

# Financial And Operating Highlights

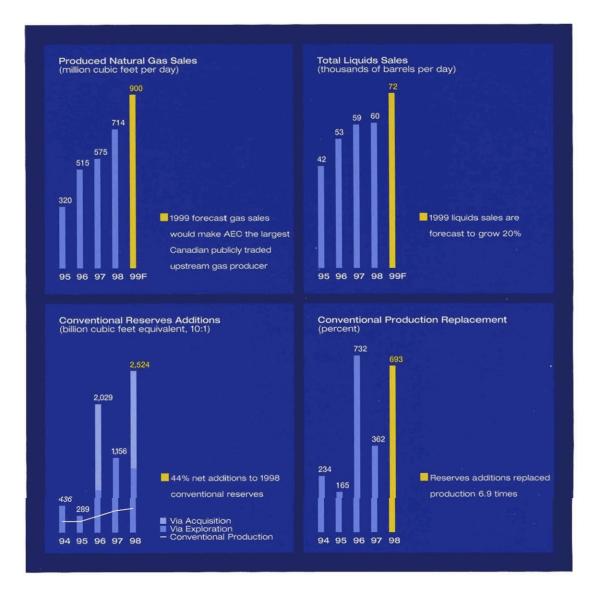
Financial Statements

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FINANCIAL	1998	1997	1996
Cash Flow from Operations (\$ millions)	488.5	544.7	411.9
\$ per share - fully diluted	4.06	4.67	3.82
Net Earnings (\$ millions, excluding 1997 dilution gain)	24.4	21.7	68.0
\$ per share - fully diluted	0.21	0.23	0.65
Total Direct Capital Investment (\$ millions)	1,654.9	824.9	2,028.9
Year-End Long-Term Direct Debt (\$ millions)	1,646.7	1,006.8	968.3
Upstream Business Group	1,355.4	519.4	367.0
AEC Upstream	887.4	519.4	367.0
Amber Acquisition	468.0	-	111
Midstream Business Group	291.3	487.4	601.3
Debt-to-Capitalization Ratio - Corporate	38:62	29:71	32:68
Upstream Business Group	36:64	20:80	16:84
Midstream Business Group	60:40	60:40	89:11
Debt-to-Cash Flow - Upstream (times, excluding Amber)	2.0	1.1	1.0
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OPERATING			- 17.
Produced Natural Gas Sales (million cubic feet/day)	714	575	515
Total Liquids Sales (barrels/day)	60,074	58,940	53,155
Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids	31,121	30,493	25,559
Syncrude	28,953	28,447	27,596
Conventional Reserves Additions (billion cubic feet equivalent)	2,524	1,156	2,029
Conventional Production Replacement	693%	362%	732%

Growth, Value, Performance. These words represent the essence of a business strategy which creates sustainable growth and builds underlying value. We've consistently demonstrated that this business strategy delivers performance for shareholders.

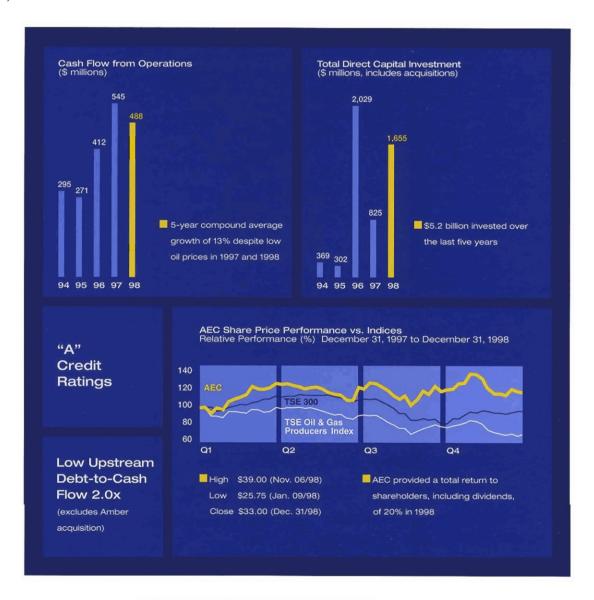
#### Advisory

In the interest of providing AEC shareholders and potential investors with information regarding the Company, including management's assessment of the Company's future plans and operations, certain statements and graphs throughout this Report are 'forward-looking statements', within the meaning of Section 21E of the United States Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and represent the Company's internal projections, expectations or beliefs concerning, among other things, future operating results and various components thereof or the Company's future economic performance. The projections, estimates and beliefs contained in such forward-looking statements necessarily involve known and unknown risks and uncertainties which may cause the Company's actual performance and financial results in future periods to differ materially from any estimates or projections of future periodromance or results expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. These risks and uncertainties include, among other things: volatility of oil and gas prices; product supply and demand; market competition; risks inherent in the Company's domestic and foreign oil and gas operations; imprecision of reserves estimates; the Company's ability to replace and expand oil and gas reserves; the Company's ability to generate sufficient cash flow from operations to meet its current and future obligations; the Company's reports and filings with the Canadian securities authorities and the U.S. Securities and uncertainties described from time to time in the Company's reports and filings with the Canadian securities authorities and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Accordingly, shareholders and potential investors are cautioned that events or circumstances could cause actual results to differ materially from those predicted.



we are one of Canada's largest upstream (natural gas and oil exploration and production) companies with interests in midstream (natural gas storage, pipelines and natural gas liquids processing) assets which provide reliable cash flow and add value to our upstream business. With a current market capitalization exceeding Cdn \$4 billion, we are an industry leader with:

- 7, 4.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, the largest for a Canadian publicly traded producer
- 900 million cubic feet/day forecast 1999 produced natural gas sales, targeting to become the largest Canadian publicly traded producer
- 651 million barrels of liquids reserves, comprising 66% light and medium liquids
- 72,000 barrels/day forecast 1999 total liquids sales, of which 67% is light and medium liquids
- 7.1 million net acres of exploration land in North America and 1,8 million net acres outside North America
- midstream assets representing approximately 20% of AEC's asset base
  - the largest independently owned natural gas storage facility in North America
- 70% ownership of AEC Pipelines, L.P., the largest intra-Alberta oil transporter



# Financial strength funds near-term and long-term growth

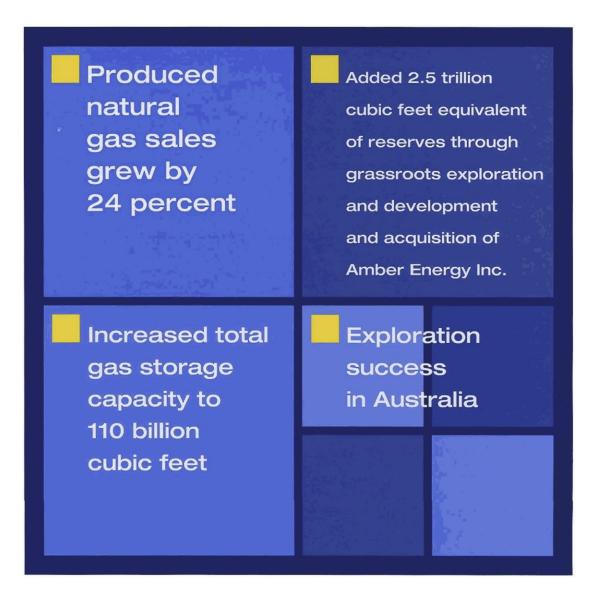
#### Financial Strength to Fund Future Growth

AEC possesses a solid financial foundation with a low upstream debt-to-cash flow of 2.0x (excludes Amber-related debt of \$468 million and two months' cash flow of \$11 million), a low corporate debt-to-capitalization ratio of 38:62 and stable "A" and "A (low)" credit ratings. AEC has financial discipline and strives to maximize returns on invested capital over the entire commodity price cycle.

Midstream cash flow is largely independent of commodity prices and provides underlying financial strength.

#### A Solid Reputation on North American Stock Markets

AEC is listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (AEC), Montreal Exchange (AEC) and New York Stock Exchange (AOG), and is included in the S&P/TSE 60. The Company has the largest float (market capitalization freely available for trading) on the Toronto Stock Exchange Oil & Gas Producers Index. The stock traded an average 258,000 shares per day at an average value of \$8.5 million per day in 1998. AEC is one of only three Canadian upstream producers that paid a dividend, \$0.40 per share in 1998.



#### Achieved Production Objectives

AEC directed its 1998 capital programs at natural gas in anticipation of the new continental gas market and:

- increased produced natural gas sales by 24% to 714 million cubic feet/day
- increased productive field capacity and exited 1998 at 835 million cubic feet/day
- increased storage capacity by 29% to 110 billion cubic feet, with peak withdrawal capability of 1.9 billion cubic feet/day reduced oil development capital and maintained total liquids sales at 60,074 barrels/day due to depressed oil prices

#### Created Value Through Acquisition of Amber Energy

AEC's pursuit of acquisitions has been guided by three fundamental criteria: value, strategic fit, and growth potential. In October 1998, stock market conditions and AEC's state of readiness combined to provide the opportunity for the acquisition of Amber Energy Inc.

Amber's principal assets were shallow gas and heavy oil, two areas of AEC expertise. The properties were at an early stage of development providing significant future growth potential.

Amber's properties were large, concentrated land blocks with high working interests, contiguous to existing AEC properties.

#### Achieved Exploration and Development Objectives

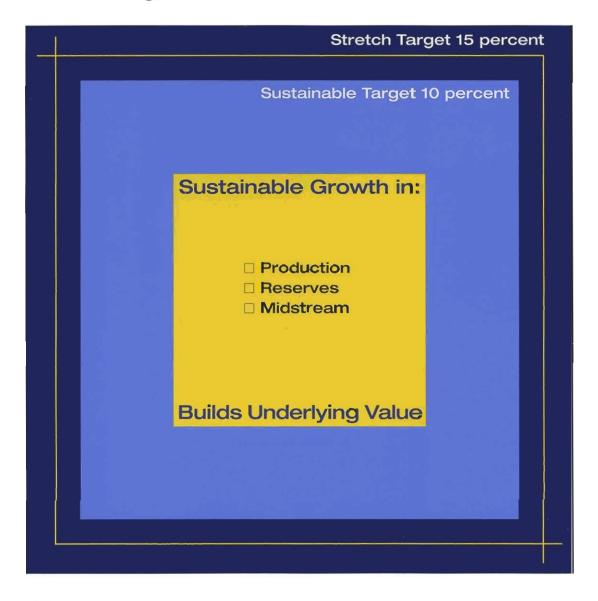
AEC continued its exploration momentum, achieved competitive costs and:

- added 989 billion cubic feet equivalent of conventional reserves by drilling 635 gross wells in western Canada achieved drillibit finding and development costs of \$6.16/barrel of oil equivalent, in western Canada, proven plus probable realized exploration success in Australia
- made significant advancements in, and successfully tested steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) technology at the Primrose pilot plant and identified enough resource to support future commercial production of 100.000 barrels/day

## Achieved Midstream Objectives

AEC strengthened its midstream operations in 1998 when it: increased operating cash flow to \$114 million

- continued construction of the 14 billion cubic foot Wild Goose Gas Storage project in Northern California towards an April 1999 in-service date
- began preliminary engineering and design work for expansion of the Alberta Oil Sands Pipeline to 275,000 barrels/day to accommodate Syncrude growth, through AEC Pipelines, L.P.

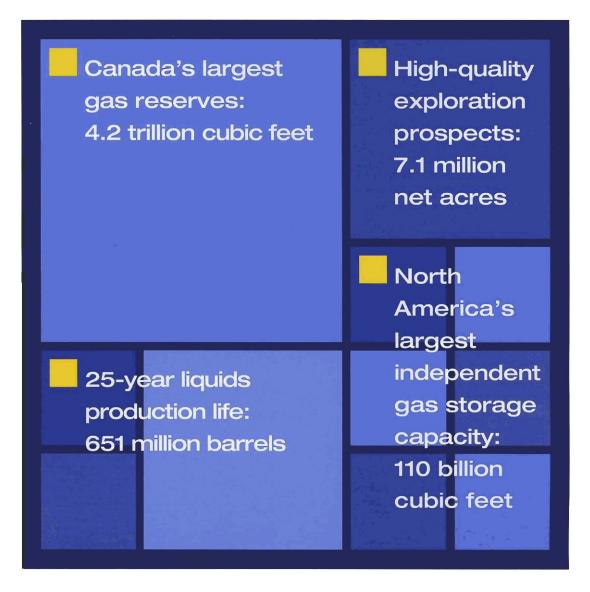


#### A Strategy for Sustainable Growth

Growth, Value, Performance. These words represent the essence of a business strategy which creates sustainable growth and builds underlying value. We've consistently demonstrated that this business strategy delivers performance for shareholders, in striving to accomplish this, we:

- □ focus on
  - achieving a sustainable growth target of 10% with a stretch target of 15% in production, reserves, midstream returns; and asset value
  - using capital efficiently by achieving low reserve replacement, operating and G&A costs
  - achieving top-quartile performance in our industries

- invest capital in the current depressed oil price environment that:
  - achieves the strongest natural gas production, reservesstorage, exploration land and transportation position in the industry
  - builds AEC's inventory of oil development projects for medium-term growth
  - maintain financial strength, resilience and flexibility follow a disciplined, counter-cyclical strategy when seeking acquisitions that meet AEC's criteria of value, strategic fit and growth



## One of the Largest and Longest-Life Reserves Base

AEC has an exceptionally strong, long-life reserves base:

- 4.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas with a reserve life index of 13 years
- r 287 million barrels of conventional oil and natural gas liquids with a reserve life index of 20 years
- . AEC's conventional reserves base is evaluated by McDaniel & Associates Consultants Ltd. and Gilbert Laustsen Jung Associates Ltd., well respected, independent engineers 364 million barrels of proven light sweet oil with a reserve life index of 32 years for proven Syncrude reserves. AEC is the second largest owner in the Syncrude project
- these figures exclude the potential for future commercial development of 350 million barrels of heavy oil at Primrose

A Production Base Totaling 1.6 Billion Cubic Feet Equivalent/Day AEC's forecast 1999 production base comprises 56% natural gas, 30% light liquids and 14% heavy oil.

# One of the Largest and Strongest Exploration Programs in the Canadian **Oil** and Gas Industry

AEC's exploration program provides a broad exposure to quality plays on shallow, intermediate and deep exploration prospects on 7.1 million net acres across the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin and Northern U.S. The Company is the dominant operator in its core areas with highly concentrated working interests averaging 86%.

# Midstream Assets Providing a Stable Source of Operating Cash Flow

Pipelines, natural gas storage and natural gas liquids processing provide a reliable source of operating cash flow and add value to AEC's upstream business by enhancing market access.

# **Building Momentum Through the Drillbit**

RESERVES REPLACEMENT COSTS, PROVEN AND	PROBABLE	RESERVE	5
Canadian Conversion Standard - 10:1	1998	1997	199
(\$ per barrel of oil equivalent)			
Drillbit Exploration and Development	3.69	2.53	3.3
Production Facilities Expansion	1.89	1,67	1.79
Minor Acquisitions	0.19	0.07	0.29
Exploration Land Growth	0.39	1.54	1.10
Drillbit Finding and Development Costs	6.16	5.81	6.51
Reserves Replacement Costs (including major acquisition	ons) 5.49	5.81	6.90
International Conversion Standard - 6:1			
(\$ per barrel of oil equivalent)			
Drillbit Exploration and Development	2.63	1.67	2.27
Production Facilities Expansion	1.35	1.10	1.22
Minor Acquisitions	0.14	0.04	0.20
Exploration Land Growth	0.28	1.02	0.75
Drillbit Finding and Development Costs	4.40	3.83	4.44
Reserves Replacement Costs (including major acquisition	ns) 4.55	3.83	4.77

# Growing conventional reserves at competitive costs

#### Total Production Replacement

AEC achieved 693% production replacement at a cost of \$5.49/barrel of oil equivalent. AEC's conventional reserves additions were evaluated by McDaniel & Associates Consultants Ltd. and Gilbert Laustsen Jung Associates Ltd., well-respected independent engineers.

#### Growth Through Exploration and Development

AEC's \$610 million grassroots western Canadian conventional exploration and development program created value by;

- adding proven and probable reserves of 594 billion cubic feet of natural gas and 39.5 million barrels of liquids for a 272% production replacement
- achieving a proven and probable finding and development cost of \$6.16/barrel of oil equivalent
- drilling 635 gross wells, including 207 exploration wells and 428 development wells with an overall success rate of 95%

# Growth Through Acquisition

AEC's \$777 million acquisition of Amber's upstream assets created value by:

- adding proven and probable reserves of 204 billion cubic feet of natural gas and 135 million barrels of oil at a cost of \$4.67/barrel of oil equivalent
- adding 871,000 net acres of highly prospective exploration land, independently evaluated at \$50 million
- adding 100 million cubic feet/day of natural gas production and 12,000 barrels/day of oil production, with strong future growth potential

# 1994 - 1998 Growth 5-Year Compound **Average** Momentum □ Production: 17% ☐ Reserves: 21% Midstream operating cash flow: 7% 1999 2000 Growth Growth ☐ Gas: 26% □ Gas: 1 Bcf/day ☐ Liquids: 20% Liquids: huge upside ☐ Storage capacity: 22% ☐ Storage/Pipelines

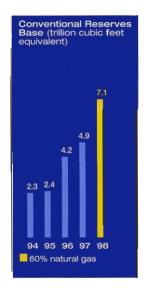
# AEC has identified sustainable growth from existing assets through 2000

## In 1999, AEC plans to:

- increase produced natural gas sales by 26% to 900 million cubic feet/day
- continue growing produced natural gas capacity toward being the first Canadian publicly traded producer to achieve average produced gas sales of 1 billion cubic feet/day in 2000
- increase liquids sales in 1999 by 20% to 72,000 barrels/day invest \$510 million in grassroots exploration and development to increase conventional reserves and productive capacity
- . drill up to 600 gross wells, 85% targeting natural gas
- " continue advancements in SAGD technology through its pilot plant and reach a decision on the timing of the first 20,000 barrels/day commercial steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) facility
- expand natural gas storage capacity by 22% to 134 billion cubic feet with peak withdrawal capability of 2.3 billion cubic feet/day
- sustain midstream operating cash flow at \$115 million

#### **FELLOW SHAREHOLDERS:**

The 1997 Annual Report presented your Company's progress toward our goal of being the leading senior producer in the Canadian oil and gas industry. In 1998, AEC emerged even more strongly as a frontrunner in creating growth in net asset value per share, production and share price. Growth, Value, Performance. These fundamentals are the key drivers behind the investment of shareholder capital at AEC. Creating underlying net asset value as a platform for sustainable growth generates investor confidence in our ability to return superior share price performance. AEC offers investors the attributes of both a growth company and a value-based company. This business strategy distinguishes AEC from its competitors, and, in 1998, it also distinguished AEC's share price performance from its competitors'. AEC's shareholders achieved a total return, including dividends, of 20% compared to a 30% decline in the Toronto Stock Exchange Oil and Gas Producers Total Return Index.



Key strategic objectives supporting AEC's Growth, Value, Performance business strategy include targeting annual sustainable growth rates of 10% with a stretch target of 15%. In 1998, we increased AEC's total production by 13%. Our production growth is backed by one of the industry's largest and longest life reserve positions. With 4.2 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, AEC has the largest gas reserve base of any Canadian publicly traded upstream producer. AEC grew its combined conventional oil and Syncrude reserve life index to 25 years and added total conventional reserves of 2.5 trillion cubic feet equivalent, 6.9 times 1998 conventional production.

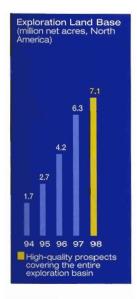
It is important for shareholders to note that AEC's conventional reserves are independently evaluated each year by McDaniel & Associates Consultants Ltd. and Gilbert Laustsen Jung Associates Ltd. – firms with a reputation for being realistic.

AEC's internal growth in the upstream group comes through building dominant positions in exploration land and production facilities. In 1998, AEC's North American exploration land base, the platform for one of Canada's largest and strongest exploration programs, expanded 12% to 7.1 million net acres and new production facilities expanded productive capacity by 26%. In addition, Syncrude ownership provided growing production at decreasing costs and

increasing underlying value. In building an international upstream business unit as a platform for future production growth and value creation, AEC expanded its international exploration program beyond Argentina. The Company participated in a major natural gas discovery, the John Brookes-1 well, in Australia's Northwest Shelf. The AEC International business unit has now assembled a truly world-class team of experienced explorers.

Ownership of midstream assets provides a steady source of cash flow largely independent of commodity prices, while enhancing market access for AEC's upstream business units. In 1998, our midstream assets generated operating cash flow of \$114 million, 19% of the Company's overall operating cash flow.

