

Stakeholder Engagement: Mapping a Path to Success

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Over the past 5 years there has been dramatic growth in unconventional gas exploration and development as industry has responded to basin wide production declines of conventional gas by increased number of wells for unconventional gas targets such as natural gas from coal and tight gas sands and carbonates. This increased drilling intensity and density has resulted in a higher level of interaction with stakeholders, predominantly surface landowners. Concerns have been raised about groundwater protection, cumulative impact, surface disturbance and noise to name a few. In response to these concerns, many E & P companies have recognized that stakeholder engagement is becoming an integral part of any exploration and development plan. This presentation will identify specific stakeholder challenges that the unconventional gas industry faces and outline possible solutions or approaches that are being applied to ensure that future access to the resource is assured.

Biography

Mike graduated with a BSc in Geology from the University of Calgary in 1975. He spent the first nine years of his career working in the coal industry in Calgary. In 1983, he joined the Geological Survey of Canada as a research scientist, to be part of a team that was developing an inventory of coal resources for Canada. In 1989, in response to industry requests for information, Mike switched his research efforts to coalbed methane.

From 1989 to 1999, he was responsible for managing the Geological Survey's coalbed methane research program. These efforts were focused primarily on characterization of the coal gas potential of the various coalfields in Canada. Other research projects included quantification of micro-permeability of fractured reservoirs and a comparison of coalbed methane basins throughout North America and Australia. In 1999, Mike left the government to return to industry where he held a number of managerial positions for unconventional gas exploration companies. Mike has been involved in the Canadian Society for Unconventional Gas since its inception in 2002 and in February of 2007 took on the position of full time president for the society.