



Employment Opportunities in the Oil and Gas Industry

“You name it, we need it,” says WesternGeco representative, Ken Lengyel. “The opportunities for work in the industry are endless.”

Yukon businesses and individuals wanting to take advantage of employment opportunities in the oil and gas industry were told how during a workshop held in Whitehorse last month.

The workshop was co-hosted and sponsored by Yukon’s Oil and Gas Resources Branch and Employment Central, an agency funded through Human Resources Development Canada, in co-operation with representatives from the oil and gas industry.

A wide range of job opportunities for individuals and contractors are needed to support oil and gas exploration and resource development – from camp cooks and righands to seismic crews and wildlife monitors. A long list of

equipment-for-hire is also in demand – from bulldozers and water coolers to fuel tanks and forklifts.

Guidelines for staying employed in the competitive working environment of the industry were also shared with workshop participants from representatives of Devon Canada Corporation, Akita Drilling and WesternGeco. The message was clear and definite. You have to be safe, sober and mobile to work in the world of oil and gas.

Resumes can be sent to:

Akita/Equitak Drilling Ltd.
Attention: Daryl Christie
P.O. Box 2637, 166 Navy Road
Inuvik, NT XOE OTO
(867) 777-4903

Akita/Sahcho Drilling Ltd.
Attention: Merle Park, General Delivery
Fort Liard, NT XOG OAO
(867) 770-4601

Oil and Gas Educational Awareness for First Nations

Community members of Pelly Crossing and Carmacks recently participated in a two-day educational workshop on the basics of the oil and gas industry provided by Yukon’s Oil and Gas Resources Branch.

Information was presented in a visually, interactive way to explain where and how oil and gas is found, from the geological seismic survey to the drilling process. A translator, chosen by the community, was there to help the elders who attended.

“We are helping to build a knowledge base on oil and gas in the communities,” explains Marg Crombie, Environmental Manager for the Oil and Gas Resources Branch.

did you know?

Approximately 50 people work on an average seismic project and – depending on the size of the program – it can cost several million dollars. The costs to drill a well in the Yukon can vary, but averages between \$4 and \$12 million dollars.

For more information, visit www.yukonoilandgas.com

NEW RESOURCE MATERIALS

2002 Northern Pipelines Backgrounder

An updated overview of the market conditions, gas resources and project comparisons of the Alaska Highway, MacKenzie Delta, off-shore and mid-Yukon proposed pipeline routes. To obtain this report, contact YTG’s Pipeline Unit at 667-7042 or 1-800-661-0408 or get it online at www.yukonoilandgas.com.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Upcoming courses through the Petroleum Institute for Continuing Education (PEICE) in Calgary, Alberta:

April 1: Introduction to Seismic Methods

April 24-25: Introduction to Drilling

April 30 to May 1: Introduction to Natural Gas Gathering and Processing

May 2: Introduction to Petroleum Exploration

June 4 to 5: Introduction to the Petroleum Industry

For information visit

www.peice.com/infevecal.html
or call 1-403-284-1250

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 25 - 26, 2002

The Prospect Exchange
Canadian Association of Petroleum Landmen
Calgary, Alberta
www.landman.ca

April 29 - 30, 2002

Arctic Gas Pipelines – Opportunities in the North
Insight Information Co., Houston, Texas
www.insightinfo.com

June 3 - 5, 2002

Diamond Jubilee Convention
Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists
Calgary, Alberta
www.cspgconvention.org

Photos courtesy of Akita Drilling Ltd. and Yukon government.

*responsible
development now,
and for our future*



The Explorer

Yukon’s Oil and Gas Information Resource

Volume 2 • Spring 2002

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Seismic Workers are Pioneer Prospectors

Oil & Gas Secretariat of CYFN Prepare Plan

Yukon First Nations Join Forces with Local and National Businesses

Yukon Expertise Needed in Montana Gas Wells

Employment Opportunities in the Oil and Gas Industry

Oil and Gas Awareness for First Nations

New Resources Material

Upcoming Training

Upcoming Events

CONTACT

For more information on any material presented in the newsletter, contact:

Oil and Gas Resources Branch
Ph: 667-3427 or 1-800-661-0408, ext. 3427;
Fax: (867) 393-6262

Pipeline Unit
Ph: 393-7042 or 1-800-661-0408, ext. 7042;
Fax: (867) 393-7046

E-mail inquiries to: oilandgasnews.gov.yk.ca

An on-line version of The Explorer is published at www.yukonoilandgas.com

The Explorer is published by the Yukon Department of Economic Development

Effective April 1, the Oil and Gas Resources Branch and Pipeline Unit will be part of the new department of Energy, Mines and Resources.