AEC has maintained a strong balance sheet, providing financial flexibility for counter-cyclical acquisitions which create value and future growth. In 1998, AEC acquired Amber Energy Inc., the Company's first significant corporate acquisition since the last industry downturn three years ago. Amber enhanced AEC's underlying value, and the strategic operating fit is excellent. Amber's production base of 100 million cubic feet per day of natural gas and 12,000 barrels per day of oil has substantial growth potential from its identified conventional reserves and potential application of enhanced recovery techniques. As well, Amber brought highly prospective exploration opportunities to AEC.



#### 1998 OPERATING PERFORMANCE

AEC's 1998 business plan focused on strengthening natural gas reserves, production and storage capacity, while positioning AEC for strong future growth in liquids production during a period of counter-cyclical opportunity. AEC's people delivered the following key results in 1998:

- increased total conventional reserves by 2.5 trillion cubic feet equivalent at a reserves replacement cost of \$5.49 per barrel of oil equivalent
- increased natural gas reserves to 4.2 trillion cubic feet, the largest among Canadian publicly traded companies
- increased natural gas sales 24% to 714 million cubic feet per day, exceeding the target of 700 million cubic feet per day set in last year's Annual Report

- increased the number of gross wells drilled by 32% to 645 with an average success rate of 95%
- added reserves through the drillbit of nearly1 trillion cubic feet equivalent
- matched the very strong 1997 drillbit finding and development cost performance decreased upstream general and administrative costs by a further 7% to \$0.51 per barrel of oil equivalent, one of the lowest in the industry
- strengthened Canadian gas storage capacity, and continued construction of the Wild Goose Gas Storage facility, California's first independent natural gas storage and trading hub
- continued to exceed expectations for well productivity and cost at the Primrose steamassisted gravity drainage (SAGD) project

In 1998, AEC emerged even more strongly as a frontrunner in creating growth in net asset value per share, production and share price.

#### FINANCIAL RESULTS

Higher natural gas sales, stable gas prices and steady, reliable cash flow from midstream operations largely offset the severe impacts of plunging oil prices on the Company's financial results for 1998.

Cash Flow from Operations decreased 10% to \$488.5 million (\$4.06 per share, fully diluted) due principally to a 29% decrease in AEC's average liquids price. Consolidated Net Earnings for 1998 were \$24.4 million, compared with \$21.7 million in 1997, excluding the 1997 dilution gain resulting from the creation of AEC Pipelines, L.P.

AEC's six entrepreneurial business units are organized into two business groups: upstream (oil and gas exploration, production and marketing) and midstream (pipelines, natural gas liquids processing and natural gas storage and hub services). These two groups have separate capital structures based on industry norms.

After a \$1.7 billion capital program and a year of very weak oil prices, AEC's key financial measures remain strong with upstream debt-to-cash flow of 2.0 times, on a trailing basis. This ratio excludes the cash flow and debt that the Company assumed as a result of the Amber acquisition late in 1998. The debt-to-capitalization ratios were healthy at 36:64 for upstream, and 38:62 on a corporate basis.

In conjunction with the \$777 million acquisition of Amber Energy's upstream assets, AEC received a great vote of confidence from shareholders, raising \$345 million in common equity. The balance of the Amber acquisition cost was financed through bank debt and Medium Term Notes. After the Amber transaction, AEC has \$1.1 billion of unused credit lines.

Both bond rating agencies in Canada reviewed AEC as a result of the Amber transaction with very good results. For our long-term debt, the Canadian Bond Rating Service has reaffirmed our "A" rating and Dominion Bond Rating Service has given AEC an "A low", both with a stable outlook. For our commercial paper, both agencies have reaffirmed our ratings of "A-1" and "R-1 (low)" with a stable outlook.

#### CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED IN 1998

AEC's accomplishments were tempered by a number of challenges in 1998:

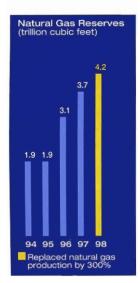
A 29% decrease in AEC's average liquids price. driven by the lowest world oil prices in 21 years, led to a decision to reduce oil development expenditures by \$40 million. This resulted in our liquids production being 95% of the target of 63,000 barrels per day set in last year's Annual Report.

Natural gas unit operating costs increased 5%, due partly to unreliable electric power service at major gas plants and other unforeseen operating outages.

AEC Pipelines, L.P. continued to experience throughput restrictions due to delays in upgrades required on the Platte Pipeline in the United States.

Along with other oil and gas operators in northwestern Alberta, AEC experienced acts of industrial sabotage at natural gas production facilities. This resulted in increased security costs and considerable stress among employees and community residents. AEC is committed to the safety, health and well-being of our people, and their neighbours and continues to work on resolving this issue in cooperation with the community and law enforcement authorities.

AEC's 1998 business plan focused on strengthening natural gas reserves, production and storage capacity, while positioning AEC for strong future growth in liquids production during a period of counter-cyclical opportunity.



#### AEC'S PLAN FOR 1999 AND BEYOND

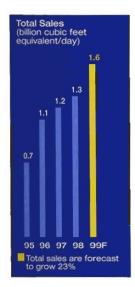
AEC's 1999 direct core capital program of \$750 million will be primarily focused on further strengthening our dominant position in natural gas. Our ability to respond aggressively to future oil price increases through inventoried production growth capability will also be further strengthened. We are targeting a 23% increase in our overall production base. In addition, the search for acquisitions which meet our criteria of value, strategic fit and growth will continue, both domestically and internationally, during this period of exceptional counter cyclical opportunity.

AEC's 1999 operating plan contains the following key objectives:

Target produced natural gas sales to increase by 26% to 900 million cubic feet per day. AEC holds the largest Canadian natural gas reserves position and plans to become the largest gas producer among publicly traded Canadian companies. Growing field production capacity, combined with our natural gas storage position, will result in gas sales exceeding 1 billion cubic feet per day during periods of market strength. The Company's strong position in natural gas is the culmination of a five-year plan to be the company most able to respond to historic changes in natural gas markets. resulting from completion of major new export pipelines to the United States.

Target liquids production for 1999 at 72,000 barrels per day, a 20% increase. In 1998, AEC elected to defer oil development programs and will continue to do so in 1999.

Looking beyond 1999, currently identified natural gas growth opportunities should allow the Company to achieve gas sales of approximately 1 billion cubic feet per day in 2000. Predicting year-2000 oil volumes is more problematic because of the numerous worldwide factors impacting oil prices. The Company is assuming world oil prices will remain depressed; our business plan is based on US\$12 WTI (West Texas Intermediate) for the remainder of 1999. As a result, AEC will defer \$100 million of oil development projects representing 15,000 barrels per day of future growth in oil production. When world oil prices appear sustainable at a US\$15 WTI level or higher, AEC will be in a position to develop these inventoried oil projects and increase its liquids production beyond 85,000 barrels per day. In the longer term, further growth will come from our huge Primrose heavy oil holdings.



#### INDUSTRY CONDITIONS

The mild El Niño weather of 1998 resulted in record year-end natural gas storage levels. The winter of 1999 has also been mild, and storage drawdowns have not been as substantial as expected. Given the mild winter weather experienced to the date of publishing this report, the strongest gas markets and prices may, in fact, occur during the second half of 1999. Despite these factors, AEC expects 1999 gas prices to be higher than in 1998 and the outlook for gas prices beyond 1999 is for further strengthening.

AEC is basing its 1999 plans on a continuation of very low oil prices; however, like all commodity price cycles, the price of oil will not remain at the current depressed levels. Periods of low commodity prices, over time, lead to growth in consumption and weakening of production. Most of AEC's competitors are hampered by reduced cash flow and very limited access to financial markets. This will no doubt lead to further asset sales and corporate consolidation. AEC is well positioned with growing revenues from natural gas sales, midstream investments and a strong balance sheet. AEC's objective is to emerge from this time of industry turmoil even stronger than when we entered.

#### THE PEOPLE BUILDING AEC

This Annual Report sets out the performance and goals of AEC's four upstream and two midstream business units. AEC operates in a decentralized manner with semi-autonomous entrepreneurial business units, each accountable for creating value from the shareholders' assets and capital entrusted to them. Supporting these business units is a small, efficient corporate head office dedicated to helping the business units achieve success. The talented, dedicated people throughout our business units and corporate groups have placed AEC among the highest performing companies. AEC's people value our Company's reputation for a high level of integrity, and for being a special place to work. At AEC, we share a passion for who we are and what we do.

As AEC grows, so does our employee base. We are pleased to welcome a very capable group of new employees from Amber Energy, and elsewhere, who will add value to our Company.

The AEC story is one that people throughout the Company believe in strongly and they have a large personal stake. At year-end 1998, Directors, Management and employees held shares and options totaling 8% of our fully diluted market value of \$4.4 billion.

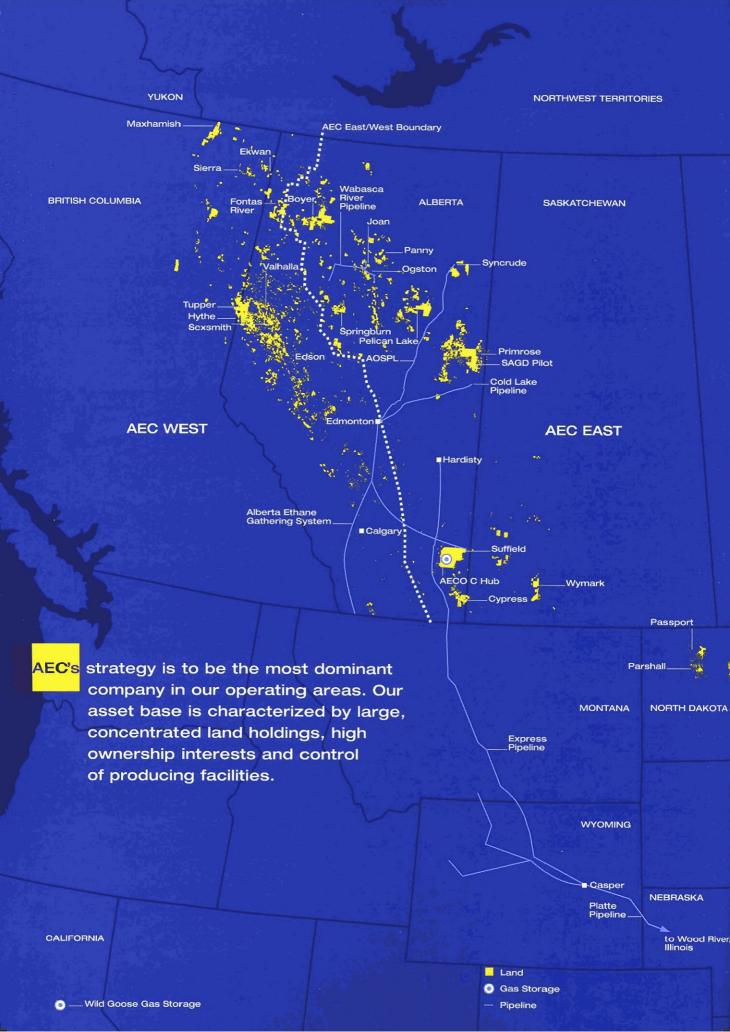
# The talented, dedicated people throughout our business units and corporate groups have placed AEC among the highest performing companies.

Our April 1999 Annual Meeting will mark the end of an era for AEC. Two founding Directors, each having served since 1975, will reach compulsory retirement age. Matt Baldwin has contributed much to AEC over all of those years and the quality of his advice, his level of enthusiasm and his pride in being associated with AEC remained strong over the entire period. Dave Mitchell was AEC's founding President and CEO until the end of 1993, and since that time, has served as non-executive Chairman, Dave's legacy as a respected business and community leader, his tremendous pride in the development, growth and success of those who worked with him and the strength of the assets which were built during his tenure as CEO, combined with his absolute integrity, are all important reasons for the strength of today's Alberta Energy Company.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Management team and everyone at AEC, we wish Matt and Dave a long, healthy and happy retirement

Stan Milner, another founding Director of AEC, has accepted the Board's nomination for the position of non-executive Chairman, to succeed Dave Mitchell following the 1999 Annual Meeting, As well, Ian Delaney, non-executive Chairman of Sherritt International Corporation, has agreed to allow his name to stand for election to the Board at the Annual Meeting on April 21, 1999.

President and Chief Executive Officer February 17, 1999





AEC operates in a decentralized manner with six semi-autonomous, entrepreneurial business units. Four upstream business units focus on exploration and production and two midstream business units provide reliable cash flow through gas storage, pipeline transportation and natural gas liquids processing. Each unit is accountable for creating value from the shareholders' assets and capital entrusted to it.



The AEC East business unit is comparable in size to many of Canada's senior oil and natural gas producers. It focuses on shallow gas and oil exploration and development in the plains areas of the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin. AEC East has achieved regional domination through large consolidated land positions.

#### STRATEGY

- pursue production and reserves growth targets through low-risk exploration and development of sweet, dry, shallow gas; light and heavy oil pursue medium-risk exploration to broaden base for continued growth
- pursue select, value-added acquisitions
   maintain advantages of high working interests, low operating costs, low royalties and welldeveloped infrastructures
- be the industry's lowest-cost heavy oil producer develop and implement innovative low-cost recovery technologies position AEC to implement a commercial-scale steamassisted gravity drainage (SAGD) project when economic conditions are appropriate

#### KEY ASSETS

 1.9 trillion cubic feet of proven and probable shallow natural gas reserves 230 million barrels of proven and probable conventional oil reserves 3.5 million net acres of exploration land 94% ownership of petroleum and natural gas rights on the 1,000-square mile Suffield Range and 97% on the 2,000square mile Primrose Range more than 4.500 producing wells over 85% average working interest 530 million cubic feet/day of low royalty, low operating cost natural gas production 22,000 barrels/day of low

royalty, low operating cost

tional light oil production

6,000 barrels/day of conven-

28 billion barrels of heavy oil

25-billion cubic foot Primrose

heavy oil production

resource in Primrose

Gas Storage facility 200 million cubic feet/day Suffield Gas Pipeline

- POTENTIAL GROWTH
  - significant additional exploitation potential on existing land bases at Suffield, Primrose and Pelican Lake exploration and development potential on recently acquired land in the Pelican Lake and Springburn areas in Alberta, Wymark area in Saskatchewan, Ekwan/Sierra area in British Columbia
- commercial application of SAGD technology leading to production of 20,000 barrels/day of oil in 2001 enough resource has been delineated in the vicinity of the Primrose Range heavy oil pilot to support future commercial production of 100,000 barrels/day

# Achieved record production of 574 million cubic feet equivalent/day in 1998

OPERATIONS SUMMARY				
	99F	98	97	96
Production			_	
natural gas (million cubic feet/day)	530	408	325	276
conventional oil (barrels/day)	28,000	16,575	17,389	12,742
Proven and Probable Reserves				
natural gas (billion cubic feet)	N/A	1,859	1,543	1,457
conventional oil (million barrels)	N/A	230.1	65.8	50.4
Capital Expenditures (\$ millions)	330	237	238	185
Gross Wells				
exploration	100	77	55	81
development	400	351	209	251
Undeveloped Lands (thousands of net acres)	N/A	3,506	2,562	2,245

1998 OBJECTIVES VS. PERFORMANCE	
Objectives	Performance
□ replace production by 170%	□ achieved over 300% production replacement
	through exploration and development, or 1,000%
	including the Amber acquisition
□ increase natural gas production by 20% to	□ surpassed target and achieved record natural gas
389 million cubic feet/day	production of 408 million cubic feet/day, an increase
	of 26%
	□ exited the year at 510 million cubic feet/day, including
	100 million cubic feet/day from Amber properties
□ maintain heavy oil production at 1997 levels and	☐ development of heavy oil was deferred due to low
defer production increases until prices improve	oil prices
	□ exited the year at 26,000 barrels/day, including
	12,000 barrels/day from Amber properties
☐ develop a 25-billion cubic foot proprietary natural	□ successfully completed project in four months from
gas storage project at Primrose	concept to first injection in April 1998
□ complete construction of Suffield Gas Pipeline	□ constructed Suffield Gas Pipeline on budget and
project to reduce transportation costs	began transporting gas in November 1998
	□ currently transporting 150 million cubic feet/day
⊔ initiate plans for a potential 500-well recompletion	⊔ advanced program forward into 1998 and success-
program in 1999 and a 500-well drilling program for	fully performed a 560-well recompletion program
Suffield shallow gas	and drilled 285 new shallow gas wells
□ initiate enhanced oil recovery techniques to realize	granted enhanced oil recovery status by regulatory
full potential of Suffield heavy oil pools	authorities for all major oil pools in Suffield
	o initiated evaluation of enhanced recovery techniques
☐ drill horizontal wells and install production facilities	☐ drilled eight horizontal wells and installed a
for initial production at Pelican Lake	5,000-barrel/day oil battery
n complete business transactions to facilitate	☐ focused on other opportunities within the Williston
exploration on lands in the Williston Basin at	Basin due to delays in finalizing the Fort Berthold
Fort Berthold, North Dakota	agreement
complete SAGD commercial evaluation; determine	□ achieved industry-leading advancements and
heavy oil marketing strategy	success with SAGD technology at Primrose
	□ demonstrated feasibility and commenced commercial
	project design
1999 OBJECTIVES	
☐ increase natural gas production 30% to 530 mi	illion cubic feet/day
□ increase liquids production 69% to 28,000 barr	
inventory 12,000 barrels/day of heavy oil develo	opment due to depressed oil prices
⊔ maintain operating costs at below \$0,35/thous	·
□ reduce operating costs to \$4.50/barrel for liqui	
□ advance design and construction plans for the	
commercial project	
optimize the combined assets of AEC and Amb	per through the implementation of a sound
development plan	

a develop a by-pass pipeline for Primrose natural gas

 $\hfill \square$  expand exploration to provide opportunities for sustained growth



AEC West is one of the largest and strongest exploration and production companies in its operating region. It is the dominant natural gas producer in the West Peace River Arch, controlling 80% of the leased acreage. This upstream business unit primarily targets multi-zone, liquids-rich, deep gas in lands along the eastern slopes of the foothills in northeastern British Columbia and western Alberta.

#### STRATEGY

- continue exploration and development of properties in the West Peace River Arch, Edson region and northeast British Columbia
- target multi-zone, liquids-rich gas prospects along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountain foothills develop a portfolio of high-potential new concept exploration prospects through New Ventures group pursue select value-added acquisitions

#### KEY ASSETS

- 2.3 trillion cubic feet of proven and probable natural gas reserves51 million barrels of light liquids reserves
- 3.6 million net acres of exploration land one of the largest exploration landholders in British Columbia multi-zone rights on large contiguous plays
- control of the Sexsmith and Hythe plants, the two largest sour gas processing plants in the West Peace River Arch
- 400 million cubic feet/day gross sales capacity (63% AEC)
- 100% ownership of a 150-mile gas gathering infrastructure

70 million cubic feet/day
Maxhamish gas plant and
associated gathering system
Tupper Pipeline which ties
AEC reserves in Tupper/Doe
area of British Columbia to
AEC's Hythe plant in Alberta

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH

- dominant position in West Peace River Arch, controlling 80% of acreage in AEC operating areas
- solid land base to continue exploration concepts into British Columbia
- deep basin, high-potential exploration at Edson
   New Ventures group to develop prospects outside of core focus areas

# Achieved record production of 423 million cubic feet equivalent/day in 1998

OPERATIONS SUMMARY				
	99F	98	97	96
Production				
natural gas (million cubic feet/day)	35 <b>0</b>	300	263	229
liquids (barrels/day)	11,000	12,329	11,421	11,576
Proven and Probable Reserves				
natural gas (billion cubic feet)	N/A	2,348	2,142	1,603
oil and natural gas liquids (million barrels)	N/A	51.2	51.7	59.4
Capital Expenditures (\$ millions)	180	390	441	263
Gross Wells				
exploration	60	130	90	62
development	25	77	123	65
Undeveloped Lands (Ihousands of net acres)	N/A	3,584	3,694	2,034

1998 OBJECTIVES VS. PERFORMANCE	
Objectives	Performance
□ increase natural gas production to	□ achieved record natural gas production of
330 million cubic feet/day	300 million cubic feet/day, an increase of 14%
	□ exited the year at 325 million cubic feet/day
i replace 1998 production by 250%	□ added net 357 billion cubic feet equivalent in
	reserves, replacing production by 230%
□ continue to acquire and develop strategic	☐ drilled seven wells in new exploration concepts
British Columbia lands and reserves and	□ added 8 million cubic feet/day of new production
add new production to the Hythe plant	to the Hythe plant through the Tupper Pipeline
□ continue aggressive exploration and development	□ developed and added 22 million cubic feet/day of
program in the West Peace River Arch area and fill	new production
unused plant capacity	
u test key, high-potential prospects in the Edson/ANG	ti successfully tested three high-impact, deep
Pipeline Corridor area	exploration plays
	☐ Berland River well drilled in August, onstream in
	November at 26 million cubic feet/day (50% AEC)
	□ expect 15 million cubic feet/day sustained
	production at Smoky well (65% AEC)
□ develop high-potential prospects in New Ventures	□ drilled four new concepts, one of which tested gas
and test a minimum of four new concepts in	
Wyoming, Alberta and northeast British Columbia	prospects in Wyoming which will be drilled in 1999
	□ negotiated agreements with Aboriginal groups in
	central Northwest Territories which will allow for
	seismic acquisition in 1999 and drilling in 2000
□ complete northwest gas expansion to	□ expanded northwest gas production to
25 million cubic feet/day and continue regional	21 million cubic feet/day and identified additional
prospect development	drilling locations
☐ develop Maxhamish gas project in 1998 and begin	commenced construction on a plant with a capacity
commercial production in the second quarter of 1999	of 70 million cubic feet/day and associated
	gathering system and sales pipeline
	☐ currently on schedule for April 1999 start-up
	•
1999 OBJECTIVES	
B increase natural gas production 17% to 350 mil	lion cubic feet/day
□ target liquids production of 11.000 barrels/day	

☐ increase natural gas production 17% to 350 million cubic feet/day
□ target liquids production of 11,000 barrels/day
$\hfill\square$ complete construction and commission gathering system, plant and gas sales pipeline
at Maxhamish by April 1999
□ inventory 1,500 barrels/day of oil development projects due to low oil prices
□ evaluate and test high potential prospects in the Edson deep basin region
□ replace production by 180%



A compact, world-class team is applying AEC's strategy of growth, value and performance to international exploration. Our goal is to develop a substantial international business unit comparable in size to one of AEC's domestic upstream business units.

