



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Jonathon Michel
Director, Aurora Campus
PO BOX 1008
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

November 24, 2023

Dear Jonathon Michel:

Decision: ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915
variation 1 – Post-Abandonment Gas Migration Testing

On October 16, 2023, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc., consultants to Aurora College, submitted an updated well abandonment program and project schedule for the abandonment of the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915).

The schedule indicates that gas migration (GM) testing will take place on May 13, 2024, and subsequent abandonment operations begin on June 17, 2024.

Section 4A of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* (Guidelines) requires that GM testing take place between July and September. The intent is for GM testing to be completed when the ground is not frozen, to ensure a valid test.

If Aurora College abandons the Aurora Training Well G-04 in mid-June, it will not be possible for Aurora College to complete pre-abandonment GM testing during frost-free conditions, as required in the Guidelines.

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.

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Therefore, I have varied ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 to allow for post-abandonment GM testing between July and September 2024, in place of pre-abandonment GM testing. This will allow Aurora College to complete the abandonment as planned. However, if GM is found during the post-abandonment GM testing, Aurora College will be required to re-enter and repair the well to meet the requirements of section 56 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*.

Aurora College must post a copy of the attached Well Approval in a clearly visible location at the work site.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

Encl. Well Approval ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 variation #1

c. Lorne Hammer, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc.

WELL APPROVAL

Subject to the terms listed below, well approval **ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 variation #1** is granted under Section 10 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and Part 2 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* to


Company Name	Operating Licence #
Aurora College	NWT-OL-2014-019
Responsible Officer	Operations Authorization #
Jonathon Michel, Director, Aurora Campus	OA-2022-001-AC

for

Well Name and Well ID#	
Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915)	
Type of Work	Region
Abandonment	Gwich'in

This approval, originally issued on September 28, 2023, has been varied by the Regulator or its delegate under Section 10(6) of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.

This approval expires on **November 1, 2024**.

Issued at	Issued on
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories	November 24, 2023
Issued by	Signature
Pauline de Jong, Regulator	

Additional Terms

1. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*, as well as any other acts or legislation as may apply.
2. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with any guidelines and/or interpretation notes issued by the Regulator under section 18 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.
3. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the specifications, standards and other information referred to in its application received February 14, 2023, and other submissions.
4. Aurora College shall request approval from the Regulator prior to undertaking any change to or deviation from the authorized work or activities, including but not limited to key personnel, the safety plan, the environmental protection plan, and contingency plans.
5. Aurora College shall provide all staff and contractors for this program with its Emergency Response Plan and the OROGO 24-hour Incident Reporting phone number (867-445-8551) prior to commencing any work or activity.
6. Aurora College shall notify OROGO at least 10 days prior to the start of approved operations.
7. Aurora College shall submit to OROGO certificates and inspection documents for any service rig, well control and associated equipment (including boilers) at least 10 days prior to the rig commencing work.
8. Aurora College shall submit to OROGO an updated operator contact list for this program prior to any work or activity.
9. If Aurora College must conduct casing repairs on the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915), it shall apply to the Regulator for a variation to this approval and include an updated program that meets the requirements of Section 6A of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* sub-section "Wells with Casing Patching, Casing Failures and Previously Cement Squeezed Intervals".
10. If Aurora College conducts remedial cementing on the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915), it shall locate any cement plugs placed as required in Section 6C of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* and shall report this information to OROGO prior to continuing abandonment operations.
11. Aurora College shall submit to OROGO a Daily Report outlining all activities undertaken for each day of the operation under this well approval no later than 10:00 a.m. the following day.

12. Aurora College shall complete post-abandonment gas migration (GM) testing between July and September 2024, as described in section 4A of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*. Aurora College shall notify OROGO at least 10 days prior to conducting GM testing and submit a report of the GM testing results to the Regulator within 30 days of conducting the testing. Should analysis of the methane be required to determine the thermogenic source, Aurora College must notify OROGO with an anticipated timeframe to submit the analytical results.
13. Aurora College shall submit to OROGO a completed Change of Well Status form 30 days after the service rig release date or when the operation has been successfully completed.