Bulletin 2023-26

June 13, 2023

Invitation for Feedback on Revisions to *Directive 020*

We are seeking feedback on updates to *Directive 020: Well Abandonment*. The proposed changes in section 5.4 amend the requirements for the abandonment of cased-hole wells penetrating an oil sands zone.

The proposed changes will allow for routine abandonment of wells that penetrate an oil sands zone using the *Directive 020* requirements in section 5.3, "Wells Not Penetrating the Oil Sands Zones," if the subject well meets the criteria and requirements for low thermal potential.

Wells penetrating an oil sands zone are eligible for routine abandonment if a professional geoscientist conducts a geological review or the subject well is within the boundary of an oil sands area that the AER has assessed as having a low potential for thermal development.

To provide feedback on the proposed revisions to *Directive 020*, complete the public comment form on our website. Comments can also be proved via email to directive020@aer.ca or mailed to Alberta Energy Regulator, Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4. Feedback will be accepted through **July 12, 2023**.

All feedback received will be reviewed and may be used in finalizing *Directive 020.* The comments provided through this consultation will form part of the public record and may be attributed to the specific individuals who provided them. Personal information provided with comments will be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. We may use the personal contact information you provide for follow-up communication related to your feedback.

The revised edition of *Directive 020* is available on our website at aer.ca > Regulating Development > Rules and Directives > Directives under the tab "Draft / Open for Comments.". If you have any questions, contact our Customer Contact Centre by phone at 1-855-297-8311 or by email at inquiries@aer.ca.