#### STRATEGY

- build a substantial, profitable reserves and production base by 2002
  - target production of 25,000 to 30,000 barrels of oil equivalent/day through exploration and exploitation in Australia, Latin America and Middle East/North Africa
- □ acquire high working interests in low-to-medium risk plays
- focus resources on four to six carefully screened and highly prospective basins and plays in a select number of countries
- invest approximately 10-15% of the Company's core capital budget
- drill six to eight net exploration wells in high-quality prospects in 1999
- make strategic acquisitions in focus basins

#### KEY ASSETS

1.8 million acres of exploration lands in large blocks in Australia and Argentina new and emerging exploration plays on existing lands
strong team with proven leadership in international exploration and more than an average of 10 years international experience per person

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH

- appraisal and development of major gas/condensate discovery in Carnarvon Basin, Northwest Shelf of Australia
- participation in drilling the potential high-reward Alov prospect in Azerbaijan
- large prospective land positions
  - Neuquen Basin of Argentina
  - two basins on the Northwest Shelf of Australia
- New Ventures team seeking high-quality exploration and acquisition opportunities

# Focus on a small number of low-to-medium risk, high-reward basins in select countries

OPERATIONS SUMMARY	99F	98	97	96
Production				
conventional oil (barrels/day)	2,000	2,217	1,683	1,241
Proven and Probable Reserves				
conventional oil (million barrels)	N/A	5.2	4.2	3.3
Capital Expenditures (\$ millions)	100	<b>6</b> 5	48	25
Gross Wells				
exploration	10	5	4	1
development	5	5	7	5
Undeveloped Lands (thousands of net acres)	N/A	1,751	2,945	2,711

Argentina	Descrives  Objectives  valuate and capture potential exploration upside by drilling exploration wells on existing and newly acquired lands in the Neuquen Basin shoot 500 square kilometres of 3-D seismic in Rio Negro area on existing and newly acquired lands, building AEC's exploration drilling inventory for future growth test new play type in the Estancia Vieja area  drill six development wells, complete surface facilities and implement a waterflood program in the Puesto Prado pool	Performance  ☐ deferred exploration program on new lands pending finalization of land tenure by government; drilled and abandoned two exploration wells on existing lands ☐ shot 450 square kilometres of high-quality 3-D seismic and developed prospect inventory for 1999 drilling ☐ successfully tested four wells in the Pre-Cuyo play in Puesto Prado ☐ drilled five development wells and commenced waterflood in the fourth quarter		
	□ shoot seismic and prepare a drilling location at Acambuco	□ withdrew from block based on new land survey		
Australia	☐ build expertise and prospect inventory  ☐ accelerate opportunity through appropriate farm-ins, bid round participation and acquisitions ☐ pursue plays in the Carnarvon, Canning and Bonaparte basins on the Northwest Shelf	<ul> <li>□ established an experienced team to aggressively explore proven basins on the Northwest Shelf</li> <li>□ farmed-in on two blocks; awarded two blocks in bid round</li> <li>□ drilled one gas/condensate discovery, John</li> <li>□ Brookes-1 (25% working interest), which flowed 53 million cubic feet/day of natural gas with 460 barrels/day of condensate</li> <li>□ drilled and abandoned two other offshore wells</li> </ul>		
Thailand	complete seismic program and interpretation     farm-out a 50% working interest in lands in the     northern basin area and "spud" a test well if required	□ completed work program and elected to discontinue operations		
North Africa/Middle East /Caspian Sea	organize a New Ventures team to expand into the region by third quarter of 1998     evaluate and capture appropriate opportunities in North Africa and the Middle East	<ul> <li>□ established experienced New Ventures team</li> <li>□ currently pursuing opportunities in North Africa, the Middle East and the Caspian Sea</li> <li>□ negotiated a 5% interest in an agreement to test the Alov prospect, the largest known geologic structure in Azerbaijan</li> </ul>		
Argentina	1999 OBJECTIVES  ☐ appraise and develop existing discoveries at Pu ☐ conduct an exploration drilling program on exis ☐ build prospect inventory to access gas potentian ☐ exit 1999 with 4,000 barrels/day of production			
Australia North Africa/Middle East /Caspian Sea	□ reduce operating costs to less than US\$3.00/barrel by the end of 1999  Australia □ appraise and initiate a development plan for the John Brookes-1 discovery □ identify and capture farm-in opportunities to build on success at John Brookes in the Carnarvon Ba □ plan to evaluate and drill prospects in the Carnarvon Basin □ evaluate and identify areas with superior reserves potential			

# **AEC Syncrude**



AEC Syncrude is the second-largest owner in the Syncrude Project, which is the single largest source of oil production in Canada, and the world's largest producer of oil sands-based light, sweet oil. Constantly improving technologies, combined with extremely large, long life reserves provide sustainable production and value growth for this upstream business unit.

#### STRATEGY

- accelerate plant expansion and develop high-quality bitumen resources
- develop and employ new technologies to increase efficiencies leading to lower costs
  - double production by 2007
- reduce operating costs to \$12.00/barrel by 2000

#### KEY ASSETS

- .. ownership interests
  - 13.75% joint venture interest
  - 5.0% gross overriding royalty on an additional 6.25%
  - 364 million barrels of proven reserves net to AEC
- 28,953 barrels/day of light. sweet oil priced at \$0.80 premium to light oil at
- no exploration risk
- .. non-declining production base
- large, integrated infrastructure including upgraders and extraction equipment

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH

- production is targeted to increase by 35% to 39.000 barrels/day in five years and to double by 2007
- proven and probable reserves can sustain production at the expanded rate until the year 2041
- minimal Crown royalty in the next six years

# Syncrude produced its billionth barrel in 1998

OPERATIONS SUMMARY	99F	98	97	96
Sales (barrels/day)	31,000	28,953	28,447	27,596
Proven Reserves (million barrels)	N/A	364	381	269
Probable Reserves (million barrels)	N/A	355	347	490
Proven Reserve Life Index (years)	N/A	32	37	27
Capital Expenditures (\$ millions)	90	68	49	29

# 1998 OBJECTIVES VS. PERFORMANCE Performance **Objectives** increase production to 30,000 barrels/day □ achieved production of 28,953 barrels/day, an increase of 506 barrels/day and a new record for average daily production □ produced the 1 billionth barrel of oil since start-up □ maintained expansion momentum despite low oil price environment □ reduce operating costs from \$13.78 to \$13.60/barrel □ reduced operating costs to \$13.55/barrel □ file upgrading expansion application with the AEUB □ filed application in June 1998 □ acquire additional oil sands leases □ acquired two high-quality leases within 15 kilometres of existing upgraders 1999 OBJECTIVES □ increase production by 7% to 31,000 barrels/day □ reduce operating costs to \$12.40/barrel □ maintain Syncrude expansion momentum by completing the first phase of expansion engineering design □ obtain AEUB approval for upgrader expansion

# **AEC Storage and Hub Services**



The operator of AECO, North America's largest independent natural gas storage and trading facility, AEC Storage and Hub Services is one of the Company's two midstream business units. In addition to providing reliable cash flow from storage services, gas storage allows AEC's upstream business units to optimize field facility development capital and capture seasonal peaks in gas prices.

#### STRATEGY

maintain leadership in gas storage through innovative, market-responsive customer service and cost-effective operations capture new investment opportunities using strong technical and commercial expertise optimize asset utilization

#### KEY ASSETS

85-billion cubic foot AECO gas storage reservoir in Alberta - largest independent facility

- largest independent facility in North America
- Canadian industry pricing point tor gas trading
- 1.8 billion cubic teet/day peak withdrawal capacity
- 14-billion cubic foot Wild
   Goose Gas Storage reservoir
   in California
  - first independent facility in the State
  - 200 million cubic feet/day peak withdrawal capacity
- contracts with terms varying from one to 15 years

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH

gas industry

expansion of Alberta capacity expansion potential of Wild Goose facility as market conditions develop new investment opportunities through continued restructuring of North American natural

# 1998 OBJECTIVES VS. PERFORMANCE

Objectives	Performance
increase operating cash flow by 15%	increased operating cash flow 77% through new
	contracts and asset optimization
increase capacity at AECO to service new contracts	enhanced deliverability to serve new contracts
	AECO capacity fully contracted
commence construction of the Wild Goose facility	on schedule for April 1999 start-up
towards a 1999 start-up	
acquire new pool capacity in Alberta for expansion	announced plans for 1999 development of new
of 10 billion cubic feet	gas storage capacity in northwest Alberta
introduce stronger risk optimization tools	implemented with positive impact on operating
	cash flow

#### 1999 OBJECTIVES

increase operating cash flow by 30% to \$30 million commission the Wild Goose Gas Storage facility in April 1999 complete 10-billion cubic foot gas storage facility in northwest Alberta continue aggressive growth strategy leading to new facility investment



AEC Pipelines & Gas Processing is Alberta's largest intra-provincial oil transporter and owns natural gas liquids extraction assets. Its principal asset is AEC's 70% ownership of the AEC Pipelines, L.P., which generates a reliable source of cash flow from long-term contracts.

#### STRATEGY

- pursue growth through pipeline transportation investments in North America and other regions
- anticipate and capture
  emerging market opportunities through creative
  entrepreneurial business
  agreements
- □ focus on customers
- leverage existing asset base and technical expertise to capture new investment opportunities
- apply the best available commercial technology

#### KEY ASSETS

- 170% ownership in AEC Pipelines, L.P. (TSE-listed ALB.UN), which has:
  - 100% interest in Cold
     Lake Pipeline System
  - 100% interest in Alberta
     Oil Sands Pipeline System
  - indirect 50% ownership in Express Pipeline System
  - long-term shipper contracts
- 235% interest in the Empress Straddle Plant
- □ 33% interest in Alberta
   Ethane Gathering System

#### POTENTIAL GROWTH

- Alberta Oil Sands Pipeline and Cold Lake Pipeline strategically positioned to transport increasing Alberta synthetic and heavy oil production
- increasing throughputs on the Express Pipeline system to serve U.S. Midwest and Rocky Mountain region markets
- ri capability to expand Express
  Pipeline from 172,000 to 280,000
  barrels/day at very low capital cost
- : international opportunities

#### 1998 OBJECTIVES VS. PERFORMANCE

#### Objectives

- implement market-based strategies to increase Express Pipeline throughput up to 15,000 barrels/day
  - commence expansion of Alberta Oil Sands Pipeline to handle Syncrude production growth and third-party volumes
- obtain regulatory approval for expansion of Alberta Ethane Gathering System
- continue development of northeast Alberta synthetic and heavy oil strategy
- pursue pipeline business opportunities in South

  America
- add ethane extraction capability at joint venture Empress Straddle Plant by year-end

## Performance

- delayed until completion of Platte Pipeline repairs in first quarter of 1999
- received approval from U.S. regulatory authorities to use electronic in-line inspection procedure for Platte Pipeline repair/refurbishment program
- reached agreement with Syncrude owners on an \$85 million expansion of Alberta Oil Sands Pipeline commenced design and engineering, working toward start-up in 2000
- · received approval
- completed west leg expansion
- planned east leg expansion for completion by mid-2000
- developing northeast Alberta strategy in response to producer plans and competitive initiatives
- specific pipeline opportunities in South America being evaluated
  - received regulatory approval started construction, working toward 1999 completion

## 1999 OBJECTIVES

- . achieve operating cash flow of \$85 million
- implement a growth strategy for the Cold Lake Pipeline in northeast Alberta
- complete repairs for reinstatement of the Platte Pipeline maximum operating pressure by the second quarter of 1999
- complete detailed engineering and commence construction to increase capacity of the Alberta Oil Sands Pipeline to 275,000 barrels/day by April 2000
- divest AEC's interest in Iroquois Gas Transmission System and Pan-Alberta Resources Inc. advance pipeline initiatives in South America to decision stage

The primary reason AEC is able to achieve a high level of growth, value and performance is its people. These employees and contractors are also the leaders, visionaries, shareholders, and entrepreneurs who make up our Company,

Highly qualified and motivated, they possess the resources and skills the Company needs to grow successfully. They are committed to continuous learning and personal growth. Their experience and expertise are diverse: from earth sciences to gas marketing, from engineering to financial management, from facility operations to information technology. Although their professions are wide-ranging, our employees are united by a common goal: to pursue opportunity and add value for AEC shareholders.

AEC's people not only expect to succeed — they do succeed. It is as a result of their teamwork, innovation and initiative that the value of AEC's assets continues to increase. AEC's people are aggressive and strong, but highly ethical competitors in their discipline.

In 1998, we saw the ranks of our employees grow from 702 to 846. Much of that increase can be attributed to our purchase of Amber Energy; more than 70% of Amber's employees accepted positions with AEC. The people that joined AEC in 1998 will play a significant role in AEC's future success.

As a Company, AEC gives each employee the opportunity and encouragement to be a life-long learner. We wholeheartedly support these professional development efforts and endeavours in the belief that having an up-to-date leading knowledge and skill set is crucial to their future and to AEC's.

# AEC has a staff of talented, enthusiastic, entrepreneurial people

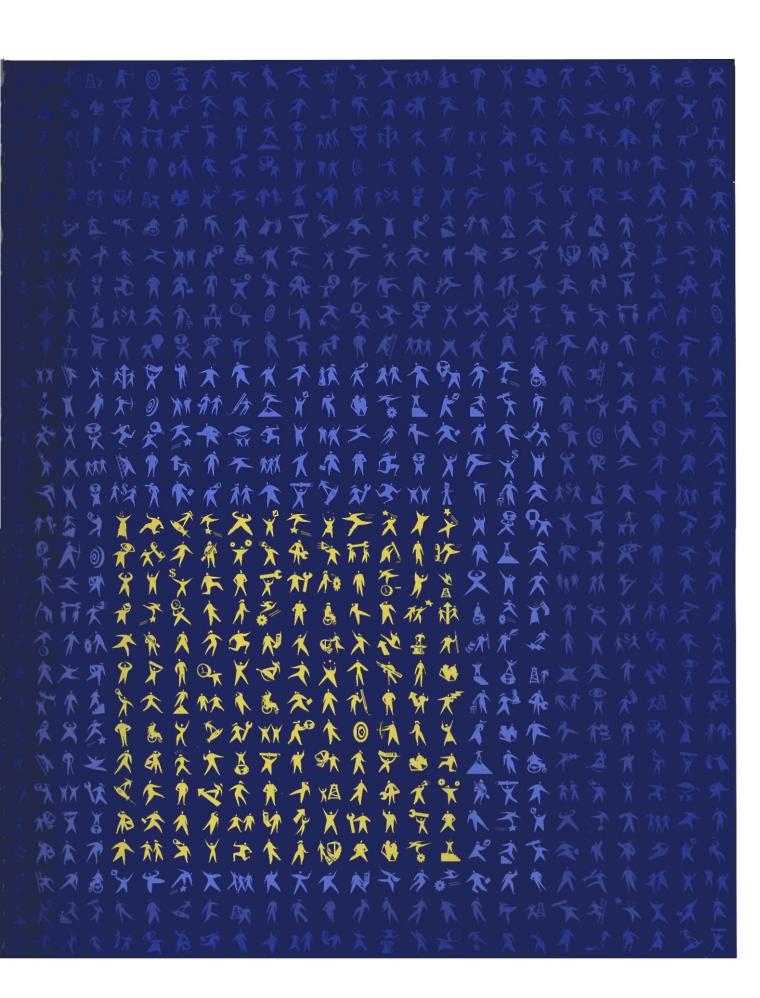
At AEC, compensation is tied to corporate, team and individual performance. Corporate and business unit results are evaluated by the Board of Directors and senior management. Team and individual performance is evaluated by management and fellow team members

The principles and concepts of "Results Based Compensation" recognize and reward employee achievements. AEC employees become shareholders through the compensation system, and stock options further stimulate results for shareholders.

Leaders in their communities as well as in our industry and their professions, our people contribute personal time and resources to a wide variety of organizations. For example, through the Go AEC (Give Once) Foundation, over the past four years, their participation, including the Company's Matching Gifts program, has generated more than \$1.6 million for their charities of choice.

AEC has high expectations of its employees, just as our employees have high expectations of our Company. Our employees readily meet, and often surpass, AEC's high expectations. We have a shared vision and passion for what we do.





## Our Commitments to the Community and the Environment

While operational reviews and financial statements reflect our performance in the business world, our community and environmental commitments reflect our interests and values in the day-to-day world. We believe our corporate contributions, and our environmental stewardship, are key to corporate citizenship in the places where we work and live.

# Generating and sharing opportunity and wealth

AEC does more than generate opportunity and wealth—we share them. AEC is a founding sponsor of the Imagine philosophy which encourages corporate support of charitable organizations across the country.

We annually contribute at least 1% of our pre-tax profits (based on a three-year rolling average), or about \$1.2 million. Part of this allocation is a matching gifts program where AEC facilitates payroll deduction for employee donations to all Canadian charities and then matches cash donations to those charities of choice.

Our contributions express our confidence in citizens' efforts to create safe, strong and vital communities. For example, the assistance we give to traditional and complementary health and wellness organizations is consistent with our corporate values which encourage healthy and balanced employee lifestyles. Our sponsorship of educational and sport programs provide youth with skills and information that will benefit them throughout their lives.

In 1998, AEC directly supported more than 120 initiatives and programs, among them:

- the Grande Prairie Mistahia Regional Health Authority's campaign to purchase a magnetic resonance imager (MRI)
- a proposed partnership with the Calgary
  Regional Health Authority to establish an
  Integrative Health Education Centre to provide
  quality information on complementary health
  and wellness practices
- DARE, a province-wide drug awareness program for Grade 6 students
- annual fundraising telethons for the Medicine
   Hat Public School Foundation and Medicine
   Hat Regional Health Foundation
- In the National Sport Centre and its YES program (Youth and Education through Sport), which helps students and national-level athletes reach their career goals and aspirations and communicates shared values throughout Alberta's schools

- 5 Northern Alberta Children's Health Foundation
- women's emergency shelters in AEC-based communities
- Grande Prairie) information meetings to help community residents cope with a prolonged series of industry-targeted crimes.
- Crimestopper programs to reduce crime and vandalism
- Junior Achievement in our major areas of operation

Another aspect of our community commitment is supporting business initiatives in Aboriginal communities where we have operating interests. By doing so, we underscore a commitment to understand and respect their cultural beliefs while also offering training, business and employment opportunities. AEC has signed benefits and access agreements with 12 Aboriginal groups in Alberta, British Columbia and Northwest Territories, including a \$3.5 million contract for camp construction and catering services at Maxhamish.

One of AEC's basic values and most ardent commitments is to the environment. People throughout AEC take pride in our record of safeguarding the beauty and balance of the environments in which we operate. In our pursuit to reduce emissions by improving production efficiency, we successfully applied a new technology to eliminate gas flaring during well fracture and completions. We also worked with the Tree Canada Foundation on a "carbon sink" pilot tree planting program intended to decrease the amount of carbon dioxide in the air.

As part of our "Good Neighbour" policy, we invested \$200,000 in advanced technology and installed a more efficient stack burner tip at the Hythe plant. The burner enhances the reliability and efficiency of gas combustion, beyond required regulatory standards, should stack flaring be required in an operating emergency.

