Alberta Energy Regulator

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September 15, 2026

By email only: melina@lakelandmetis.ca

Melina Power
Lakeland Metis Nation (LMN)

Statement of Concern No. 33096
Cenovus Energy Inc. (Cenovus)
Applications No. *Oil Sands Conservation Act* (OSCA) Application No. 1961410 and *Environmental Protection and Enhancement* (EPEA) Application No. 020-00216466
FNC202650948 and FNC202650949

Dear Melina Power,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) on behalf of LMN about Applications No. 1961410 and 020-00216466. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your SOC, along with the Applications, and all applicable requirements and other submissions or information about the Applications. 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:

• LMN raised concerns regarding its members' aboriginal rights and traditional land use activities including hunting, trapping, fishing and berry picking in the areas around Christina Lake. The Dene Tha'[1] decision indicates that the "directly and adversely affected" test requires a demonstrated degree of location or connection between a project or its effects and the person asserting that he is directly and adversely affected.

• LMN's concerns are general in nature as its' SOC does not provide specific information about how members' activities may be impacted by the proposed project. LMN has not demonstrated that the proposed project would have any new or additional impacts on members' rights or traditional land uses. The Applications are located entirely within the previously approved Christina Lake North Project area, which has already been subject to extensive environmental assessment, consultation, regulatory review, and approval.

[1] *Dene Tha' First Nation* v. *Alberta (Energy and Utilities Board)*, 2005 ABCA 68

• The proposed project is located on Crown land, approximately 143 km N of Lac La Biche, where the LMN is located.

• Cenovus must adhere to all Approval conditions, including any new conditions and those set out in the original OSCA Scheme Approval No. 10773 and EPEA Approval No. 00216466-01-00.

• The concerns within the SOC about vegetation and wetland impacts, health and safety, noise and water quality are general and vague and include limited detail. The LMN has not provided specific evidence to support how the LMN may be impacted by the proposed project.

• The AER confirms that there is no proposed increase to the existing project or development area, or the approved production capacity. The proposed increase in production from 105,000 bbl/day to 150,000 bbl/day remains below the currently approved Christina Lake North Thermal Project production limit of 210,000 bbl/day. Furthermore, none of the changes proposed in the Applications are expected to result in an exceedance of the approved production limit.

• Concerns regarding members' ability to access the area in and around Christina Lake relate to matters beyond the scope of the subject applications.

Based on the above, the AER has concluded that it is not necessary to hold a hearing before making a decision on the Applications. The AER has issued the applied-for approvals, and this is your notice of that decision. Copies of the approvals are 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 approvals 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***>

Rushang Joshi
Director, In Situ, Environmental Sciences & Reclamation

Inquiries 1-855-297-8311 **24-hour emergency** 1-800-222-6514 inquiries@aer.ca

Regulatory Applications

/as

Enclosure(s) (2): Approvals

cc: Jesse Wong, Cenovus Energy Inc.
Aruna Bissonauth, AER
Felix Chiang, AER
SOC Inbox, AER
Field Operations East, AER
Environmental Protection & Enhancement and Water, AER
Aboriginal Consultation Office - FNC202650948 and FNC202650949