

National Energy
Board



Office national
de l'énergie

The Frontier Information Office

June 1997

Canada

This information bulletin describes services and technical resources that are provided by the National Energy Board's Frontier Information Office.

THE BOARD

The National Energy Board is an independent regulatory tribunal that was created by the Parliament of Canada in 1959. Its powers and jurisdiction are based on the *National Energy Board Act*, the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act* and certain provisions of the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*. The purpose of the Board is to make decisions that are fair, objective, and respected. The Board achieves this purpose by regulating in the Canadian public interest certain areas of the oil, gas, and electric utility industries. Copies of the Acts are available from the Board and from the Canada Communications Group, Public Works and Government Services Canada, 45 Sacré-Coeur Blvd., Hull, Quebec, K1A 0S7.

PUBLICATIONS

This information bulletin is one of a series that the Board publishes on its activities and procedures. Comments on this bulletin or suggestions for future topics are welcome. These bulletins provide general information only. For details of particular items, reference must be made to the relevant legislation. The *National Energy Board Act* and the regulations will prevail in the case of a conflict with information contained in this bulletin.

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The Frontier Information Office

On May 12, 1994 the National Energy Board (the NEB or the Board) became responsible for regulating operational aspects of oil and gas activities on northern Frontier lands and in offshore areas not subject to federal/provincial shared management agreements (see map). This regulatory responsibility and authority was granted with the passage of Bill C-6, *An Act to amend the Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act, the Canada Petroleum Resources Act and the National Energy Board Act and to make consequential amendments to other Acts.*

As part of that responsibility, and as a service to the public and industry, the NEB maintains a Frontier Information Office. This office is the contact point for companies seeking technical information on oil and gas activities regulated by the NEB. Requests for publications and information of a general nature should be directed to the National Energy Board at the contact addresses and phone numbers listed at the back of this bulletin.

Services available through the Frontier Information Office include:

- referrals to the appropriate parties for authorizations of oil and gas exploration operations on Frontier lands;
- access to a reference collection of released oil and gas technical reports submitted by industry;
- a private viewing room, available by appointment, for researching reports;
- self-serve printing of paper copies from microfilm; and
- information packages for Northern rights issued on behalf of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND).

Staff of the Frontier Information Office maintain computer databases and microfilm files of industry reports on geological, geophysical and drilling operations on Frontier lands.

Information on Obtaining Authorizations to Conduct Oil and Gas Operations

Oil and gas operations in Frontier areas regulated by the Board are authorized under the *Canada Oil and*

Gas Operations Act and associated regulations. Approval of specific operations may also be required from other federal and territorial departments and agencies and from native organizations. Information Office staff will provide assistance in contacting the appropriate internal and external regulatory and technical specialists for companies seeking guidance in these areas.

Oil and Gas Technical Reports

Oil and gas companies conducting operations on Frontier lands are required to submit copies of technical reports on their operations, including analyses and interpretation of results, to the NEB. These reports are privileged for a period of time set out in the *Canada Petroleum Resources Act*. After that time, they are made available for public viewing in the Information Office. The collection of reports is comprehensive for all geological, geophysical and drilling operations on Frontier lands from 1921 to the present.

Geophysical reports generally include a discussion of the operation, seismic processing parameters when appropriate, and an interpretation of the results. Interpretative maps are also included. Reports on seismic operations conducted after 1973 include processed seismic sections. Before 1974, submission of seismic sections was not required. Mylar copies of the location maps and seismic sections may be available for reproduction.

Since April 1988, companies have been required to submit shotpoint locations in digital form. From these, seismic line locations and geophysical program outlines are derived and may be plotted. Shotpoint location coordinates may be obtained for all seismic lines for which sections are available. These coordinates have either been received from the program operator or digitized by NEB staff. In some cases, seismic shotpoint location coordinates are available even though there are no available sections for those seismic lines. *Note: Shotpoint location coordinates are only used for plotting maps and are not available for distribution in digital form.*

Geological and geochemical reports include a discussion of the operation, any analyses done on collected samples and location, and interpretative maps, as well as cross-sections where appropriate.

Well-history reports include basic operational information, wire-line logs, test results, geological descriptions of samples, and the results of any analyses. Cores, cuttings and fluid samples are stored on behalf of the NEB at the Geological Survey of Canada, Calgary where they may be viewed after release from privileged status.

In addition to reports on Frontier areas, the Information Office maintains a copy of oil and gas technical reports for the offshore Nova Scotia region and makes these available for viewing on behalf of the Canada - Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board.

Production Data

Production data from producing oil and gas fields in Frontier areas are available from the Information Office, on request.

Publications

Several publications relating to Frontier oil and gas activity and data are available. These include:

- Schedules of Wells, North of 60° and Offshore (1920-1993, updated annually)
- Frontier Released Information (annual)
- Information for the public - Geophysical/Geological Operations on Frontier Lands

Data Services

The Information Office staff will provide assistance, to the extent possible, with locating well-history reports, geological and geophysical reports, shotpoint location maps and seismic lines within a given area of interest. Computer-generated maps and lists of programs and

wells within given geographic coordinates can be produced. The information that can be depicted on the maps includes:

- cultural/geographical (political boundaries, rivers, lakes, shorelines) information;
- boundaries of existing oil and gas rights holdings;
- outlines of current Call for Nominations or Call for Bids blocks;
- boundaries of areas covered by native claim agreements and settlement parcels;
- well locations, status and total depth; and
- seismic program outlines, and seismic line locations and/or shotpoint locations.

Note: Accuracy and completeness of the information is limited by its source and availability to the National Energy Board. Users are cautioned against using any of the displayed information as a reliable indication of its completeness or geographic location. Large scale maps, source information and/or legal descriptions should be consulted for that purpose.

Other Services

A 105 mm microfilm reader-printer is available in the Information Office for producing paper prints from microfilmed maps and seismic sections. There is a charge of \$3.00 per copy. A 16 mm microfilm reader-printer is also available for producing paper prints from microfilmed text. There is no charge for a reasonable number of copies from this machine.

As a service to DIAND and the oil and gas industry, the Information Office also has available copies of any current DIAND Call for Nominations, Call for Bids or related publication.

At the present time, our office is also the designated delivery point for any Nominations or Bids resulting from the DIAND Calls in the North.

Contacts:**Technical information and access to well-history, geophysical and geological reports, information and maps:**

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Operations Business Unit, Exploration and Production
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Access to cores, cuttings and fluid samples:

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