Management's discussion and analysis of the financial condition and results of operations is to be read in conjunction with the Audited Consolidated Financial Statements. The Consolidated Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ("GAAP"). A reconciliation to United States GAAP is included in Note 16 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

AEC's results are reported in two business groups: Upstream comprises the Company's domestic and international gas and oil exploration, production and marketing operations. Midstream includes the Pipelines and Gas Processing segment and the Gas Storage and Hub Services operations.

Effective December 31, 1998, the Company adopted two new reporting standards established by the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants (CICA).

The Cash Flow Statement replaces the Statement of Changes in Financial Position. This new statement excludes non-cash transactions and results in some minor reclassifications of information.

The standard on Segment Disclosures requires the disclosure of certain information about operating segments, products and services, geographic areas and major customers. The new reporting standard results in additional disclosure in the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements of information previously provided outside the financial statements as Supplementary Information.

Neither of the two new standards results in any changes to Net Earnings, Cash Flow From Operations or the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

During 1997, a new Canadian accounting standard was established for Income Taxes applicable for fiscal years beginning in 2000. The Company will adopt this new standard in the applicable fiscal year. The impact of implementing the new Income Tax standard is not expected to be material, and is similar to the impact of U.S. GAAP FAS 109 as

described in Note 16.

On October 23, 1998, the Company acquired control of Amber Energy Inc. (Amber) for \$813.5 million as described in Note 2 of the Consolidated Financial Statements. Of the total, \$776.5 million relates to upstream operations, and the balance relates to midstream operations. Results of Operations include the Amber results from that date. The acquisition was accounted for using the purchase method.

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: UPSTREAM

For 1998, revenues, net of royalties, increased 16% or \$194.8 million, to \$1,403.4 million. This compares to an increase in 1997 of 30% or \$276.0 million, to \$1,208.6 million. Table 1 below shows the details of these changes by product.

#### Natural Gas Prices

Natural gas prices averaged \$2.04/thousand cubic feet, unchanged from 1997 (1996 -\$1.77/thousand cubic feet). Prices in 1998 remained at 1997 levels as above-average winter temperatures in North America resulted in reduced demand. Additional Canadian export transportation capacity did not become available until mid-December 1998, deferring the expected reduction in the U.S./Canadian pricing differential, and reduction of an Alberta supply surplus. Despite new record levels of gas well completions, supply in western Canada increased only marginally. Natural gas liquids prices fell to \$16.86 from \$23.97/barrel in 1997 following the trend for crude oil (1996 - \$23.95/barrel).

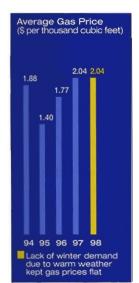


TABLE 1 CHANGES IN OIL AND NATURAL GAS REVENUE (\$ MILLIONS)

	1998 Compared to 1997					1997 Compared to 1996				
		price	royalties			į	price		royalties	
	price	hedge	volume	& other	total	price	hedge	volume	& other	total
Natural Gas and NG	LS (17.5)	2.3	111.7	(0.4)	96.1	56.1	0.4	38.0	(21.2)	73.3
Oil										
Conventional	(57.7)	-	(6.8)	16.1	(48.4)	(15.9)	-	35.0	(1.0)	18.1
Syncrude	(77.7)	-	5.1	26.5	(46.1)	22.1	-	7.3	28.3	57.7
International	(6.6)	-	4.8	0.4	(1.4)	(0.6)	-	4.3	(0.3)	3.4
Purchased Gas Sal	es 74.1	-	120.5	-	194.6	106.5	(0.2)	17.2	-	123.5
Total	(85.4)	2.3	235,3	42.6	194.8	168.2	0.2	101.8	5.8	276.0

#### 1998 Compared to 1997

# the anticipated favorable impact of increased export capacity was offset by delays in pipeline start-ups and warmer-than-average fourth quarter weather

#### 1997 Compared to 1996

increased due to summer demand to replace storage levels depleted in the colder-than-average 1996-1997 winter

#### Natural Gas Volumes

Production volumes increased to 708 million cubic feet/day from 588 million cubic feet/day in 1997 (1996 - 505 million cubic feet/day). Production in each of 1998 and 1997 includes 19 million cubic feet/day of cushion gas from the AECO Storage Facility reservoir. Natural gas sales increased to 714 million cubic

feet/day, up 24% from the 1997 total of 575 million cubic feet/day (1996 - 515 million cubic feet/day). At year-end 1998, produced gas inventory in storage was 15 billion cubic feet. down from 18 billion cubic feet in 1997 as a result of the Company's increased sales (1996 - 12 billion cubic feet).

#### TABLE 3 FACTORS AFFECTING NATURAL GAS SALES AND PRODUCTION VOLUMES

#### 1998 Compared to 1997

- .. new production brought on stream at Primrose, Suffield, Berland River and a second quarter plant expansion at Fontas sale of 3 billion cubic feet of gas held in inventory
  - addition of Amber volumes from October 24, 1998

#### 1997 Compared to 1996

- new production was brought on stream at Primrose in the second quarter and Gold Creek in the fourth quarter
- \_ unscheduled facility maintenance
- decision to retain gas in storage in expectation of an improvement in prices in the first quarter of 1998

Purchased gas sales increased to 752 million cubic feet/day from 569 million cubic feet/day in 1997 (1996 - 532 million cubic feet/day). Revenue from the sale of purchased gas increased to \$570.7 million from \$376.1 million in 1997 (1996 - \$252.7 million). The operating loss increased from \$3.8 million to \$7.9 million primarily due to increased cost of operations. At December 31, 1998, the Company had contracts in place to purchase 125.4 billion cubic feet of natural gas over a two-year period. Contracts were also in place to deliver 136.8 billion cubic feet over the same period. At year-end, there were 17 billion cubic feet of purchased gas in inventory (1997 - nil: 1996 -3 billion cubic feet).

#### Crude Oil Prices

Prices for Canadian conventional crude oil averaged \$13.13/barrel, a 34% decrease from \$19.99/barrel during 1997. In 1996, the average price received was \$21.80/barrel. Prices for Syncrude Sweet Blend oil averaged \$20.46/barrel compared to \$27.80/barrel in 1997, a 26% decrease (1996 - \$25.68/barrel). Argentinean oil prices averaged \$17.44/barrel, a decrease of 29% from the 1997 average price of \$24.66/barrel (1996 - \$25.57/barrel).



94 95 96 97 98 AEC's average liquids price declined 29%

TABLE 4 FACTORS AFFECTING OIL PRICES

#### 1998 Compared to 1997

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) prices declined 30% from an average US\$20.61 in 1997 to US\$14.43 in 1998; this was partially offset by a decrease in Canadian dollar to U.S. dollar exchange rates average from \$0.722 to \$0.674 the general decrease in oil prices was partially offset as the heavy oil price differential narrowed

#### 1997 Compared to 1996

- WTI prices declined from an average US\$22.01 in 1996 to US\$20.61 in 1997; this was partially offset by an increase in the U.S. to Canadian foreign exchange rates
- an increase in the proportion of conventional heavy crude grades sold at lower prices reduced the average price/barrel of Canadian conventional crude oil and was partially offset by the elimination of hedging costs

#### Crude Oil and Natural Gas Liquids Volumes

AEC produced an average of 23,027 barrels/day of Canadian conventional oil in 1998, compared to the 23,954 barrels/day produced in 1997, a decrease of 4% (1996 – 19,507 barrels/day). Natural gas liquids volumes increased 21% to 5,877 barrels/day from 4,856 barrels/day (1996 - 4,811 barrels/day). Syncrude sales

averaged 28,953 barrels/day, an increase of 2% over the 28,447 barrels/day sold in 1997 (1996 – 27,596 barrels/day). AEC's international production amounted to 2,217 barrels/day in 1998, an increase of 32% over the 1,683 barrels/day produced in 1997 (1996 – 1,241 barrels/day).

#### TABLE 5 FACTORS AFFECTING OIL PRODUCTION

#### 1998 Compared to 1997

- annual volumes increased due to the Amber acquisition and slightly higher production from AEC International and AEC Syncrude
- declining oil prices led the Company to reduce conventional crude development unscheduled maintenance at Syncrude restricted production in the third and fourth quarters

## 1997 Compared to 1996

- oil production brought on stream at Suffield,
   Valhalla and Clairmont
- minor property disposals resulted in a decrease of 1,100 barrels/day



During 1997, AEC began accessing new U.S. markets via the indirect 50%-owned Express Pipeline System.

#### **Production Unit Netbacks**

Production unit netbacks represent the Operating Cash Flow the Company receives, on average, for each unit of product sold. Natural gas netbacks remained constant at \$1.33/thousand cubic feet, the same as 1997.

Netbacks for conventional oil declined 40% to \$6.44/barrel in 1998, compared to \$10.67/barrel in 1997; and netbacks for Syncrude Sweet Blend averaged \$7.33/barrel in 1998, a decrease of 39% over the \$11.97/barrel received in 1997. At the end of 1996, all of AEC's oil price swaps terminated.

Netbacks received by AEC over the past three years and the factors affecting them are summarized below:

TABLE 6 PRODUCT UNIT NETBACK (\$ PER UNIT)

	Natural Gas (thousand cubic feet)			Conventional Oil (barrel)			Syncrude (barrel)		
	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996
Revenue	2.04	2.04	1.80	13.13	19.99	25.14	20.46	27.80	29.08
Hedge	-	-	(0.03)	-	-	(3.34)	-	-	(3.40)
Revenue, net of hedge	2.04	2.04	1.77	13.13	19.99	21.80	20.46	27.80	25.68
GORR '	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.51	0.69	0.71
Royalties	0.29	0.31	0.20	1.82	3.58	4.28	(0.03)	2.70	5.58
Operating Costs	0.42	0.40	0.43	4.87	5.74	4.69	13.67	13.82	13.71
Netback	1.33	1.33	1.14	6.44	10.67	12.83	7.33	11.97	7.10

Gross Overriding Royalty Received

#### TABLE 7 FACTORS AFFECTING UNIT NETBACKS

#### 1998 Compared to 1997 1997 Compared to 1996 □ higher per-unit operating costs, due in part to higher increase in prices and lower per unit operating Natural Gas custom processing of third-party volumes, were costs more than offset an increase in royalties partially offset by processing fee revenue earned □ a decrease in the average price was partially offset by □ a decrease in average price and increased costs of Conventional Oil production were partially offset by the elimination of a decrease in royalties, lower heavy oil price differentials, lower foreign exchange rates and lower the oil price hedging losses and a decrease in operating costs rovalties paid ☐ the addition of Amber volumes lowered AEC's □ delayed tie-ins increased oil hauling costs average unit operating costs ☐ Crown royalties decreased as a result of new fiscal Syncrude Sweet Blend Oil | lower oil prices were partially offset by lower foreign exchange rates and lower operating costs terms established by the Government of Alberta no royalties decreased as a result of new fiscal terms □ the oil price decline was more than offset by the established by the Government of Alberta elimination of the hedge costs incurred in 1996

#### Upstream Capital

During 1998, the Upstream business group invested capital of \$767.7 million (1997 - \$778.0 million). Proceeds received on the disposal of non-core oil and gas properties amounted to \$25.3 million.

Investment in the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin amounted to \$609.8 million and resulted in the addition of 778 billion cubic feet equivalent of proven reserves, and 211 billion cubic feet equivalent of probable reserves or 989 billion cubic feet equivalent in total. Major exploration and development activities undertaken in the West Peace River Arch, at Suffield and Primrose, and in newer plays at Edson, Maxhamish and Pelican Lake, contributed to the significant reserves additions of 1998.

Finding and development costs are a measure of an exploration company's ability to economically find and exploit new oil and gas reserves. In 1998, the Company invested \$6.16/barrel on a proven plus probable basis compared to \$5.81/barrel in 1997, using a natural gas to oil conversion ratio of 10 thousand cubic feet of natural gas to one barrel of oil.

Some of the more notable activities included three successful exploration wells drilled in the Edson area; one gas well drilled at Smoky in west central Alberta with a sustainable production rate of 10 million cubic feet/day to AEC; eight horizontal wells drilled and one battery constructed at Pelican Lake; 560 gas well recompletion program completed and 285 shallow gas wells drilled at Suffield; 60 gas development wells drilled at Primrose; a Primrose storage facility developed with a capacity of 25 billion cubic feet; a Berland River gas well producing 13 million cubic feet/day net

to AEC on production in November; three exploration wells drilled in the Tupper area of British Columbia and a pipeline constructed to the Hythe gas plant; and development of the Maxhamish area commenced including a gas plant with a design capacity of 70 million cubic feet/day.

Investments were also made in the ongoing development of a pilot project which has confirmed the potential of producing heavy crude reserves utilizing steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) technology. In addition, \$13.2 million was invested in exploration projects in North Dakota and Montana.

The Company periodically evaluates the future value of its oil and gas reserves and compares them to the accounting value of those reserves. This evaluation is as prescribed in the Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles Full Cost Accounting Guideline and is known as the ceiling test. At year-end, the Company's reserve value exceeded the specified cost base by \$766 million.

Investments in AEC Syncrude totaled \$68.3 million primarily directed to sustaining production, developing the Aurora mine, removing production constraints and acquiring two new leases.

Investments in AEC International operations amounted to \$64.7 million. In addition to continuing exploration and development operations in Argentina, the Company has a 25% interest in a successful gas well in the Australian Northwest Shelf. Further drilling will be required to appraise the size of the discovery.

Low oil prices at year-end and a decision to discontinue operations in Thailand resulted in additional depletion in the amount of \$14.0 million being recorded relating to international properties.

#### RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: MIDSTREAM

followed the decline in oil prices

For 1998, Midstream revenues of \$506.5 million were comparable to \$508.3 million in 1997

(1996 - \$189.5 million). The factors contributing to this decrease are detailed below:

#### TABLE 8 FACTORS AFFECTING MIOSTREAM REVENUE

## 1998 Compared to 1997

# decreased due to lower oil sales revenue of a 50%-owned affiliate shipping on the Express Pipeline System; this was partially offset by an increase in revenues due to full year operation of the Express Pipeline System compared to nine months in 1997 revenues increased due to increasing emphasis on the optimization of the facility which involved the purchase and sale of natural gas revenues declined as natural gas liquids prices

#### 1997 Compared to 1996

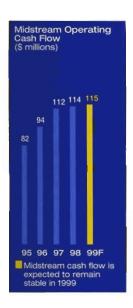
- increased due to the sale of oil acquired to fulfill volume obligations on the Express Pipeline System increased due to the commissioning of the Express Pipeline System
- net revenues are comparable year over year

increased primarily due to the full-year impact of the Empress Straddle Plant operations

## Natural Gas Liquids Processing

Natural Gas Storage

**Pipelines** 



Throughput capacity on the Express Pipeline System has been constrained as a consequence of line pressure restrictions imposed on the Platte Pipeline segment of the system following a pipeline leak on July 2, 1997. A complete assessment was conducted and a pressure reinstatement program is underway and expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter of 1999. Capital investment in the Pipelines group amounted to \$68.5 million in 1998.

The Company holds a 50% ownership in an affiliate that is a shipper on the Express Pipeline System. The revenue from oil sold and the cost of oil purchased and shipped on the Express System is reflected in revenue and cost of product purchased, respectively. Affiliate revenue included in the Pipelines total amounted to \$219.8 million in 1998 as compared to \$259.5 million in 1997 reflecting lower average oil prices (1996 - nil).

During 1997, the Company restructured its crude oil pipeline operations with the formation of AEC Pipelines, L.P., as more fully described in Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements. This transaction enabled a market valuation to be placed on the Company's crude oil pipeline assets and provided additional capital to fund expanded

operations, most notably the development of Express Pipeline System.

In 1998, the Company invested \$43.2 million in its gas storage operations, \$27.0 million of which related to the ongoing construction of the new 14-billion cubic foot Wild Goose Gas Storage Facility in California. This facility is expected to be in service in the second quarter of 1999. During the year, the Company accelerated a program of natural gas purchases and sales designed to optimize utilization of the Suffield facility. This resulted in gas sales of \$34.0 million which is included in Gas Storage Revenue.

#### Consolidated Summary

Consolidated Net Earnings for 1998 amounted to \$24.4 million, compared to \$21.7 million in 1997 (1996 - \$68.0 million). Including the 1997 dilution gain, Net Earnings in 1997 were \$199.7 million. Consolidated Cash Flow from Operations decreased 10% to \$488.5 million in 1998 from \$544.7 million in 1997 (1996 - \$411.9 million). Consolidated Net Revenues for 1998 totaled \$1,909.9 million, compared to \$1,716.9 million in 1997, an 11% increase (1996 - \$1,122.1 million).

Factors affecting these results are outlined in the following table:

# TABLE 9 FACTORS AFFECTING CONSOLIDATED RESULTS

	TABLE 9 FACTORS AFFECTING CONSOLIDATED H	E3UL13
Net Earnings	1998 Compared to 1997	1997 Compared to 1996
	\$24.4 million, down \$175.3 million	\$199.7 million, up \$131.7 million
		1) \$178.0 million dilution galn representing the increase
	recorded in 1997	in the Company's share of the accounting value of
	□ less additional depletion	AEC Pipelines, L.P. partnership equity resulting
	i lower oil contributions	from the sale of a 30% minority interest
	☐ higher interest expense	<ul> <li>additional depletion related to AEC International</li> </ul>
	☐ lower income tax	operations
	্য decrease in Pipelines earnings	□ increase in Syncrude netbacks
	□ lower straddle plant processing earnings	□ minority interest in AEC Pipelines, L.P.
		□ increase in natural gas prices
		□ decrease in net interest expense
		□ decrease in general and administrative expense
Cash Flow from	\$488.5 million, down \$56.2 million	\$544.7 million, up \$132.8 million
Operations	□ decrease in oil operating cash flow	
	□ increase in produced gas operating cash flow	□ increased Syncrude prices and volumes
	□ higher cash interest expense	□ newly commissioned Express Pipeline System
	□ lower cash income tax	□ full-year impact of Empress Straddle Plant
	increases in Gas Storage and Hub Services and	<ul> <li>decreased purchased gas operating margins and</li> </ul>
	Pipelines operating cash flow	increased pipeline transportation costs
	decrease in straddle plant processing operating	
	cash flow	<u> </u>
Net Revenues	\$1,909.9 million, up \$193.0 million	\$1,716.9 million, up \$594.8 million
	i) increased purchased gas prices and volumes	marketing of purchased oil volumes
	□ lower oil and NGLs prices	<ul> <li>increased purchased gas prices and volumes</li> </ul>
	increased produced gas volumes	increased produced gas prices and volumes
	i higher gas storage revenues	☐ increased Syncrude prices and volumes
	□ lower pipeline affiliate oil sales	□ full-year impact of Empress Straddle Plant
	□ lower Syncrude royalties	
	□ lower straddle plant processing revenues	
	i higher pipelines revenue	

#### Operating Expenses 1998 Compared to 1997 1997 Compared to 1996 \$488.8 million, up \$38.3 million \$450.5 million, up \$78.4 million commissioning and operating the Express Pipeline higher produced gas costs were partially due to higher third-party volumes processed \_ full-year impact of Empress Straddle Plant higher pipeline operating costs lower straddle plant feedstock costs new oil and natural gas production brought on stream Cost of Product \$816.3 million, up \$185.3 million \$631.0 million, up \$384.6 million increase due to the purchase of oil acquired by a Purchased higher purchased gas volumes and costs 50%-owned affiliate to fulfill volume obligations on lower crude oil purchase costs the Express Pipeline System higher gas storage optimization costs increase due to higher volumes of purchased gas trading activity and higher unit costs \$30.4 million, up \$2.3 million \$28,1 million, down \$4.3 million General and higher staff levels, information technology and lower information technology expenses, consulting Administrative Expenses and transportation costs shareholder costs Net Interest Expense \$84.7 million, up \$35.8 million \$48.9 million, down \$4.5 million in higher monthly average debt levels offset by lower higher monthly average debt levels and cost of borrowing partially offset by a foreign exchange gain cost of borrowing related to the Express Pipeline System financing \$385.6 million, up \$29.1 million \$356.5 million, up \$70.7 million Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization higher natural gas volumes were partially offset by higher natural gas and oil volumes sold a lower per-unit rate of \$0.93 compared to higher per-unit rate of \$1.02 compared to \$1.02/million cubic feet equivalent in 1997 \$0.96/million cubic feet equivalent in 1996 **Additional Depletion** \$14.0 million, down \$70.9 million \$84.9 million International ceiling tests completed on a country and Amortization International ceiling tests basis - \$72.4 million \_ exited Peru and Trinidad Argentina operations continue additional amortization of midstream capital assets \$47.3 million, down \$33.2 million Income Taxes \$80.5 million, up \$1.5 million impact of lower taxable earnings was partially offset \_ lower effective tax rate in 1997 as a result of the

