

TCSUH SPECIAL SEMINAR

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Natural Resources Canada
1 Oil Patch Drive, Devon, Alberta, Canada T9G1A8

Wednesday, February 19, 2020

NEW LOCATION: SR1, Room 634, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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The Role of Asphaltene Precipitation in Oil Sand Bitumen Production

ABSTRACT: Asphaltenes are the heaviest components in crude oils/bitumen. They are the most unwanted components in crude for oil industry. Asphaltene precipitation causes many problems such as equipment fouling in upstream and coke deposition in downstream processing. However, asphaltene precipitation is utilized in removal of fine solids and emulsified water from diluted bitumen in bitumen extraction from surface mined oil sands. In this seminar bitumen production from oil sand by the warm water extraction process will be briefly overviewed and asphaltene precipitation and its role in froth treatment process will be discussed.

BIO: Dr. Xu is a senior research scientist in CanmetENERGY, Natural Resources Canada (a Canadian government department). In the last 30 years, he has worked closely with Canadian oil industry and conducted various research projects to develop new technologies and solve operation problems for the oil sand industry. His research area is focusing on bitumen extraction and the associated environment impact in oil sand processing. Dr. Xu received the B.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from East China University of Technology, China. He then received the M.Sc. in Chemical Engineering from the Research Institute of Petroleum Processing, SINOPEC, in China, and his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the University of Alberta in Alberta, Canada.

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