

April 6, 2021

By Email Only

Dale Wanechko

Statement of Concern No. 31913
Access Pipeline Inc.
Application No. 31087075

Dear Dale Wanechko:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 31087075. 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:

- Regarding your concerns around notification, Access Pipeline Inc. (Access) was required to consult and notify as per section 3.8.3 of *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules* (Directive 056). Access consulted and notified as a category D pipeline and the AER is satisfied that the application Participant Involvement requirements have been met.
- Regarding your concerns around livestock safety, you referenced a gas leak on a now abandoned wellsite at SE 26-057-021W4M that happened in 2004. Concerns around gas leaks on wells are outside of the scope of the current pipeline amendment application.
- Regarding pipeline integrity, Access has committed to conducting another in-line inspection prior to returning the pipeline to service. In addition, Access has a geohazard management program, which includes active flood monitoring, used to identify and respond to any hazardous conditions, such as removal of the soil by floodwater. Access must also follow all pipeline integrity requirements set out in *CSA-Z662* and the *Pipeline Act*.
- In relation to your concerns around pipeline buoyancy, Access has stated that the weight of the overburden soil is more than suitable to overcome buoyancy forces. Furthermore, successive heavy rainfalls or a high-water table would not change this because the depth of water above the pipeline does not increase buoyancy. In addition, AER technical staff have reviewed the response from Access and are of the view that the concerns have been addressed to the satisfaction of the AER.

Based on the above, the AER has concluded that it is not necessary to hold a hearing before making a decision on the application. The AER has issued the applied-for licence and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the licence 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 licence 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>

Lane Peterson
Director, Oil & Gas Surface
Regulator Applications
/as

Attachment (1): Licence

cc: Chris Elyea, Wolf Midstream
SOC Inbox, AER
Jeanette Leboldus, AER
Field Operations Central, AER
Field Operations East, AER
ADR Inbox, AER