TABLE 10 FACTORS AFFECTING EXPENSES



During 1998, the Canadian dollar declined in value relative to the U.S. dollar, Approximately 76% of the Company's production revenue is denominated directly or indirectly in U.S. dollars and is subject to changes in exchange rates. As a result of the lower Canadian dollar in 1998, the Company's revenue was higher by approximately \$35 million. These gains were partially

by lower non-deductible additional depletion costs

offset by \$9.6 million of foreign exchange costs relating to the Company's U.S.-dollar denominated long-term debt. In Canada, exchange gains and losses are deferred and amortized over the term of the associated long-term debt. The impact of expensing these costs is as described in Note 16 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

non-taxable dilution gain partially offset by nondeductible additional depletion and amortization

#### LIQUIDITY AND CAPITAL RESOURCES

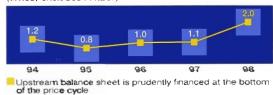
Excluding the Amber acquisition, on a consolidated basis, the Company invested \$883.3 million of which \$767.7 million, or 87%, was in the Upstream business group, and

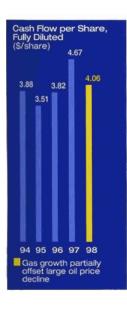
\$115.6 million in the Midstream business group, including \$41.9 million of indirect pipelines capital. In 1997, the Company invested \$984.4 million. Factors affecting capital are detailed below:

## TABLE 11 ALLOCATION OF CAPITAL INVESTED

	1998	1997
Western Canada	\$609.8 million	\$669.4 million
Conventional Qil and	\$312.3 million on exploration and development	securing a large land position in key exploration areas
Gas	drilling	drilling 391 net wells
	. \$188.2 million on production facilities	developing required gas and oil processing capability
	109.3 million on land and seismic	
Syncrude	\$68.3 million	\$48.8 million
	ongoing mine expansion and capital improvements	commencing new mine and expansion development
		plan
International	\$64.7 million	\$48.3 million
	\$42.8 million on exploration and development	drilling and development in Argentina
	in Argentina	conducting exploration assessments in two
	\$16.8 million on exploration wells on the	countries
	Australian Northwest Shelf	
	_ \$5.1 million in other countries	
U.S. Upstream	\$13.2 million	\$9.5 million
Express Pipeline	\$25.8 million	\$120.5 million
System	refurbishing the Platte System from Casper,	commissioning of pipeline from Hardisty, Alberta
	Wyoming to Wood River, Illinois	to Casper, Wyoming
	ongoing capital improvements	refurbishing the Platte System from Casper,
		Wyoming to Wood River, Illinois
Other Pipelines	\$42.7 million	\$39.1 million
	investments in AEC Pipelines, L.P., holder of Alberta	investments in Lakeland, Alberta Oil Sands and
	Oil Sands and Cold Lake pipelines, and in directly	Cold Lake pipelines
	held pipelines	
Gas Storage	\$43.2 million	\$40.2 million
	construction of the Wild Goose Gas Storage Facility	acquiring natural gas volumes to be used in the
	construction of the AECO storage expansion in	maintenance of facility deliverability pressures
	northwestern Alberta	commencing construction of the Wild Goose
		Gas Storage facility in California
Natural Gas Liquids	\$3.9 million	(\$2.5) million
Processing	facility expansion	cost recovery equalization on admission of a new
		joint venture participant

# Upstream Debt-to-Cash Flow (times, excludes Amber)





The Company funded its investment program primarily through a combination of Cash Flow From Operations of \$488.5 million, proceeds on the disposal of non-core assets of \$25.3 million and long-term debt. The acquisition of Amber was funded with a combination of long-term debt, AEC shares and Amber debt assumed.

On a consolidated basis, long-term debt held directly by the Company was \$1,646.7 million at December 31, 1998, up \$639.9 million, from the 1997 amount of \$1,006.8 million. The Company has ten revolving credit facilities available to a maximum of \$1,592 million for terms ranging from four months to eight years. At December 31, 1998, \$535 million or 34% was utilized. In addition, the Company has the capability to issue up to \$150 million of Unsecured Debentures by way of a medium-term note shelf prospectus, until August 2000. Total debt is \$1,977.4 million, (1997-\$1,017.1 million) of which \$330.7 million is the Company's proportionate share of debt of affiliates.

The Company maintains a separate capital

structure for each of its Upstream and Midstream business groups consistent with the norms for those industries to recognize the different business profiles, risk and rewards associated with each. The Midstream business group's debt is comprised of indirect debt held by the Express Pipeline System, AEC Pipelines, L.P., Pan-Alberta Resources Inc. and allocated AEC debt to establish an industry benchmark debt-to-capitalization ratio of 60:40.

At December 31, 1998, \$1,355.4 million of long-term debt was related to upstream operations and \$622.0 million was included in midstream operations, of which \$330.7 million was indirect.

# RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company's results are influenced by factors such as product prices, interest and foreign exchange rates, royalties, taxes and operations. Sensitivities to some of these factors are summarized below:

Factor	1999 Impact on Cash F				
	\$	Per Share			
Change of US\$0.10/thousand cubic feet in the price of natural gas	\$42 million	\$0.30			
Change of US\$1.00 WTI/barrel in the price of oil	\$37 million	\$0.27			
Change of \$0.01 in the value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar	\$16 million	\$0.11			

The Company seeks to manage its risk exposure through a combination of insurance, internal controls, sound operating practices and financial derivatives. Derivatives such as commodity price swap agreements, interest rate swaps and foreign exchange forward-sale contracts are used only to reduce specific risk exposures and are not held for trading purposes.

During 1998, the Company utilized commodity price swaps for produced gas and purchased gas, and an affiliate utilized oil price swaps. At October 23, 1998, Amber had in place floating-to-fixed interest rate swaps and foreign exchange forward sales contracts. Foreign exchange contract losses of \$11.4 million at the date of acquisition were accrued and included in the purchase price.

In addition to limits established by the Board of Directors on the use of commodity price swap agreements, a rigorous system of internal control procedures has been established. Credit risks are managed by transacting only with preauthorized counterparties where agreements are in place. Credit limits are established for all parties where a credit risk exposure exists and are closely monitored.

An active program of monitoring and reporting day-to-day operations is designed to provide assurance that environmental and regulatory standards are met. Contingency plans are in place for timely response to an event.

AEC is exposed to risks and uncertainties inherent in foreign operations, including regulatory and legislative changes. Events in these operations are not expected to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

#### YEAR 2000 READINESS

The Company instituted a corporate-level Year 2000 (Y2K) Program in the fall of 1997. The Program has dedicated, full-time staff who provide core project management services to assist the business groups in addressing Y2K issues. Additional external resources are contracted to meet specific skill requirements or staffing levels to ensure the timely execution of the Program. Progress reports are presented to Senior Management and to the Audit Committee of the Board of Directors.

AEC is addressing Y2K issues in five overlapping phases:

- (1) corporate-wide awareness of the issue:
- identification and assessment of all critical equipment, software systems, facilities and business relationships;
- (3) detailed planning of remediation and testing as well as contingency planning;
- (4) remediation and testing of critical items;
- (5) implementation of procedures to maintain a Y2K-ready environment.

The Company has implemented these phases across four broad areas: Field Process Control; Information Technology Systems; Facilities Systems; and External Business Relations.

The Company believes it is impractical to seek to eliminate all potential Y2K issues before they arise. The Company is using a risk-based analysis of its operations to identify those items deemed to be "mission critical", defined as having the potential for significant adverse effects in one or more of five areas: environmental, safety, ongoing business relationships, financial and legal exposure, and Company credibility and image.

The Company uses a series of "scorecards" and planning documents to monitor and track the progress of the Year 2000 Program. The Year 2000 Program is proceeding on schedule. While the Program has targeted June 30, 1999 to complete all the remediation and testing of critical items, certain items may be delayed to coincide with scheduled plant maintenance activities and some business continuity/contingency planning activities may be completed after the target date. The Company is dedicated to having addressed all mission-critical items by December 31, 1999.

The Company utilizes both internal and external resources in its Y2K efforts. The Company has estimated that total costs

for the Year 2000 Program will not exceed \$9 million. This estimate does not include AEC's potential share of Y2K costs that may be incurred by partnerships and joint ventures in which the Company participates but is not the operator. In 1998, approximately \$750,000 was spent on Y2K issues.

The Company has already developed and maintains extensive contingency plans to respond to equipment failures, emergencies and business interruptions. Contingency planning for Y2K issues is complicated by the possibility of multiple and simultaneous incidents which could significantly impede efforts to respond to emergencies and resume normal business functions. Such incidents may be outside the Company's control if, for example, mission-critical third parties do not successfully address their own material Y2K problems. The Company is developing contingency plans which it expects to have in place by the second half of 1999 to identify potential problems and mitigate the impact on its operations of potential failures arising from the Y2K issue. These plans will be designed to protect the Company's assets, continue safe operations, protect the environment, and enable the resumption of any interrupted operations in a timely and efficient manner.

# OUTLOOK

Oil and gas sales are targeted to grow, while commodity prices remain volatile. The combined outlook in Cash Flow and Net Earnings will be driven by both factors. Produced gas sales are expected to grow 26% to 900 million cubic feet/day compared to 714 million cubic feet/day in 1998. The Company believes it has secured adequate gas pipeline transportation to achieve its forecasted direct sales volumes. At the time of writing, 75% of AEC's 1999 produced gas sales are committed. The remaining uncommitted volumes comprise 15% of total sales targeted to markets outside Alberta, and 10% of total sales targeted to markets inside Alberta. Storage inventory is forecast to be 18 billion cubic feet of produced gas at the beginning of the 1999 - 2000 winter heating season, and 3 billion cubic feet at December 31, 1999. Sales of oil and liquids are expected to grow to 72,000 barrels/day with approximately the following mix:

☐ Light and NGLs 67% ☐ Heavy 33% Alberta natural gas prices have strengthened as additional export capacity came on stream in late 1998 providing access to U.S. markets and reducing the gas-on-gas competition within Alberta. We expect this will result in Alberta prices being stronger than prices from U.S. markets in 1999.

During 1999, oil prices are expected to remain near current levels of US\$12 WTI due to continued soft demand and increasing world production. Oil netbacks per unit are expected to be near 1998 levels.

In 1998, the Company entered into a number of one-year term sale agreements commencing January 1, 1999 with heavy oil purchasers to reduce the risk of widening light-to-heavy differentials on approximately 16,000 barrels/day of blended heavy oil. Twenty-eight percent of this volume was locked in at a fixed differential equivalent to a WTI-to-Bow River differential of US\$3.75/barrel. Sixty-six percent of this volume was locked in at a "cap" which is equivalent to a WTI-to-Bow River differential of US\$4.00/barrel. This provides the Company the market differential up to a maximum of US\$4.00/barrel and is fixed at US\$4.00/barrel if differentials widen further. The remaining 6% is priced at a wellhead floor price or on a percentage of light crude price.

Also in 1998, Amber had in place, a contract to deliver 5,000 barrels/day of blended heavy crude oil for a term of one year ending August 31, 1999 at a fixed differential to WTI of US\$4.65/barrel with a heavy oil refiner.

In 1999, AEC expects its direct capital investment in core programs to be approximately \$750 million.

Upstream capital investment is estimated to be \$700 million directed to natural gas and oil exploration and development activities. AEC is targeting to drill up to 600 gross wells in 1999, the majority of which will target natural gas. At Maxhamish, production facilities capable of 70 million cubic feet/day will be completed during the first quarter of 1999 with commercial production expected to commence in the second quarter.

Capital investments in Syncrude of approximately \$900 million (AEC share) over the next ten years are expected to approximately double AEC's share of production to over 56,000 barrels/day and reduce production costs to under \$10/barrel, in 1998 dollars, by 2007.

Direct midstream operations are targeting \$50 million in investments and expect to generate stable Operating Cash Flow as a result of improvements in the pipeline operations and additional new gas storage capacity, offsetting decreases due to potential minor dispositions.

The Company will continue to assess the way in which it finances its operations to achieve its growth targets in a financially-prudent manner. The Company intends to finance its 1999 budgeted capital program through Cash Flow from Operations, long-term debt and other financing vehicles that optimize full-cycle capital returns.

February 17, 1999

# Management Report

The accompanying Consolidated Financial Statements and all information in this annual report are the responsibility of Management. The financial statements have been prepared by Management in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and include certain estimates that reflect Management's best judgements. Financial information contained throughout this annual report is consistent with these financial statements.

The Company has developed and maintains an extensive system of internal control that provides reasonable assurance that all transactions are accurately recorded, that the financial statements realistically report the Company's operating and financial results and that the Company's assets are safeguarded. The Company's Internal Audit department reviews and evaluates the adequacy of and compliance with the Company's internal controls. As well, it is the policy of the Company to maintain the highest standard of ethics in all its activities.

AEC's Board of Directors has approved the information contained in the financial statements. The Board fulfills its responsibility regarding the financial statements mainly through its Audit Committee.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent firm of chartered accountants, was appointed by a vote of shareholders at the Company's last Annual Meeting to audit the Consolidated Financial Statements and provide an independent professional opinion.

Gwyn Morgan

President & Chief Executive Officer

February 17, 1999

John D. Watson

Vice-President, Finance & Chief Financial Officer

# **Auditors' Report**

# To the Shareholders of Alberta Energy Company Ltd.:

ricewaterhoundoopers LLP

We have audited the Consolidated Balance Sheets of Alberta Energy Company Ltd. as at December 31, 1998 and December 31, 1997 and the Consolidated Statements of Earnings, Retained Earnings and Cash Flows for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1998. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's Management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with Generally Accepted Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by Management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these Consolidated Financial Statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at December 31, 1998 and December 31, 1997 and the results of its operations and the changes in its cash position for each of the years in the three-year period ended December 31, 1998, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in Canada.

**Chartered Accountants** 

Calgary, Canada

February 5, 1999

\$ millions, except per share amounts)	1998		1997		1996
Revenues, Net of Royalties					
Upstream	\$ 1,403,4	\$	1,208.6	\$	932.6
Midstream (Note 4)	506.5		508.3		189.5
	1,909.9		1,716.9		1,122.1
Costs, Expenses and Other					
Operating	488.8		450.5		372.1
Cost of product purchased	816.3		631.0		246.4
General and administrative	30.4		28.1		32.4
Interest, net (Note 5)	84.7		48.9		53.4
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	385.6		356.5		285.8
Additional depletion and amortization (Note 8)	14.0		84.9		
Dilution gain (Note 3)			178.0		
Earnings Before the Undernoted	90.1		295.0	_	132.0
Income taxes (Note 6)	47.3		80.5		79.0
Minority interest	18.4		14.8		
Net Earnings from Continuing Operations	24.4	_	199.7		53.0
Net Earnings from Discontinued Operations (Note 3)	-		-		15.0
Net Earnings	\$ 24.4	\$	199.7	\$	68.0
Earnings from Continuing Operations per Common Share					
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$	1.78	\$	0.51
Fully diluted	\$ 0.21	\$	1.73	\$	0.51
	-1.7.2		_		
Earnings per Common Share	الانجاب				
Basic	\$ 0.21	\$_	1.78	\$	0.65
Fully diluted	\$ 0.21	\$	1.73	\$	0.65

# Consolidated Statement Of Retained Earnings

Year Ended December 31 (\$ millions)		1998	 1997	 1996
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$	648.2	\$ 493.0	\$ 464.7
Niet Earnings	Anna Smith State	24.4	199.7	68.0
		672.6	 692.7	 532.7
Common Share Dividends		(45.0)	(44.5)	(39.7)
Balance, End of Year	:\$	627.6	\$ 648.2	\$ 493.0

See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

(\$ millions)	1998	1997
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 29.7	\$ 44.8
Accounts receivable and accrued revenue	370.2	325.
Inventories (Note 7)	139.7	72.
	539.6	443.
Capital Assets (Note 8)	5,224.2	3,907.8
Investments and Other Assets (Note 9)	95.9	47.0
	\$ 5,859.7	\$ 4,397.
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 427.0	\$ 386.
Current portion of long-term debt	1.8	1.
	428.8	388.
Long-Term Debt (Note 10)	1,646.7	1,006.
Indirect Midstream Long-Term Debt (Note 11)	330.7	10.
Other Liabilities (Note 12)	134.6	79.
Deferred Income Taxes	630.7	585.
Minority Interest, AEC Pipelines, L.P.	108.3	114.
	3,279.8	2,184.
Shareholders' Equity	<u> </u>	
Share Capital (Note 13)	1,916.0	1,546.
Retained Earnings	627.6	648.
Foreign Currency Translation Adjustment	36.3	19.
A PORT OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	2,579.9	2,213.
	\$ 5,859.7	\$ 4,397.

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See accompanying Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements.

Approved by the Board

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Year Ended December 31	1998	1997	1990
(\$ millions except per share amounts)	1998	1997	
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net Earnings from Continuing Operations	\$ 24.4	\$ 199.7	\$ 53.
Depreciation, depletion and amortization	385.6	35 <b>6</b> .5	285.
Additional depletion and amortization	14.0	84.9	
Deferred income taxes	47.9	67.8	70.
Minority interest	18.4	14.8	
Dilution gain		(178.0)	
Other	(1.8)	(1.0)	2.
Cash Flow from Operations	488.5	544.7	411.
Net change in non-cash working capital (Note 15)	(59.6)	(84.8)	(50.
	428.9	459.9	361.
INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Acquisition (Note 2)	(303.2)	-	(365
Capital investment	(883.3)	(984.4)	(908)
Net proceeds on sale of AEC Pipelines, L.P. (Note 3)	(550,0)	295.4	(
Proceeds on disposal of assets (Note 3)	25.3	195.0	66.
Investments and other	(10.5)	-	(9.
Net change in non-cash working capital (Note 15)	(9.5)	(9.9)	80.
Thet change in horr-cash working capital (Note 13)	<b>(1</b> ,181.2)	(503.9)	(1,135.
	(1,101.2)	(000.3)	(1,100.
(Decrease) Increase in Cash Before Financing Activities	(752.3)	(44.0)	(774
(Decrease) increase in Cash before Financing Activities	(132.3)	(44.0)	(114
FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Issue of long-term debt	693.7	142.1	682.
Repayment of long-term debt	(110.8)	(100.7)	(149
Issue of Common Shares (Note 13)	220.0	14.0	293.
Common Share dividends	(45.0)		(39.
	and the second second	(44.5)	(39.
AEC Pipelines, L.P. distribution	(24.3)	(13.1)	
Other	737.2	14.3	707
	131.2	12.1	787.
(Daniel and Laurence in Oracle	6 (45.4)	¢ (21.0)	¢ 10
(Decrease) Increase in Cash	\$ (15.1)	\$ (31.9)	\$ 12.
Oach Davissian of Ware	6 440		- CA
Cash, Beginning of Year	\$ 44.8	\$ 76.7	\$_64.
Oach Fod of Work	6 00 7	Ø 44.0	¢ 76
Cash, End of Year	\$ 29.7	\$ 44.8	\$_76.
and the same of th			
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATIONS PER COMMON SHARE	4 400	¢ 407	<b>6</b> 0.0
Basic	\$ 4.26 \$ 4.06	\$ 4.87 \$ 4.67	\$ 3.9 \$ 3.8
Fully difuted	\$ 4.06	\$ 4.67	\$ 3.8
Supplemental disclosure of cash flow information		0 540	
Interest paid	\$ 89.0	\$ 51.0	\$ 52
Income taxes paid	\$ 13.2	\$ 14.7	\$ 42.
	-		
	Section in the second		
	(10) <b>6.490</b> .		
	A MILE		
	0.00		

# Alberta Energy Company Ltd. 1998 Notes To Consolidated Financial Statements

Tabular amounts in Canadian \$ millions, unless otherwise indicated



Summary of Significant Accounting Policies The Company organizes its operations into two business groups. Upstream includes the Western Canadian Conventional operations, including the exploration for and production of natural gas and conventional oil, Syncrude, and International. Midstream includes both the Pipelines and Gas Processing operations and the Gas Storage and Hub Services operations.

#### (A) PRINCIPLES OF CONSOLIDATION

The Consolidated Financial Statements include the accounts of Alberta Energy Company Ltd. (the "Company") and its subsidiaries, all of which are wholly owned, except for AEC Pipelines, L.P., which is 70% owned.

Investments in jointly controlled companies, jointly controlled partnerships (collectively called "affiliates") and unincorporated joint ventures are accounted for using the proportionate consolidation method, whereby the Company's proportionate share of revenues, expenses, assets and liabilities are included in the accounts.

Investments in companies and partnerships over which the Company has significant influence are accounted for using the equity method.

A listing of major subsidiaries, affiliates, unincorporated joint ventures and partnerships can be found on the inside back cover.

# (B) CAPITAL ASSETS

#### **Upstream**

Conventional The Company accounts for conventional oil and gas properties in accordance with the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' guideline on full cost accounting in the oil and gas industry.

All costs associated with the acquisition, exploration and development of oil and gas reserves are capitalized in cost centres on a country-by-country basis.

