

ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR

Calgary Alberta

KOCH OIL SANDS OPERATING UCL2013 ABAER 015APPLICATIONS FOR OIL SANDS EVALUATION WELLS2013 ABAER 015UNDEFINED FIELDApplications No. 1749587, 1763527, 1763529, and 1763696

DECISION

[1] The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) accepted a request by Koch Oil Sands Operating UCL (Koch) to withdraw the above listed applications and, accordingly, cancelled the public hearing.

APPLICATIONS

[2] On June 17, 2013, the *Responsible Energy Development Act (REDA)* came into force in Alberta. The *Energy Conservation Resources Conservation Act*, which established the Energy Resources Conservation Board (ERCB), was repealed and the AER was created. In accordance with the terms of *REDA*, the AER assumed all of the ERCB's powers, duties, and functions under Alberta's energy resource enactments, including those under the *Oil and Gas Conservation Act*. Throughout the transition from the ERCB to the AER, the authority of the Board members, now hearing commissioners, continued without interruption in accordance with the *REDA Transition Regulation*.

[3] Koch applied under section 2.030 of the *Oil and Gas Conservation Regulations* for licences to drill forty vertical oil sands evaluation wells proposed within Township 97, Range 3, West of the 4th Meridian. The purpose of the wells would be to evaluate oil sands in the McMurray Formation. The nearest urban centre would be Fort MacKay, located about 75 kilometres southwest of the proposed project.

DISCUSSION

[4] The AER was scheduled to hold a public hearing in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on September 16, 2013, before hearing commissioners A. H. Bolton, P.Geo. (presiding member), and R. C. McManus, M.E.Des.

[5] On August 15, 2013, Koch notified the AER that it was withdrawing the subject applications. Pursuant to section 4(2) of the *Alberta Energy Regulator Rules of Practice*, the AER accepted the withdrawal of the applications and cancelled the public hearing.

Dated in Calgary, Alberta, on August 22, 2013.

ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR

<original signed by>

A. H. Bolton, P.Geo. Presiding Hearing Commissioner