

**EMD Oil (Tar) Sands Committee Report**  
2005 Annual Leadership Meeting  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

This has been a very busy year, organizing the talk and poster sessions for the AAPG in Calgary. In total we have 1.5 sessions of oral presentations; and one poster session on Oil Sands and Heavy Oil. It has taken over 2 years for some of the participants to get permission, etc. to give their talks – i.e. some were invited to present at the Dallas Meeting, but only are now able to do so, due to industry/company concerns. My only concern was that out of the 2/3 of the submissions to the oral that I accepted, a further 1/3 reduction was done by the organizing committee on oral talks that we had already accepted. This was partly due to the fact that I counted the poster oil sand/heavy oil session separate from the oral oil sand/heavy oil session, whereas the organizing committee counted them together, and then did a further cut. We were successful in getting a ½ session added to the orals, but considering the importance of the oil sands to Canada, and the high profile of this commodity, it would have been more appropriate to have 2 full oral sessions. I think the organizing committee misjudged totally the responses and interests of the conference being hosted in Calgary, and opted to go with some ‘more academic’ sessions over unconventional resources.

A preliminary field guide was prepared by me for the proposed EMD-AAPG field trip on the oil sands. Unfortunately, the organizing committee decided that one pre- and one post-field trip was too much on the oil sands, and the unlikelihood of both being filled, resulted in the EMD-AAPG oil sands field trip being cancelled prior to the advertisements going out. The SEPM-AAPG oil sands field trip was then advertised, and the latest numbers indicate that there is a waiting list of at least 5 participants who want to go, and are awaiting cancellations. It appears that the organizing committee's concerns regarding under-subscription were unfounded; and that, in all likelihood, both trips could have gone with at least a break-even enrollment.

An update for the EMD public website on oil sands has been done, and sent to Brian Cardott, for final editing and posting on the website. The website remains an important first link for people interested in oil sands. On average, there are one or two public inquiries per month concerning oil sands to my email that people got from the website.

I have not moved much further on getting more people to work with me on the oil sands, and will explore other participants next year.

Fran Hein  
EMD Oil Sands Committee Chair