# Update on Upstream Oil & Gas CEP Plan Implementation

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CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM PRODUCERS



# Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plan – Upstream Oil & Gas Sector (March 2011)

#### • Scope included water used for:

- Oil sands mining production
- Oil sands in situ production
- Conventional oil production
- Well drilling and completions
- Gas plants

#### • Excluded:

- Shale gas production (due to lack of available data)
- Midstream or downstream oil & gas activities
- Provided actual production and water use statistics from 2000 to 2009, and projections to 2015
- CEP performance measure:
  - Non-saline water use productivity; i.e., the volume of non-saline water used per volume of hydrocarbon produced
  - Projected improvements compared to baseline (average of 2002 to 2004)



# **CEP Plan Projected Improvements**

Activity	Non-saline water use productivity (m <sup>3</sup> non-saline water/m <sup>3</sup> oil or bitumen)				
	Baseline (2002-04)	Projected (2015)	Improvement (%)		
Oil sands mining (Athabasca only)	3.18	2.30	28%		
Oil sands mining (total fresh)	4.04	2.83	30%		
Oil sands in situ	0.63	0.34	47%		
Conventional oil	0.70	0.60	15%		
Total	1.98	1.50	24%		



# Sector Non-Saline Water Use

- Production increased by 82% between the baseline period and 2014
  - Baseline: 92.5 Mm3 OE
  - 2014: 168.2 Mm3 OE
- Total non-saline water use increased 10%
  - Baseline: 183.1 Mm3
  - 2014: 200.7 Mm3





#### Sector Non-Saline Water Use Productivity

- Improved 40% between the baseline period and 2014
  - Baseline: 1.98:1
  - 2014: 1.19:1





# **Oil Sands Mining Non-saline Water Use**

- Between the baseline period and 2014
  - 68% increase in bitumen production
  - 16% increase in nonsaline water use
- Mined bitumen production
  - Baseline: 35.9 Mm3
  - 2014: 60.2 Mm3
- Non-saline water use
  - Baseline: 144.9 Mm3
  - 2014: 168.3 Mm3
  - Use from Athabasca decreased over decade 114.2 ->99.7 Mm3



# **Oil Sands Mining Non-Saline Water Use Productivity**

- Improved 31% between the baseline period and 2014
  - Baseline: 4.04:1
  - 2014: 2.79:1
- Athabasca River water use productivity improved 48%
  - Baseline: 3.18:1
  - 2014: 1.66:1
  - Proportion sourced from Athabasca decreased 79% -> 59%
  - Increased proportion from runoff and mine depressurization water





# Oil Sands In Situ Non-saline Water Use

- Between the baseline period and 2014
  - 269% increase in bitumen production
  - 56% increase in nonsaline water use
- In situ bitumen production
  - Baseline: 20 Mm3 OE
  - 2014: 73.8 Mm3
- Non-saline water use
  - Baseline: 12.5 Mm3
  - 2014: 19.5 Mm3





### **Oil Sands In Situ Non-Saline Water Use Productivity**

- 1.0 Improved 58% between the Non-Saline Water Use Unit Rate (m<sup>3</sup> water used:m<sup>3</sup> bitumen produced) 60 70 70 80 80 80 baseline period and 2014 Baseline: 0.63:1 2014: 0.26:1 • Primarily due to: Saline All Non-Saline Water Sources for Oil Sands In-Situ Sub-Sector Note: Dotted lines are projection from 2011 CEP Plan (CAPP, 2011) groundwater use 0.0 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010
  - for steam generation
  - Reuse of mining wastewater streams for in situ makeup water



2011

2012

2013

2014

# **Conventional Oil Non-saline Water Use**

- Between the baseline period and 2014
  - 7% decrease in production
  - 50% decrease in nonsaline water use
- Conventional oil production
  - Baseline: 36.6 Mm3
  - 2014: 34.2 Mm3
- Non-saline water use
  - Baseline: 25.7 Mm3
  - 2014: 12.9 Mm3
  - Proportion of nonsaline water decreased from 75% to 62%





#### **Conventional Oil Non-Saline Water Use Productivity**





# **Performance Relative to Baseline**

Activity	Non-saline water use productivity (m <sup>3</sup> non-saline water/m <sup>3</sup> oil or bitumen)				
	Baseline (2002-04)	Actual (2014)	Actual Improvement	Projected Improvement	
Oil sands mining (Athabasca only)	3.18	1.66	48%	28%	
Oil sands mining (total fresh)	4.04	2.79	31%	30%	
Oil sands in situ	0.63	0.26	58%	47%	
Conventional oil	0.70	0.38	46%	15%	
Total	1.98	1.19	40%	24%	



