



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Angie Stastook
Specialist Asset Liability & EGS
Prairie Provident Resources Canada Ltd.
SUITE 1100, 640 - 5th AVE SW
CALGARY AB T2P 3G4

June 3, 2022

Dear Angie Stastook:

Decision: Request for a Variation to ACW-2021-PPR-2K-02-WID1993 Variation #3

On June 3, 2022, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a request to vary ACW-2021-PPR-2K-02-WID1993, variation #3 from Prairie Provident Resources Canada Ltd. (Prairie Provident). Prairie Provident is requesting a variation to Term #16 of the Well Approval to conduct gas migration testing and wellbore testing in early June 2022, rather than between July and September.

The Regulator, designated under section 121 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA), may issue an Operations Authorization under section 10(1) of that act, subject to any Well Approvals that the Regulator may require under section 10(4) of OGOA. The Regulator may vary the terms of an Operations Authorization under section 10(6) of OGOA, including the terms of a Well Approval. On August 2, 2020, the Commissioner in Executive Council designated me as the Regulator under section 121 of OGOA.

I have reviewed Prairie Provident's request for variation. I have also considered section 4A of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* (Guidelines, revised edition issued May 25, 2022). Section 4A of the Guidelines requires gas migration testing be done between July and September. This requirement is intended to ensure that the gas migration testing occurs at a time when the ground is thawed to a depth that would allow for reasonable conditions to conduct testing and obtain a useful sample if gas is encountered. I am not convinced that the ground will be thawed sufficiently to allow for representative testing and sampling by early June, when Prairie Provident proposes to conduct gas migration testing.

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Therefore, Prairie Provident's application for a variation to ACW-2021-PPR-2K-02-WID1993 variation #3 is denied.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

c. Clive Mountford, Chief Engineer, Vertex Professional Services