



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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John Hawkins
Director, Asset Management
MGM Energy
Suite 2800, 421 – 7TH AVE SW
CALGARY AB T2P 4K9

December 16, 2020

Dear John Hawkins:

Decision – Deferral of Abandonment Program, Sahtu Region (OA-2019-002-MGM)

On June 12, 2019, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application from MGM Energy (MGM) for an Operations Authorization (OA) for the proposed abandonment of seven wells in the Sahtu Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories.

Recently, the NWT Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) has clarified that, based on the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission into the NWT and the rising number of cases in most jurisdictions, which increases the transmission risk to the NWT, she supports deferring well abandonment programs planned for winter 2021 to winter 2022.

Although MGM has not submitted a request to defer its abandonment program until 2022, these risks are presented by MGM and other operators who are intending to conduct well abandonment programs in the NWT during the 2021 winter season.

Based on the CPHO's recent determination regarding potential risks of COVID-19 transmission, I have decided that MGM's proposed well abandonment programs should be deferred until 2022.

Given the non-compliant suspended status of the MGM West Nogha K-14 (WID 2006) and MGM Nogha C-49 (WID 1934) wells, OROGO will review its well records, including the most recent well inspection reports, and contact MGM to discuss any additional steps that may need to be taken to ensure these wells remain secure until the 2022 operating season.

If you have any questions, please contact Peter Lennie-Misgeld, Senior Advisor, Legislation and Policy at (867) 767-9097 or by email at orogo@gov.nt.ca.

Sincerely,

Pauline de Jong
Regulator