



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Jonathan Michel
Director Aurora Campus
Aurora College
PO Box 1008
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

September 28, 2023

Dear Jonathan Michel:

Decision: Application for an Operations Authorization (OA-2022-001-AC)

On December 12, 2022, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application from Aurora College for an Operations Authorization to abandon the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915) in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

OROGO also received Aurora College's response to information requests as follows:

Information Request No. 1 – received on February 6, 2023;
Information Request No. 2 – received on March 1, 2023;
Information Request No. 3 – received on May 1, 2023;
Information Request No. 4 – received on May 26, 2023;
Information Request No. 5 – received on June 16, 2023;
Information Request No. 6 – received on July 25, 2023; and
Information Request No. 7 - received on August 4, 2023.

The Regulator, designated under section 121 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA), may issue an Operations Authorization under section 10(1)(b) of that act. On August 2, 2020, the Commissioner in Executive Council designated me as the Regulator under section 121 of OGOA.

The Regulator must fulfill its obligations as a regulatory authority under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). It must also determine the adequacy of Aboriginal consultation, where a decision has the potential to adversely impact an asserted or existing Aboriginal right.

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I make the following findings with respect to Aurora College's application for an Operations Authorization:

1. Aurora College's application and supplemental information submissions satisfy the minimum application requirements of OGOA and of section 5 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* (OGDPR) in relation to the proposed activities. I am persuaded that Aurora College intends to conduct the proposed activities in a manner consistent with the purposes set out in OGOA.
2. Preliminary Screening – The activities proposed under OA-2022-001-AC were subject to preliminary screening by the Gwich'in Land and Water Board under Water Licence G01L1-002. I have therefore determined that these activities are exempt from preliminary screening under section 2.1 of the *Exemption List Regulations* under the MVRMA and have advised the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of this determination.
3. Land Use Plan Conformity – The proposed activity takes place in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, within the municipal boundaries of the Town of Inuvik. Therefore, the Gwich'in Land Use Plan does not apply to the proposed activity.
4. Indigenous and community consultation – Aurora College has conducted consultation and engagement activities with the Town of Inuvik and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. The proposed activities are intended to reduce impact on existing or asserted Aboriginal rights by abandoning the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915). Considering the nature and scale of the activity and the concerns raised, consultation undertaken by Aurora College on the activities proposed under OA-2022-001-AC is adequate.
5. Proof of Financial Responsibility – Aurora College has provided satisfactory proof of financial responsibility in accordance with sections 13 and 64(1) of OGOA. This proof of financial responsibility must remain in force for the duration of the activity and for one year after the Aurora Training Well G-04 (WID1915) has been successfully abandoned.
6. Safety – I have consulted with the Chief Safety Officer, in accordance with section 12 of OGOA, and am satisfied with the safety of the proposed activities.

Aurora College's application is approved, subject to the terms contained in the attached Operations Authorization.

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Aurora College must post a copy of the attached Operations Authorization in a clearly visible location at the work site.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong
Regulator

Encl. Operations Authorization OA-2022-001-AC

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



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OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION


Subject to the terms listed below, operations authorization **OA-2022-001-AC** is granted under Section 10 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and Part 2 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* to

Company Name	Operating Licence #
Aurora College	NWT-OL-2014-019
Responsible Officer	
Jonathon Michel, Director, Aurora Campus	

for

Scope of Work	Region
Abandonment	Gwich'in

This authorization expires on **November 1, 2024**

Issued at	Issued on
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories	September 28, 2023
Issued by	Signature
Pauline de Jong, Regulator	

Additional Terms

1. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*, as well as any other acts or legislation as may apply.
2. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with any guidelines and/or interpretation notes issued by the Regulator under section 18 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.
3. Aurora College shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the specifications, standards and other information referred to in its application dated December 9, 2022, and subsequent submissions.
4. Aurora College shall request approval from the Regulator prior to undertaking any change to or deviation from the authorized work or activities, including but not limited to key personnel, the safety plan, the environmental protection plan, and contingency plans.
5. Aurora College shall provide all staff and contractors for this program with its Emergency Response Plan and the OROGO 24-hour Incident Reporting phone number (867-445-8551) prior to commencing any work or activity.
6. Aurora College shall submit to OROGO an updated operator contact list for this program prior to any work or activity.