



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Steve Sterling  
Manager, Environment & Regulatory  
Obsidian Energy Ltd.  
Suite 200, Penn West Plaza 207 – 9 AVE SW  
CALGARY AB T2P 1K3

December 2, 2021

Dear Steve Sterling:

**Decision: Deferral of Abandonment Program, Fort Liard Area (OA-2019-001-OBS)**

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 Obsidian Energy Ltd.'s (Obsidian) 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 Obsidian develop and provide the following:

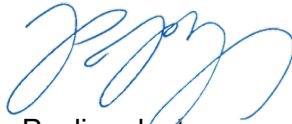
1. A monitoring plan that identifies more frequent testing and inspection of non-compliant suspended wells. An additional inspection must be added for each non-compliant suspended well in addition to the requirements of Section 5D of the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes*. The monitoring plan must be submitted to OROGO at [oro.go@gov.nt.ca](mailto: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/covid-19/sites/covid/files/resources/pho\\_mpr\\_en\\_2.pdf](https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/sites/covid/files/resources/pho_mpr_en_2.pdf)). The execution plan must be submitted to OROGO at [oro.go@gov.nt.ca](mailto:oro.go@gov.nt.ca), with a copy to ProtectNWT at [protectnwt@gov.nt.ca](mailto: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](mailto:orogo@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong  
Regulator

- c. Aaron Smith, Senior Vice President, Development & Operations, Obsidian  
Cliff Swadling, Senior Director, Production & Operations, Obsidian  
Craig Langford, Environmental Coordinator, Obsidian  
[Regulatory@obsidianenergy.com](mailto:Regulatory@obsidianenergy.com)