

Engagement for RM Single Window Concept

SARM Division 6 Meeting:

June 5, 2023

Ministry of Energy and Resources

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Saskatchewan! The logo for Saskatchewan, featuring the word "Saskatchewan" in a green, italicized serif font, followed by a stylized graphic of three curved lines in yellow and green, representing a sun or a landscape element.

Overview of Project Path

November 2022

Idea of a single window online portal for interactions between RMs and the oil and gas industry introduced at SARM Mid-term Convention.

January 2023

Holterman Waller (HW) Strategy began direct engagements with RMs and industry.

March 2023

The Ministry met with a number of RMs at SARM Convention.

June 2023

HW issued their preliminary findings from engagement.

Engagement Process

- 8 in-person engagement sessions were held with RMs in Estevan, Weyburn, Kindersley, Swift Current and Lloydminster.
- Representatives from 46 RMs participated.
- A virtual session was held to engage with 10 oil and gas producers and service companies

What We Heard – Common Themes for RMs

- Skepticism about the intent of the concept
- Challenges getting Ministry information and working with IRIS
- Strong existing technology solutions
- Cost sensitivity and value for money
- Importance of local autonomy and management
- Primarily strong relationships, a few impactful exceptions

What We Heard – Additional RM Feedback

- Regional differences
- Evolving infrastructure needs
- Other issues raised:
 - Tax collection & arrears
 - “Bad actor” companies
 - Effective tax rate limit
 - Coordination between government entities

What We Heard – Common Themes for Industry

- Varying approaches to approvals
- Complexity of well identifiers & other IRIS issues
- Interfacing with existing technology
- Improved communication opportunities on specific issues
- Weighing value, risk and simplicity for solutions

Aligned Themes & Opportunities

Good relationships overall

No major need driving development of a new single-window solution.

Recognition in the value of existing market solutions

Opportunities to enable broader use and further grow and integrate private online tools.

Concerns over risk and cost of major change

Importance placed on collaboration and value for money for any new investments in technology.

Aligned Themes & Opportunities

Well information and reports from IRIS too complex or inaccessible

Opportunities to simplify and improve information flow.

Communication challenges

Opportunities for improvements on communication between Ministry, RMs, and industry – technology and non-technology related.

Transparency and efficiency for both RMs and Industry

Desire for efficient and transparent process while recognizing the roles and duties of both parties.

Various improvements could raise awareness and support change on isolated bad faith issues

Key Findings

- No desire to further explore or develop the single-window concept for municipal transactions.
- There may be alternative improvement opportunities that could be explored.
- Continued dialogue between the Ministry, RMs and Industry could build on the ideas coming from engagement and further develop the relationship between all parties.

Potential Next Steps

- HW Strategy has advised that a working group could be formed with industry and RM representatives in addition to the current steering committee members.
- A working group would:
 - review the Preliminary Findings Report;
 - develop alternative improvement options based on the feedback; and
 - report back to all stakeholders.

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