# Adoption of New Best Practices and Technologies

- 21 CEP opportunities were identified in the 2011 CEP plan that
  - Reduce the volume of non-saline water required to produce bitumen, oil or gas; or
  - Reduce the environmental impact of water use
- CAPP members were surveyed to evaluate the 21 opportunities for
  - Level of adoption
  - Challenges
  - Successes
- Opportunities were assessed for impact on water use





# CEP Opportunities with Moderate to High Impact

- Reuse mining wastewater streams for in situ makeup water; e.g., blowdown from upgraders, tailings pond water
- Use saline groundwater for in situ steam generation
- Recycle produced water from oil and gas wells instead of disposal or release
- Updates to equipment and operating procedures for improved water efficiency
- Alternative, less water-intensive oil sands tailings technologies and management techniques
- Alternatives to non-saline water for drilling or fracturing fluids



# CEP Opportunities with Low to Moderate Impact

- Treat waste/produced/saline water for reuse rather than disposal
- Reuse municipal wastewater instead of diverting new water
- Use saline groundwater for pressure maintenance
- Use evaporator technology to treat blowdown at in situ operations
- Add polymers to waterfloods for improved productivity
- Treat water to increase recycling rate from tailings ponds



# **CEP Opportunities Not Adopted**

#### • Regulatory uncertainty

- Redefine water regs to prioritize use of lower quality non-saline water
  - Water Conservation Policy will identify alternative water sources - not released yet

#### In pilot or evaluation stages

- CO2 injection to enhance recovery instead of water injection
- Solvent injection to enhance recovery for in situ
- Combustion to enhance recovery for in situ

#### Cost and technical challenges

- Non-water-based mining extraction methods
- Storage of water in aquifers for future use
- Reduce evaporation from ponds



# **Concurrent Environmental or Social Benefits of CEP** Efforts

#### • Surface water storage options for oil sands mining

- Does not reduce water use, but can change timing of withdrawals to reduce impacts to aquatic ecosystems.
- Less water-intensive tailings technologies
  - Lower dependence on water from tailings ponds -> smaller ponds
  - Lower energy and GHG emissions since less water needs to be reheated for use in bitumen extraction

#### • Updated equipment & operating procedures

- Water security
- Reduced trucking (noise, dust, air emissions, costs)
- Competitive advantage
- Improved social licence to operate
- Recycle produced water from oil and gas wells
  - Reduced trucking
  - Reduced fresh water use



# Concurrent Benefits cont'd

#### • Evaporator technology

- Smaller physical footprint
- Polymer waterfloods
  - Lower GHG emissions



# **Environmental Tradeoffs of CEP Efforts**

#### Reduction of river flows

Where wastewater would have been released

#### • Increased land disturbance/surface footprint

- Pipelines used to move water, rather than source wells on-site or trucking
- New infrastructure

#### Increased GHG emissions

- Pumping alternative water sources over distances requires energy
- Trucking water in
- Water treatment processes
- Evaporator technology

#### • Risk of spills/pipeline failures

- Transmission of saline/produced/waste water
- Additional waste generation
  - Water treatment processes



# Adjustments Needed to Sector Plan

- Inclusion of shale gas, tight gas and tight oil water use
  - Once water use statistics are available
- Address overlap between existing CEP opportunities
  - Combine if a plan update is undertaken



# Summary

- Upstream oil and gas sector has made significant improvements in non-saline water use productivity
- Improvements were equal to or higher than originally projected across all sub-sectors
  - Oil sands mining Athabasca River only: 48% (projected: 28%)
  - Oil sands mining total: 31% (projected: 28%)
  - Oil sands in situ: 58% (projected: 47%)
  - Conventional oil: 46% (projected: 15%)
- Overall, the sector had a productivity increase of 40%
  - 2011 CEP plan projection: 24%
  - Exceeded the Alberta target of 30% improvement relative to baseline
- Improvements were made due to many changes, especially:
  - Operational and equipment improvements allowing the switching from non-saline water to other quality-impaired sources (e.g., saline groundwater, produced water, and municipal/industrial wastewater)

