

# Smart-Alek® Case Study #3

Well-site problem response and production reliability



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## Well-site problem response and production reliability

### Situation:

In Alberta's Rocky Mountain House area, the subject Company operators were spending the majority of their day driving to each well, resulting in less time for optimization and preventative maintenance work. If a well went down after an operator's daily visit, the lost production and its resolution would not be acted on until the next day when the operator revisited the well. The Ferrier wells were also being operated by a third party.

### Critical Issue:

- Lost production due to well downtime

### Customer:

- Size: Tier 2
- Region (field): WCSB (Ferrier)
- Production: Gas

### Customer Requirement:

The Company required a shift in operations strategy that freed up operators' time to allow them to focus on maintenance, repair work and optimization. They also needed remote visibility to monitor production, understand what was going on with their wells and action problems quickly and efficiently.

### What Zedi Provided:

The Company implemented Zedi's Smart-Alek system so they could monitor and view well information remotely. The alarming capability configured through web-based Zedi Access™, enabled them to reduce their downtime by reacting to alerts instead of waiting until the next scheduled site visit.

### Results:

By utilizing remote real-time well visibility, the Company was able to improve operator effectiveness.

Figure 1 illustrates the change of the operator's work week from daily to weekly visits, resulting in a well-count increase and a decrease in per well operating cost (per well/month truck-operator cost from \$835 to \$335).

A significant reduction in unscheduled downtime was also achieved. Figure 2 shows the unscheduled downtime for one of the Ferrier runs in 2004 which averaged 2.3% for the 12 Company operated wells and 5.2% on four non-operated wells flowing into a third party gathering system. All 16 well operations could be viewed by the Customer remotely via Smart-Alek.com. The third party operator continued to use only chart information on a daily visitation schedule. In 2005 the Company took back operatorship of these four wells by running a new pipeline segment to their facility and then applied their operating strategy using Smart-Alek. The result was a reduction of unscheduled downtime from 5.2% to 1.7%. This 3.5% increase in run-time equated to a netback increase of approximately \$70,000 per well, per year.

