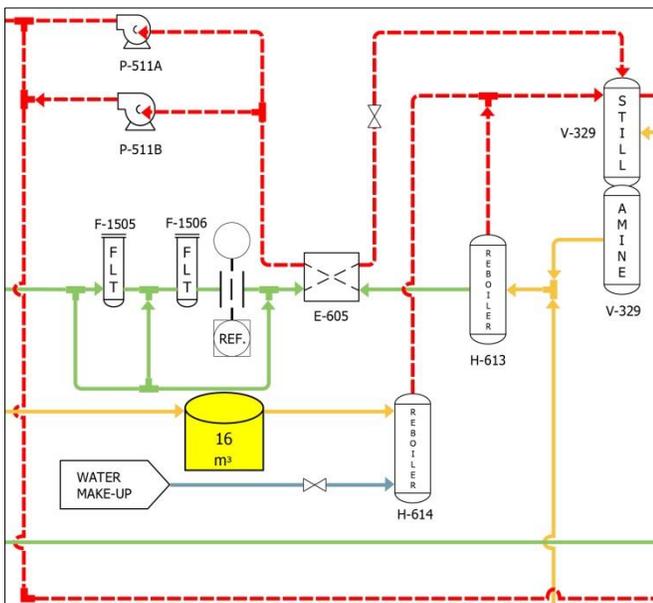# FACILITY SCHEMATICS
a new approach

Written by Curtis Gulaga
President, iMEC Corporation

In response to ever-changing government regulations, the industry needs a better, more efficient way to manage and report changes in the field. Recently, AER Directive 17 was revised to include specific regulations that require all licensed, operating facilities in Alberta have accurate, up-to-date metering schematics for measurement, accounting and reporting purposes. The British Columbia Measurement Guidelines for Upstream Oil and Gas section 1.9 essentially mirrors the AER Regulation. Schematics are to be reviewed regularly, updated at least annually and must meet specific criteria. The new regulations for British Columbia come into effect March 2014, and for Alberta, September 2014.

There are several new software solutions that have been created to help companies generate and manage measurement schematics for their operating facilities. They represent a move from pencil drawings that can be difficult to read, cumbersome, costly and time consuming, to convenient drag and drop touch screen images that can be uploaded instantly to a centralized server. In some cases, the schematics are generated from a blank template and personnel in the field manage the changes in real time. Metering schematics depict where measurement takes place, the type of equipment used, and its relation to other equipment and facilities. This information is updated whenever changes are made that can affect the measurement or reporting of production volumes (including fuel, flare, vent, sales, injection, etc.). The real time option enables users to make changes in the field and distribute the information to all stakeholders almost immediately. The system, when implemented,

provides the basic elements for document control and process controls for the metering schematic requirements.

Another strategy integrates and validates data from various public and internal systems (Petrinex in Alberta and Saskatchewan) and transforms this data into a truly digital representation of facilities. Workflows are automated, enabling improved operational efficiency and more effective use of data to identify new information assets which can then be used to optimize business performance. The data is internal to the company firewall, and is accessible to and searchable by all employees. Question marks where data must be added, and color-coding mandatory attributes red until they are filled in, assist in schematic completion and compliance efforts. Version tracking ensures drawings are current with regulatory filings and verified regularly. New wells in the master data set are automatically added to the schematics and a notification to update sent out.

Choosing the direction your corporation takes comes down to personal preference. In either case, these platforms improve accuracy and, depending on the project, can cut months of work down to a matter of days. For further information on how iMEC can manage your schematic requirements and help you comply, visit www.imeccorp.ca.