



DRILLER'S DIESEL

**Battling brutal
temperatures in remote
regions of Canada calls
for reliable power**

John Deere-powered generator sets
supply electricity to five heated well-site
buildings that serve as accommodations
for the drilling crews.

When the winter drilling season begins in Fox Creek, Alberta, Precision Drilling Rig 574 will be working around the clock, drilling for gas in the Montney Shale Basin. Sometimes it can get so cold, water vapor created by a nearby boiler will rise and morph into a mist of tiny ice crystals.

For the oil company representatives working at the drill site, the only reprieve from the winter conditions is five heated well-site buildings that serve as not only their home away from home but also their offices. The shacks, as they're called, hold promise of a hot shower and a warm place to sleep. There's a shack for the rig manager, geologist, directional drillers, fluids technician, and one shack serves as a main command center.

Rig 574 is owned and operated by Precision Drilling Corporation. The company is a leading oil and gas drilling rig contractor in Canada and has rigs active in major resource plays in the United States and Middle East.

The rig is one of five working in the Fox Creek region and among 47 throughout the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. The drilling camps are located far off the grid,

and electricity is supplied by diesel-powered generators. Most camps have two of them: one that powers the camp and one that's on standby.

Precision Drilling's Canadian equipment fleet includes 64 generators powered by John Deere PowerTech™ E 4.5L and 6.8L engines. The generator sets range from 75 to 150 kWe and are supplied by Frontier Power Products, a John Deere engine distributor servicing Canada's western provinces.

Built on an oil-field skid, the generator sets are equipped with block heaters and placed inside a small building about the size of a shipping container. As the drilling operations move to a new location, the containers are winched on a tractor-trailer and transported with the rig.

Some John Deere-powered generators are dedicated cold-start engines that power the rig after changing locations. "After the crew moves the rig to a new location, we use the cold-start engine to power the lights and boiler as well as the air compressors for the air starters on the large engines on the rig," explains Vic Archer, Precision Drilling's senior manager for power systems, located in Nisku, Alberta.



Rig 574 lights up the night sky near Fox Creek in the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin.


Precision Drilling isn't new to John Deere engines, says Archer. "We've used them in camp applications since 1999." He adds that John Deere engines are price competitive, fuel efficient, and have proven to be reliable and long-lasting over the years. He also applauds the service they receive from Frontier Power Products. The John Deere engine distributor keeps engines and parts stocked for quick delivery.

"The service and support from Frontier Power has been reliable and prompt. When we need parts in a hurry, they have provided consistent quality service."

— Vic Archer, Precision Drilling

Archer extols the virtues of his sales representative, Rob Crosbie. "He has been extremely supportive and works with you to get the job done.

"When you consider the price, longevity, and service, John Deere engines have been a well-made choice," says Archer. "They fill our niche perfectly."

 Distributor: Frontier Power Products in Delta, British Columbia, Edmonton and Calgary, Alberta; www.frontierpower.com



Frontier Power Products assembles the generators sets, which are then housed in small building at the well site.