCTOBER : MILESTONE MONTH

MILESTONE # 1

Countdown to Implementation

This October, the VIPIR team is holding a communications launch to raise industry awareness of the project and what must be done in preparation of implementation. This launch will not only unveil VIPIR's new name and logo, but will further establish elements of two-way communications with stakeholders.

The first communication changes being publicly released are a revamped newsletter and web site. In response to stakeholder input, the newsletter will focus on providing more details for industry registry users. Articles will provide information on training and implementation plans, testing, and scheduling. Along with other communication tools, the details in these articles should help stakeholders' preparation in advance of implementation.

Change Leaders Step Up

The call went out and it was answered by Industry. Despite summer holidays, to date, over two hundred individuals have been registered as VIPIR *Change Leaders.*

No matter the size, each company requires its own *Change Leader. Change Leaders* will be a main point of contact that ensures an effective two-way flow of information exists between their company and the VIPIR team.

VIPIR *Change Leader* registration is an integral part of ensuring that companies are ready, meet all compliance regulations, and are able to realize the full benefits of the VIPIR project.

MILESTONE # 2

Batch Specs to be Released

In October 2001, the VIPIR project team will make batch interface specifications available to industry and software vendors.

Releasing these specifications at this stage gives industry and vendors the time they need to develop and test their batch interfaces before the registry is implemented in October 2002. Industry and the software vendors were provided an opportunity to review and comment on the *System Interface Design Principles and Standards* documents this August.

Comments from this review will be used in the final preparations of the specifications. In addition to this, a meeting between the VIPIR team and vendors is being organized in conjunction with the release of the specifications.

The release of the batch interface specifications is another fast approaching milestone that will be met by the VIPIR project team. If vendors, or other stakeholders, have any questions about the release of the batch interface specifications, or the upcoming vendor's meeting, please contact VIPIR Interoperability Project Manager Fred Lavitt at 297-3610 or e-mail: fred.l.lavitt@gov.ab.ca

INDUSTRY TALKS, VIPIR LISTENS

VIPIR is committed to seeking input from stakeholders throughout all phases of the project. A key element of this will be four surveys to gauge the awareness, attitudes, understanding, and readiness of stakeholders for VIPIR.

In preparation for VIPIR's first information survey, a focus group was organized in early July. On the whole, comments from large, medium and small producers were positive. Here are answers to some of the questions asked by the focus group.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Q – Will VIPIR be operated during the same business hours as Government?

A - No. Once the registry has been implemented, access to the system will not be restricted to current Ministry business hours. It is anticipated that access to the registry will be at least 16 hours a day, seven days a week except for scheduled maintenance windows.

Once the governance model is established and service level agreements created, the registry hours of availability will be published. In all likelihood, the registry will accept data inputs and process requests submitted by batch at anytime and if necessary hold the completion of the request or process until it can be completed. Some processes that require approval or action by another party may be handled on the next business day.

Further information will be available once registry and governance issues have been finalized.

VIPIR'S GOT A DATE TO MEET

Q - Will VIPIR meet its October 2002 implementation date and is the project on budget?

A - The top concern of the VIPIR team is quality. The database must work for stakeholders. The current project plan still shows VIPIR being implemented on time. The project team, and ministry, are committed to an October 2002 implementation date.

With respect to budget, current to date expenditures and future cost projections indicate that VIPIR will be completed under budget.

GEARING UP FOR TRAINING

Q - Will there be on-site training for the VIPIR system?

A - Currently, training Coordinator Dan Magnan is reviewing all options on how to best provide training for the large and diverse group of stakeholders who will be using VIPIR. Additionally, John Nursall has just been hired (see page 4) to work full time on how to best offer on-line training and help to stakeholders.

Industry has committed to pay for the training involved for VIPIR. Industry is also reviewing the most effective way to offer training and how to cover the cost of training so many people.

If you have any comments on training, please call Dan Magnan at (780) 422-9241 or e-mail: dan.magnan@gov.ab.ca

Survey: UPDATE

Preliminary results from VIPIR's first industry-wide survey are in and results indicate that industry's attitude towards the project are generally positive.

Results from the survey are invaluable. They will help the VIPIR team's continuing efforts to establish effective two-way communications with stakeholders.

VIPIR training programs will also benefit greatly from survey results. Training program designers now have a better idea of what will, and won't, be accepted as VIPIR training methods. Comments from the survey will be incorporated into the final design of the VIPIR training regime.

The VIPIR team would like to thank all who participated in this survey. We appreciate the time taken to take part in this exercise. The information gathered here, and in future surveys, ensures that the VIPIR team has the tools it needs to create a more responsive, and valuable, product for stakeholders.

Countdown- con't from page 1

In addition to a major design overhaul, the web site will retain its current information and expand to include:

- VIPIR *Change Leader* handbook
- Links to Executive Summaries of the VIPIR Work Processes
- On-line feedback and questions
- Timeline with key project milestones
- Updated FAQs
- Links to Partner Web Sites

The VIPIR team will be making its main public presentation regarding the communications launch at the October 19th CAPPA conference.

In addition to having two speakers at the conference, the team will set up a display, hand out information brochures, and answer any questions people might have about the project.

