

## 7 Glossary

### **Accommodation Space**

The amount of vertical thickness or space available for potential sediment accumulation. In the study area, bitumen thickness varies considerably within a channel because of lithological variability. Therefore, an understanding of accommodation space assists in interpreting the potential thickness of bitumen offsetting a well.

### **Associated Gas**

Gas that is in pressure communication with bitumen within the region of influence either directly or through a connecting water zone. To identify associated gas, the bitumen and gas must be in direct fluid contact within a continuous porous interval, or if the gas/bitumen interval is in a channel environment, the mudstones/shales within the interval must not be regionally deposited.

### **EUB-Designated Pool**

A gas pool that is formally defined by the EUB. The name and areal extent of the pool can be accessed through the EUB's Board Order System (BOS) on the EUB's Web site [www.eub.gov.ab.ca](http://www.eub.gov.ab.ca).

### **Gas Assignment**

A single-well pool.

### **Gas Pool**

The area or lateral extent of a gas zone or zones believed to be in communication.

### **Mudstone**

Fine-grained, detrital sedimentary rock made up of silt and clay sized particles. Distinguished from shale by lack of fissility, which is a property of splitting along closely spaced planes more or less parallel to bedding.

### **Nonassociated Gas**

Gas that is not in pressure communication with bitumen within the region of influence either directly or through a connecting water zone. To identify nonassociated gas, mudstones/shales that may appear to separate gas from underlying bitumen must be shown to be associated with regionally deposited units. A regional geological understanding is necessary to establish the depositional environment.

### **Potentially Recoverable Bitumen**

Bitumen in oil sands that has a minimum thickness of 10 m with a minimum bitumen saturation of 50 per cent. Consideration must be given to the volume of the bitumen encountered, the geological depositional environment, the presence of associated water zones, and the available well control.

### **Region of Influence**

The area or extent of the gas pool in the case of gas directly overlying bitumen, or the combined extent of the gas pool and water zone in the case of gas overlying water overlying bitumen.

**Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage (SAGD)**

A thermal bitumen recovery method that involves the drilling of horizontal well pairs one above the other, injection of steam in the upper well to heat and mobilize bitumen, and gravity drainage of the mobilized bitumen to the lower well from which it is recovered.

**Shale**

Fine-grained, detrital sedimentary rock containing clay minerals, as well as particles of quartz, feldspar, calcite, dolomite, and other minerals. Distinguished from mudstone by presence of fissility.

**Top Water**

A water zone recognizable on logs at the base of a gas zone and may overlie a bitumen-bearing zone.