



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Bill Peterson
Senior Vice President, Development and Operations
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Suite 2100, 855 – 2ND ST SW
CALGARY AB T2P 4J8

December 2, 2021

Dear Bill Peterson:

Decision:
Deferral of Abandonment Program, Fort Liard Area (OA-2018-005-CNRL)

The Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a notice from the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) recommending the postponement of work associated with CNRL's abandonment program for this upcoming 2021/22 field season.

In light of this information, OROGO is requiring all oil and gas operators to increase inspection frequency on their non-compliant wells and consider how abandonment operations can be conducted in the 2022/23 winter operating season in a manner that minimizes risks of COVID-19 transmission to local communities, contractors and other personnel. OROGO requests that CNRL develop and provide the following:

1. A monitoring plan that identifies more frequent testing and inspection of non-compliant suspended wells. An additional inspection must be added for each non-compliant suspended well in addition to the requirements of Section 5D of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*. The monitoring plan must be submitted to OROGO at oro.go@gov.nt.ca by January 11, 2022.
2. An execution plan to conduct field operations in 2022/23 that meets all requirements of the CPHO's Public Health Order – COVID-19 Directed at Mineral and Petroleum Industry (https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid19/sites/covid/files/resources/pho_-_mpr_en_2.pdf). The execution plan must be submitted to OROGO at oro.go@gov.nt.ca, with a copy to ProtectNWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca, by August 31, 2022.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at (867) 767-9097 or by email at orogo@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

c. Ryan N. Munro, Manager, Abandonment Engineering, CNRL