

2026 ABAER 008

Proceeding 379

Saturn Oil & Gas Inc. and Vermilion Energy Inc. Applications Near Brazeau Hydroelectric Facility

Decision

- [1] The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has cancelled the hearing for proceeding 379. The hearing is no longer necessary as the applications filed by Saturn Oil & Gas Inc. and Vermilion Energy Inc. (collectively the Applicants) that were the subject of this proceeding have been withdrawn.

Discussion

- [2] In 2019 Saturn Oil & Gas Inc. (formerly Ridgeback Resources Inc.) and Vermilion Energy Inc. (formerly Westbrick Energy Ltd.) applied under section 2.020 of the *Oil and Gas Conservation Rules* to drill six and four wells, respectively, in proximity to the TransAlta Corporation (TransAlta) Brazeau hydroelectric facility.
- [3] A description of the applications and the proceeding is available in the [notice of hearing](#). The public record for this proceeding, including evidence filed and procedural decisions, can be accessed via the AER's [Hearings – Public Record System](#).
- [4] In the notice of hearing, the hearing panel confirmed the Applicants and TransAlta were parties to the proceeding. Cenovus Energy Inc. (Cenovus) and O'Chiese First Nation's requests to participate were granted on January 16, 2020, and February 14, 2023, respectively.
- [5] O'Chiese First Nation raised questions regarding Crown consultation and filed a Notice of Question of Constitutional Law (NQCL) in relation to these applications. The Government of Alberta advised O'Chiese First Nation that it would rely on the AER regulatory process to satisfy any duty to consult that may exist in relation to these particular *Oil and Gas Conservation Act* applications.
- [6] This proceeding was adjourned on several occasions including on September 30, 2020, September 17, 2021, and February 5, 2024, when notices of adjournment were issued. Most recently the hearing was planned to begin the week of September 14, 2026, before commissioners Andrew MacPherson (presiding), Shona Mackenzie, and Michael Webb.
- [7] TransAlta and Cenovus withdrew from the proceeding on August 14 and August 31, 2026, respectively.

[8] On August 31, 2026, the Applicants advised they had withdrawn the applications that were the subject of proceeding 379.

[9] On September 3, 2026, we authorized the withdrawal of the applications in accordance with section 4(2) of the AER *Rules of Practice*. Given that the panel no longer had a decision to make on the applications, there was no live issue for the panel to decide as it relates to the NQCL, and therefore we declined to hear or determine the NQCL.

[10] Accordingly, the AER has cancelled the hearing.

Dated in Calgary, Alberta, on September 24, 2026.

Alberta Energy Regulator

Andrew MacPherson, PEng
Hearing Commissioner (Presiding)

Shona Mackenzie, CDir, PEng
Hearing Commissioner

Michael Webb, PhD, PGeol
Hearing Commissioner