Depletion and depreciation are calculated using the unit-of-production method based on estimated proven reserves, before royalties. For purposes of this calculation, oil is converted to gas on an energy-equivalent basis. All capitalized costs, except as noted, are subject to depletion and depreciation including costs related to unproven properties as well as estimated future costs to be incurred in developing proven reserves. Costs of exploration and land in international cost centres and certain unproved lands in Canada are excluded from costs, subject to depletion, until it is determined whether or not proved reserves are attributable to the properties or impairment has occurred.

Future removal and site restoration costs are estimated and recorded over the estimated life of the reserves.

A ceiling test is applied to ensure that capitalized costs do not exceed the sum of estimated undiscounted, unescalated future net revenues from proven reserves less the cost incurred or estimated to develop those reserves, related production, interest and general and administration costs, and an estimate for restoration costs and applicable taxes. The calculations are based on sales prices and costs at the end of the year.

Oil Sands—Capital assets associated with surface mineable projects are accumulated, at cost, in separate cost centres. Substantially all of these costs are amortized using the unit-of-production method based on estimated proven developed reserves, applicable to each project.

## Midstream

Capital assets related to pipelines are carried at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over their economic life.

Capital assets related to the Company's natural gas liquids extraction plant operations and gas storage facilities are carried at cost and depreciated using the straight-line method over a term of 20 years.

# (C) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Operations outside Canada are considered to be self-sustaining and use their primary currency for recording substantially all transactions. The accounts of self-sustaining foreign subsidiaries are translated using the current rate method, whereby assets and liabilities are translated at year-end exchange rates, while revenues and expenses are converted using average annual rates. Translation gains and losses relating to these subsidiaries are deferred and included in Shareholders' Equity.

Long-term debt payable in U.S. dollars is translated into Canadian dollars at the year end exchange rate, with any resulting adjustment amortized using the straight-line method over the remaining life of the debt.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

#### (D) PROJECT INVESTIGATION COSTS

Project investigation costs for new business opportunities are charged to earnings as incurred until such time as the commercial viability of the project is established.

# (E) INVENTORIES

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost or estimated net realizable value.

#### (F) INTEREST CAPITALIZATION

Interest is capitalized during the construction phase of large capital projects.

### (G) HEDGING ACTIVITIES

Settlement of crude oil and natural gas price swap agreements, which have been arranged as a hedge against commodity price and currency fluctuations, are reflected in product revenues at the time of sale of the related hedged production.

#### (H) INCOME TAXES

Income taxes are recorded using the deferral method of accounting.

## (I) COMPARATIVE FIGURES

Certain 1997 and 1996 figures have been reclassified for comparative purposes.

NOTE 2 Acquisition

On October 23, 1998, the Company acquired control of, and in November, acquired all of the issued and outstanding Common Shares of Amber Energy Inc. ("Amber") for consideration of cash and 4.5 million Common Shares. Concurrent with the acquisition, the Company issued, by way of Subscription Receipts, 6.35 million Common Shares for net proceeds of \$195.4 million which were used as part of the cash consideration paid for the shares of Amber. Amber was engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas in Canada.

In January 1996, the Company acquired all of the issued and outstanding Common and Preference Shares of Conwest Exploration Company Limited ("Conwest") for consideration of 23.6 million Common Shares and cash. Conwest was engaged primarily in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas and had an investment portfolio and mining and hydroelectric operations. On acquisition, \$165 million of non-oil and gas assets of Conwest and an equivalent amount of debt were not consolidated in the financial statements, since the Company intended to dispose of these assets. These assets have been subsequently disposed.

These acquisitions have been accounted for using the purchase method with the results of operations of Amber and Conwest included in the Consolidated Financial Statements from the dates of acquisition.

	1998	1996	
	Amber	Conwest	
The fair value of assets acquired is as follows:			
Non-Cash Working Capital (Deficiency)	\$ 1.7	\$ (0.2)	
Capital Assets	833.1	1,004.4	
Non-Oil and Gas Assets	-	165.0	
Deferred Income Taxes	(7.5)	(27.2)	
Other Non-Current Liabilities	(13.8)	(21.1)	
Net assets acquired	\$ 813.5	\$1,120.9	
Financed By:			
Cash Consideration	\$ 303.2	\$ 365.0	
Equity Consideration	150.0	540.4	
Long-Term Debt Assumed	360.3	215.5	
	\$ 813.5	\$1,120.9	

NOTE 3 Dispositions

## AEC Pipelines, L.P.

On April 9, 1997 AEC Pipelines, L.P., a limited partnership, completed a public offering of Partnership Units for cash proceeds of \$301.2 million. A portion of the net proceeds and the issue of additional Partnership Units to the Company were used by the Partnership to acquire from the Company operating crude oil pipeline assets. In addition, the Partnership acquired Subordinated Notes and Non-Voting Shares for \$200 million in AEC Express Holdings Ltd., the principal asset of which is a 50% interest in the Express Pipeline System. The Company holds a 70% interest in the Partnership and the minority interest has been reflected in these financial statements.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

A dilution gain of \$178 million (\$1.59 per Common Share-basic) was recorded on completion of the transaction. This gain represents the increase in the Company's share of the accounting value of the Partnership equity resulting from the transaction, and no income tax has been provided as the Company has no plans to dispose of the asset.

#### Disposal of assets

In 1998, the Company sold certain non-core oil and gas properties for proceeds of \$25.3 million.

During 1997, the Company disposed of \$92.2 million of non-core producing oil and gas properties and other assets. In addition, \$102.8 million of oil and gas equipment and storage equipment was sold and subsequently leased under a long-term operating lease agreement.

In 1996, the Company sold certain non-core oil and gas properties for proceeds of \$51.5 million and received \$15.0 million as a recovery of income taxes related to the discontinued operations of the Forest Products Division, which was sold in 1995,

NOTE 4 Equity earnings

Midstream includes Equity Earnings from the Company's investments of \$4.7 million (1997 - \$4.6 million; 1996 - \$6.3 million).

NOTE 5 Interest, net

	1998		1997	1996
Interest Expense - Long-Term Debt	\$ 92.5	- \$	57.7	\$ 61.4
Interest Expense - Other	(1.6)		1.4	0.5
Interest Income	(4.9)		(3.3)	(2.7)
	86.0		55.8	59.2
Less:				
Capitalized Interest	1.3		6.9	5.8
Interest, Net	\$ <b>84.</b> 7	\$	48.9	\$ 53.4
			-	

Included in Interest Expense - Other is a \$7.1 million foreign exchange gain related to the reduction in the Company's net investment in the Express Pipeline System.

NOTE 6

Income taxes

The provision for income taxes is as follows:

	1998	1997	1996
Current	\$ (9.3)	 7.7	\$ 4.0
Deferred	47.9	67.0	70.6
Alberta Royalty Tax Credit	(1.2)	(1.5)	(1,5)
Large Corporations Tax	9.9	7.3	5.9
Income Taxes	\$ 47.3	\$ 80.5	\$ 79.0

The following table reconciles income taxes calculated at statutory rates with actual income taxes: 1998 1997 1996 Earnings Before Income Taxes \$ 71.7 \$ 280.2 132.0 Income Taxes at Statutory Rate of 44.6% 32.0 125.0 58.9 Effect on Taxes Resulting From: Non-Deductibility of Crown Payments and Depreciation, Depletion and Amortization 65.1 66.2 56.5 Non-Deductible Additional Depletion 3.6 26.3 Non-Taxable Dilution Gain (Note 3) (79.4)Federal Resource Allowance (52.2)(56.9)(41.4)Alberta Royalty Tax Credit (1.2)(1.5)(1.5)Large Corporations Tax 9.9 7.3 5.9 Other (9.9)(6.5)0.6 Income Taxes (Effective rate: 1998 - 66.0%; 1997 - 28.7%; 1996 - 59.8%) \$ 47.3 \$ 80.5 \$ 79.0

The Company's U.S. subsidiaries have approximately US\$4.5 million of tax losses available which can be applied, with certain restrictions, against future taxable income earned in the U.S. The benefit of these tax losses, which will expire in 2004, has not been recorded.

The amount of capital assets without a tax base is \$690.5 million (1997 - \$541.0 million). The amount of tax pools available are \$2.8 billion (1997 - \$1.8 billion).

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

NOTE 8 Capital Assets

			1998	1997
NOTE 7 Inv	ventories	Product	\$ 94.0	\$ 45.8
		Parts, Supplies and Other	45.7	27.0
			\$ 139.7	\$ 72.8

					1998					1997
		Α	ccumulate	d		 	Δ.	Accumulate	ed -	
	Cost		DD&A*		Net	Cost		DD&A*	_	Net
Upstream						_				
Conventional	\$ 6,060.7	\$	2,205.9	S	3,854.8	\$ 4,461.8	\$	1,746.8	\$	2,715.0
Oil Sands	613.2		187.6		425.6	544.4		171.0		373.4
Midstream	1,270.1		326.3		943.8	1,113.8		294.4		819.4
	\$ 7,944.0	\$	2,719.8	\$	5,224.2	\$ 6,120.0	\$	2,212,2	\$	3,907.8

<sup>\*</sup> Depreciation, depletion and amortization

Included in Midstream is \$36.8 million (1997 - \$28.1 million) related to cushion gas required to operate the AECO-C storage facility, which is not subject to depletion.

At December 31, 1998, \$37.9 million (1997 - \$7.0 million; 1996 - \$31.9 million) of expenditures in international cost centres and \$117.0 million of unproved land in Canada (1997 - nil) were excluded from depletable costs.

The prices used in the ceiling test evaluation of the Company's conventional reserves at December 31, 1998 were as follows:

Natural gas: \$ 2.58/thousand cubic feet
Crude oil: \$11.74/barrel
Natural gas liquids: \$13.50/barrel
International crude oil: \$17.44/barrel

Additional depletion and amortization includes additional depletion on international cost centres of \$14.0 million as a result of a ceiling test evaluation based on average prices for the year. Had year-end prices been used, additional depletion would have increased by \$13.0 million. In 1997, additional depletion and amortization included \$72.4 million on international cost centres as a result of a ceiling test evaluation and \$12.5 million of additional amortization of Midstream capital assets.

Depreciation, depletion and amortization includes \$49.8 million (1997 - \$52.7 million; 1996 - \$52.8 million) of depletion related to costs which are not deductible for income tax purposes.



	1998	1997
Investment in Iroquois Gas Transmission System	\$ 19.7	\$ 17.3
Deferred Financing Costs	27.2	3.7
Deferred Foreign Exchange	21.4	7.0
Assets Under Capital Lease	21.0	-
Other	6.6	19.0
	\$ 95.9	\$ 47.0

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.



	Note Reference		1998		1997
Canadian Dollar Debt	<del></del>			_	
Revolving Credit and Term Loan Borrowings	В				
Notes Payable		S	470.8	\$	526.4
Unsecured Debentures	С				
9.50%, due February 15, 2000			25.0		25.0
7.60%, due March 15, 2001			50.0		50.0
9.85%, due March 15, 2002			25.0		25.0
8.15%, due July 31, 2003			100.0		100.0
6.60%, due June 30, 2004			50.0		50.0
5.95%, due October 1, 2007			200.0		-
5.95%, due June 2, 2008			100.0		-
5.80%, due June 19, 2008			100.0		-
5.50% / 6.20%, due June 23, 2008			50.0		-
8.50%, due March 15, 2011			50.0		50.0
			750.0		300.0
U.S. Dollar Debt					
US\$238 million Unsecured Senior Notes	D				
6.99%, due August 29, 2001			61.2		57.2
7.34%, due August 29, 2006			130.1		121.5
6,78%, due August 10, 2008			172.9		=
U.S. Revolving Credit and Term Loan Borrowings	В				
Term loans			61.7		1.7
		\$	1,646.7	\$	1,006.8

# (A) MANDATORY FIVE-YEAR DEBT REPAYMENTS

The minimum annual repayments of long-term debt required over each of the next five years are as follows:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
\$	-	\$ 40.3	\$ 95.9	\$ 25.0	\$ 100.0

(B) REVOLVING CREDIT AN	D TE	RM LC	OAN BOR	RÓWINGS		
Entity		Loan	Facility	Currency	\$	Utilized
Alberta Energy Company Ltd.	\$	1,375	million	Canadian dollars or U.S. equivalent	\$ 455	million
AEC Oil Sands Ltd.		25	million	Canadian dollars or U.S. equivalent	19	million
AEC Oil Sands, L.P.		25	million	Canadian dollars or U.S. equivalent	nil	
Amber Energy Inc.		90	million	Canadian dollars	nil	
	\$	1,515	million		\$ 474	million
Alenco Inc.	\$	50	million	U.S. dollars	\$ 40	million

On a consolidated basis, the Company and its subsidiaries have ten revolving credit and term loan facilities in place totaling \$1,515 million Canadian and US\$50 million totaling \$1,592 million Canadian equivalent at December 31, 1998.

The Company alone has five revolving credit and term loan facilities in place totaling \$875 million. The five facilities are fully revolving for 364-day periods with provision for extensions at the option of the lenders and upon notice from the Company. If not extended, two facilities convert to non-revolving reducing loans for terms of 6.5 years, one for a term of 7 years and two for terms of 8 years.

The five loan facilities are unsecured and currently bear interest either at the lenders' rates for Canadian Prime Commercial or U.S. Base Rate loans, or at Bankers' Acceptance rates, or at LIBOR plus applicable margins.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

The Company also has a revolving credit facility in the amount of \$500 million which was put in place for the acquisition of Amber Energy Inc. and general corporate purposes. This facility matures in October 1999. This facility is unsecured and currently bears interest at either the lenders' rates for Canadian Prime Commercial or U.S. Base Rate loans, or at Bankers' Acceptance rates. At December 31, 1998, \$238 million was drawn on this facility. The repayment of this amount is not expected to require the use of working capital during the year and is fully supported by the availability of term loans under the revolving credit and term loan facilities.

The Company's subsidiaries have three unsecured revolving credit and term loan facilities. The facilities are fully revolving for 364-day periods with provisions for extensions at the option of the lender following notice from the subsidiary. If not extended, the facilities convert to non-revolving reducing facilities to be repayable in full in five to eight years. The \$90 million loan facility in the name of Amber Energy Inc. is a revolving facility which matures in May 1999.

The subsidiary facilities currently bear interest either at the lender's rates for Canadian Prime Commercial or U.S. Base Rate loans, or at Bankers' Acceptance rates, or at LIBOR plus applicable margins.

Notes payable consist of Bankers' Acceptances and Commercial Paper maturing at various dates with a weighted-average interest rate of 5.51% (1997 – 4.34%). Notes payable shown as long-term debt represent amounts which are not expected to require the use of working capital during the year, and are fully supported by the availability of term loans under the revolving credit and term loan facilities.

### (C) UNSECURED DEBENTURES

In 1998, under its medium term note program, the Company issued \$450 million in unsecured debentures.

#### (D) U.S. UNSECURED SENIOR NOTES

The Company has outstanding, under two separate agreements, Senior Notes in the amount of US\$238 million. One agreement consists of two tranches totaling US\$125 million. The first tranche in the amount of US\$40 million bears interest payable quarterly at 6.99%. The terms of this tranche require principal repayments of US\$10 million in August 2000 and US\$30 million at maturity in August 2001. The second tranche in the amount of US\$85 million bears interest payable quarterly at 7.34% and requires principal repayments of US\$28.3 million in August 2004 and August 2005 and US\$28.4 million at maturity in August 2006.

The second agreement in the amount of US\$113 million bears interest payable quarterly at 6.78% with mandatory annual principal repayments of US\$22.6 million commencing in August 2004 and ending August 2008.

NOTE 11 Indirect
Midstream
Long-Term Debt

	Note Reference	1998	1997
Canadian Dollar Debt			
Revolving Credit and Term Loan Borrowings	A		
Notes payable		18.4	2.0
U.S. Dollar Debt			
U.S. Senior Secured Notes	В		
6.47% due December 31, 2013		114.6	-
7.39% due December 31, 2019		191.2	-
Other		8.3	9.8
		332.5	11.8
Current Portion of Long-Term Debt		1.8	1.5
		\$ 330.7	10.3

# (A) REVOLVING CREDIT AND TERM LOAN BORROWINGS

AEC Pipelines, L.P. has an unsecured revolving credit and term loan facility of \$50 million which is fully revolving for 364-day periods with provisions for extensions at the option of the lender following notice from the L.P. If not extended, the facility converts to a non-revolving reducing facility to be repayable in full by the end of three years. The facility currently bears interest either at the lender's rates for Canadian Prime Commercial or U.S. Base Rate loans, or at Bankers' Acceptance rates, or at LIBOR plus applicable margins.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

#### U.S. SENIOR SECUREO NOTES

One of the Company's 50% proportionately consolidated subsidiaries has outstanding US\$150 million (AEC share - \$75 million) aggregate principal amount of Senior Secured Notes due in 2013, and US\$250 million (AEC share - \$125 million) aggregate principal amount of Subordinated Secured Notes due in 2019, which are non-recourse to the Company. The notes are secured by the assignment of the accounts receivable of the Express Pipeline System and a floating charge over the assets of the Canadian portion of the Express System.

# (C) MANDATORY FIVE-YEAR DEBT REPAYMENTS

The minimum annual repayments of Indirect Midstream Long-Term Debt required over each of the next five years are as follows:

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
 \$	1.8	\$ 6.3	\$ 9.9	\$ 13.3	\$ 12.8

NOTE 12 Other Liabilities

	1998	1997
Future Removal and Site Restoration Costs	\$ 61.8	\$ 50.9
Deferred Revenue and Other	45.1	21.7
Obligation Under Capital Lease	21.0	-
Long-Term Liabilities Related to Syncrude	6.7	6.6
	\$ 134.6	\$ 79.2

In December 1998, the Company entered into a capital lease agreement relating to its interest in the Suffield Gas Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline from Suffield, Alberta to Burstall, Saskatchewan. The lease obligation bears interest at a floating rate based on the Bankers' Acceptance rate.

NOTE 13 Share Capital

#### Authorized

utilonzed	
20,000,000	First Preferred Shares
20,000,000	Second Preferred Shares
20,000,000	Third Preferred Shares
Unlimited	Common Shares
5,000,000	Non-Voting Shares

				1998			1997
	Numb	er of Shares		Amount	Numbe	r of Shares	Amount
Common Shares							
Balance, Beginning of Year		112,107,871		\$ 1,546.0		111,487,101	\$1,532.0
Issued on Acquisition (Note 2)		4,499,921		150.0		-	-
Issued for Cash							
Subscription Receipts	6,350,000		\$195.4		-		\$ -
Employee Share Option Plan	1,000,588		22.2		505,686		10.1
Shareholder Investment Plan	73,109		2.4		115,084		3.9
		7,423,697		220.0		620,770	14.0
Balance, End of Year		124,031,489	ı	\$ 1,916.0		112,107,871	\$1,546.0

The Employee Share Option Plan provides for granting to employees of the Company and its subsidiaries options to purchase Common Shares of the Company. Each option granted under the plan expires after seven years and may be exercised in cumulative annual arnounts of 25% on or after each of the first four anniversary dates of the grant.

At December 31, 1998, employee share options, exercisable between 1999 and 2005, were outstanding to purchase 9,232,651 (1997 - 7,061,714) Cornmon Shares at prices ranging from \$12.04 to \$38.15 per share with an average of \$27.25 per share.

	1998	1997
Common Shares Under Option, Beginning of Year	7,061,714	4,684,050
Share Options Granted	3,523,850	3,057,850
Share Options Exercised	(1,000,588)	(505,686)
Share Options Canceled	(352,325)	(174,500)
Common Shares Under Option, End of Year	9,232,651	7,061,714

The number of Common Shares reserved for issuance under the Employee Share Option Plan was 9,429,650 at December 31, 1998 (10,430,238 at December 31, 1997).

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.



The Company's financial instruments that are included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet are comprised of cash, accounts receivable, and all current liabilities and long-term borrowings.

#### (A) OIL AND GAS PRICE HEDGING

A total of 7.7 billion cubic feet of produced gas is subject to price swap arrangements for settlement in 1999 and 2000 at an average swap price of \$2.97 (Canadian equivalent) per thousand cubic feet.

An affiliate utilizes financial futures contracts as a hedge of inventory. At December 31, 1998, AEC's share of the net open interest was 469,000 barrels of crude oil sold forward. AEC's share of the fair value of these contracts is \$3.5 million (Canadian equivalent) at December 31, 1998. Gains and losses on hedge positions are deferred to future periods in which inventory will be sold.

The affiliate has entered into a hedge arrangement to sell US\$2.5 million (AEC share) in equal daily amounts at the prevailing daily rates expiring in January 1999. The affiliate also has a forward purchase agreement to buy US\$4.3 million (AEC share) that has a fair value loss of \$0.1 million at December 31, 1998. These positions are hedges of the affiliate's exposure to net U.S. dollar receivables, and gains are therefore deferred to the future periods in which the receivables are to be realized.

