

Session Abstract: This initial session is intended to introduce the participants to the wide range of research activities in progress. It is intended that unique facilities and programs will be described. This session, together with keynote presentations on arctic and antarctic opportunities for development, should provide workshop participants with an overview of cold regions considerations.

"Oil and Gas Opportunities in the Canadian North"

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Author: A graduate of Dalhousie University in Halifax, Ian Doig has been directly associated with the Canadian oil industry for nearly 30 years and has an extensive knowledge of and contact with Canadian and U.S. energy policy makers at the federal, provincial and state levels. Mr. Doig has closely followed the world size Canadian east coast and Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta plays for the past 20 years and has written and published major reports discussing their unfolding situations and potentials. His wide base of knowledge in the Canadian oil industry is balanced by his studies of the North Sea and Australian oil plays. Mr. Doig has lectured in Canada, the United States and in Europe and has advised a broad cross-section of the Canadian industry in regards to dealings with government. He has often appeared as an expert witness on energy matters before Canadian and U.S. government bodies.

Abstract: Lying at the mouth of North America's third largest river system, the Beaufort Sea/Mackenzie Delta area in the Canadian north is as yet another cross-over point. Since oil and gas exploration drilling commenced in the early 1960s, the area has been on a continual roller coaster of highs and lows. Now in a low cycle, its strategic importance is about to take off again.

With North American supply/demand balance of light/medium oils undergoing an upheaval and with the Canada/U.S. free trade agreement now in place, the major companies are renewing their data bases on the Canadian north. Helping this out is the application now in process to export natural gas reserves out of the Mackenzie Delta and an oil project in the Beaufort Sea which needs another push to make it to the development stage. Waiting in the wings is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Depending on how the U.S. resolves this issue, joint Canada/U.S. exploration, development and transportation projects are poised to come to light in the next decade.

Mr. Doig takes the audience quickly through the past, comments on the politics of the present and gives his views on the future of the oil and gas industry in the Canadian north.