

February 5, 2010

TO: ALL CO-ORDINATING OPERATORS

2010 OIL AND GAS SUBSURFACE PRESSURE SURVEY SCHEDULE

The annual survey schedule is now available on the ERCB website, detailing the oil and gas pools requiring subsurface pressure survey measurements, and indicating the specific “required year” for each pool. Operators are reminded that the **purpose** of this program is to obtain accurate estimates of stabilized shut-in reservoir pressure for these pools, and all surveys are to be conducted in accordance with the of ERCB Directive 040 (D040), *Pressure and Deliverability Testing Oil and Gas Wells*. Please be aware that due to the timing of capture and submissions of annual data, the 1st update after the February 2010 version, may not take place before June 1.

Operators' Responsibilities:

As defined in D040: Co-ordinating operators are **required** to review the pressure needs for each pool and co-ordinate the pressure surveys with other operators in the pool as early in the survey year as possible. Other operators in a pool are **required** to co-operate to ensure that pressure surveys are conducted in the most efficient and cost effective manner. Further, it is **recommended** that all operators review the schedules and be proactive in all areas of interest.

Compliance to Well Test Requirements:

The ERCB will continue to enforce all well test requirements in a fair and equitable manner in an effort to ensure that needed information is obtained and to create a level playing field for all operators. The steps for dealing with non-compliance issues are detailed in ERCB Directive 019. Annual pressure surveys required in 2010 must be **conducted** by year-end (December 31) and **submitted** as per section 4.9.1 of D040.

In addition, as per section 4.5.8 of D-040, please recognize the value of initial pressures that are conducted and deemed to be representative of the producing portion of a scheduled pool, can also be used to meet the annual requirement **where applicable**.

Further note, it is hoped that with the subject schedule being compiled and issued at this time, all operators may be able to take advantage of conducting any survey in winter access areas as early as possible to avoid any delays due to break-ups.

Special Circumstances:

Details and conditions for all pools with a survey frequency indicating "Special Circumstances" will be listed on the Appendix provided with the annual schedule on the ERCB website. The Appendix will provide added details of the survey requirement and approval numbers, etc. where applicable. The pressure requirement for Acid Gas Disposal Well, unless otherwise stated, is generally for monitoring wellhead pressures, to ensure a maximum limit is not exceeded. This monitoring information is to be reported in the annual progress report and need not be reported to the Well Test Section. Any requests for clarification of these requirements should be made to the Resources Applications Group. All pools with Special Circumstances require the standard survey coverage within approval boundaries (25% of producing wells based on normal spacing) unless otherwise specifically stated. PLEASE NOTE: Pools scheduled to be tested due to an **OFF-TARGET** issue, are required to be tested **and** submitted by November 1 of every survey year.

Please ensure all current well tests are submitted via the **Well Test Capture File Upload**.

Modifying the Basic Requirements:

Further to section 4.6 of D040, *it is recommended that any requests for exemption, relaxation or waiver be made as early in the calendar year as possible* to lessen any year-end delays by ERCB staff. In addition, any such request should be made in writing to the Well Test Group or by e-mail to the Well Test Helpline welltest-helpline@ERCB.ca

If you disagree with the status or have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact the aforementioned helpline.