

September 25, 2020

By Email Only

Hilary Young
Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative (Y2Y)

Statement of Concern No. 31768
Cabin Ridge Project Limited
Application No. 1928885

Dear Hilary Young:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No.1928885. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your SOC, along with the application, and all applicable requirements and other submissions or information about the application. The AER has decided that a hearing is not required to consider the concerns outlined in your SOC.

In our review of your concerns, we considered the following:

- The application is for a deep drilling permit under section 10 of the *Coal Conservation Act*. The permit does not authorize any surface activities. Rather it authorizes subsurface activities. Specifically, the permit allows Cabin Ridge to drill their core holes to a depth in excess of 150 metres.
- Y2Y's concerns, including those relating to wildlife and cumulative impacts, are beyond the scope of this application as they are in relation to land use activities applied for under the *Public Lands Act - Coal Exploration Program (CEP)* application. Y2Y did not submit an SOC against Cabin Ridge's CEP application.
- With respect to concerns regarding impacts to water, the proposed core hole locations will have a buffer zone of undisturbed vegetation between any proposed activity and any watercourse or waterbody in accordance with standard conditions that apply to Coal Exploration Programs. Cabin Ridge has indicated that it recognizes the sensitivity of the Oldman Watershed and will not be utilizing this watershed to

conduct its operations; water will be hauled to the location specifically for the program.

Based on the above, the AER has concluded you have not demonstrated that the members of Y2Y may be directly and adversely affected by a decision on this application and it is not necessary to hold a hearing before making a decision on the application. The AER has issued the applied-for permit and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the permit is attached.

All AER-regulated parties must comply not only with the conditions of their authorizations, but with all of the AER's regulatory requirements. To ensure industry compliance the AER has developed its *Integrated Compliance Assurance Framework*, which embodies the three main components of all effective compliance assurance programs, those being education, prevention, and enforcement. You can find out more about how the AER verifies industry compliance and responds to noncompliance here: <https://aer.ca/regulating-development/compliance/compliance-assurance-program>.

You may file a regulatory appeal on the AER's decision to issue the permit if you meet the criteria within section 36 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*. Filing instructions and forms are located here: <https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/regulatory-appeal-process>.

If you have any questions please contact SOC@aer.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Steve Van Lingen
Director, Oil Sand Mining and Coal
Regulatory Applications
/yc

Enclosure (1): Permit

cc: Darren Weaver, Cabin Ridge Project Limited
Chade Salame, Dahrogue Geological Consulting Ltd.
Jon Xu, AER
SOC Inbox, AER
Midnapore Field Centre, AER