



Sahtu Land & Water Board
REASONS FOR DECISION
Issued Pursuant to Section 72.25 and 121 of
Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act
Section 40(2)(c) of
Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, and
Section 54 of *Waters Act*

Type A Land Use Permit S20X-006 and Type B Water Licence S20L1-004

This is the decision of the Sahtu Land & Water Board with respect to the application deemed complete October 13, 2020 for issuance of a Land Use Permit and Water Licence made by:

Husky Oil Operations Limited
707 – 8th Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta. T2P 3G7

for: Reclamation and interim care and maintenance project activities at Slater River Program area on Exploration Licence (EL) 494 located 40 km SSE of the Town of Norman Wells, NWT

With respect to this application, written notice was given to 17 organizations within the Sahtu Settlement Area and 22 outside of the settlement area in accordance with Sections 63 & 64 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. There was no Public Hearing held in association with this application.

DECISION

After having been satisfied that the project has been screened pursuant to s.125(1)(a) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, and that any potential adverse environmental effects were insignificant or mitigatable with known technology, and as such the application could proceed through the regulatory process and after reviewing the submission of the Applicant and after reviewing the written comments received by the Board; the Board, having due regard to the facts and circumstances, the merits of the submissions made to it, and to the purpose, scope and intent of the MVRMA and Regulations made thereunder has determined that:

Land Use Permit S20X-006 and Water Licence S20L1-004 will be issued subject to the terms and conditions contained therein.

The Board's reasons for this decision are as follows:

- It is the opinion of the Board that the Project conforms with the Sahtu Land Use Plan and has met referral obligations to the Sahtu Land Use Planning Board as outlined in section 61 of the MVRMA;
- The use of land and water proposed by the Proponent is of a nature contemplated by the MVRMA;
- The Board is satisfied that appropriate consultation has been conducted and that advice has been sought and considered, in accordance with sections 63 and 64 of the MVRMA;
- It is the opinion of the Board that the Engagement Plan and Record includes provisions for comprehensive, meaningful and ongoing engagement efforts with the local community to address concerns and to improve understanding of Project activities and potential effects and has approved the updated Engagement Plan;
- To the best of their ability and in accordance with the scale of their Project activities and budget, Husky provides opportunities and benefits to local communities and land claim organizations through employment and training, hiring of Sahtu businesses, donations and bursaries, and carrying out Traditional Knowledge Studies;
- No significant or unmitigable public concern has been made known to the Board;
- The project was screened by the Board on December 22, 2020 and updated to identify any new activities related to the scope of the Project that had not been identified in previous screenings and to update mitigation measures and evaluate potential for cumulative impacts. The screening identified that any potential environmental impacts can be mitigated in the short term with known technologies and that no significant public concerns were noted;

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- It is the opinion of the Board that the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts from undertaking Project reclamation and care and maintenance activities should result in positive environmental benefits;
- It is the opinion of the Board that the terms and conditions attached to S20X-006 and S20L1-004, pursuant to the MVRMA, will ensure that any potential environmental impacts resulting from this activity are not significant. The effects of the Project on the environment can take place in an environmentally responsible manner provided that environmental considerations and mitigation measures outlined in the Application documents are followed;
- It is the opinion of the Board that adequate security has been allocated for the Project. The Applicant has a good past performance record for project completions and progressive reclamation outcomes and has committed to maintaining the Slater River Project area since 2011; and
- The Board has approved the Waste Management Plan, Spill Contingency Plan, Closure and Reclamation Plan, and Quarry M Management Plan as they meet the applicable guidelines and sufficiently reflect the scope of the proposed activities.

Land Use Permit S20X-006 and Water Licence S20L1-004 contain provisions that the Board feels necessary to ensure and monitor compliance with the MVRMA and the Regulations made thereunder, and to provide appropriate safeguards in respect of Husky's use of the lands affected by the Permit and use of the waters affected by the Licence.

The Board will provide any referenced material or documents and/or reasons for decision for any specific clause or clauses contained within the application if requested to do so in writing.

SIGNED this 15th day of January 2021 on behalf of the SAHTU Land & Water Board.



Larry Wallace (Chair)
SAHTU Land & Water Board