

Next Month in Calgary—New Conference Presents Top Technology on Unconventional Resources

Mike Gatens and Dennis Hahn, CURIPC Program Committee Co-Chairmen

As program-committee co-chairmen for the first joint meeting between the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and the Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas (CSUG), we are proud of what the members of our two associations have organized for the new Canadian Unconventional Resources and International Petroleum Conference (CURIPC). The meeting will be 19–21 October in the BMO Centre at Calgary's Stampede Park. CURIPC builds on the best of CSUG's annual conference, which historically focused on gas, and the Petroleum Society's Canadian International Petroleum Conference,* which largely concentrated on unconventional oil and enhanced oil recovery.

The CURIPC program committee received more than 690 high-quality proposals for this conference; 297 proposals (43%) were accepted for what we expect to be the best technical program ever assembled for unconventional resources in both oil and gas. The program encompasses the globe, with authors from 24 different countries. The opening plenary session precedes 39 technical sessions, 17 knowledge-sharing e-poster sessions, and 3 keynote luncheons that will give attendees a stimulating and rewarding 3 days.

Our program will deliver presentations on emerging technologies for unconventional gas reservoirs, including a number of case studies, geologic summaries, stimulation and well construc-

tion technologies, and a special session on shale/tight gas coring and core-analysis methods. A panel of experts will present summaries of the first major carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects funded by the Alberta government, the first large-scale, multi-million-dollar public/private effort to apply and develop new CCS technology across the globe.

Technical sessions will cover a wide range of topics in oil sands, heavy oil/bitumen, and other unconventional oil resources in Canada and the world. Many sessions will include case histories of existing thermal operations as well as focus on new developments evolving from thermal recovery processes. Additionally, bitumen recovery with solvent systems and from carbonate horizons will be addressed. Sessions will also provide papers/presentations on accessing and recovering oil from unconventionally low permeable formations.

We can also look forward to engaging and enlightening commentary at the Tuesday morning Plenary Session on the importance of resource development to western Canada and North America. Speakers are Roger Gibbins, Canada West Foundation; David Manning, M.J. Bradley & Associates; Peter Tertzakian, ARC Financial; Michael Economides, University of Houston; and Craig Wright, RBC Canada.

*The Petroleum Society of Canada merged with the Society of Petroleum Engineers in August 2009.

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Michael Gatens is CEO at Unconventional Gas Resources Canada. Gatens was formerly Chairman and Advisor at Quicksilver Resources Canada Inc. He is a past Chairman and Honorary Member of the Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas, and on the Board of the Petroleum Technology Alliance of Canada. Gatens received the Alberta

Centennial Medal in 2005 and the Sproule Award for career achievement in unconventional gas in 2006. Gatens served on the Alberta Government Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee for natural gas from coal development and the Alberta Land Use Framework growth and management working group. He holds BS and MS degrees in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University. Gatens was named a Distinguished Member of SPE in 2000, served on the SPE International Board of Directors during 1995–97, and has been active on numerous SPE boards and committees.



Dennis Hahn is a Staff Completions Engineer with Enerplus Resources, with 37+ years of varied experience in Canada and overseas while working for numerous producing, consulting, and service companies. He was an SPE Distinguished Lecturer in 2003–04, and an instructor for HPHT Completions Design courses/workshops during 2003–

08. Hahn also has extensive specialist knowledge in the areas of well test design and supervision, fracture stimulation; artificial lift design, and well/field operations; as well as extensive experience with the optimization projects, waterfloods, gas compression and gas gathering systems. In addition to conference activities, he currently is a Technical Editor on the SPE Editorial Review Committee and serves on the SPE Continuing Education Advisory Committee for Canada. Hahn graduated from Lakehead University with a Mechanical Bachelor of Engineering degree and received a diploma in gas technology from the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology.

Our keynote luncheon speakers also promise to deliver some thought-provoking insights and opinions. On Tuesday, Christopher Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oil and Gas, US Department of Energy, will speak about "The Role of Government in the Development of a Sustainable Energy Environment." Kevin O'Leary, one of the "dragons" on the popular television series "Dragons Den," speculates "Is There a Role for Entrepreneurial Businesses in Unconventional Resource Development?" at the Wednesday lunch. And panelists from three service companies—Chris Hopkins of Schlumberger, Marc Edwards of Halliburton, and Peter Fontana of Weatherford—will examine "Advances in Wellbore Completions and Stimulations: Have We Reached a Plateau?" on Thursday.

