

July 24, 2018

Ms. Margaret Herman

CITY OF MEDICINE HAT

APPLICATION NO.155981

STATEMENT OF CONCERN NO. 31005

Dear Margaret Herman:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern about Application No. 155981. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your statement of concern, along with the application, the applicable requirements, and other submissions or information about the application. The AER has decided that a hearing is not required under an enactment, or necessary, to consider the concerns outlined in your statement of concern.

In its review of your concerns, the AER considered the following:

- The Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) completed on August 29, 2015 shows that all soil parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Native Grasslands* (Reclamation Criteria) were met.
- The DSA completed on September 24, 2017 shows that all landscape and vegetation parameters of the Reclamation Criteria were met.
- A site visit was conducted on April 25, 2018 and AER staff confirmed that the site meets the Reclamation Criteria.
- This wellsite is located on a Special Areas grazing lease, which is administered by the Special Areas Board, as per the Special Areas Act and Municipal Government Act of Alberta.
- This wellsite was a shallow gas well drilled using minimal disturbance practices. The disturbed area was approx. 3 x 5 metres in size, and was seeded to a native grass seed mix requested by the land manager (Special Areas Board).

- This area is extremely sensitive sandy soils dominated by native grassland vegetation, utilized for grazing/ pasture. Prairie sandreed grass (aka sandgrass) is a native grass species which is found naturally in the surrounding landscape.
- Your request was to spray the seeded area out to allow the natural grass to grow, which is contradictory to the land manager's request. Further removing all vegetation would make the sandy soils susceptible to erosion and/or weed infestation.
- The Reclamation Criteria are applied "to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability." Given that the site meets the Reclamation Criteria, the AER is satisfied that the site has met equivalent land capability and that your concerns have been addressed.

The AER has issued the applied-for Reclamation Certificate and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the Reclamation Certificate is attached.

Under the *Responsible Energy Development Act* an eligible person may file a request for a regulatory appeal on an appealable decision. Eligible persons and appealable decisions are defined in section 36 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act* and section 3.1 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act General Regulation*. If you wish to file a request for regulatory appeal, you must submit your request in the form and manner and within the timeframe required by the AER. You can find filing requirements and forms on the AER website, <http://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/regulatory-appeal-process>.

If you have any questions, contact Megan Carfantan by e-mail at Megan.Carfantan@aer.ca.

Sincerely,

<Originally signed by>

Tania De Silva
Director, Oil, Gas & Pipeline, Closure & Liability

Attachment: Reclamation Certificate (1)

cc: Tyler Britton , City of Medicine Hat
Caryn Mann, Summit Liability Solutions Inc.
AER SOC Coordinator
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre