

Synergies Between SAGD and Mining Facilities for the Recovery of Heavy Oil

Paul Crowley*, Diego Romero and Ron Holcek
SNC-Lavalin, 605 - 5th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2P 3H5
paul.Crowley@snc-lavalin.com

ABSTRACT

The recovery of heavy oil by in-situ means such as SAGD or by conventional mining technologies requires significant up-front capital investment and ongoing operating costs, which results in projects having relatively low rates of return.

If an SAGD facility and a mining facility can be integrated, synergies exist between them such that one can take advantage of significant capital and operating cost savings, thereby improving the rate of return. These synergies include elimination of water treatment equipment, reduction in energy requirements and improvements in certain environmental aspects.

This paper will discuss how these synergies can be implemented in a combined SAGD/mining facility and provide an analysis of the capital and operating costs savings that can be achieved.