



Part of the Nabors No. 45 oil rig gets ready to begin its journey from Alberta to Shoal Point. Canadian Imperial Venture Corp. is bringing the rig to the west coast to test a structure in Port au Port Bay that was missed by a hole drilled in a similar area in 2000.

— Submitted Photo

#### OIL AND GAS

## Rig begins journey from Alberta to Newfoundland

By CLIFF WELLS

TRANSCONTINENTAL MEDIA—CORNER BROOK

**T**he transportation of the Nabors No. 45 rig from Alberta to Shoal Point began Monday.

The Canadian Imperial Venture Corp. (CIVC) rig will be used to drill the Shoal Point 2k39 well, a directional hole from an onshore surface location on Shoal Point to an offshore target under Port au Port Bay.

Steve Millan, chairman and CEO of CIVC, said the well will be drilled as a "tight hole," meaning that access will be restricted.

He said information provided by Shoal Point Energy Ltd. shows that 60 trucks from Newfoundland and Labrador and elsewhere on the east coast have been sent by Hunt's Transport Ltd. to Alberta to be used in moving the rig.

He said more than five trucks have already been loaded and dispatched from the loading site and about 15 trucks per day will be loaded over the next few days. Travel to Newfoundland is expected to take about 10 days.

Barring weather-related delays, he said rig assembly on location is expected to begin around Feb. 11, and will take about six days.

Millan is excited by the prospect of having the rig on the west coast. He said weather has already been a factor in the move.

"The weather in Alberta has been awful," Millan said. "It's very, very cold and that has a tendency to slow things down a bit, but they seem to be chugging away quite well. They seem to be getting in the swing of things. I haven't had a report for today (Tuesday)."

He said the projection of land between East Bay and West Bay in Port au Port Bay has seen drilling activity before.

"There was a well drilled there back in about 2000 by Hunt and Pan Canadian," Millan said. "They were very enthusiastic about that well at the time and they were disappointed when it turned out to be a dry hole. There was a lot of speculation as to what happened.

"In due course, the government, I think, supported an experimental geophysical program in the bay which was conducted by Memorial and that provided the missing link ... The long and the short of it is the first well did not test the target. It basically missed the target."

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