

Saskatchewan Regulatory Update

Doug MacKnight

Abstract

The Petroleum and Natural Gas (PNG) Division continues to play a key role within the Ministry of the Economy (ECON) in Saskatchewan's energy and resources management. PNG division's mandate is to regulate the lifecycle activities related to the responsible development of Saskatchewan's oil and gas as well as associated mineral resources. Key functions of the division include: well and facility licensing; field inspection and monitoring; abandonment and reclamation; reservoir management; production reporting and compliance; orphan well program; Licensee Liability Rating (LLR) Program; pipeline licensing and inspection; and, Surface Rights Board of Arbitration.

The Integrated Resource Information System (IRIS) was launched in November 2015 to mark the completion of ECON's regulatory Process Renewal and Infrastructure Management Enhancement (PRIME) project. Even with erratic commodity prices and ever-changing political and environmental landscape, PNG remains poised to being a regulator par excellence.

The presentation will provide a regulatory update with emphasis on current regulatory priorities and recent enhancements to IRIS following an extensive stakeholder survey. Ongoing efforts to enhance social license and ensure public safety will also be highlighted.

¹Assistant Deputy Minister, Petroleum & Natural Gas Division, Ministry of the Economy, Government of Saskatchewan

Doug MacKnight was born in Kingston, Ontario to a military family and has lived in Ontario, British Columbia, Yukon, Alberta, Manitoba, and New Brunswick. Saskatchewan has been his longest place of continuous residence and is now home. Doug carried out graduate studies in molecular biology at the University of New Brunswick before switching to natural resource management in 1987. He served as a socioeconomic consultant before accepting employment as a Senior Northern Development Officer with the Northern Alberta Development Council in Peace River, Alberta in 1990. Doug then joined the Saskatchewan Energy and Mines in 1995, which later became the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy, and has served continuously with the Ministry ever since. His areas of expertise include aboriginal policy, mineral ownership, mineral tenure and regulatory law. From 2015 until present, Doug has been the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Division for the Ministry. He has been the recipient of three Premier's awards for excellence in public service.