



ALBERTA
ENERGY

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-West*

FEB 18 2010

AR3939

Mr. Terence Gannon
Suite 417, 3553 - 31 Street NW
Calgary, Alberta T2L 2K7

Dear Mr. Gannon:

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding making petroleum well data freely available to the public. As Minister of Energy, I am pleased to respond.

The Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB) collects and disseminates non-renewable resources data for the purpose of ensuring that the development of these resources is done so in a manner that is fair, responsible, and in the public interest.

The General Well Data file you reference is a substantial data set related to over 400,000 wells. The volume of data in this collection exceeds the content provided by most other jurisdictions.

This data is made available to the public and industry using a cost recovery model to partially offset the costs and efforts expended in collecting, managing, and providing the data. The ERCB retains the proprietary rights on all data sold.

The Government of Alberta supports the approach utilized by the ERCB relative to your inquiry.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,

Ron Liepert
Minister of Energy