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ChevronTexaco to Donate Calif. Seismic Data to Institute

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HOUSTON - ChevronTexaco Corp. (CVX) announced Friday that it plans to donate historic data to the American Geologic Institute on seismic activity off the coast of California and portions of the U.S. West Coast.

The data goes as far back as the 1960s, when ChevronTexaco began to record seismic data to evaluate the potential of the West Coast of the U.S. Continental shelf for oil and gas.

"Over the decades, the magnetic tapes containing the seismic data have been stored in special warehouses but they are rapidly approaching the point where they will no longer be viable," said Donald Paul, ChevronTexaco vice president and chief technology officer. "The data needs to be transferred to a new digital recording medium to preserve this unique, irreplaceable asset, otherwise it will be permanently lost."

According to a release from ChevronTexaco, the donation of the data will allow researchers, geologists, and environmental engineers to have greater access to the data.

"The data is a valuable resource for understanding the offshore structural geology, marine sedimentation and even the mapping of the complex fault systems associated with earthquakes, particularly in Southern California," said Stephen Testa, president, American Geological Institute.

The seismic information will be filed in the newly-created National Archive of Marine Seismic Surveys, created by AGI and the U.S. Geological Survey.

-By Jessica Resnick-Ault, Dow Jones Newswires; 713-547-9208, jessica.resnick-ault@dowjones.com

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VIIth IAHS Scientific Assembly, Foz do Iguacu, Brazil 3-9 April 2005

Mary Hill, USGS, Boulder Colorado, will attend the VIIth IAHS Scientific Assembly in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, on 3-9 April 2005. She will present a poster describing eGY and make a short announcement about eGY during a plenary meeting.

The poster was produced by Marissa Rusinek and is available for any eGY participant to submit to meetings they are attending. Please contact Bill Peterson for more information.

International Association of Hydrological Sciences Meeting
Web site: <http://www.cig.ensmp.fr/~iahs/>

Received from Bill.Peterson@LASP.Colorado.edu

eGY Status March/April 2005

eGY has come a long way in the last six months. Just to remind us all of the progress here is a summary listing of major accomplishments:

- Most organizations and many individuals have now heard about eGY, although most still really don't know what we are doing.
- We have received start up grant funding from IUGG and IAGA, and "in kind" funding from NOAA and CU/LASP.

We are approaching NOAA, NASA, NSF and others for operational funds.

- We have resolutions of support (mandates) from IAGA, CODATA, and SEG.
- We have been recognized by the IPY, ICSU, and WMO as a leader in IPY data related issues.
- We have a formal agreement of cooperation with the International Year of Planet Earth (IYPE).
- The organizational structure and planning documentation was confirmed in February. The eGY Secretariat office is up and running. Working Groups have been formed for Data Integration and Knowledge Discovery, Best Practice (via CODATA), E/PO, and VO (survey). The website, newsletter, and mailing lists are established.
- We have agreements with CODATA and IHY to use their network of national officers and representatives.
- We have established partnerships with SCOSTEP and IHY, and ORFEUS.
- We have good communications with CODATA, IUGG, the GeoUnions and the Associations.
- We have good communications with ICSU and the ICSU Panel for PAA Data & Information.
- We have had good interactions with the WDC Panel.
- We are planning a very ambitious E/PO program.
- We now routinely make presentations and distribute hand-outs at meetings. Recent examples are Mary Hill at the IAHS Assembly in Brazil and Bill Peterson at the ISES in Boulder.
- We will sponsor a Union Session at the Spring AGU in New Orleans.
- eGY will be featured at the eGY meeting in Vienna and the IAGA meeting in Toulouse.

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eGY Near Term Challenges

2007 is coming up fast. eGY has many things to do and limited time in which to do them. Our biggest challenge is to secure a modest level of funding through 2008 to support our working groups and executive. We need to expand both the international and interdisciplinary coverage of eGY. We need to establish working groups to cover all of the eGY theme areas. We need to do a better job in forward planning for meetings and workshops, and conferences. We need to formally establish our relationship with the IPY through the process they have identified. These will be the main items of discussion at an eGY planning meeting to be held the evening of Tuesday May 24 after the special eGY Union session to be held at the Joint Assembly of AGU.

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Working Group Reports

Paul Berkman, chair of the Data Integration and Knowledge Discovery Working Group, reports that draft terms of reference have been circulated to group members for comment. Contact Paul (paul@evresearch.com) for more information. Eric Kihn, co-chair of the Best Practices and Standards Working Group also reports that terms of reference are being circulated to group members for comment. Contact Eric (Eric.A.Kihn@noaa.gov) or Herb Kroehl (hwkroehl@hotmail.com) for more information.

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eGY and the IPY (International Polar Year)

In January, eGY, in response to a call from the IPY to find out what kinds of activities relating to IPY (www.ipy.org) are being planned, eGY submitted a note outlining our objectives and plans. IPY received over 800 such notes, 23 of them focused on data related issues. Two of the programs (eGY and the International Polar Year Data and Information Service for Distributed Data Management (IPY DIS), led by the World Data Center for Glaciology) were selected as potential leaders of the IPY efforts in this area. eGY has been asked to work with IPY DIS and the other groups to further develop our plans.

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eGY Presentation at the 4th International Symposium on Digital Earth in Tokyo from March 28-31, 2005

Bob Chen, of the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN), The Earth Institute, Columbia University, and Secretary General of CODATA, Committee on Data for Science and Technology, International Council for Science (ICSU) made arrangements for the eGY brochure to be distributed at the meeting.

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Interoperability - An Illustration

Open access to data, in eGY parlance, hinges around interoperability. Put simple, interoperability is what makes "my stuff work with your stuff and I don't give a damn where it is, how it works, and what the format is", where stuff = digital computers, programs, data, etc. (Lesley Wyborn, 2005 - see SEEGridII meeting presentation below). More formally, interoperability is the "capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among functional units in a manner that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units" (OGC Abstract specification Topic 12: Services. Derived from ISO 2382-1).

<http://www.egy.org/>

The best illustration of interoperability that I have come across is the visually striking and informative EarthBrowser. Download the free demo from: <http://www.earthbrowser.com/>.

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Meeting Report: SEEGridII, Canberra Australia, 15-16 March 2005

A Solid Earth and Environment Grid (SEEGrid) community has been established in Australia to bring together people in the earth, environmental and computing sciences to address the issues of "transparent access" to data and knowledge about the earth, and the available and potential technologies offered by the grid - see www.seegrid.csiro.au (press cancel repeatedly at logon for public access). Links with the Open Geospatial Consortium (formerly the Open

GIS Consortium) and the UK e-Science program are particularly strong. This second of the formal SEEGrid meetings attracted international participation. Presentations included one on eGY and provide comprehensive background information about interoperable technologies and solutions, demonstration projects, and practical implementations. They can be downloaded as PDF files from: <https://www.seegrid.csiro.au/twiki/bin/view/Main/SeeGridIProgram>.

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