

**Final Mission Report
Travel to Houston, Texas, United States (U.S.)
January 9 – 16, 2006**

Executive Summary:

Honourable Greg Melchin and Glenn Shepherd, Executive Assistant to the Minister travelled to Houston, Texas January 9 to 16, 2006. Liaison and ground support for some meetings and tours was provided by representatives of the Canadian consulate Dallas and Houston offices.

Minister Melchin met with U.S. energy industry leaders and toured energy sector facilities. The focus of the trip was to examine best practices in feedstock and infrastructure integration, learn about refining and competitive manufacturing of petrochemicals and value-added products in the Gulf region, and encourage further U.S. investment into Alberta.

Learnings from the meetings and tours will assist in the development of an *Alberta Integrated Energy Strategy*. The Government of Alberta is currently working on the strategy that will go beyond the physical integration of oil and gas commodities and extend to the consideration of factors such as labour, capital and environmental management. This strategy is but one part of accomplishing a government vision to meet the expectations of Albertans as the collective owners of the province's energy resources and maximizing energy opportunities in the global market place.

Mission Objectives:

- To learn from the Texas experience and identify opportunities for partnership/collaboration in areas of mutual interest related to energy.
- To raise awareness of Alberta as a secure supplier of oil and natural gas, committed to developing a diversified energy and refining sector.
- To raise awareness of energy related value-added investment opportunities in Alberta.

Accomplishments

Minister Melchin found the meetings and tours in Houston and area to be productive and informative, as the Gulf area energy industry is about ten times the size of Alberta's, with more diverse value-added components. Minister Melchin's visits helped raise awareness of Alberta as Canada's energy leader. The province's profile as increasingly becoming a leader in the global energy market was enhanced and business investment into Alberta was encouraged. The meetings also provided an opportunity for Alberta to continue to build its cross-border relationship with the United States. As well, Minister Melchin was able to gather insight that will assist in the development of an *Alberta Integrated Energy Strategy*.

January 9, 2006

Minister Melchin traveled to Houston.

January 10, 2006

Minister Melchin met with executives from **Dow Texas Operations** in Freeport, a leader in hydrocarbon upgrading and petrochemicals, and toured Dow's Raw Materials Centre.

As well, the Minister met with executives of **ExxonMobil Refining and Supply**, a leader in oil and gas exploration, production and value-added upgrading. The Minister also toured the ExxonMobil Baytown refinery and petrochemical complex.

Murray Smith, Minister-Counsellor in Alberta's Washington office also participated in the Dow and ExxonMobil meetings and tours.

January 11, 2006

Minister Melchin met with executives of the **Houston Port Authority Ship Channel** and toured the petrochemical complexes. The Port tour provided an overview of the high volume of trade that flows through the Ship Channel which sustains the Texas petrochemicals sector.

Murray Smith, Minister-Counsellor in Alberta's Washington office also participated in this meeting and tour.

January 12, 2006

Minister Melchin met with the founding partner of **Groppe, Long & Littell**, renowned oil and gas analysts and forecasters, to share views on energy futures and Alberta's potential in the industry.

Minister Melchin also met with officials of **Texas Eastern Pipeline Products Company** (TEPPCO), a major energy pipeline integrator with upstream, downstream and midstream interests including gathering, storage, fractionation, transportation, distribution and marketing of petroleum related products. The Minister toured the TEPPCO Baytown Terminal.

January 13, 2006

Minister Melchin met with executives of **Kinder Morgan Inc.**, a US leader in energy transportation and storage that has recently expanded into western Canada.

Minister Melchin also toured **the Wiess Energy Hall of the Houston Museum of Natural Science**. This facility has recently developed a world-class display featuring the application of scientific concepts and advanced technology in the oil and gas industry. As well, the Minister met with a museum executive and provided information about Alberta's energy resources and growing oil sands industry.

January 16, 2006

Minister Melchin met with executives of **ConocoPhillips**, an international, integrated energy company with interests in exploration, production, refining, marketing, supply, transportation, gathering and processing. The Minister also toured ConocoPhillips offshore production operations in the Gulf of Mexico.

The Minister traveled back to Alberta.

Official Delegation

Honourable Greg Melchin, Minister of Energy
Glenn Shepherd, Executive Assistant to the Minister

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