



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 Corp.  
Suite 2800, 421 – 7 AVE SW  
CALGARY AB T2P 4K9

December 20, 2021

Dear John Hawkins:

**Decision: Extension of Deadline for  
Sahtu Well Abandonment Program (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 Corp. (MGM) for the abandonment of seven wells in the Sahtu Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories.

Two of these wells were scheduled to be abandoned during the 2022 operating season. The remaining five were scheduled to be abandoned by March 31, 2023.

On December 2, 2021, I wrote to MGM, advising that the Chief Public Health Officer (CPHO) had recommended the postponement of work associated with abandonments in the Liard and Sahtu areas of the NWT during the winter 2022 field season. I requested that MGM develop and provide a monitoring plan for the non-compliant suspended wells and an execution plan for conducting the planned abandonments during the winter 2023 field season that met all requirements of the CPHO's *Public Health Order – COVID-19 Directed at Mineral and Petroleum Industry*.

On December 13, 2021, OROGO and Suncor Energy Inc. (Suncor) met and discussed:

- Suncor's proposed approach for the 2023 abandonments, which includes mobilizing equipment to Colville Lake in February and March of 2022; and
- The potential impact of the CPHO's recommendation not to carry out activities in winter 2022 on Suncor's plans.

During that meeting, Suncor advised OROGO it was coordinating well abandonment operations in the Sahtu with MGM and therefore any changes to Suncor's abandonment schedule would also affect MGM's abandonment schedule.

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On December 16, 2021, OROGO facilitated a discussion between Suncor and staff from the Office of the CPHO to further explore its planned operations for 2022 and the impact of the CPHO's recommendation.

The Chief Safety Officer / Chief Conservation Officer and I attended both the December 13 and 16 meetings. As a result of the discussions, I have concluded that:

- Suncor is not able to comply with the requirements of the *Public Health Order – COVID-19 Directed at Mineral and Petroleum Industry* during the planned mobilization of equipment to Colville Lake in February and March of 2022;
- Without the mobilization of equipment in 2022, Suncor cannot complete the well abandonments by March 31, 2023, as directed; and
- If Suncor cannot complete its mobilization and abandonments by March 31, 2023, neither can MGM, as the two operators are working together.

Therefore, I am extending the deadline for MGM to abandon the following wells to March 31, 2024:

Nogha C-49 (WID1934)

Nogha M-17 (WID1970)

Lac Maunoir C-34 (WID1995)

Nogha B-23 (WID1998)

West Nogha K-14 (WID2006)

Lac Maunoir E-35 (WID2021)

East MacKay I-78 (WID2078)

Given the non-compliant suspended status of the West Nogha K-14 and Nogha C-49 wells, OROGO will review its 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 2024 operating season.

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. Carter Stirling, Office of the Chief Public Health Officer