

February 12, 2024

By Mail

**Veronica and Rory Whitbread**

PO Box 5749  
Lacombe, AB, T4L 1X3

**Statement of Concern No. 32427  
Vesta Energy Ltd. (Vesta Energy)  
Application No. 32621207**

Dear Veronica and Rory Whitbread:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 32621207. 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:

- You do not own the lands on which the project is proposed.
- Your concerns about environmental impacts, air quality, and health due to hydraulic fracturing are general in nature and do not demonstrate that you may be directly and adversely impacted by the project. Vesta must comply with AER *Directive 083: Hydraulic Fracturing – Subsurface Integrity*, which sets out requirements for managing subsurface integrity associated with hydraulic fracturing operations and includes requirements meant to prevent surface impacts. Vesta must also adhere to the Alberta Ambient Air Quality guidelines and *Directive 060: Upstream Petroleum Industry Flaring, Incinerating, and Venting* during operations.
- Your concerns about impacts to water levels surrounding the existing padsite, are out of scope of the subject application. The proposed well licences will not authorize Vesta to divert water for the proposed project. If Vesta were to apply for an approval under the *Water Act*, it would be posted on the AER Public Notice of Application, and you would have the ability to submit an SOC at that time.

- The AER acknowledges your concerns regarding light pollution. Vesta has stated that lighting on-site during temporary drilling, completion, and service rig work will be supervised to avoid direct exposure to residents, and necessary adjustments will be made to ensure minimal lighting impact. Vesta has also committed to use sound abatement panels to reduce lighting impacts during its operations.
- The AER acknowledges your concerns regarding noise. Noise associated with drilling will be temporary in nature, and Vesta must comply with *Directive 038: Noise Control* requirements. Vesta is required to address all complaints if any arise in regard to application requirements and approval conditions. You may contact the AER Energy and Environmental Emergency 24-Hour Response Line at 1-800-222-6514 to file any complaints. Furthermore, Vesta indicated it would use sound abatement panels during drilling and completion, designed and placed with the help of third-party acoustic sound modelling, to reduce the noise impacts on nearby residents.

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 licences, and this is your notice of that decision. Copies of the licences are enclosed.

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 licences 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](mailto:SOC@aer.ca).

Sincerely,

<Original signed by>

Lane Peterson  
Director, Oil & Gas Surface  
Regulatory Applications  
/ma

Enclosure (3): Licences

cc: Dermot Clinton O'Connor, Vesta Energy Ltd.  
Val Silva, AER  
Field Operations West, AER  
ADR Inbox, AER  
SOC Inbox. AER