



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
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August 25, 2023

Dear Jonathon Michel:

Status of the Aurora Training Well G-04 (OA-2022-001-AC)

On April 20, 2023, I issued a Notice of Non-Compliance to Aurora College for failing to abandon the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915) by the January 31, 2023, deadline contained in the *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* (Guidelines), issued by the Regulator under section 18 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA).

Also on April 20, 2023, I issued direction to Aurora College to complete the well abandonment by August 31, 2023.

Since then, I have corresponded with Aurora College about the status of its application for an Operations Authorization, required under OGOA to complete the abandonment. I have been unable to issue an Operations Authorization to Aurora College because Aurora College has not obtained approval for its benefits plan for this activity from the Minister of Industry, Tourism, and Investment with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

On August 18, 2023, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a letter from Canadian Petroleum Engineering Inc. (CPE), on behalf of Aurora College, indicating that Aurora College would not be able to abandon the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915) by August 31, 2023. Aurora College was unable to commit to a deadline for abandoning the well, as it is still negotiating its benefits plan with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

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Therefore, the Aurora Training Well G-04 remains non-compliant with the Guidelines and with my direction of April 20, 2023. The well will continue to be non-compliant until it is abandoned to my satisfaction in accordance with the Guidelines.

Please provide an update on the status of Aurora College's benefits plan by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 28, 2023.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

- c. Glenda Vardy Dell, President, Aurora College
Jeff O'Keefe, Vice-President, Aurora College
Lorne Hammer, CPE
Ron McCosh, CPE