

TIPS

This Month:

Land List Maker

Improving and simplifying holdings through software solutions

MetroPetro

Change:
YES WE CAN!

Shale Gas

Are formations with low-permeability the future of natural gas recovery?

Staff Spotlight

A new business development engineer joins Proven's ranks

Land List Maker

Using Software to Simplify Holdings

Laurence Mitchell

Preparing the documentation for holdings can involve a lot of work and consume a lot of time. All the participants within the holding area and in the sections surrounding it need to be notified when a change is desired. Lists of landowners and mineral rights holders need to be compiled and letters need to be sent out. Who is on these lists? Who gets notified? This is where the work begins.

Information is to be gathered from official sources according to ERCB regulations. Alberta's SPIN and ETS databases are the primary sources of this information. The information can be downloaded in PDF or text formats in bulk. While the PDFs are human readable and information can be gleaned from them, the information gathering via this method is labourious and error-prone.

Land List Maker was developed to reduce the time it takes to compile the data for holdings as well as to produce the mail merge letters and envelopes for the required notifications. Land List Maker parses the data and stores it for further processing. It extracts the required data and exports it to spreadsheets for inclusion in reports. The program can also interact with a word processor to create mail merge letters to send to surface, freehold, and mineral owners.

Using Land List Maker to help identify the concerned parties speeds the process of identification and notification and reduces transcribing



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errors. Downloading the data from ETS and SPIN into Land List Maker means that the most recent information is used. Using the program to produce the lists and letters means that there is consistent data and methodology for the ERCB to examine. All of this helps reduce the cost of the application for the client.



Shale: Gassier than You Thought

Though the majority of oil and gas production in Alberta is found in the oil sands, so-called “unconventional” production methods are also proving promising.

One such method is the recovery of shale gas, a procedure in which natural gas is produced from the normally low-permeable shale-type formations.

Shale gas has previously been ex-



ploited using naturally-occurring fractures in the shale, which functions as the reservoir, source rock, and seal.

However, due to continuing research and advances in technology, shale gas can be recovered using artificially induced frac-

tures and horizontal wells.

Currently the Alberta Geological Survey has identified about 15 shale gas formations in the province.

Company News

Proven Welcomes New Business Development Engineer

Proven Reserves would like to welcome Donald Ford as and EIT and our newest business development engineer!

Don was born in Massachusetts, but moved soon thereafter to North Carolina with his family. He moved with his family again at age 10 to Calgary.

Don recently graduated with a BSc in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alberta, but held various different positions throughout his schooling ranging from bartending to landscaping, as well as taking on floor coordinator and community assistant positions within his



community.

Don enjoys traveling, and recently had the opportunity to take road trip across North America where he was able to watch 4th of July fireworks at Mt. Rushmore, see the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and visit the East Coast.

He also enjoys playing the guitar, live music, skiing, hiking, cheering on the Stampede.

Don says that his goals are to “enjoy life as much as possible and to constantly be learning.” While at Proven Reserves, Don wants to work towards his P.Eng and gain experience in the oil and gas industry.

Welcome, Don!

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Upcoming Events

Technical Luncheon
Recent Improvements in Unconsolidated Core Analysis and Application to Heavy Oil Sands
December 10, 2008
Calgary, Alberta
www.cwls.org

APEGGA Branch Luncheon
Realistic Coal Solutions to Clean Energy
December 11, 2008
Calgary, Alberta
www.apegga.org

Technical Luncheon
Microseismic and Deformation Monitoring of Hydraulic Fractures and Reservoir Processes
December 17, 2008
Calgary, Alberta
www.speca.ca

