

**Premier Klein's Mission to Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**North American Energy summit**  
**April 14-16, 2004**

**MISSION REPORT**

**Executive Summary**

Premier Klein and Energy Minister Murray Smith's participation in the Western Governors' Association's North American Energy summit resulted in the Alberta government having a substantial profile at the summit and ensured that the province's key role in North America's energy future was clearly understood.

The summit was hosted by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson and brought together key policy-makers from the United States, Mexico and Canada to address mutual energy needs. It provided a unique opportunity to participate in discussions with key U.S. federal and state decision-makers and focused on ensuring a secure, abundant, affordable and environmentally responsible energy future for North America.

As the lead province for energy cooperation between the Western Premiers' Conference and Western Governors' Association, Alberta was very supportive of the association's proposal to hold a North American Energy summit when the prospect was raised in 2002. Beginning in early 2003, when the association determined the summit would be held in New Mexico in 2004, the Alberta government was proactive in helping shape the agenda to ensure an optimum Alberta presence.

The summit featured a significant Alberta government presence, including Premier Klein's keynote address, and a breakout session presentation by Energy Minister Murray Smith, as well as participation by the Alberta-based Canadian Centre for Energy Information.

U.S. participants at the summit included the chair and the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Energy Committee Chair, Pete Domenici (Republican – New Mexico); Jeff Bingaman (Democrat – New Mexico); Colorado Governor (and incoming chair of the Western Governors' Association) Bill Owens; U.S. Undersecretary of Energy Kyle McSlarrow; and the chair of the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Pat Wood.

**Mission Objectives**

Alberta's overall U.S. strategy seeks to increase understanding in the U.S. of the critical role the province will play in North America's energy future by highlighting such facts as the following:

- Alberta accounts for two thirds of Canada's oil production, over three quarters of its gas production, and holds 14% of the world's recoverable oil reserves, second only to Saudi Arabia.
- Alberta is the major hub connecting natural gas from the Western Sedimentary Basin to markets in the U.S. and will play a major role in bringing Arctic gas to the Lower 48. Alberta alone provides 12% of the natural gas used in the U.S.
- Huge deposits of natural gas in coal seams represent another amazing resource that Alberta has only begun to develop.

- Alberta is a major oil producer, supplying 10% of U.S. crude oil imports while production is forecast to double by 2020 as new oil sands projects come on stream. U.S. investment in production and new technology is actively welcomed to help make this happen.
- Alberta is also blessed with massive coal reserves and is actively partnering with like-minded jurisdictions in pursuing clean-coal technologies that will enable future generations in North America to benefit from this resource.

Alberta's prominence at the summit provided a valuable opportunity to highlight these strengths and policy priorities to an audience of U.S. public and private sector energy leaders that numbered over 700.

The summit was also valuable for strengthening relations with a number of key U.S. governors, legislators and energy officials, helping to further promote Alberta's energy objectives.

### **Official Alberta Delegation**

Ralph Klein, Premier of Alberta  
Murray Smith, Minister of Energy  
Mel Knight, MLA, Grande Prairie-Smoky  
Rich Jones, Office of the Premier

### **Itinerary**

#### Wednesday, April 14

- Departed Edmonton/Calgary for Albuquerque
- Premier's meeting with New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson
- Opening press conference (participation by Premier Klein)

#### Thursday, April 15

- Summit discussion with U.S. and Mexican governors, Canadian premiers
- Premier Klein's keynote address
- Oil session on production and exploration – Minister Smith on panel
- VIP reception with governors and event sponsors

#### Friday, April 16

- Plenary session and summit wrap-up
- Departed Albuquerque for Calgary/Edmonton

## **Accomplishments**

The summit served as an excellent forum for Premier Klein and Minister Smith to establish Alberta's key role in North America's energy future, and to strengthen their personal relations with a number of key U.S. governors, legislators and senior officials.

In his keynote address, the Premier focused on Alberta's energy significance to the U.S. and potential as a reliable and secure supplier. The Premier also signed an addendum to the association's Regional Transmission Protocol, which will foster cooperation to streamline new electricity transmission infrastructure in western North America. Alberta was the first province to join the protocol. This could help pave the way for future Alberta surplus electricity exports to the western U.S.

Alberta succeeded in getting the final recommendations of the summit's oil session to include three Alberta priorities, calling on the Western Governor's Association to:

- Endorse the oil sands as a key source of supply of oil for the U.S., and support construction of required additional pipeline and refinery capacity;
- Explore regional cooperation to increase cross-border mobility of energy infrastructure workers;
- Explore potential cooperation on greenhouse gas emission abatement strategies.

As well, Alberta's energy infrastructure security program was highlighted in the recommendations of another session, where it was touted by American participants as a model to be emulated region-wide.

## **Related Links**

Invitation Letter from Governor Richardson to Premier Klein – December 2, 2003

Acceptance Letter from Premier to Governor Richardson – January 6, 2004

[News Release](#)

[Premier Klein's Keynote Address](#)

[WGA Protocol Addendum](#)

[WGA Energy Summit Website](#)

New Mexico – Alberta Relations Paper