

Drilling rights granted

The federal government has approved six exploration agreements with companies for drilling offshore Nova Scotia.

The agreements, for a three-year term, cover the drilling of six exploratory wells, one in each of six designated areas.

Agreements were issued to:

- a consortium of eight companies, Husky Oil Operations Limited, Roxy Petroleum Limited, L.K. Resources Limited, Lochiel Exploration Limited, Petroventures (1979) Limited, Ranger Oil (Canada) Limited, Universal Explorations Limited and Petro-Canada Exploration Incorporated. This agreement covers 366,000 acres centred 145 miles southeast of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island. The eight companies have jointly agreed to conduct some 650 miles of seismic surveys, to be followed by pre-drilling studies;

- a joint venture formed of Onaping Resources Limited and Scotia Resources Limited, covered some 2.3 million acres;

- Inco Energy Resources Limited, wholly-owned subsidiary of Inco Limited, covering 137,000 acres southeast of Louisbourg, Cape Breton Island; and

- Hudson's Bay Oil and Gas Company Limited, covering 410,000 acres.

Telidon used by Venezuelan government to improve communications

Canada's high technology, interactive computer system, Telidon, is being used in Caracas to help the Venezuelan government streamline its operations.

The videotex system, developed by Canada's federal Department of Communications, is supervised by the Central Office of Statistics and Information (OCEI) to provide the public with consistent "one-stop" information on government programs, according to OCEI chief Dr. Hector Martinez.

When the Canadian system becomes fully operational, Dr. Martinez says the OCEI, in conjunction with other ministries, will be able to provide instantaneous, accurate government information on all government policies.

Last July, the Venezuelan government bought the Canadian system as an experiment at a cost of \$750,000 (U.S.). Equipment consists of six Information Provider Systems (IPS) terminals and 30 user terminals.

The machines will be distributed

among various institutions in Venezuela for information input and will appear in such public places as air terminals, libraries, post offices and government tourism offices.

Obtaining instant information in Venezuela will be a vast improvement over the old system where a person might have to visit several offices before learning how to obtain government forms or permits of some sort or other.

One-stop information

With the Canadian system, someone seeking information need only visit or phone one of the user terminals to discover exactly what is required for a particular permit or program and the fee, if one is applicable.

In the first stage, the OCEI will provide government, health, welfare, tourism, and educational program information to residents of the capital. Public information will be stored in the system as well. The Telidon system will also store demographic information and statistics obtained from last October's census. The highest priority has been given to emergency information — medical, fire and police.

While the original data base is being selected and edited by the OCEI and other government agencies, the system is designed to monitor the information requested so that omissions can be filled in and existing data updated on the basis of what has been asked of the system.

If the one-year Caracas experiment

works as well as expected, the Venezuelan government plans to purchase a further 70 Telidon user terminals, at an estimated cost of \$1 million.

The final stage of the program would see a Telidon terminal in every Venezuelan home, providing government information and other services — such as at-home banking and grocery shopping and news programming — on a pay-by-use basis.

Users of the Telidon system are able to retrieve, by phone or interactive cable, information stored in computer data bases and have it displayed on modified TV receivers or business video terminals. Telidon has a capability allowing users to transmit graphic, tonal or textual information to each other or to a data bank. Connected to the TV is a push-button unit like a pocket calculator or a keyboard unit like a typewriter for retrieving or inserting information.

In North America, Telidon will bring news, advertizing, shopping, mail, banking facilities and education into the home over the telephone, cable or broadcast networks. Users will be able to make airplane reservations and carry out banking transactions without leaving the home.

Telidon equipment is being manufactured by Canadian companies such as Electrohome Limited of Kitchener, Ontario; Northern Telecom of Montreal; SED Systems Incorporated of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; Microtel Pacific of Vancouver and Norpak Limited of Pakenham, Ontario.



Telidon is being used by the Venezuelan government to improve efficiency.