



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

Tel: 867-767-9097 • Fax: 867-920-0798 • Web: www.orogo.gov.nt.ca

Courier Address: 4th floor, 5201 – 50th Avenue, Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S9

Chris Moger
Surface Landman
Suncor Energy Inc.
PO BOX 2844
150 – 6 AVENUE S.W.
CALGARY AB T2P 3E3

December 20, 2021

Dear Chris Moger:

**Decision: Extension of Deadline for
Abandonment of the Tweed Lake M-47 (WID1475),
Tweed Lake A-67 (WID1555) and Bele O-35 (WID1600) Wells (OA-2021-003-SUN)**

On June 2, 2021, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application from Suncor Energy Inc. (Suncor) for the abandonment of three wells in the Sahtu region, near the community of Colville Lake: Tweed Lake M-47 (WID1475), Tweed Lake A-67 (WID1555) and Bele O-35 (WID1600).

These wells were scheduled to be abandoned by March 31, 2023, in accordance with my direction of February 22, 2021.

On December 3, 2021, I wrote to Suncor, 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 Suncor develop and provide 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 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.

.../2

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; and
- Without the mobilization of equipment in 2022, Suncor cannot complete the well abandonments by March 31, 2023, as directed.

Therefore, I am extending the deadline for Suncor to complete the abandonment of the Tweed Lake M-47 (WID1475), Tweed Lake A-67 (WID1555) and Bele O-35 (WID1600) wells to March 31, 2024.

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. Rachel D'Silva, Suncor Energy Inc.
Greg Hundseth, Suncor Energy Inc.
Paul Carpentier, Suncor Energy Inc.
Carter Stirling, Office of the Chief Public Health Officer