# Groundwater Data Management in support of Basin Scale Water **Management Planning**

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#### **Presentation Outline**

- Introduction and Issues
- Project Team
- GDS Structure and Technology
- GDS Population
- GDS Functionality
- Conclusions
- Questions/Answers

#### Introduction and Issues

- Basin scale water management planning is a data intensive undertaking
- A large quantity of data has been collected in the CLBRB over the past 50 years, but does not reside in a single location
- Collectors of groundwater data include AENV, AGS, municipalities, oil & gas operators, and others.
- Sources of data are varied spatially, temporally, and the quality of data varies between providers
- Stantec retained by AENV and BRWA to develop a Groundwater Database System (GDS)



## **Project Team**

- Comprised of people from Stantec, AENV, and BRWA
- Support from LICA members
- Team includes:
  - Hydrogeologists/Environmental Engineers
  - Database Analysts
  - GIS Programmers
  - Web Portal Programmers
- Support from Analytical Laboratories



#### **GDS Structure and Technology**

- Client Server architecture
- Relational database structure
- Scalable, flexible
- EQuIS5 data management
- SharePoint collaboration
- GIS integration
- Stantec proprietary programming to integrate various technologies



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Cold Lake - Beaver River Groundwater Data Management System

**Documents** 

Shared Documents

Pictures

Site Pictures

Discussions

Forum

Data Access

Chemistry

Water Level

Well Completion

Links Cold Lake - Beaver River water management plan

- Regional Groundwater Resource Appraisal, Cold Lake-Beaver River Drainage Basin
- Regional Groundwater Quality Appraisal, Cold Lake-Beaver River Drainage Basin
- Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils
- Cold Lake Beaver River state of the basin reports
- Alberta Environment Groundwater Observation Well Network

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Events

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Location

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Physics and Park	Title -

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#### **GDS Data Fields**

- General well details including well coordinates, elevations, total depths, screen elevations
- Chemistry data including lab and field analysis results
- Chemistry data grouped into parameter groups
- Water level data



## **GDS Population – Legacy Data**

- Many challenges associated with compiling data from different providers
- Internal inconsistency in how data is stored poses the biggest obstacle
- Storage of data in spreadsheets is unfavourable
- Data populated in the GDS to date:
  - Approximately 13,000 well records
  - Approximately 500,000 chemistry records



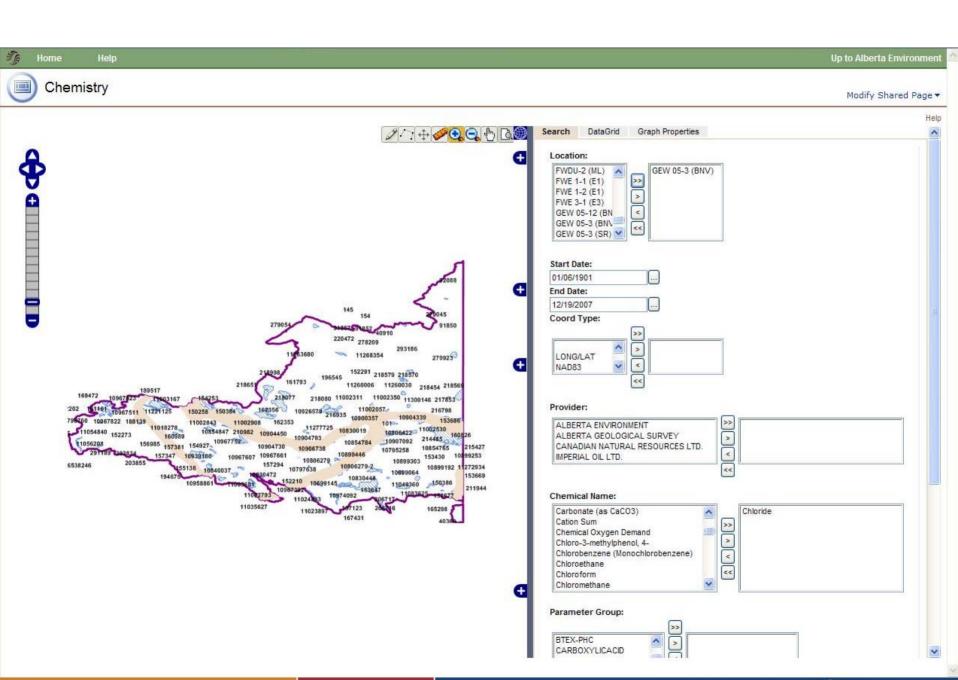
## **GDS Population – Future Data Imports**