#### (B) FAIR VALUES OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The fair values of financial instruments that are included in the Consolidated Balance Sheet, other than long-term borrowings, approximate their carrying amount due to the short-term maturity of those instruments.

The estimated fair values of long-term borrowings have been determined based on market information where available, or by discounting future payments of interest and principal at estimated interest rates that would be available to the Company at year-end.

		1998		1997
Bala	ance Sheet Amount	Fair Value	Balance Sheet Amount	Fair Value
Long-Term Debt	\$ 1,646.7	\$ 1,694.3	\$ 1,006.8	\$ 1,047.7
Indirect Midstream Long-Term D	Debt <b>330.7</b>	341.7	10.3	10.3

# (C) CREDIT RISK

A substantial portion of the Company's accounts receivable are with customers in the oil and gas industry and are subject to normal industry credit risks. All natural gas swap agreements are with major financial institutions in Canada and the United States.

# (D) INTEREST RATE RISK

At December 31, 1998, the increase or decrease in Net Earnings for each 1% change in interest rates on floating rate debt amounts to \$3.2 million (1997 - \$3.1 million).

# (E) INTEREST RATE AND FOREIGN CURRENCY SWAPS

The Company has outstanding interest rate swaps, which were acquired with Amber, on a total of US\$70 million of long-term debt. These swaps convert floating rate interest into fixed rate interest until January 2003. At December 31, 1998 these swaps result in an unrealized settlement liability of \$1.5 million which was provided for at the time of purchase.

The Company also has in place two foreign exchange contracts to sell U.S. dollars in exchange for Canadian dollars. One contract is for \$2 million/month until November 1999 and the other is for \$2 million/month until December 2000. These contracts were acquired with the purchase of Amber. At December 31, 1998, these contracts have an unrealized settlement loss of \$9.9 million which was provided for at the time of the purchase.

At December 31, 1997, an affiliate had an interest rate swap outstanding with an unrealized settlement liability of US\$11.2 million (AEC share). On February 6, 1998, as part of the completion of non-recourse project debt financing of the affiliate, the swap was settled for US\$14.6 million (AEC share) and this amount is being amortized over the term of the project debt.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.



#### (A) INVESTMENTS PROPORTIONATELY CONSOLIDATED

The Company conducts a substantial portion of its oil and gas activity through unincorporated joint ventures which are accounted for using the proportionate consolidation method. In addition, certain investments in Midstream are proportionately consolidated. These include the 50%-owned Express Pipeline System, the 50%-owned Marquest Energy Group, the 49.995% owned Pan-Alberta Resources Inc., the 35%-owned Empress Straddle Plant and the 33%-owned Alberta Ethane Gathering System. Included in the Company's accounts are the following amounts related to these activities:

	1998	1997
Current Assets	\$ 58.8	\$ 77.5
Total Assets	622.1	547.4
Current Liabilities	38.1	73.2
Total Liabilities	331.0	110,1
Revenues	340.0	386.8
Net Earnings (Loss)	(14.0)	12.7
Cash Flow From Operations	(8.5)	21.2
Financing Activities	42.5	100.2
Investing Activities	34.0	117.8

# (B) PENSION PLANS

The Company has both a defined benefit pension plan and a defined contribution plan which cover substantially all employees. The defined benefit pension plan provides pension benefits upon retirement based on length of service and final average earnings. Defined contribution benefits are determined by the value of contributions and the return on investment of these contributions.

The cost of pension benefits earned by employees is determined using the projected unit credit method and is expensed as services are rendered. This cost is actuarially determined and reflects management's best estimate of the pension plan's expected investment yields and the expected salary escalation, mortality rates, termination dates and retirement ages of pension plan members. The plan is funded as actuarially determined in accordance with regulatory requirements through contributions to a trust fund. The costs of defined contribution pension benefits are based on a percentage of salary.

The cumulative difference between the amounts funded and expensed is reflected as a deferred asset in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

At December 31, 1998, the market value of defined benefit pension fund assets was \$73.0 million (1997 - \$65.4 million) and the accrued pension liability, as estimated by the Company's actuaries, was \$72.6 million (1997 - \$64.9 million).

In addition, one of the Company's unincorporated joint ventures has a defined benefit pension plan. At December 31, 1998, the market value of the Company's share of pension fund assets was \$88.6 million (1997 - \$80.3 million) and the Company's share of accrued pension liability, as estimated by the joint venture's actuaries, was \$80.0 million (1997 - \$73.7 million).

## (C) RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year, the Company sold approximately \$17.5 million (1997 - \$30.4 million) of natural gas and \$26.8 million (1997 - \$41.6 million) of crude oil to affiliates at market prices, \$3.1 million of which is included in accounts receivable at year-end (1997 - \$6.8 million).

(D)	NET	CHANGE	IN	NON-CASH	WORKING	CAPITAL

Source / (Use)		1998	1997	1996
Operating Activities				 
Accounts Receivable and Accrued Revenue	S	(9.7)	\$ (121.1)	\$ (29.9)
Inventories		(62.3)	(36.0)	(7.7)
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities		12.4	72.3	(13.2)
	S	(59.6)	\$ (84.8)	\$ (50.8)
Investing Activities				
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	S	(9.5)	\$ (9.9)	\$ 80,7

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.



#### Tabular amounts in Canadian \$ millions, unless otherwise indicated.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. They differ from those generally accepted in the United States in the following respects:

#### (A) FULL COST ACCOUNTING

Under Canadian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP), a ceiling test is applied to ensure that capitalized costs do not exceed the sum of estimated undiscounted, unescalated future net revenues from proven reserves less the cost incurred or estimated to develop those reserves, related production, interest and general and administration costs, and an estimate for restoration costs and applicable taxes.

Under the full cost method of accounting in the United States, costs accumulated in each cost centre are limited to an amount equal to the present value, discounted at 10%, of the estimated future net operating revenues from proven reserves, net of restoration costs and income taxes.

### (B) INCOME TAXES

Under Canadian GAAP, the Company provides for potential future taxes using the deferred credit method under which tax provisions are established using tax rates and regulations applicable in the year the provision is recorded. These remain unchanged despite subsequent changes in rates and regulations.

In the United States, Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 109 (FAS 109), "Accounting for Income Taxes," requires the recognition of deferred tax assets and liabilities for the expected future tax consequences of events that have been recognized in the Company's financial statements or tax returns. In estimating future tax consequences, FAS 109 generally considers all expected events including enacted changes in laws or rates.

## (C) FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION

Under Canadian GAAP, long-term debt in foreign currencies was translated at the rate of exchange in effect at the end of the year. Unrealized exchange gains and losses arising on translation were deferred and amortized over the remaining terms of the debt. U.S. GAAP requires that such gains and losses be reflected in the period in which they arise. Gains and losses on the change in the Company's net investments in foreign operations are not included in income under U.S. GAAP.

# (D) EARNINGS PER SHARE

Under Canadian GAAP, the fully diluted earnings related to the number of shares issued under employee option plans is determined using the average exercise price for all options outstanding. Under U.S. GAAP, the treasury method is used in the determination of the fully diluted earnings per share.

# (E) UNITED STATES EARNINGS

If the Consolidated Financial Statements had been prepared in accordance with GAAP in the United States the following adjustments would be required:

	1998	1997	1996
Net Earnings According to Canadian GAAP	\$ 24.4	\$ 199.7	\$ 68.0
Impact of U.S. Accounting Principles:			
Foreign Exchange	(21.8)	(7.0)	-
Additional Depletion (1)	(277.2)	-	-
Income Taxes	132.9	1.3	6.1
Net Earnings (Loss) According to U.S. GAAP	\$ (141.7)	\$ 194.0	\$ 74.1
Earnings (Loss) per share			
Basic	\$ (1.23)	\$ 1.73	\$ 0.71
Fully diluted	\$ (1.23)	\$ 1.73	\$ 0.71

<sup>(1)</sup> In 1998 the Company recorded additional depletion of \$277.2 million that reduced the carrying amount of its conventional oil and gas capital assets and related income tax savings of \$123.7 million as a result of applying the U.S. GAAP ceiling test rules. The additional depletion is mainly due to the decline in oil prices and the long life of the Company's reserve base.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

Comprehensive Income			
	1998	1997	1996
Net Earnings according to U.S. GAAP	\$ (141.7)	\$ 194.0	\$ 74,1
Foreign currency translation adjustment	21.6	14.4	2.0
Comprehensive income	\$ (120.1)	\$ 208.4	\$ 76.1

At December 31, 1998, the 10% discounted amount of the Company's Western Canadian Conventional oil and gas reserves is \$3,168 million.

The adjustments under U.S. GAAP would result in changes to the Consolidated Balance Sheet of the Company as follows:

	As at Dece	mber 31, 1998	As at December 31, 19				
	As Reported	U.S. GAAP	As Reported	U.S. GAAP			
Assets							
Current Assets	\$ 539.6	\$ 539.6	\$ 443.1	\$ 443.1			
Capital Assets	5,224.2	5,407.9	3,907.8	4,225.0			
Investments and Other Assets	95.9	74.1	47.0	40.0			
	\$ 5,859.7	\$ 6,021.6	\$ 4,397.9	\$4,708.1			
Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity							
Current Liabilities	\$ 428.8	\$ 428.8	\$ 388.3	\$ 388.3			
Long-Term Debt	1,646.7	1,646.7	1,006.8	1,006.8			
Indirect Midstream Long-Term Debt	330.7	330.7	10.3	10.3			
Other Liabilities	134.6	134.6	79.2	79.2			
Deferred Income Taxes	630.7	988.0	585.4	929.5			
Minority Interest	108.3	108.3	114.2	114.2			
Shareholders' Equity	2,579.9	2,384.5	2,213.7	2,179.8			
	\$ 5,859.7	\$ 6,021.6	\$ 4,397.9	\$4,708.1			

NOTE 17 Commitments

The Company has committed to certain payments over the next five years as follows:

	1999	20	00	2001	 2002	2003
Natural Gas Transportation \$	87.2	\$ 7	3.5	65.6	\$ 50.0	\$ 37.7
Equipment Operating Leases	12.3	1:	3.5	13.5	13.5	13.5
Space Rental	6.4		6.3	6.1	6.1	5.1
Capital Lease	1.2		1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Total \$	107.1	\$ 9	1.5 \$	86.4	\$ 70.8	\$ 57.5

NOTE 18 Uncertainty due to the

Year 2000

The Year 2000 issue arises because many computerized systems use two digits rather than four to identify a year. Date-sensitive systems may recognize the year 2000 as 1900 or some other date, resulting in errors when information using Year 2000 dates is processed. In addition, similar problems may arise in some systems which use certain dates in 1999 to represent something other than a date. The effects of the Year 2000 Issue may be experienced before, on, or after January 1, 2000 and, if not addressed, the impact on operations and financial reporting may range from minor errors to significant systems failure which could affect the Company's ability to conduct normal business operations. It is not possible to be certain that all aspects of the Year 2000 Issue affecting the Company, including those related to efforts of customers, suppliers, or other third parties, will be fully resolved.

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.



The Company is managed using five operating segments which have been determined based on the nature of the products produced or services provided and the location of the operations. Upstream includes the Western Canadian Conventional operations, including the exploration for and production of natural gas and conventional oil, Syncrude, and International. Midstream includes both the Pipelines and Gas Processing segment and the Gas Storage and Hub Services operations.

# (A) RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

PS:	- 4	8.4

Wester	m Canadi	ian Conve	ntional		S	ncrude		Intern	ational		Total U	pstream
(\$ millions)	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996
Revenue	\$ 1,269.1	\$1,032.6	\$ 790.8	\$ 221.6	\$ 295.9	\$ 266.5	\$ 14.5	\$ 16.2	\$ 12.3	\$1,505.2	\$1,344,7	\$ 1,069.6
Royalties	100.4	106.2	79.0	(0.3)	28.0	56.3	1.7	1.9_	1.7	101.8	136.1	137 0
Net Revenue	1,168.7	926.4	711.8	221.9	267.9	210.2	12.8	14.3	10.6	1,403.4	1,208.6	932.6
Operating Costs	175.5	149.2	123.4	143.4	143.1	141,9	19.6	14.3	11.2	338.5	306.6	276.5
Cost of Product Purchased	574.4	378.2	246.4	-	-	·				574.4	378,2	246.4
Operating Cash Flow	418.8	399.0	342.0	78.5	124.8	68.3	(6.8)	-	(0.6)	490.5	523.8	409.7
DD&A	260.8	233.1	183.7	17.0	20.9	16.6	7.9	6.4	5.2	285.7	260.4	205.5
DD&A - Acquisitions	49.8	52.7	52.8	-	-		-		-	49.8	52.7	52.8
Additional DD&A	-		-	_		_	14.0	72.4	-	14.0	72.4	-
Segment Income	\$ 108.2	\$ 113.2	\$ 105.5	\$ 61,5	\$ 103.9	<b>\$</b> 5 <b>1</b> .7	\$ (28.7)	\$ (78.8)	\$ (5.8)	\$ 141.0	\$ 138.3	\$ 151.4
Less: Corporate costs						-						
General and administrat	ive									23.3	20.9	28.1
Corporate DD&A										7.8	7.1	4.3
Interest, net										56.5	28.5	30.3
Income taxes										37.2	79.8	60.9
Net Earnings										\$ 16.2	\$ 2.0	\$ 27.8

MI	DS	TR	FΔ	M

Pipelin	es and (	Gas Proc	cessing	Gas Storage	& Hub Services			otal Mic	Istream	Consolidated Total			
	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	1998	1997	1996	
Revenue	\$ 434.6	\$ 482.5	\$ 164.3	\$ 71.9	\$ 25.8	\$ 25.2	\$ 506.5	\$ 508.3	\$ 189 5	\$ 2,011.7	\$ 1,853.0	\$1,259.1	
Royalties	_	-								101.8	136.1	_137.0	
Net Revenue	434.6	482.5	164.3	71.9	25.8	25.2	506.5	5083	189.5	1,909.9	1,716.9	1,122.1	
Operating Costs	136.0	131.3	85.9	14.3	12.6	9.7	150.3	143.9	95.6	488.8	450 5	372.1	
Cost of Product Purchaseo	207.6	252.8	<u>.</u>	34.3			241.9	252.8		816.3	631.0	246.4	
Operating Cash Flow	91.0	98.4	78 4	23.3	13.2	15.5	114.3	111.6	93.9	604.8	635.4	503.6	
DD&A	36.0	28.3	15.9	5.2	7.0	6.5	41.2	35.3	22.4	326.9	295.7	227.9	
DD&A - Acquisitions	-	-	-	-	-		-		-	49.8	52.7	52 8	
Additional DD&A	-	12.5		-	-	-	_	12.5	-	14.0	84.9		
Diution Gain	-	-	-	-	-		-	178.0	-	-	1/8.0	-	
Segment Income	\$ 55.0	\$ 57.6	\$ 62.5	\$ 18.1	\$ 6.2	\$ 9.0	\$ 73.1	\$ 241.8	\$ /15	\$ 214.1	\$ 380.1	\$ 222.9	
Less. Corporate costs													
General and administration	ve						7.1	7.2	43	30.4	28.1	32.4	
Corporate DD&A							1.1	1.0	8.0	8.9	8.1	5 1	
Interest, net							28.2	20.4	23.1	84.7	48.9	53.4	
Income taxes							10.1	0.7	18.1	47.3	<b>80</b> 5	79.0	
Minority interest							18.4	14.8	-	18.4	14.8		
Net Earnings							\$ 8.2	\$ 197.7	\$ 25.2	\$ 24.4	\$ 199.7	\$ 53.0	

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

# (B) CAPITAL INVESTMENT

	1998	1997
Upstream		
Western Canadian Conventional	\$ 609.8	\$ 669.4
Syncrude	68.3	48.8
International	64.7	48.3
Midstream		
Pipelines and Gas Processing	72.4	157.1
Gas Storage and Hub Services	43.2	40.2
Other	24.9	20.6
Total m	\$ 883.3	\$ 984.4

<sup>(1)</sup> Excludes Amber acquisition of \$813.5 million (Note 2)

# (C) GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Substantially all of the Company's revenues are generated in Canada, with the exception of the International segment, which is based in Argentina and \$49.1 million which relates to the Express Pipeline System for shipments within the United States (1997 - \$34.9 million).

The International segment capital assets located outside of Canada are located primarily in Argentina and Australia. Pipelines and Gas Processing includes assets in the United States related to the Express Pipeline System of \$388.7 million (1997 - \$352.5 million).

# (D) IDENTIFIABLE ASSETS

	1998	1997
Upstream		
Western Canadian Conventional	\$4,111.6	\$2,936.0
Syncrude	474.6	436.1
International	99.8	47.4
Midstream		
Pipelines and Gas Processing	970.7	842.0
Gas Storage and Hub Services	203.0	136.4
	\$5,859.7	\$4,397.9

# (E) WESTERN CANADIAN CONVENTIONAL PRODUCT INFORMATION

		Gas and NGLs								Oil	
	1998		1997		1996		1998		1997	1996	
Gross Revenue	\$1,158.3	\$	857.5	\$	634.6	\$	110.8	\$	175.1	\$ 156.2	
Royalties	85.0		75.0		48.5		15.4		31.2	30.5	
Net Revenue	1,073.3		782.5		586.1		95.4		143.9	125.7	
Operating Costs	134.6		98.9		89.9		40.9		50.3	33.5	
Cost of Product Purchased	574.4		378.2		246.4		-		-	-	
Operating Cash Flow	\$ 364.3	\$	305.4	\$	249.8	\$	54.5	\$	93.6	\$ 92.2	

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						1998				
Year ended Dec	cember 31	Year	Q4	QЗ	Q2	Q1	1997	1996	1995	1994
Net Earnings (\$ r	millions) (1)	24.4	7.9	9.0	5.3	2.2	21.7	68.0	110.2	100.5
Per share (\$)	Basic	0.21	0.06	80.0	0.05	0.02	0.19	0.65	1.47	1.36
	Fully diluted	0.21	0.06	0.08	0.05	0.02	0.23	0.65	1.44	1.34
Cash Flow From	Operations (\$ millions)	488.5	169.3	110.8	99.9	108.5	544.7	411.9	270.7	294.8
Per share (\$)	Basic	4.26	1.43	0.98	0.88	0.97	4.87	3.93	3.61	4.07
	Fully diluted	4.06	1.34	0.94	0.86	0.92	4.67	3.82	3.51	3.88
Shares										
Common Shares	Outstanding (millions)	124.0	124.0	113.0	1 <b>12</b> .8	112.6	112.1	111.5	75.5	74.5
Average Commo	on Shares Outstanding (millions)	114.8	114.8	112.7	112.5	112.3	111.9	104.9	75.0	71.7
Price Range (\$ p	per share)									
TSE										
High		39.00	39.00	36.95	35.85	36.30	35.50	33.25	23.13	22.75
Low		25.75	31.55	28.00	29.75	25.75	26.00	21.75	16.38	17.50
Close		33.00	33.00	34.00	34.50	35.50	27. <b>7</b> 5	32.70	21.88	17.88
NYSE - US\$										
High		26.25	26.25	24.63	25.13	25.14	25.88	24.13	16.75	-
Low		17.38	20.63	17.38	20.11	18.02	18.25	16.00	15.00	-
Close		21.50	21.50	22.03	23.50	24.15	19.38	24.00	16.00	-
Share Volume Tr	aded (millions)	67.7	18.7	14.2	12.6	22.2	81.2	71.7	42.3	48.5
Ratios										
Debt-to-Capitaliz	zation									
Corporate (2)		38:62					29:71	32:68	25:75	35:65
Upstream		36:64					20:80	16:84	13:87	21:79
Midstream		60:40					60:40	89:11	64:36	64:36
Debt-to-Cash Fle	ow									
Upstream @		2.0x					1.1x	1.0x	0.8x	1.2x
Interest Coverag	ge (4)	7.0x					12.4x	8.8x	9.8x	7.0x
Dividend (\$ per (	Common Share)	0.40					0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40

<sup>(1) 1997</sup> net earnings excludes a dilution gain on the sale of AEC Pipelines, L.P. of \$178.0 million (\$1.59 per share-basic; \$1.50 per share - fully diluted)

<sup>(2)</sup> Corporate debt-to-capitalization excludes indirect midstream debt and related capitalization

<sup>(3)</sup> Upstream debt-to-cash flow excludes Amber-related debt of \$468 million and two months Cash Flow of \$11 million

