

CAE Energy Pathways Project Sparks Russia- Canada Collaboration

Academician Eduard Volkov, Member of the Russian Academy of Sciences, was invited to Calgary by CAE President John Leggat to discuss the status of oil shale pyrolysis technology. Professor Volkov and Clem Bowman were two of the co-winners of the 2008 Global Energy International Prize.

In a meeting sponsored by the Alberta Energy Research Institute, Professor Volkov described the technology that has been developed in Russia and demonstrated on a one million tonne shale oil per year plant. Bill Taciuk, developer of the Taciuk oil sand and oil shale processor, presented highlights from recent demonstrations of his process on oil shale from a variety of deposits throughout the world. Although the overall processing concepts of the Russian and Canadian concepts are similar, there are distinct differences in the way the individual processing components are integrated. It was suggested that the two processes would have preferred applications depending on plant size and shale oil characteristics. Possibilities for collaboration in further commercialization of the processes were discussed. These two 'dry' processes could overcome the water use issues involved in the current surface mining processes used in the Alberta oil sands, an objective identified in the CAE Energy Pathways Phase 1 Report.

Following the meeting, the participants toured the Taciuk Pilot Plant in Calgary.



Academician Eduard Volkov (left) and Bill Taciuk (right) stand in front of the Taciuk oil sand processor, as part of the Calgary meeting arranged by Clem Bowman