



Converging on a Single Datum

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Abstract

The Canadian Oil & Gas Industry Move from NAD27 to NAD83

The Canadian Oil & Gas industry is at the threshold of an adjustment to a single mapping datum. One of the positive impacts of this undertaking is a heightened awareness about coordinate issues.

It's no longer possible to ignore the multi-datum world. We already work with a mix of data that's referenced to the North American Datum 1983 (NAD83) and the North American Datum 1927 (NAD27.) Due to regulatory requirements and modern survey practices, "surface" (drilling, facilities) work is conducted in NAD83 coordinates. Subsurface data for the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin continues to be interpreted in NAD27 coordinates. Air-photos, satellite images and Lidar data (acquired in NAD83 coordinates) are incorporated into NAD27 subsurface maps. Soon it will require more effort to stay in NAD27 than to complete the change to NAD83.

The Oil & Gas community faces the challenge of how to manage the transition from NAD27 to NAD83.

- What are the roles of the provincial, territorial, federal governments and regulatory boards in the move to NAD83?
- How is CAPP supporting the industry move?
- What can Oil & Gas producers, Data and Software Vendors do to ensure that the transformation is carried out correctly and in a coordinated fashion?

This paper will address these issues.