The Yukon government has created *The Explorer* newsletter to help you keep up-to-date about current activities in our oil and gas industry. You will read about Yukon people and Yukon businesses who are working in the industry, and those who are preparing themselves to work in the industry. You will hear about training and educational events, business opportunities and new resources. We will also provide updates on activities of oil and gas companies working in the Yukon and how the Yukon is managing our resources and becoming pipeline ready.

With the second issue of *The Explorer* in your hands, we welcome any feedback you have.

Oil and Gas Exploration Rights Awarded in Peel Plateau

The successful bidder for Yukon’s third call for bids is Hunt Oil Company of Canada, Inc. The company is a subsidiary of the privately held Hunt Oil Company based in Dallas Texas and is engaged in the exploration, production, refining, marketing and transportation of oil and gas.

Hunt Oil Company of Canada, Inc. proposes to spend \$1.16 million doing exploratory work on the parcel in the Peel Plateau, which is in northeast Yukon, just south of the Arctic Circle. The parcel consists of an area of about 40,200 hectares, which falls within the primary use area of the Tetlit Gwich’in First Nation and the traditional territory of Nacho Nyak Dun First Nation.

Through a public review process, environmental, surface access and socio-economic comments and concerns about the area were carefully considered before the parcel was nominated.

There are no permanently inhabited areas within the parcel. The closest permanent settlement is at Eagle Plains, which is about 100 kilometres to the northwest of the parcel. Fort McPherson lies on the Peel River approximately 150 kilometres to the north of the parcel. The Peel Plateau has remained inactive for the past 23 years, since eighteen wells were drilled in the 1960s and 1970s.

A resource assessment of the Peel Plateau Basin, which was updated by the National Energy Board in November 2000, identified the potential for 2.29 trillion cubic feet of gas and 21.3 million barrels of oil.

As the successful bidder, Hunt Oil Company is awarded the right to explore for oil and gas over a specific period and to produce and market any discovered oil and gas. Before any oil and gas activity can begin, Hunt Oil Company must obtain an oil and gas activity licence, which triggers an environmental assessment.

Seismic Talk:

Bird Dog

Client Supervisor

Jug Hound, Jog Hustler, Juggie

Geophone Placement Engineer

Dog House

Recording Shack

Slashers

Line Cutters

Diggers

Shothole Drillers

Staging Queen

Coordinator at the staging area

Observer

Instrument Engineer

J.O. (Junior Observer)

Junior Instrument Engineer

Shooter

Detonates explosives

Vibe Pilot

Drives a vibrating truck

Skinner

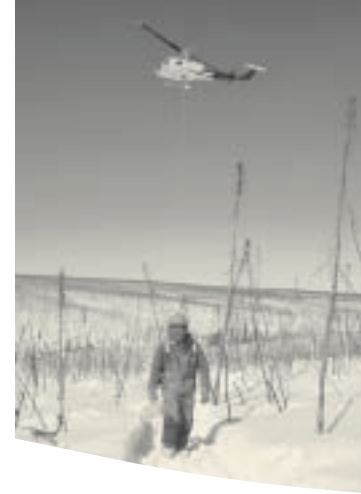
a Bulldozer Operator

Party Manager

Supervisor in charge of the operation for the contractor

Water Jack

Drives a water truck



Seismic Workers are Pioneer Prospectors

Trying to pin down what a geophysical contractor’s crew does during a seismic survey isn’t easy. There are no two days alike, though the one constant in each day is a full measure of challenges, both physical and mental.

Typically you wake up at six in the morning and put on your boots, which may still be wet from the day before. You put 35 pounds of gear on your back and make your way to your transport vehicle, which could be a truck, all-terrain vehicle or helicopter, depending on the terrain you’re working in. Don’t forget your lunch and make sure it is tucked inside your coveralls to keep it from freezing on winter days.

Upon arriving at the day’s work location, you have coffee and roll out a map across the hood of your truck to review the day’s workplan.

