

April Section Meeting: Oil Sands: The Promise and the Process

Synthetic crude oil produced from northern Alberta's oil sands has evolved over the last 35 years from a bold and challenging idea to a multibillion dollar industry. With proven reserves second only to Saudi Arabia, economically unlocking oil sands reserves has become a large part of our future energy supply. Since Canada is the largest supplier of crude to the United States, we need to understand how synthetic crude oil will affect our future for years to come.

In terms of size, dollars and longevity, one can only describe the oil sands business as huge! From the available reserves to the equipment used, this is a vast resource that is quickly becoming a world leader in energy supply. Suncor Energy was the first producer of commercial synthetic crude and is currently the largest single investor in northern Alberta oil sands. Suncor production has recently exceeded one billion barrels, and is investing billions of dollars for additional production capacity.

Synthetic crude oil has many of the same characteristics as traditional crude. But, by its very nature, it also presents its own unique qualities and processing challenges. This presentation will review the history of the oil sands region, discuss the processes used to mine, extract and upgrade the oil, and review the quality and economics of synthetic crude processing.

Michael P. Morgan is the General Manger for Pipelines and Asset Optimization for Suncor, USA.

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April Section Meeting

- Topic:** Oil Sands: The Promise and the Process
- Speaker:** Michael (Mike) P. Morgan,
General Manager for Pipelines and
Asset Optimization for Suncor, USA
- Date:** Tuesday, April 18th
- Time:** 6:00 Social Hour
6:45 Dinner
7:30 Presentation
- Location:** Denver Athletic Club
3rd Floor, 1325 Glenarm Place
303-534-1211
- Menu:** Steak Florentine and Chicken Breast
with artichoke hearts, tomatoes,
kalamata olives, garlic, fresh herbs
and olive oil; served with a Caprice
salad, grilled marinated vegetables,
roasted red potatoes, fresh assorted
breads and tiramisu
- Cost:** Members: \$20
Non-Members: \$25
Students & Unemployed: \$10

Please RSVP by **NOON THURSDAY, April 13th** (early RSVPs are greatly appreciated!). Indicate your name, phone number, and number of attendees by e-mailing Tom Wellborn at rockyaiche@yahoo.com. Alternatively, you leave a voice mail for Tom at 303-933-0533.

**SEE SPECIAL PARKING
NOTE ON MAP PAGE.**

(continued from page 1)

Mike received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State University in 1974. He joined Conoco in 1973 as a process engineer at the Wrenshall, Minnesota refinery.

Mike has held various process engineering positions at four of Conoco's refineries as well as Director of the U.S. Refining Economics & Planning group in Houston. He has 15 years of direct operating leadership experience as Operations Superintendent and later as Process Superintendent at the Ponca City and Denver facilities. In addition, Mike spent two years as Chief Engineer in charge of major project engineering for Conoco's three inland refineries, and has provided consulting services to Conoco's refineries in the U.K. and Czech Republic. As Optimization Manager for the Denver Refinery, he was a member of the Refinery Leadership Team, led the Operations Management Team, and represented the refinery on the cross functional Operations Optimization Team. He led and coordinated the refinery Operations Planning and Economics group, Advanced Process Controls, Laboratory and the Project Engineering Design and Construction group. Mike also sponsored the Operator Training and Advanced Controls across Manufacturing networks.

In his new role with Suncor, Mike is responsible for the Rocky Mountain Pipeline operation, and supports future Suncor growth and development opportunities studies in the U.S. His current focus is capturing the synergies available from integrating the Suncor Refinery with the recently acquired Valero facility.

Seeking Program Co-Chair for Joint 2007 Rocky Mountain AIChE/ACS meeting

The Rocky Mountain sections of ACS and AIChE will be jointly hosting a 2 ½-day regional meeting in September 2007. The meeting will be held in Denver, but is expected to draw folks from around the region, and possibly the country. We are actively seeking a program chair person from AIChE to work with the ACS co-chair in planning the agenda and speakers. The logistics planning will be led by others. Planning will start as soon as possible after identifying the AIChE co-chair. If you are interested in supporting this important event, please contact Kevin Milliman at 303-804-2374 or

Kevin.milliman@earthtech.com at your earliest convenience. This is a fantastic opportunity to network with your peers in both ACS and AIChE and to support our organization in its aim to bring more value to our members.

Thank you!

Jim Dodgen has faithfully served as the Rocky Mountain AIChE Section's representative to the Colorado Engineering Council (CEC) for several years. Please say thank you to Jim next time you see him at our local section meeting. We welcome Dan LaRiviere as the new CEC representative for the 2006-2007 program year.

Nominations for AIChE Board Members

With the 2005-2006 Program Year coming to a close, it is time to give a big thank you to our board members for the past year. Their leadership has continued to provide us with interesting meeting topics and speakers. A special thanks goes to Tom Wellborn for two years as program chair where he has done an excellent job lining up speakers and fun fellowship events.

The following members have been nominated for the 2006-2007 AIChE Program Year:

Kevin Milliman, Director
Tom Wellborn, Chair
Craig Turchi, Vice-Chair / Program
Dan LaRiviere, Treasurer
Craig Wildemuth, Secretary

If you would like to volunteer or submit a nomination for any of these positions prior to the election, please contact Kevin Milliman at 303-933-0533 or Kevin.Milliman@earthtech.com.

NEW MEXICO CORNER

New Mexico members are getting active and organized. Kerrie is searching for volunteers to speak/present an engineering topic, so please contact her if you know of anyone available in the Albuquerque area. For more information about the New Mexico meetings, contact Kerrie Pratt at PrattKL@cdm.com

AIChE Meetings

2006

Apr 23-27	2006 Spring Nat'l Orlando, FL
Apr 23-27	World Congress on Particle Technology Orlando, FL
June 11-14	Process Develop. Symposium Palm Springs, CA
Sept 5-7	2nd Int'l Conf. on Bioengineering & Nanotechnology Santa Barbara, CA
Sept 10-14	Safety in Ammonia Plants Vancouver
Nov 12-17	2006 Annual Mtg. San Francisco, CA

For further information, contact
National AIChE.

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The objectives of AIChE are to advance chemical engineering in theory and practice, to maintain a high professional standard among its members, and to serve society, particularly where chemical, engineering can contribute to the public interest.

How to Place an Ad or Job Posting

Members: Free; Non-members: \$25.00 for each article

Deadline: 1st Tuesday of each month

Email your text to: lauramoes@msn.com

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Rocky Mountain District of AIChE meets the third Tuesday of every month. Please join us for our last meeting of this program year.

May 16: CSU's Dr. Patrick Byrne - Status of Transgenic Crops

No meetings in June, July, or August. See you again in September!

Rocky Mountain AIChE News
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On the Web at:

<http://www.aiche-rm.org>

*Send your E-MAIL address to
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this newsletter electronically!*



DIRECTIONS:

The Denver Athletic Club (DAC) is located in central downtown Denver between 13th, 14th, Glenarm and Welton Streets.

The parking garage is located on the corner of 14th and Welton, the entrance on the 14th Street side.

SPECIAL NOTE: A special flat \$5 parking rate (\$2.50/hr otherwise) has been arranged if you park at the DAC garage, but your entry ticket **MUST** be validated at the front desk – mention AIChE.