



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Jonathon Michel
Director, Aurora Campus
Aurora College
PO BOX 1008
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

April 20, 2023

Dear Jonathon Michel:

Notice of Non-Compliance: Failure to Respond to the Regulator's Inquiries

On August 2, 2020, I was designated as Regulator by the Commissioner in Executive Council pursuant to section 121 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA), through Regulator Designation Order R-111-2020. I am currently the Regulator.

Aurora College owns the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915) (the well) in Inuvik, Northwest Territories. Aurora College holds Operating Licence NWT-OL-2014-019 and you are identified as the Responsible Officer on the Operating Licence.

The well was drilled, used for training, and suspended in 2001.

On December 9, 2022, Aurora College submitted its application for an Operations Authorization (OA) for the abandonment of the well (OA-2022-001-AC) and, on February 12, 2023, Aurora College submitted its application for a Well Approval for abandonment of the well (ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915).

The Regulator routinely issues Information Requests to applicants for Operations Authorizations and Well Approvals to confirm compliance with requirements, clarify planned operations, and address deficiencies in management systems and plans. Section 19(1) of OGOA gives the Regulator the authority to make these inquiries.

Aurora College has failed to respond in a timely manner to most of the Information Requests issued by the Regulator with respect to its OA and Well Approval applications.

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With respect to Aurora College's application for OA-2022-001-AC:

- On December 16, 2022, I issued the first Information Request for OA-2022-001-AC (IR1-OA) with a response deadline of January 4, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On January 6, 2023, I wrote to CPE and Aurora College identifying that the response to IR1-OA was overdue and setting a new deadline of January 9, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On January 11, 2023, Senior Technical Advisor Mike Martin spoke to you by telephone to request a response to IR1-OA. Aurora College did not respond.
- On January 13, 2023, I issued direction to CPE and Aurora College to provide a complete and fulsome response to IR1-OA by January 18, 2023. Aurora College did not respond.
- On January 27, 2023, I issued a Notice of Non-Compliance to CPE and Aurora College addressing the failure to respond to IR1-OA or to the Regulator's direction.
- On January 29, 2023, CPE responded to OROGO committing to:
 - Submit a revised OA application in response to IR1-OA by February 3, 2023;
 - Submit a Well Approval application by February 10, 2023; and
 - Respond to any further Information Requests in a timely manner as requested by OROGO.
- On February 6, 2023, CPE submitted a revised OA application on behalf of Aurora College in response to IR1-OA.
- On February 20, 2023, I issued the second Information Request for OA-2022-001-AC (IR2-OA) with a response deadline of February 27, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On February 28, 2023, I wrote to CPE and Aurora College identifying that the response to IR2-OA was overdue and setting a new deadline of March 1, 2023.
- On March 1, 2023, CPE submitted a response to IR2-OA on behalf of Aurora College.
- On March 3, 2023, I issued the third Information Request for OA-2022-001-AC (IR3-OA) with a response deadline of March 13, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On March 14, 2023, I wrote to CPE and Aurora College identifying that the response to IR3-OA was overdue and setting a new deadline of March 15, 2023.

- On March 15, 2023, CPE responded to the overdue notice stating “we are waiting in [sic] information from Aurora College and some guidance from them on responses to IR#3. We will be meeting with Jonathon Michel in the next couple of days and should have some information that will allow us to prepare propre [sic] answers to the questions raised in IR#3.”
- Also on March 15, 2023, I responded to CPE indicating that it should provide a new deadline by which it would be able to respond to IR3-OA along with a request for extension. Neither CPE nor Aurora College responded to IR3-OA or requested an extension to the deadline for response.
- On March 28, 2023, I issued direction to CPE and Aurora College to provide a complete and fulsome response to IR3-OA by April 12, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On April 13, 2023, CPE wrote to OROGO on behalf of Aurora College requesting an extension to the abandonment deadline for the well to August 31, 2023. CPE did not respond to IR3-OA or propose a date for responding.

With respect to Aurora College’s application for ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915:

- On February 27, 2023, I issued the first Information Request for ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 (IR1-ACW) with a response deadline of March 7, 2023.
- On March 6, 2023, CPE submitted a response to IR1-ACW on behalf of Aurora College.
- On March 8, 2023, I issued the second Information Request for ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 (IR2-ACW) with a response deadline of March 14, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On March 15, 2023, I responded to an email from CPE indicating that the response to Information Response 2 for ACW-2023-AC-G-04-WID1915 was due on March 14, 2023, and was overdue. Neither CPE nor Aurora College responded to IR2-ACW or requested an extension to the deadline for response.
- On March 28, 2023, I issued direction to CPE and Aurora College to provide a complete and fulsome response to IR2-ACW by April 12, 2023. Aurora College did not respond by the deadline.
- On April 13, 2023, CPE wrote to OROGO on behalf of Aurora College requesting an extension to the abandonment deadline for the well to August 31, 2023. CPE did not respond to IR2-ACW or propose a date for responding.

Therefore, I give notice that Aurora College is non-compliant with the information requests issued by the Regulator under section 19(1) of OGOA.

Failure to comply with the direction of the Regulator may result in further enforcement activity, up to and including an order by the Regulator under section 20 of OGOA.

Failure to comply with an order of the Regulator made under OGOA is an offence under section 114(1) of OGOA, which provides, in part, that every person is guilty of an offence who fails to comply with an order of the Regulator made under OGOA and is liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both (section 114(2) of OGOA).

In addition, upon being convicted of an offence, the court may order that person to comply with the order (see section 115 of OGOA). If an offence is committed on or continued for more than one day, the offence is considered to be a separate offence for each day on which the offence is committed or continued (see section 116 of OGOA).

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

- c. Glenda Vardy Dell, President, Aurora College
Lorne Hammer, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc.
Ron McCosh, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc.