Petroleum Registry of Alberta

Registry Tip

Three New Fluid Types For Shale

Release/Revision Date	Location of Change in this Document	Comment
Nov 29, 2007		Initial Release
January 3, 2008	Throughout Document	Name change – EUB to ERCB

Audience:

All stakeholders

Purpose:

This tip informs Registry users that on December 6th, 2007, three new fluid types for Shale wells will be incorporated in the Registry. These new fluid types will be found on the Edit Well Status screen.

Background:

What is shale gas?

- Shale gas is natural gas stored in organic rich rocks such as dark-colored shale, interbedded with layers of shaley siltstone and sandstone.
- ERCB defines shale in Section 1.020(2) 27.1 of the Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations (OGCR) as a "lithostratigraphic unit having less than 50% by weight organic matter, with: less than 10% of the sedimentary clasts having a grain size greater than 62.5 micrometers; and more than 10% of the sedimentary clasts having a grain size less than 4 micrometers".

Why shale reporting?

- ERCB to distinguish gas production from different structures:
  - Conventional Gas
  - Coal bed Methane Gas
  - Shale Gas

Shale Gas Only (SHG)

- For production from wells completed in shale(s) only
- Wells that are producing gas from the following formations are considered to be potential Shale Gas Only wells:
  Muskwa, Duvernay, Ireton, Fort Simpson, Exshaw, Fernie, Rierdon, Moosebar, Wilrich, Joli Fou, Harmon, Shaftesbury, Blackstone, Wapiabi, Kaskapau, Muskiki, Lea Park, Pakowki,Battle, Fish Scale, Second White Speckled Shale, Colorado Shale and First White Speckled Shale.

Shale Gas and Other Sources (SHGOT)

- For production from wells completed in both shale(s) and other lithology; not including coal(s).
- Perforations in the following formations/members are mainly non-marine and/or have low organic contents are not considered to contain shale gas but is other lithology:
  Whyte, Snake Indian, Stephen, Earlie, Deadwood, Sullivan, Bison Creek and Whitemud.

CBM, Shale Gas and Other Sources (CBMSOT)

- For production from wells completed in coal(s), shale(s) and other lithology (eg. sandstone).
- The ERCB defines coal in Section 1.020(2) 3.1 of the OGCR as: *'a lithostratigraphic unit having 50% or greater by weight organic matter and being thicker than 0.30 metres'*
- Perforations in the following organic horizons are not considered to contain shale gas:
  Glauconitic, Upper Mannville (and Provost equivalents), Foremost, Oldman, Dinosaur Park, Horseshoe Canyon, Scollard and Paskapoo.

Key Principles:

As of December 6th, 2007, licensees must use one of the following new fluid types for Shale wells:

SHG - Shale Gas Only (Fluid Code 25)
SHGOT - Shale Gas and other Sources (Fluid Code 24)
CBMSOT - CBM & Shale & Other Sources (Fluid Code 26)

Licensees must use the well statuses associated with these fluid types instead of a gas well status for reporting production from Shale in the Registry. This will allow the ERCB to track Shale production on a go-forward basis.

More information: Please contact the Registry Service Desk.

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