

Proceeding ID 379
May 30, 2019

Calgary Head Office
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Canada

www.aer.ca

By email only

Ridgeback Resources Inc.
Westbrick Energy Ltd.
Bellatrix Exploration Ltd.
TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.
Sinopec Daylight Energy Ltd.
TransAlta Corporation

Direction for Applicants Regarding Subsurface Order No. 6

Dear Counsel and Parties;

The AER issued Subsurface Order No. 6 (SSO6) on May 27, 2019. The hearing panel assigned to this matter recognizes that SSO6 is a substantive change to the regulatory framework from what was in place when the applications were submitted and the statements of concerns were filed.

As such, applications currently before the panel are no longer compliant with the regulatory framework. Applicants will need to assess how they wish to proceed with their applications. TransAlta Corporation (TransAlta) will also need to assess whether it continues to have concerns with any applications submitted under the new framework.

If parties wish to proceed with their applications, the panel sets out the following process for submitting new applications and to have them included in the proceeding, should a hearing continue to be necessary. The process allows for a hearing to resume in the most expeditious manner possible, by the hearing panel already assigned to this matter.

Process Discussion and Application Requirements

1. The proceeding will remain open.
2. Applicants must assess, under the new regulatory framework, if they wish to resubmit their applications or if they have any new applications to submit.
3. If so, applicants must update all application documentation [and submit new applications through the AER's normal application submission processes]. In particular survey plans and PI documentation must be updated as described below. In addition applicants must ensure that all other components of the application meet requirements such as updates to company name, mineral rights, surface agreements, proximity consents, etc.
4. Applicants must conduct a new Participant Involvement (PI) program to meet Directive 056 requirements.
 - a. The PI program must include notification to TransAlta as a potential party with concerns.
 - b. Should all necessary confirmations of non-objection be provided, Applicants may apply Routine as per Directive 056.

- c. If confirmation of non-objection cannot be obtained the application must be submitted Nonroutine-PI.
5. All applicants must provide a cover letter to request a review of the application for compliance with SSO6.
6. Routine applications will be reviewed and dispositioned per the normal Routine process.
7. Nonroutine-PI applications will be processed as follows:
 - a. Applications will be subject to the usual 30 day public notice of application period.
 - b. Authorizations will review the applications for compliance with all current requirements including SSO6.
 - c. TransAlta and other parties will have the opportunity to file a statement of concern (SOC) as per the usual process
 - d. If no SOC's are filed, Authorizations will review and disposition the applications per the usual process.
 - e. If SOC's are filed
 - i. Applicants will not be required to file a written response to TransAlta SOC's. Any required written responses would be directed by the hearing panel at a later date if necessary.
 - ii. Files which meet technical requirements and for which TransAlta has filed an SOC will be sent directly to the hearing panel.¹

The Existing Applications

The existing applications related to this proceeding (listed on page 2 of this letter) will be closed. The hearing panel considered leaving the existing applications open; however, it was determined that having Applicants and TransAlta submit the required information to the hearing panel to assess for completeness and compliance with SSO6 on a case-by-case basis is not practical and would result in lengthy delays and a disorganized hearing record containing substantial amounts of expired and redundant information.

AER staff will contact parties to offer an information session to answer questions about the fore mentioned application process.

If you have any questions contact me at 403-297-8288 or at [hearing.services@aer.ca](mailto:hearing.services@ aer.ca) .

Sincerely,

Tara Wheaton
Hearing Coordinator

¹ The process to move files directly to the hearing panel expires when the hearing panel issues a notice of hearing for this proceeding.

inquiries 1-855-297-8311
 24-hour
 emergency 1-800-222-6514

Applicant	Application	Applicant	Application
Westbrick Energy Ltd.	1766936	Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769726
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761226	Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769768
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1755891	Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1770183
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1755894	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1782377
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761013	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1783669
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761014	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1784024
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1755890	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1784504
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761227	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1785844
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761402	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1785888
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761406	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1786198
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761845	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1786213
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761847	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1793325
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761855	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1793326
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1761856	Bellatrix Explorations Ltd	1843552
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1762605	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1779052
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1762609	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1779149
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1764365	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1779150,
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1764366	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1782541
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1768680	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1782549
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1768848	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1782553
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769472	TORC Oil and Gas Ltd.	1782557
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769474	Sinopec Daylight Energy Ltd.	1852894
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769672	Sinopec Daylight Energy Ltd.	1852953
Ridgeback Resources Inc.	1769675		