



# Husky Oil Operations Limited

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August 2, 2019

**Sahtu Land & Water Board**  
Box 1  
Fort Good Hope, NT  
X0E 0H0

SLWB File: S12X-006

Via email to: [ash.varghese@slwb.com](mailto:ash.varghese@slwb.com)

**Attention: Aswathy Varghese, Regulatory Specialist**

**Re: Husky Oil Operations Limited  
Request for Approval of 2019 Targeted Surface Water Monitoring Event  
Update on Status of 2019 Groundwater Monitoring Event  
Land Use Permit S12X-006 (Groundwater Investigation Program)**

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Husky Oil Operations Limited (Husky) is submitting the following request to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) regarding the requirements under Land Use Permit (LUP) S12X-006 for the Slater River Project in 2019:

- request for approval for a targeted surface water sampling event.

This submission also includes an update on the groundwater sampling program for 2019. As specified in the Groundwater and Surface Water Monitoring Plan (GWSWMP) on file with the SLWB under LUP S12X-006, a Surface Water and Groundwater Monitoring Program must be conducted annually. Husky has conducted groundwater monitoring programs in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2019, and surface water monitoring programs in 2012 through 2018, with annual reports provided to the SLWB for years 2012 through 2017. Note that as outlined in Condition Part B, Item (3) under the Terms and Conditions of LUP S12X-006, the annual Surface Water and Groundwater Report for 2018 activities will be submitted to the SLWB by September 30, 2019.

## **Request for Approval – 2019 Targeted Surface Water Sampling**

Husky is requesting approval to conduct a targeted surface water sampling event for the Slater River Project in 2019. The scope of the work proposed for 2019 is the same as conducted for the 2016 through 2018 programs, as described in Husky's letter to the SWLB dated August 17, 2015 and the Board's confirmation letter dated September 29, 2015.

## **Update on Status – 2019 Groundwater Monitoring Event**

As previously discussed with the SLWB during a meeting on March 12, 2015, the existing deep groundwater monitoring wells MW-09A & B were frozen when sampling was attempted

in 2014. As these water source wells were never active, the prolonged exposure of standing water to permafrost subsurface temperatures and ambient temperatures below freezing caused the groundwater in the wellbore to freeze; it is presumed that the pneumatic packers installed in these wells had failed.

Husky had previously submitted a Closure and Reclamation Plan to the SLWB in November 2018 which included details regarding the proposed decommissioning of the groundwater wells. In January 2019, Husky undertook a well suspension and abandonment program at Little Bear N-09 and Little Bear H-64 wellsites, and the groundwater monitoring wells were decommissioned during this same program period as proposed. Husky invested time and resources into thawing the groundwater wells in an attempt to sample them prior to decommissioning and was able to obtain samples from two of the groundwater wells. The results of the sampling will be included in the annual Surface Water and Groundwater Report for 2019 activities which will be submitted to the SLWB in late 2019 or early 2020.

Husky will address groundwater monitoring in upcoming discussions to be held with the SLWB. This will be in conjunction with discussions regarding upcoming applications for ongoing care and maintenance works related to the Slater River project; these applications are intended to replace the existing permits for the project. Pending the discussions with the SLWB, Husky anticipates submission of these applications to the SLWB in late 2019.

#### **Other Permits**

Husky has applied for a Scientific Research License (Application 4568, pending approval) through the Aurora Research Institute to conduct the 2019 surface water monitoring program.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (403) 836-1837 or by email at Holly.Kelly@huskyenergy.com.

Sincerely,

**HUSKY OIL OPERATIONS LIMITED**



Holly Kelly  
Manager, Regulatory Applications  
Environment and Regulatory Approvals

cc: Trevor Bremner – Resource Management Officer II, GNWT-Lands  
Bonnie Bergsma – Regulatory Specialist, Sahtu Land and Water Board  
Laurie Henderson – Husky Oil Operations Limited  
Chris Salewich – Husky Oil Operations Limited