We have arranged a major technology exhibition to complement the CURIPC technical program, with exhibitors presenting the latest in unconventional resource technologies. More than 60 companies will be present.

SPE's Young Professionals program includes a fun session called "The Oil and Gas Apprentice—Building Leaders of the Future," in which a panel of top executives will judge competing teams' solutions to an industry problem.

CURIPC is shaping up to be the most important unconventional resources conference that SPE or CSUG has ever presented. As unconventional resources are becoming increasingly important in North America and throughout the world, CURIPC will be a must-attend event for technical professionals, regulators, government officials, and educators. We hope to see all of you there!

2010 Canadian Unconventional Resources and International Petroleum Conference

19–21 October, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
BMO Centre at Stampede Park

How to Register: Visit <http://www.spe.org/events/curipc/2010/pages/general/registration.php>

Attendee Housing:

Headquarters Hotel:

Calgary Marriott Hotel
110 9th Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta T2G 5A6 Canada
Phone: +1.403.266.7331
Fax : +1.403.269.1961
Toll-free (US and Canada): 1.800.896.6878

To make housing arrangements with a group rate, please visit:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/yycdt-calgary-marriott-hotel/?toDate=10/22/10&groupCode=curcura&fromDate=10/16/10&app=resvlink>

Additional Housing:

Sandman Hotel (3 Calgary locations)
Please call 1.800.726.3626 (toll-free US/Canada). Hotel arrangements need to be made by **10 September 2010** to receive the discounted group rate. The group rate code is **478632** and will *only* be given to those who make their reservations by phone.

SPE Training Courses To Precede Canadian Unconventional Resources and International Petroleum Conference

17–18 October, "Advanced Natural Gas Engineering," instructor Michael Economides, University of Houston. Explores the availability, versatility, and potential of this abundant resource in meeting global energy needs. Attendees will gain knowledge of challenges, solutions, and opportunities in all phases of the natural gas field, from upstream to midstream to downstream.

18 October, "Appraising and Developing Shale Gas Reservoirs," instructor Creties Jenkins, DeGolyer and MacNaughton. Covers the origins, characterization, production, and completion of shale gas, and the datasets needed for each stage. A discussion of resource estimation, and the factors affecting commercial success, will be included, as well as a thorough review of several case studies. A course notebook, including PowerPoint slides, will be provided.

18 October, "Introduction to CO₂ Capture and Geological Storage," instructors Bill Gunter, Alberta Research Council, and Doug MacDonald, SNC-Lavalin Inc. Overview of commercial and technical issues regarding CO₂ exploitation, including injectivity, capacity, and containment, as well as site selection, pipeline considerations, and capture processes. Coverage of risk management, regulations, and development of a CO₂ business case round out this important course.

18 October, "Introduction to Horizontal Well Technology," instructors Saad Ibrahim and Roger Hough, Petro Management Group Ltd. Takes attendees through every major aspect of horizontal well application, from selection to estimation to drilling procedures. The most recent technology in well drilling and completion will be reviewed, as will prediction, analysis, and estimation.

18 October, "Introduction to Geomechanics for Unconventional Oil and Gas," instructor Pat McLellan, McLellan Energy Advisors Inc. Touches on one of the conference's main themes, considering such resources as tight gas, heavy oil, oil sands, tight oil, shale gas, gas hydrates, and coalbed methane. From basic rock mechanics theory to workflow issues, this course will allow attendees to investigate a number of subtopics and technologies reflecting the latest achievements in the field. In addition, participants will receive a recently updated course manual with some of the latest technical innovations in the industry, a comprehensive list of references and internet resources, a spreadsheet program for basic wellbore stress and stability calculations, and a demonstration of advanced geomechanical software.

To register for any of these courses, go to http://www.spe.org/events/curipc/2010/pages/schedule/tech_program/training_courses.php.