

Mike Doyle is the President of the CAGC – the Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors - representing the business interests of the seismic industry within Canada. The CAGC website may be found at www.cagc.ca.

Over the past five plus years CAPP and the CAGC have been involved with the Federal Government and the Provinces of Newfoundland and Nova Scotia over the release of seismic data into the public domain after confidentiality periods expire (5 years for Oil Companies and 10 years for Spec Companies). This issue has been more important as the digital world has improved the available product. In addition the Provinces have pushed for local shared data repositories (SDR's) and as such the resolution of this issue has been paramount to industry before the commitment to such an undertaking.

A synopsis of the issue and our most recent letter to the Governments follows here:

In our recent meetings with CAPP we have come to the mutual agreement that in order to conclude the issue of seismic data release we have to agree to disagree on the final issues. The CAGC, representing Speculative Seismic Companies, have different business drivers and objectives than Oil Companies. In addition, it would appear to be quite clear that the two sets of companies have different obligations in the way of work commitments et al.

As such the one area of contention between groups is basically the agreement on what take-away if any an interested party could have from a local SDR. As we lack the work commitment principle and value seismic data as our primary business asset, we must stand by our original request that any take-away from our data set requires some form of licensing agreement and remuneration even if it is a relatively small monetary amount. Speculative seismic must protect its data as a long term business solution. Failure to do so erodes the business drivers themselves for completing such seismic work in the first place. Our business is to sell the data – to market the area – therefore we believe we already meet the high level objectives of the Governments.

We attach our set of proposed changes as it relates to our spec seismic data. We recognize the value of completing this issue as soon as possible in order to move forward into the digital world and to achieve the concept of local SDR's.

Proposed Changes To Data Release

Present

- For 2D surveys, full resolution, fully annotated migrated seismic sections displayed at a horizontal scale of 1:100,000 and a vertical scale of 5 cm/second.
- For 2D, seismic shot point maps on a

Proposed Changes

- Viewing disclosure of full resolution migrated seismic sections showing tie points to Owner's previous data in the area but with no other annotations. (See additional comments below)
- 2D stick maps showing tie lines but without shot

working scale showing the seismic data in relation to operator's previous geophysical data in the area.

point or any survey information. Scale of 1:1,500,000

- A digital copy of the shot point location data. All location data should reference the NAD83 datum.
- For 3D surveys, full resolution migrated seismic lines and traces. The spacing is 1000 meters for lines and 1500 meters for traces.
- Time slices every 200 ms.
- For 2D and 3D surveys, digital migrated seismic in SEG Y format.
- Locality map showing the location of the survey with respect the licenses involved and latitude and longitude co-ordinates.
- A bin center map showing lines and traces with detailed survey information.
- Migrated sections and maps are submitted in the form of paper or mylar. Digital data is submitted on 8 mm tapes in SEG Y format.
- No survey information will be released.
- The spacing will now be 2000 meters for lines and 3000 meters for traces.
- Time slices will no longer be available
- This data must be available for license through the owner of the data for a fee.
- No change, but 1:1,500,000 scale.
- A bin center map showing the outline of the survey (in a box format) with only latitude and longitude co-ordinates. Scale of 1:1,500,000
- Migrated stack sections and maps will be submitted on tiff files.

Additional Comments

- Data is disclosed through viewing for free and with no contractual obligations.
- Digital processed data in SEG Y format and field data are not available.
- Data is viewed for free (no owner fee) but the Viewer of the data must sign a Confidentially Agreement with Owner.
- Images, or Digital processed data in SEG Y format including field data will be available from the Owner subject to a License Agreement between the Owner and the Recipient. A license fee up to 10%/35% respectively of project costs may be charged for these take-away products.

It would appear that both CAPP and the CAGC should reach some sort of respective agreement with the Governments during 2004.

From The Thursday Files:

We must never allow our past to destroy our future.

- Tyrone O'Sullivan