Alberta Energy Regulator

Calgary Head Office
Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4
Canada

www.aer.ca

February 22, 2024

By Email Only

Lisa Thompson

Statement of Concern No. 32422
Bonavista Energy Corporation (Bonavista)
Application Nos. 32586325 and 32586906

Dear Lisa Thompson,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application Nos. 32586325 and 32586906. 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.

Please note that the applications are registered to Bonavista. As indicated in correspondence from Tourmaline Oil Corp. (Tourmaline) on December 4, 2023, Tourmaline acquired the assets of Bonavista on November 17, 2023 and Tourmaline will be the operator. The AER will reference Tourmaline in this letter going forward.

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

- The AER acknowledges your concern regarding the impact of fracking. Tourmaline must follow requirements within AER *Directive 083: Hydraulic Fracturing – Subsurface Integrity*. This directive sets out the requirements for managing subsurface integrity associated with hydraulic fracturing operations, and includes requirements meant to prevent impacts to non-saline aquifers and water wells during hydraulic fracturing.

- Your concerns about the proposed activity's impact on freshwater resources is outside the scope of the current application. Should Tourmaline require Water Act approvals in the future, it is required to submit the applicable applications to the AER at that time.
- Regarding your concerns of traffic and security, these matters are outside of the AER's jurisdiction. These concerns may be addressed by Alberta Transportation, the municipality, or the RCMP, as applicable.
- The AER acknowledges the concerns regarding noise. Noise associated with drilling will be temporary in nature and Tourmaline has committed to minimizing noise related impacts. During operation, the requirements of *Directive 038: Noise Control* must be met. You may report operational complaints by contacting the AER West Field Center or the Energy and Environmental Emergency 24-Hour Response Line 1-800-222-6514.
- The AER acknowledges the concerns regarding flaring and the potential for wildfire. The AER requires that flares must be located, designed, and operated so that they are not a hazard to public property. The full list of requirements is outlined in *Directive 060: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring, Incinerating, and Venting*.
- Your concerns regarding land value and mental health are general in nature and there is insufficient information to show how you may be directly and adversely affected by the proposed development.
- Concerns regarding potential future development in the area are outside the scope of the current application. Should Tourmaline wish to add future development, it must submit the applicable applications to the AER at that time. Furthermore, as per *Directive 056: Energy Development Applications and Schedules*, Tourmaline is required to include the SOC filers in its participant involvement notification program for any future infrastructure applications in the area, and to notify them if such applications are submitted. You would have the opportunity to submit a statement of concern at that time.

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 licences, and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the licences 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.

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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
Regulatory Applications
/jg

Attachment (2): Licences

cc: Brett Norrie, Tourmaline
SOC Inbox, AER
Val Silva, AER
Field Operations West, AER

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