In the event you have to transect a line which has a mountain in the way, the plan may involve walking 27 kilometres that day.

Teams of four to six work together in a crew. At Eagle Plain there would be ten teams all moving in the same direction, sequentially coordinated with each other.

“Those who work for us are pioneer prospectors,” says Ken Robinson, former Manager of Geophysical Services for Devon Canada Corporation. “Mules are replaced by helicopters and Nodwells, their pick-axes by 25 million dollars worth of electronic hardware. Seismic workers are proud of what they do.”

Robinson believes that those who work on a seismic crew would be ideal colonists for Mars. Their motto: It’s dark and cold out there. So what’s new – let’s go to work and make something happen.

Yukon Expertise Needed in Montana Gas Wells

How did the Yukon-based company, Midnight Sun Drilling, end up sending a crew of Yukoners to work in the shallow gas wells of Montana for K-2 Energy Inc., a Calgary based company?

Midnight Sun Drilling has the technological expertise K-2 Energy Inc. needed to drill quality bore holes at a cost they could afford, explains Dave Jamieson of Midnight Sun Drilling.

This technology employs an air drilling technique called “reverse circulation” which Midnight Sun Drilling has been using for 15 years in the Yukon mining industry.

“Reverse circulation is a commonly used method in the mining and diamond exploration industries for boring quality holes,” says Jamieson. “We are the only ones using it in the oil industry, specifically in low pressure gas areas.”

With the help of the Yukon government’s Job Site Transportation Fund, Jamieson says his company was able to be price competitive and employ Yukoners when bidding on the Montana project.

“A lot of our staff are young Yukoners, many of whom were born here and whose parents and grandparents live here,” says Jamieson. “We hope to continue to hire Yukoners first and provide opportunities for young people to gain experience and keep their home base in the Yukon.”

Midnight Sun Drilling, formed by the Jamieson family in 1970, is focusing on other work in the oil and gas industry. They worked on surface casing in northern Alberta in 2001, are currently negotiating on a methane gas program in Wales, and are preparing to partner with another Yukon company in the event of a Yukon pipeline project.

Oil & Gas Secretariat of CYFN Prepare Plan

The Oil & Gas Secretariat of the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN) has formed a team of lawyers, negotiators, consultants, policy analysts and support staff to focus on ensuring that the Oil and Gas Preparedness Plan is completed by March 31st.

The Plan will prepare First Nations to benefit from direct and indirect economic benefits expected to arise from oil and gas exploration, pipeline planning and accompanying support service industries.

The expertise and planning needed to develop an Oil and Gas Preparedness

Plan will be assisted by \$379,800 in funding received from the federal Resource Partnerships Program, as well as contributions of \$38,000 from the Government of Yukon and \$12,200 from CYFN.

An overall strategy will help CYFN determine what training and skills are needed to benefit from employment and business opportunities, and identify ways their development corporations can benefit from oil and gas exploration elsewhere in the North, either alone or through joint ventures.



Yukon First Nations Join Forces with Local and National Businesses

In November of 2001, Kluane First Nation, Ta’an Kwach’an Council, Dakwakada Forest Products Inc. and White River First Nation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SNC-Lavalin International Inc., Golden Hill Ventures Ltd., and ACR Systems Inc. to pursue mutually beneficial business opportunities in the Yukon and abroad.

“When a big project like a pipeline comes along, how do we maximize the benefits for Yukoners?” asks Jon Rudolph, owner of Golden Hill Ventures. “By getting together, with some big muscle behind us, we can become a major player in a project like a pipeline, or other large projects.”

SNC-Lavalin, one of the leading groups of engineering and construction firms in the world, sees the North as the place for future development and wants to partner with those who own the land.

Golden Hill Ventures and Albert Rock, ACR Systems, bring local construction and technology-based electronics expertise into the mix. The First Nations bring their desire to participate in major projects that bring economic benefits and employment opportunities close to home.

“When we put the consortium together we were hoping we could be capable of doing big business everywhere, not just towards a pipeline project,” says Robin Bradasch,

Deputy Chief of Kluane First Nation. “If we are successful, it will be a good thing for Yukoners as a whole.”

The members of the consortium continue to plan and organize their business arrangement with the intention to bring interested industry and First Nation partners together to work towards creating a stronger force in the engineering, procurement and construction management areas.