If you would like the VIPIR team to speak to your company or association or a function, please contact Mark Dickey at 297-3615 or e-mail mark.dickey@gov.ab.ca.

These are just some of the elements of October's communications launch. More details about the launch will be provided in October's newsletter.

GET INVOLVED: VOLUNTEER

The most effective way to ensure that the VIPIR project team reacts to industry concerns and ideas is for industry to get directly involved with the project.

Current volunteer opportunities: Reports and Queries Committee
Darrell Skoreyko: (403) 297-3612

Calendar Committee
Change Leader Focus Group
Ann Hagedorn: (297) 297-3618

Future volunteer opportunities will be available in the following areas: Training, Planning, Testing and Implementation

To put your name in for these upcoming opportunities, please call Sheryl Moody at (403) 297-5217. The VIPIR team thanks and welcomes all volunteers.

Change Leaders- con't from page 1

To assist in preparing Change Leaders, the VIPIR team is currently developing a handbook, which will act as a guide in the planning for implementation. This document will be available through our web site.

To register your *Change Leader*, please contact Sheryl Moody at: sheryl.moody@gov.ab.ca or call (403) 297-5217.

NEW FACES AT VIPIR

Things are gearing up at VIPIR and to meet demand new staff will continue to be added over the life of the project. Here are our newest hires.

ACCEPTANCE TESTING

Ron Gacek assumed the post of Project Manager, Acceptance Testing in July. As Acceptance Testing manager, Ron's major responsibilities include the Acceptance Testing of the registry, testing conversion of data, and Interoperability testing of the VIPIR project.

"Effective communication, planning, good training programs, a proven stable methodology and a structured acceptance testing process are crucial to achieving the acceptance testing objectives for this VIPIR project". says Ron "Our major goal is to roll out a Registry system that will ensure business as usual during and after implementation."

Ron, who is contracted from **xwave**, is a seasoned manager with over 21 years extensive experience in the testing of infrastructure applications/projects. He has a proven track record of successful projects delivered for various telecommunications, utilities, and private industry companies. Ron will be working out of Edmonton. To reach him, call 780-422-1590 or e-mail: ronald.gacek@gov.ab.ca

INDUSTRY READINESS

New to the VIPIR Industry Readiness team is Dan Brownrigg. Dan joined the team in July to bolster the number of Industry Readiness Coordinators already on the team. One of his first tasks at VIPIR has been to take over coordination and contact with smaller oil and gas companies who will be affected by implementation.

New Faces – con't from page 3

"I think VIPIR is a superior project because industry and government are working together to create and implement the project." says Dan " My background at the EUB and working with smaller companies will be a valuable addition to the VIPIR project."

For the past 11 years, Dan has worked in the oil and gas industry as a production accountant. Prior to that, he worked at the EUB for 10 years. Hired on as an independent contractor, Dan has previous experience in project work similar to VIPIR. To contact Dan, e-mail dan.brownrigg@gov.ab.ca

ON-LINE TRAINING

John Nursall joined the VIPIR training team in August. He will work closely with Dan Magnan, VIPIR's Training Coordinator, and with industry content experts, in developing VIPIR's on-line training and help system. John will also assist with other training initiatives and media production.

"It's important that anyone accessing the registry online have a comprehensive and intuitive help system that will clarify procedures, alleviate potential problems and point out helpful tips. I look forward to helping make the registry as easy and friendly to use as possible."

John is a freelance writer, producer and director of film, television and interactive multimedia. He has written and produced numerous video and computer-based training programs in the oil and gas sector during his 20 years in Calgary.

John will be based in Calgary and may be reached at (403) 297-3628 or john.nursall@gov.ab.ca

EUB DATA CLEAN-UP
(The VIPIR team received many queries about the EUB Data Cleanup effort. This is their response to those queries)

The Volumetric and Infrastructure Petroleum Information Registry (VIPIR) will be a single, authoritative petroleum data source and the data it houses is considered the "data-of-record" for all stakeholders.

The EUB Data Cleanup Team was formed in November 2000 to ensure data integrity and consistency between the EUB and DOE databases, before VIPIR is implemented on October 2002. This data clean up focuses on Basic Well Data (BWD) and Production/Injection/Disposition (PID) Data for future use as source infrastructure data for

VIPIR. This data will also be the source of data for the test environment for industry to use to test prior to the inception of the Registry.

VIPIR is a joint, strategic initiative between Ministry and Industry. To meet the Registry's stated goal of providing **quality data** that meets **all stakeholder** business needs, well information requests have been forwarded to industry. The purpose of these requests is to ensure that only quality infrastructure data is converted to the registry. This should minimize problems at implementation in dealing with the new business practice of rejecting infrastructure change requests, or volumetric data submissions, that do not meet the business rules.

The effort being expended to get well information updated will be of benefit to Industry, DOE and other EUB groups. At the time of conversion of infrastructure data to the Registry, the EUB will "modify" any well that does not meet registry integrity requirements to ensure that all wells are converted and created in the Registry.

After implementation, the EUB will no longer have the ability to make on-line corrections or submit special adjustments on behalf of an operator to move production from one well to another well for production months prior to registry implementation.

For further information, please contact Michele Kelly, VIPIR Project Cleanup Team at (403) 297-2596 or michele.kelly@gov.ab.ca