



Top Analysis employees Tanya Fagnan, left, a business development rep, and Trevor Phenix, a production consultant, check the quick view menu on the monitor for available data on every thermal heavy oil operation in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Photo by Geoff Lee

Top Analysis mines SAGD data

Edmonton – In a nutshell, Top Analysis is a data mining and processing company with software tools to help producers optimize their heavy oil thermal operations and wells.

The Calgary-based company purchases raw data on thermal projects from the Alberta and Saskatchewan government and presents it to clients on a web-based format that makes sense.

The company focuses on providing useful data relating to thermal heavy oil operations in Alberta and Saskatchewan utilizing steam-assisted gravity drainage or SAGD technology.

Their Top Analysis software and regulatory software generated a lot of inquiries from cost conscious operators in Western Canada during the World Heavy Oil Congress in Edmonton March 24-26.

The software products fit the show theme “Producing More with Less” during the current global low oil price downturn.

“What we actually do is we supply data for every single thermal oil sands operation in Alberta and Saskatchewan that’s operating SAGD wells,” said Trevor Phenix, Top’s production consultant at the Shaw

Conference Centre.

“So we have drilling and completion data, fully metric operational data and all regulatory applications.”

Top Analysis software is touted as a multi-discipline tool designed to eliminate the obstacles encountered when evaluating thermal projects.

“We allow you to quickly and easily access any of that data for your own personal use to develop other properties, whether you’re looking at your own internal properties, or external properties,” said Phenix.

The available well data includes all production and injection volumes, observation well pressures and temperatures, operating pressures and temperatures and directional drilling and completion details.

“We manipulate it and add value to it, so that when you actually view it, it’s in a manner that actually makes sense and allows you to quickly and easily to do your internal evaluation,” said Phenix.

Top Analysis software organizes data and links SAGD wells to pairs, pairs to pads and pads to projects in a tree view computer menu for quick analysis at various levels of any project.

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Quick view volume charts, drill profiles, well counts and mapped drilling paths are available and clients can export data and produce customized charts in Excel.

Data is also available to view on types of enhanced oil recovery fluids used in SAGD applications.

"It's extremely valuable. What we allow clients to do is basically take a look and see what they are doing, potentially, and what they could be doing to improve the overall process," said Phenix.

"We have a lot of clients who look at their own internal data because we present it in a manner that may make more sense than they have it internally."

Clients can also compare any number of companies, projects, pads and infill wells.

"We also allow you to look at what other companies are doing, like some of the enhancements they are doing to their operations, how successful they've been and the associate timelines for regulatory approvals," added Phenix.

"Then you can actually look at all of their individual regulatory applications to help you build your own regulatory applications to eventually submit, and potentially proceed with that type of operation."

The Top Analysis regulatory software is a searchable in-situ application database with a user friendly

interface for finding and reviewing regulatory applications.

"We are software as a service, so you simply subscribe to an annual subscription that you pay for. You log into our site to get the data," said Tanya Fagnan, a business development rep about the company's business model.

Top's advantage is that it is too difficult and costly for companies to produce their own useful data from the government sources.

"If they did it themselves they would have to pay probably double by the time they paid all the licences for all the subscriptions, and then they would pay an engineer to do the sorting and organizing that we do," added Fagnan.

The Top Analysis team has extensive experience with SAGD in areas of operations, engineering, regulatory processes, production accounting and custom petroleum analysis software.

"The biggest thing is the data itself comes in a very difficult format to utilize. You typically need third-party software to extract it in a way that it makes sense," said Phenix.

"If you were to go access the data itself, it's in a more programmable type format where you need to extract it and manipulate it. We do all that work for you."

"We do a lot of value-add in terms of getting wells into pairs and specific groupings."

"We've built the reports and the

exports so they would fundamentally help the reservoir production engineers or the development engineers and the regulatory folks using the data."

Top Analysis's store of data includes historical data dating back to 2001 with new data and files updated on a daily basis on their servers.

New volumetric data is about three weeks behind real time.

"In terms of regulatory we have it – every single night – we update individual files so it's very recent," said Phenix.

"It's not real-time like a field data capture system, but it's about as close

as you can get."

Despite the current low oil price environment Phenix said they've been as busy as ever in Calgary.

"We are busy because we are one of the tools that allow companies to optimize their current and existing operations," he said.

"We don't just help long term development we help real time so we haven't really seen much of a slowdown yet."

"That being said, I can imagine if this carries on too long we may have some difficulties getting some new bigger clients but for the most part it's been business as usual." ▶



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