



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 XO3 OT0

July 26, 2023

Dear Jonathon Michel:

Notice: Prohibition on Activity without Operations Authorization

On July 25, 2023, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a partial response to Information Request (IR) No. 6 for OA-2022-001-AC from Aurora College.

IR No. 6.3 addressed Aurora College's outstanding confirmation of benefits plan waiver or approval by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. In its response to IR No. 6.3, Aurora College states that it plans to begin operations in mid-August 2023 with gas migration testing and casing pressure testing "in anticipation of a satisfactory benefits plan being negotiated".

Section 6 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA) prohibits any work or activity to which OGOA applies without an operating licence and an operations authorization.

Aurora College holds an operating licence (NWT-OL-2014-019) but does not hold an operations authorization. All requirements for Aurora College's operations authorization have been met, except for confirmation that its benefits plan has been approved. Section 17(2) of OGOA prohibits the Regulator from issuing an operations authorization without this confirmation.

Therefore, Aurora College cannot obtain an operations authorization to meet the requirements of section 6 of OGOA without confirmation that its benefits plan has been approved. Aurora College may not begin operations, including casing pressure testing, without an operations authorization.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

- c. Jeff O'Keefe, Vice President, Aurora College
Glenda Vardy-Dell, President, Aurora College
Lorne Hammer, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc.
Ron McCosh, Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc.