

BY E-MAIL ONLY

June 13, 2018

Diane Scoville
Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 1

**SYNCRUDE CANADA LTD.
APPLICATION NO. 1871794
AURORA NORTH TAILINGS MANAGEMENT PLAN
STATEMENT OF CONCERN NO. 30496**

Dear Diane Scoville:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) on behalf of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 1 (MNA R1) concerning the subject application filed by Syncrude Canada Ltd. (Syncrude). The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) is appreciative of MNA R1's contribution during the review of the application, and in preparatory conversations for the Enhanced Review Process (ERP) technical meeting. The AER notes that MNA R1 did not attend the ERP technical meeting, and did not provide feedback regarding the draft approval conditions.

The AER has reviewed your SOC, along with the application, the applicable requirements, and relevant materials constituting the record of the application. The decision report on Syncrude's Aurora North Tailings Management Plan (TMP) application addresses many of the concerns raised, such as the following:

- ongoing engagement by Syncrude. MNA R1 raised the importance of including its members in the process of developing and monitoring the Aurora North TMP. The AER's decision on ongoing engagement is found in the Stakeholder and Indigenous Community Engagement section of the decision report.

In its SOC, MNA R1 also raised concerns or provided recommendations that are not part of the AER's decision on Syncrude's Aurora North TMP application, and therefore are not reflected in the attached decision report or approval. For matters related to policies and programs administered by the Government of Alberta, the AER intends to provide these concerns to the Government of Alberta.

In particular, you raised concerns with impacts on traditional land uses and the exercise of harvesting rights related to the approval and operation of the mine. Syncrude's Aurora North TMP application is an amendment of an existing approval. The decision report addresses such topics as setting thresholds under *Directive 085*, RTR criteria, and providing updated plans and information on tailings technology and deposits. In short, the

approval deals with how tailings are managed on the existing approved mine site footprint.

This is an existing mine site and no new lands outside of Syncrude's lease will be used or impacted as a result of the Aurora North TMP amendment. There are no changes to Syncrude's Aurora North boundaries, nor is there any additional disturbance as a result of the Aurora North TMP amendment.

Based on the foregoing, the AER is of the opinion that the concerns outlined in MNA R1's SOC have been addressed to the AER's satisfaction. Consequently, the AER has decided that a hearing is not required for the Syncrude Aurora North TMP.

As indicated in the decision report, the AER has issued the applied-for approval. This is your notice of that decision. A copy of the AER decision report, which includes the approval, 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/applications-and-notice/appeals>.

If you have any questions, contact Lonny Olsen, phone 403-297-3513 or e-mail Lonny.Olsen@aer.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Paul Ferensowicz
Senior Advisor

Enclosure (1): (AER Decision Report)

cc: Richard Pelletier, Syncrude Canada Ltd.
AER SOC Coordinator
ACO
AER Indigenous Engagement
AER Fort McMurray Field Centre

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