

June 26, 2014

BY E-MAIL ONLY

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

Request for Technical Feedback on Five Reports Regarding Reservoir Containment at Shallow Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Schemes

www.aer.ca

Based on an analysis of reservoir containment issues at shallow steam-assisted gravity drainage schemes, the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has prepared five reports to provide a technical basis for establishing regulatory requirements for the shallow thermal area of the Wabiskaw-McMurray deposit in the Athabasca Oil Sands Area (see attached map). The AER believes that the risk of steam and reservoir fluids being released at surface is greater if reservoir containment is compromised in this area due to the shallow nature of the resource.

As the science related to reservoir containment is complex and emerging, the AER is requesting detailed technical, evidence-based feedback on the following five reports:

- 1) *Summary of Conclusions from the Reservoir Containment Project for Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Schemes in the Shallow Thermal Area (RC-01);*
- 2) *Draft Caprock Criteria and Information Requirements for Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Schemes in the Shallow Thermal Area (RC-02);*
- 3) *Development of the Maximum Operating Pressure Formula for Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Schemes in the Shallow Thermal Area (RC-03);*
- 4) *Limitations with Currently Used Geomechanical Models for Determining a Maximum Operating Pressure for Steam-Assisted Gravity Drainage Schemes in the Shallow Thermal Area (RC-04);* and
- 5) *Monitoring Reservoir Containment in Thermal EOR (RC-05).*

To provide technical feedback, complete the feedback form and attach any supporting technical information. Feedback or questions on the five reports should be sent by e-mail to reservoir.containment@er.ca. Feedback will be accepted until September 26, 2014.

All feedback received will be reviewed and may be used in developing regulatory requirements for reservoir containment in the shallow thermal area. All of the feedback provided through this consultation may be made public and, at the discretion of the AER, any feedback received may also be attributed to the specific individual(s) providing it. Personal information provided with the feedback will be collected, used, and disclosed in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The AER may use the personal contact information you provide for follow-up communication related to your feedback.

<original signed by>

Kirk Bailey
Executive Vice President, Operations Division

Attachment

Attachment **Map of Shallow Thermal Area**

inquiries 1-855-297-8311
 24-hour
 emergency 1-800-222-6514