- Automated import routines using Electronic Data Deliverables (EDD's)
- Automated internal data validation to promote data quality
- Reduces the amount of human involvement in handling the data, reducing costs and promoting quality

## **GDS** Functionality

- Queries by filter fields or by GIS
- Browse data through use of the GIS pane
- Export data in various formats
- Generate crosstab data reports
- Generate guideline exceedance tables
- Generate time series graphs
- Overlay GIS features: isopach and structure maps, potentiometric maps, physiographic features, thalwegs, topographic contours, etc.

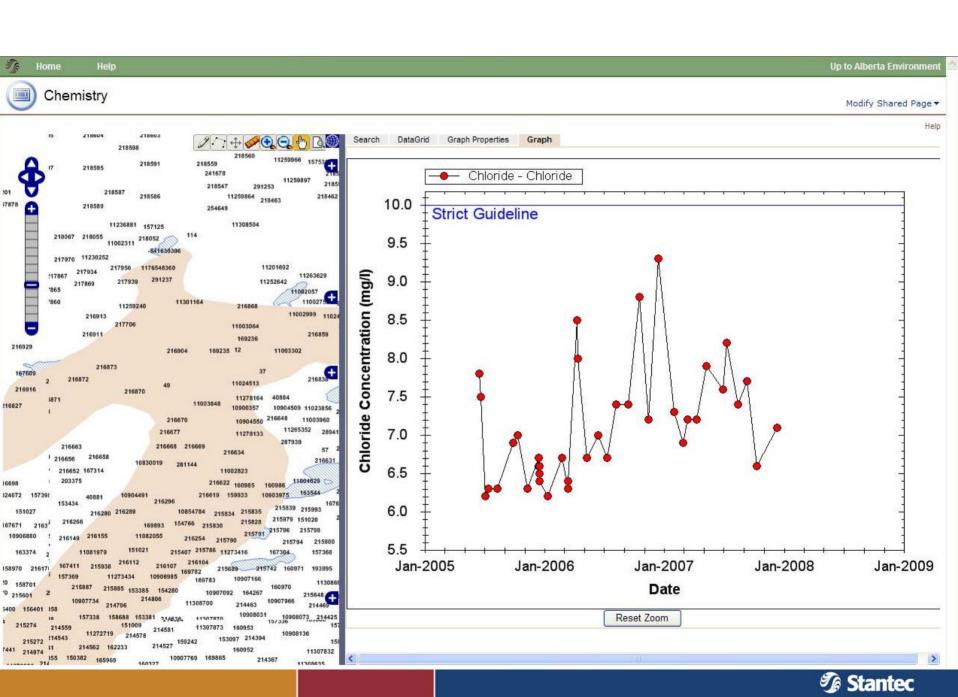






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#### **Conclusions**

- Regional water management planning is a data intensive exercise
- It is exceedingly difficult and inefficient to analyze regional data which is stored in separate locations
- Development of an integrated GDS allows hydrogeologists to tackle regional issues
- Hydrogeologists/Engineers are not database analysts. (A team approach is required)
- Web based applications are preferred but require a significant IT infrastructure
- Data collectors need to invest resources to better manage their data if it is to be useful in the future
- Spreadsheets are not meant for data storage and retrieval
- Various technologies are on the market to better manage data



#### Acknowledgements

- Alberta Environment
- Beaver River Watershed Alliance
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