Regulatory Data Standards Committee

Meeting summary for December 16, 2016

Communications and Events

Letters of support for the project have been received from regulators in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Michigan, and are posted here.

Plans are underway for a presentation at the Houston Data Management Symposium, Feb 28 – March 1, 2017. A presentation has been accepted at the PNEC in May 2017.

Guest Presentation: Directional Surveys

Jim Stolle is a global expert on well directional surveys. Mr. Stolle received a B.S. in Geology, and subsequently a M.S. in Geology with a specialty in Stratigraphy from Brigham Young University.

Stolle presented an overview of work he has been doing to examine directional survey information provided to regulators in the US (with plans to extend his research to Canada and other international jurisdictions, depending on the interest and support he receives).

Jim suggested a few best practice recommendations that illustrate how regulators might work collectively to help improve the consistency and quality of industry directional survey. Jim envisions a well formed digital directional survey data set that can be tested automatically for conformance to an industry accepted set of data rules.

- Reference Information
  - North reference type, map grid references and geodetic references should be mandatory for all regulator submissions. Where appropriate, regulators may require specific references to be used, ensuring that all regional data is consistently referenced.
    - Missing references result in data that is untrustworthy.
    - Inconsistent references require conversion algorithms and subsequent inaccuracies.
  - Units of measure for all measured values should be mandatory, with requirements for a specific UOM system set by the regulator.
    - Many unit conversions are imprecise (such as feet to meters), and lead to conversions that may not be sufficiently accurate.

- Submission requirements
  - Regulator should clarify whether they want all survey runs or just composite results.
  - Regulators should clarify whether they require one directional survey (usually the first), or updates as new surveys are run

- Vocabularies
  - Terminology and vocabulary should be clear and as unified across regulators as possible.

- Format
  - Data should be provided in a digital format that is machine readable. There are several formats available (LAS, WITSML).
  - A well-formed directional survey that is digitally structured should be automatically testable for quality and completeness, adding value and efficiency to all stakeholder operations.
Data Rules Library
Trudy Curtis (PPDM CEO) reviewed the work being done by the PPDM Rules Committee, and plans for future development. Currently, the Rules Committee is working towards logical rule families that will allow automated testing and validation of data types (such as well logs, directional surveys or facilities data). Work to be done is contingent on resources and funding; currently this is sustained through membership fees.

All RDS committee members agree that these families of rules would be highly valuable to them and their constituency. Most members felt that pipelines, greenhouse gasses and well logs were the highest priorities for value. Most would likely be able to contribute Subject Matter Experts to the program if we are able to fund the work.

Well Status and Classification (Work Group).
Members of the RDS committee have either personally reviewed or requested some internal review of the existing PPDM Well Status and Classification work. This review is continuing but not complete.

‘What is a Completion’ (Work Group)
The What is a Completion work group has been launched and is making good progress toward their deliverables. More information can be found here.

Infrastructure and Support
Various mechanisms for funding the work to be done were discussed, along with some early budget proposals. This information will be made available once it is in more complete form.

Get involved
A great opportunity is still open for regulators to participate in the formation, understanding, and transformation of Global Energy Regulatory Data Standards! This common discussion and approach to addressing current and emerging regulatory requirements for data, analytics, and consistency is the foundation for the future. Those who are interested should contact PPDM (KristelI@ppdm.org). For more information about this project, visit the website here.

Who are the players?
1. Regulators
   - Co-chair: Arthur Boykiw (VP of Information Services) – Canada: Alberta Energy Regulator
   - Co-chair: John Broderick (Business Transformation Project Manager) – US: Bureau of Land Management
   - Alex Ross (Senior Information Strategist) – Australia (SA): Energy Resources Division, Department of State Development
   - Mark Ducksbury (Manager, Data Management Team) – Australia: National Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA), Dept. of Industry, Innovation and Science
   - Mark Snow (Supervisor, Permits and Bonding Unit) – US: Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Oil, Gas and Minerals
   - Thomas Schmidt (Manager, Well Data) – Canada: Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy

2. Industry Operators and Data Vendors
   - Floy Baird (Supervisor, Better Data Faster Team, Geosciences Services) – Devon
   - Sean Udell (VP Operations and Technology) – geoLOGIC systems
   - Peter MacDougall (Canadian Well Data, Government Relations) – IHS Markit

3. PPDM Association
   - Trudy Curtis (CEO) – PPDM Association
   - Ingrid Kristel (Senior Project Manager) – PPDM Association
   - Elise Sommer (Senior Community Coordinator) – PPDM Association