<sup>(4)</sup> Calculated as operating cash flow less G&A divided by interest

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

Acquisition

Basic

Fully diluted

Capital investment

Proceeds on disposal of assets

Cash Flow from Operations per Common Share

(S millions) as at December 31			1998		1997
Assets					
Current assets			\$ 386.6	\$	305.4
Capital assets			4,280.3	;	3,088.4
Investments and other assets			19.1		25.7
			\$ 4,686.0	\$ :	3,419.5
Liabilities					
Current liabilities			\$ 323.2	\$	265.8
Long-term debt			1,355.4		519.4
Deferred income taxes & other liabilities			694.7		623.2
			2,373.3		1,408.4
Capital Employed			2,312.7	2	2,011.1
			\$ 4,686.0	\$ :	3,419.5
Note: Includes allocation of Corporate Assets and Liabilities					
UPSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVES	TING ACTIVITIES				
(\$ millions) year ended December 31		1998	 1997		1996
Operating Activities					
Net earnings from continuing operations	\$	16.2	\$ 2.0	\$	27.8
Depreciation, depletion and amortization		343.3	320.2		262.6
Additional depletion and amortization		14.0	72.4		-
Deferred income taxes		41.4	74.6		59.9
Other		2.3	(1.0)		1.5
Cash flow from operations		417.2	 468.2		351.8

(303.2)

(767.7)

\$ (1,045.6)

\$

\$

25.3

3.64

3.47

(365.0)

(508.3)

\$ (854.4)

\$

\$

18.9

3.36

3.26

(780.4)

149.5

(630.9)

4.19

4.01

\$

\$

(\$ millions) as at December 31 Assets						
Current assets			\$	153.0	\$	137.7
Capital assets			•	943.9	•	819.4
Investments and other assets				76.8		21.3
			\$	1,173.7	\$	978.4
Liabilities						
Current liabilities			\$	105.6	\$	122.5
Long-term debt				291.3		487.4
Indirect midstream long-term debt				330.7		10.3
Deferred income taxes & other liabilities				70.6		41.4
Minority interest				108.3		114.2
				906.5		775.8
Capital Employed				267.2		202.6
			S	1,173.7		978.4
Note: Includes allocation of Corporate Assets and Liabilities  MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI  (\$ millions) year ended December 31	ESTING ACTIVITIES	1998		1997		1996
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI	ESTING ACTIVITIES	1998		1997		1996
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INV (\$ millions) year ended December 31	ESTING ACTIVITIES	1998	\$	199 <b>7</b>	\$	
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31 Operating Activities			\$		\$	1 <b>996</b> 25.2 23.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31 Operating Activities Net earnings from continuing operations		8.2	\$	197.7	\$	25.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations  Depreciation, depletion and amortization		8.2	\$	197.7 36.3	\$	25.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations  Depreciation, depletion and amortization  Additional depletion and amortization		8.2 42.3	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5	\$	25.2 23.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations  Depreciation, depletion and amortization  Additional depletion and amortization  Deferred income taxes		8.2 42.3	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8)	\$	25.2 23.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations  Depreciation, depletion and amortization  Additional depletion and amortization  Deferred income taxes  Dilution gain		8.2 42.3 - 6.5	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0)	\$	25.2 23.2
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations  Depreciation, depletion and amortization  Additional depletion and amortization  Deferred income taxes  Dilution gain  Minority interest  Other  Cash flow from operations		8.2 42.3 - 6.5 -	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0)	\$	25.2 23.2 - 10.7
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other		8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1)	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8	\$	25.2 23.2 - 10.7 - - 1.0
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities Capital investment – Express Pipeline System		8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 - 76.5	\$	25.2 23.2 10.7 - 1.0 60.1 (348.7)
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities  Capital investment – Express Pipeline System Capital investment – other Midstream		8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 - 76.5	\$	25.2 23.2  10.7  1.0 60.1 (348.7) (51.0)
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities Capital investment – Express Pipeline System	\$	8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3 (25.8) (89.8)		197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 - 76.5 (120.6) (83.4) 45.5		25.2 23.2 - 10.7 - - 1.0 60.1 (348.7) (51.0) 32.6
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities Capital investment – Express Pipeline System Capital investment – other Midstream Proceeds on disposal of assets		8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 - 76.5	\$	25.2 23.2 - 10.7 - - 1.0
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities Capital investment – Express Pipeline System Capital investment – other Midstream Proceeds on disposal of assets  Cash Flow from Operations per Common Share	\$	8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3 (25.8) (89.8) - (115.6)	\$	197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 ————————————————————————————————————	\$	25.2 23.2 - 10.7 - 1.0 60.1 (348.7) (51.0) 32.6 (367.1)
MIDSTREAM CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATING AND INVI (\$ millions) year ended December 31  Operating Activities  Net earnings from continuing operations Depreciation, depletion and amortization Additional depletion and amortization Deferred income taxes Dilution gain Minority interest Other  Cash flow from operations  Investing Activities Capital investment – Express Pipeline System Capital investment – other Midstream Proceeds on disposal of assets	\$	8.2 42.3 - 6.5 - 18.4 (4.1) 71.3 (25.8) (89.8)		197.7 36.3 12.5 (6.8) (178.0) 14.8 - 76.5 (120.6) (83.4) 45.5		25.2 23.2 - 10.7 - - 1.0 60.1 (348.7) (51.0) 32.6

OIL AND GAS OPERATING STATISTICS SALES					1998				
Years Ended December 31	Year	Q4	Q3	Q2	Q1	1997	1996	1995	1994
Produced Gas (million cubic feet/day)	714	912	575	591	778	575	515	320	345
Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (barrels/day)									
Canada									
Syncrude	28,953	31,005	27,937	32,368	24,440	28,447	27,596	27,823	26,282
Conventional	23,027	29,951	19,470	20,489	22,152	23,954	19,507	11,549	9,267
Natural Gas Liquids	5,877	6,351	5,218	5,456	6,490	4,856	4,811	1,691	1,011
Total Canada	57,857	67,307	52,625	58,313	53,082	57,257	51,914	41,063	36,560
International	2,217	2,165	2,161	2,611	1,927	1,683	1,241	1,090	260
Total	<b>60,07</b> 4	69,472	54,786	60,924	55,009	58,940	53,155	42,153	36,820
PER-UNIT RESULTS (CANADA)									
Produced Gas (\$/thousand cubic feet)									
Price	2.04	2.35	1.93	1.83	1.91	2.04	1.77	1.40	1.88
Royalties	0.29	0.30	0.17	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.20	0.13	0.25
Operating costs	0.42	0.44	0.36	0.47	0.41	0.40	0.43	0.34	0.37
Netback	1.33	1.61	1.40	1.04	1.16	1.33	1.14	0.93	1.26
Conventional Oil (\$/barrel)									
Price	13.13	13.61	15.57	11,44	11.86	19.99	21.80	20.54	18.09
Royalties	1.82	1.73	1.41	2.13	2.04	3.58	4.28	3.48	2.63
Operating costs	4.87	4.66	4.50	4.39	5.94	5.74	4.69	4.15	4.77
Netback	6.44	7.22	9.66	4.92	3.88	10.67	12.83	12.91	10.69
Natural Gas Liquids (\$/barrel)									
Price	16.86	14.00	13.22	19.90	<b>20.1</b> 5	23.97	23.95	15.74	15.05
Royalties	4.52	3.51	5.02	4.45	5.17	6.11	6.70	5.25	3.98
Netback	12.34	10.49	8.20	15.4 <b>5</b>	14.98	17.86	17.25	10.49	11.07
Syncrude (\$/barrel)									
Price, Net of Tariff	20.46	19.19	20.73	20.47	21.76	27.80	25.68	23.69	21.76
Gross Overriding Royalty	0.51	0.10	0.51	0.71	0.74	0.69	0,71	0.60	0.56
Royalties	(0.03)	-	-	(0.09)	-	2.70	5.58	3.02	1.03
Cash Operating Costs	13.67	11.89	13.02	11.91	19.10	13.82	13.71	13.70	14.99
Netback	7.33	7.40	8.22	9.36	3.40	11.97	7.10	7.57	6.30

GAS PRODUCTION BY BUSINE						
Years Ended December 31 (million cubic feet/day)	Forecast 1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
AEC East	530	389	306	276	276	273
AEC West	350	300	263	229	80	68
Cushion Gas From Storage	_	19	19	-	_	11
Total Field Capability	880	708	588	505	356	352
Storage Withdrawal (Injection)	20	6	(13)	10	(36)	(7)
Total Produced Gas Sales	900	714	575	515	320	345
PRODUCED GAS SALES BY CO	ONTRACT					
TransCanada Gas Services	117	87	84	85	111	146
Pan-Alberta Gas	119	92	88	60	31	38
ProGas	155	117	89	50	22	11
Long-Term Direct	97	113	136	110	90	72
Other	412	305	178	210	66	78
Total	900	714	575	515	320	345
PURCHASED GAS TRANSACTION	ons					
(million cubic feet/day)	588	752	569	532	308	110
OIL AND NGL SALES BY BUSIN (barrels/day)	NESS UNIT					
AEC Syncrude	31,000	28,953	28,447	27,596	27,823	26,282
AEC East	28,000	16,575	17,389	12,742	10,751	8,389
AEC West	11,000	12,329	11,421	11,576	2,489	1,889
AEC International	2,000	2,217	1,683	1,241	1,090	260
Total	72,000	60,074	58,940	53,155	42,153	36,820

Alberta Energy Company Ltd.

# RESERVES RECONCILIATION

RESERVES RECONCILIATION	•	Natu	ıral Gas	C	onvention	al Oil &		Sy	ncrude		Arg	entina
		(billion cu	bic feet)	NGL	s (million	berrels)		(million	barrels)		(million b	arrels)
(before royalties)	Prov.	Prob.	Total	Prov.	Prob.	Total	Prov.	Prob.	Total	Prov.	Prob.	Total
1996												
Balance at December 31,1995	1,511	379	1,890	26.9	24.7	51 <i>.</i> 6	280.0	_	280.0	1.7	2.5	4.2
(as restated)												
Discoveries and Extensions	251	207	458	17.8	1.1	18.9	-	490.0	490.0	0.4	(0.7)	(0.3)
Acquisition of Reserves - Net	615	285	900	33.2	15.0	48.2	-	-	_	-	-	_
Production	(188)	-	(188)	(8.9)	_	(8.9)	(11.0)	_	(11.0)	(0.6)	_	(0.6)
Balance at December 31, 1996	2,189	871	3,060	69.0	40.8	109.8	269.0	490.0	759.0	1.5	1.8	3.3
1997												
Revisions of Established Pools	72	(30)	42	2.0	(0.9)	1.1	-	-	-	-	-	_
Discoveries and Extensions	571	280	851	22.0	3.2	25.2	122.4	(143.3)	(20.9)	1.3	0.3	1.6
Acquisition of Reserves - Net	(33)	(21)	(54)	(5.8)	(2.4)	(8.2)	_	_	-	_	-	_
Production	(214)	_	(214)	(10.4)	_	(10.4)	(10.3)	_	(10.3)	(0.7)	-	(0.7)
Balance at December 31, 1997	2,585	1,100	3,685	76.8	40.7	117.5	381.1	346.7	727.8	2.1	2.1	4.2
1998												
Revisions of Established Pools	(66)	4	(62)	4.9	(4.5)	0.4	(6.8)	_	(6.8)	(0.2)	(0.3)	(0.5)
Discoveries and Extensions	481	175	656	31.4	7.7	39.1	0.3	7.8	8.1	2.4	_	2.4
Acquisition of Reserves - Net	145	42	187	68.8	66.0	134.8	-	-	-	_	-	_
Production	(259)	-	(259)	(10.5)	-	(10.5)	(10.6)	_	(10.6)	(0.9)	-	(0.9)
Balance at December 31, 1998	2,886	1,321	4,207	171.4	109.9	281.3	364.0	354.5	718.5	3.4	1.8	5.2

Note 1: Year-end conventional reserves balances have been independently estimated by consulting engineers McDaniel & Associates Consultants Ltd. and Gilbert Laustsen Jung Associates Ltd.

# LANDHOLDINGS AT YEAR-END 1998

(thousand acres) Total Western Canada Other North American Total North America International Developed Undeveloped Undeveloped Undeveloped Developed Undeveloped Developed Undeveloped Developed 29 Gross 2,292 7,898 0.5 2,292 8,408 4,268 12,676 280 7,090 29 1,751 1,727 6,810 0.5 1,727 8,841 Net

# WELLS DRILLED (WESTERN CANADA)

TIELES BRIELED (TIESTERIT CATADA)						
		1998		1997		1996
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Exploration					*	
Gas	152	131	82	76	68	65
Oil	27	24	20	17	22	19
Cased	3	3	8	7	11	11
Dry and Abandoned	25	21	35	33	42	40
Total	207	179	145	133	143	135
Success Rate (percent)	88	88	76	75	71	70
Development	_					
Gas	377	356	160	133	103	86
Oil	39	31	127	88	172	135
Cased	7	6	27	26	14	13
Dry and Abandoned	5	2	18	11	27	24
Total	428	395	332	258	316	258
Success Rate (percent)	99	99	95	96	91	91

	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
Undeveloped Acreage (thousand acres)					
North America					
Gross	8,408	7,335	5,180	3,240	2,017
Net	7,090	6,263	4,279	2,667	1,731
International					
Gross	4,268	2,945	2,921	452	372
Net	1,751	2,945	2,711	452	372
Reserves (before royalties)					
Gas (billion cubic feet)					
Proven	2,886	2,585	2,189	1,511	1,522
Probable	1,321	1,100	871	379	369
Total	4,207	3,685	3,060	1,890	1,891
Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million	barrels)				
Proven	171.4	76.8	69.0	26.9	26.0
Probable	109.9_	40.7	40.8	24.7	14.8
Total	281.3	117.5	109.8	51.6	40.8
Syncrude (million barrels)	718.5	727.8	759.0	280.0	269.0
Argentina Oil (million barrels)	5.2	4.2	3.3	4.2	4.2
Reserves Replacement Cost Calculation Proven and Probable (Western Canada)					
Conventional Oil and Gas Investment (\$ millions)					
Exploration	161.0	318.0	100.0		
Development			168.2	82.7	66.1
Dorotopinotic	429.6	343.6	256.5	82.7 100.0	66.1 105.0
Acquisitions	429.6 795.7	343.6 7.8			
•			256.5	100.0	105.0
Acquisitions	795.7	7.8	256.5 975.5	100.0 9.4	105.0 66.3
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs	795.7 1,386.3	7.8	256.5 975.5	100.0 9.4 192.1	105.0 66.3 237.4
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added	795.7 1,386.3 656.2	7.8 669.4 851.0	256.5 975.5	100.0 9.4 192.1	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6)	7.8 669.4	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3)	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6	7.8 669.4 851.0	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3)	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels)	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels)	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels)	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Acquisitions	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels) 39.1 0.4 134.8	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9 25.2 0.7	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3 24.1 (7.9)	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0 12.6 6.0 0.1
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Total	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels) 39.1 0.4 134.8 174,3	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9 25.2 0.7 - 25.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0 18.9 - 48.2 67.1	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3 24.1 (7.9) —	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0 12.6 6.0 0.1 18.7
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Total Reserve Additions 10:1 (barrel of oil equival	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels) 39.1 0.4 134.8 174,3 ent) 252.4	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9 25.2 0.7	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3 24.1 (7.9)	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Total Reserve Additions 10:1 (barrel of oil equival Reserves Replacement Costs (\$/barrel of oil equival	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels) 39.1 0.4 134.8 174.3 ent) 252.4	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9 25.2 0.7 - 25.9 115.2	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0 18.9 - 48.2 67.1 202.9	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3 24.1 (7.9) - 16.2 28.9	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0 12.6 6.0 0.1 18.7 43.6
Acquisitions Total Reserves Replacement Costs Proven Plus Probable Reserves Added Gas (billion cubic feet) Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Conventional Oil and Natural Gas Liquids (million Discoveries and Extensions Revisions Acquisitions Total Total Reserve Additions 10:1 (barrel of oil equival	795.7 1,386.3 656.2 (62.6) 187.0 780.6 barrels) 39.1 0.4 134.8 174,3 ent) 252.4	7.8 669.4 851.0 41.9 - 892.9 25.2 0.7 - 25.9	256.5 975.5 1,400.2 458.0 - 900.0 1,358.0 18.9 - 48.2 67.1	100.0 9.4 192.1 138.4 (49.3) 38.2 127.3 24.1 (7.9) —	105.0 66.3 237.4 94.1 14.0 140.9 249.0 12.6 6.0 0.1 18.7

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Vice-President

Keith R. Kirkness

Vice-President

**AEC INTERNATIONAL** 

STEVEN R. BELL

Vice-President - AEC (Executive Vice-President, AEC International)

Gary S. Guidry

Vice-President.

Operations & Engineering

Brian J. Moss

Vice-President

AEC SYNCRUDE

Roger D. Dunn

Chairman, Syncrude Management Committee BUSINESS UNIT LEADERS

MIDSTREAM

HECTOR J. MCFADYEN

Vice-President - AEC

(President, AEC Midstream)

J. Andrew Patterson

Vice-President, Finance

AEC Midstream

PIPELINES & GAS PROCESSING

Robert A. Towler

Senior Vice-President.

Business Development

Larry D. Drader

Vice-President.

Operations & Engineering

Bernie J. Bradley

President, Express Pipeline

System

AEC STORAGE AND HUB

SERVICES

Richard C. Daniel

Vice-President

# Corporate Information

# AEC REGISTERED/ HEAD OFFICE

3900, 421 - 7 Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 4K9 Phone: (403) 266-8111 Internet Address www.aec.ca

# TRANSFER AGENTS & REGISTRARS

Common Shares

# CIBC Mellon Trust Company

Calgary, Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax, and

Chasemellon Shareholder

Services, L.L.C.

New York

# TRUSTEE & REGISTRAR CIBC Mellon Trust Company

8.15% Debentures Calgary, Vancouver, Regina, Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax

Medium Term Note Debentures Calgary, Toronto

Investors are encouraged to contact CIBC Mellon Trust Company for information regarding their security holdings. They can be reached via the AnswerLine (416) 643-5500 or toll-free throughout North America at 1-800-387-0825.

# **Mailing Address**

CIBC Mellon Trust Company
600 Dome Tower
333 - 7 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 2Z1
Internet Addresses
inquiries@cibcmellon.ca (e-mail)
www.cibcmellon.ca (web site)

# AUDITORS (FINANCIAL) PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP Chartered Accountants Calgary, Alberta

# AUDITORS (CONVENTIONAL OIL & GAS

RESERVES)

McDaniel & Associates

Consultants Ltd.

Calgary, Alberta

Gilbert Laustsen Jung

Associates Ltd.

Calgary, Alberta

#### STOCK EXCHANGES

Common Shares are listed on the Toronto and Montreal stock exchanges (symbol "AEC") and on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol "AOG").

# ANNUAL INFORMATION FORM (FORM 40-F)

AEC's Annual Information Form (AIF) is filed with securities regulators in Canada and the United States. Under the Multi-Jurisdictional Disclosure System (MJDS), AEC's AIF is filed as Form 40-F with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

# DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT & SHARE PURCHASE PLAN

AEC offers a Dividend
Reinvestment and Share
Purchase Plan which provides a
convenient method for shareholders to reinvest their cash
dividends and/or make cash
investments to purchase
additional Common Shares.
Details may be obtained by
contacting CIBC Mellon Trust
Company at the AnswerLine
phone numbers on this page.

# MAJOR OPERATING SUBSIDIARIES, AFFILIATES & PARTNERSHIPS

### **Upstream**

100% AEC International (Australia) Pty Ltd

100% AEC Oil & Gas Partnership

100% AEC Oil Sands Ltd.

100% AEC Oil Sands, L.P.

100% AEC West Ltd.

100% Alberta Energy Company
Argentina S.A.

100% Alenco Inc.

100% Alenco Oil & Gas [N.D.] Inc.

100% Alenco Resources Inc.

100% AEC Marketing (USA) Inc.

100% Amber Energy Inc.

#### Midstream

100% AEC Express Holdings Ltd.

100% AEC Pipelines Ltd.

70% AEC Pipelines, L.P.

100% AEC Suffield Gas
Pipeline Inc.

50% Express Pipeline

50% Platte Pipe Line Company

50% Marquest Energy Group

100% Alenco Pipelines Inc.

100% Alenco Iroquois
Pipelines Inc.

6% Iroquois Gas Transmission System, L.P.

100% Wild Goose Storage Inc.

100% AEC Storage and Hub Services Inc.

# MAJOR JOINT VENTURES

# Upstream

13.75% Syncrude

(AEC Oil Sands, L.P.)

(includes 75% of AEC Oil

Sands Limited

Partnership's 5% interest)

## Midstream

35% Empress Straddle Plant 33.3% Alberta Ethane Gathering System

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional investor relations information please contact Brian C. Ferguson, Director, Corporate Relations & Corporate Secretary, at the Registered Office address: 3900, 421 - 7 Avenue S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 4K9 Phone: (403) 266-8111 Internet Address www.aec.ca

# ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Wednesday, April 21, 1999
at 3:00 p.m. local time
TELUS Convention Centre
120 - 9 Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
Shareholders of Alberta Energy
Company Ltd. are encouraged
to attend. Those unable to do so
are asked to sign and return the
form of proxy mailed with this
report.

