



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

P.O. Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

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Steve Stirling
Manager Regulatory and Environment
Obsidian Energy Ltd.
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May 27, 2020

Dear Steve Stirling:

Travel to the Northwest Territories to Conduct Suspended Well Inspections

In order to maintain compliance with the requirements of the *Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* and the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*, many operators and well owners are required to conduct suspended well inspections in the late summer or early fall of 2020.

On May 12, 2020, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) released “Emerging Wisely”, the plan for gradually loosening the restrictions taken to control the spread of COVID-19. The plan makes it clear that travel into the Northwest Territories (NWT) for non-residents will continue to be restricted for the foreseeable future.

Suspended well inspections are normally carried out by individuals who are not resident in the NWT. Individuals wishing to enter the NWT to conduct suspended well inspections are required to submit a self-isolation plan to protectnwt@gov.nt.ca **prior to** entering the territory. The plan will be reviewed and assessed by the GNWT, which will determine whether or not to allow the individual to enter the NWT. An approved self-isolation plan is valid for 90 days from the date of submission or up to 6 entries into the NWT, whichever comes first.

A key component of the self-isolation plan is the mandatory requirement to complete a 14-day self-isolation period upon entry into the NWT. The 14-day self-isolation period must occur in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith. If you believe that your employee or contractor will not be able to self-isolate in this manner when coming to the NWT to conduct well inspections, you may request written permission from the Chief Public Health Officer for an exemption to the mandatory self-isolation requirement.

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Bureau de l'organisme de réglementation des opérations pétrolières et gazières

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BUREAU DE L'ORGANISME DE RÉGLEMENTATION DES OPÉRATIONS PÉTROLIÈRES ET GAZIÈRES DES TNO

Information for travellers arriving in the NWT, including a link to the self-isolation plan, can be found here:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/travel-moving-around/travellers-arriving-nwt>

A self-isolation information sheet can be found here:

<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/health-and-well-being/mandatory-self-isolation>

The *Public Health Order – COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self-isolation Protocol* can be found here (exemption requests are addressed on page 6):

<https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/public-health-order-covid-19-travel-restrictions-self-isolation-protocol-amended-april-27-2020.pdf>

Questions about travel to the NWT and self-isolation can be directed to ProtectNWT: protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297 (8:00 am - 8:00 pm MT)

Please submit a plan for conducting required suspended well inspections to the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) on or before July 17, 2020. Your plan should include a proposed inspection schedule and demonstrate the ability of your employees or contractors to enter the NWT to carry out these inspections as per the requirements of GNWT's "Emerging Wisely" plan.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 867-920-7097 or by email at orogo@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Chief Conservation Officer