

October 9, 2003

To: All Gas and In Situ Oil Sands Operators

**BITUMEN CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS
ATHABASCA WABISKAW-MCMURRAY
PRESSURE DATA COLLECTION**

On July 22, 2003, the Alberta Energy and Utilities Board (EUB) issued [General Bulletin 2003-28](#) announcing the EUB's conservation requirements respecting gas production from the Wabiskaw-McMurray in the Athabasca Oil Sands Area. This included a requirement that pressure surveys be conducted and submitted by November 1, 2003, from the greater of one well or 25 per cent of the wells in each EUB-designated Wabiskaw-McMurray gas pool within or overlapping the new Wabiskaw-McMurray application area.

The EUB subsequently received a letter dated September 24, 2003, from [Paramount Energy Trust](#), EnCana Corporation, Devon Canada Corporation, and BP Canada Energy Company requesting a variance in the pressure survey requirement. The EUB invited other interested parties to comment on the request and received submissions from [Stylus Exploration Inc.](#) and [Superman Resources Inc.](#), dated September 30, 2003, and [Nexen Canada Ltd.](#) and [Petro-Canada Oil and Gas](#), dated October 1, 2003. The EUB also received a letter, dated September 26, 2003, from [Canadian Natural Resources Limited](#) requesting a variance in the pressure survey requirement. These letters are available on the EUB's website at www.eub.gov.ab.ca

Having regard for the requests and submissions received, the EUB has decided to extend the deadline for submitting pressure surveys to March 1, 2004, with the following conditions:

- gas well licensees must file with the EUB by November 1, 2003, a pressure survey schedule that identifies the wells to be tested and provides the number of wells to be tested on a monthly basis;
- pressure surveys must be submitted to the EUB within 3 weeks of being taken; and
- at least 50 per cent of the pressure surveys must be submitted to the EUB by December 31, 2003.

To assist well licensees in preparing their pressure survey schedules, the EUB has prepared a list of the wells completed in each of the EUB-designated Wabiskaw-McMurray gas pools, as of September 1, 2003, within or overlapping the new Wabiskaw-McMurray application area. This list is available on the EUB's website. The EUB requests that well licensees advise it of any discrepancies identified on the list.

The EUB has further decided not to reduce the number of wells required to be tested. However, regarding pools containing multiple well licensees, for each EUB-designated Wabiskaw-McMurray gas pool:

- licensees may coordinate their work to conduct a pressure survey in the greater of one well or 25 per cent of the completed wells in that pool, or
- each licensee must conduct a pressure survey in the greater of one well or 25 per cent of the completed wells belonging to it in that pool.

Pressure survey schedules should be submitted, along with an electronic version, to

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Questions respecting this matter may be directed to Ken Schuldhaus at (403) 297-3572 or Gary Dilay at (403) 297-3561.

Yours truly,

W. A. Warren, P. Eng.
Bitumen Conservation Project Sponsor