

June 25, 2020

By Email Only

Gene Klassen

Statement of Concern No. 31656
TAQA North Ltd.
Application No. 375565

Dear Gene Klassen:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 375565. 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 well was drilled in 2001 and abandoned in 2011 from the surface location of 12-03-030-25W4M.
- A Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment was conducted in 2012 and concluded that contamination was present. Phase 3 was conducted in 2015 to remediate the salinity exceedances that were identified in Phase 2.
- Earthmaster Environmental Strategies Inc conducted a Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) of the wellsite on October 6, 2016. The DSA indicates that the conditions of the soil, landscape, and vegetation on the wellsite meet all the requirements of the 2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities (Reclamation Criteria).
- The Reclamation Criteria are applied “to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability.” The DSA indicates that the wellsite meets the Reclamation Criteria and have accordingly met equivalent land capability.

- The May 28, 2020, site inspection conducted by the AER in the presence of the parties did not find any evidence of slumping or subsidence and the site contours blended in with the off-site conditions adjacent to the wellsite
- Compensation is outside of the AER's jurisdiction.

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 reclamation certificate and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the reclamation certificate 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 reclamation certificate 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 >

Andrew MacPherson
Director, In Situ
Regulatory Applications
/rr

Attachment (1): Reclamation Certificate

cc: Nigel Wiebe, TAQA North Ltd.
Brad Dunkle, AER
Rachel Ruddell, AER
SOC Inbox, AER
Red Deer Field Centre, AER