



Shell Canada Limited  
<contact information removed>

August 9, 2013

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
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Place Bell Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3

Alberta Energy Regulator  
1000, 250 – 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4

Attention: Joint Review Panel Secretariat

Attention: Associate General Counsel

**Re: Status Update on Shell's Responses to the Pierre River Mine Joint Review Panel  
Supplemental Information Requests – October 25, 2012**

On March 20, 2013, Shell Canada Energy (Shell) advised the Joint Review Panel (JRP) for the Pierre River Mine Project (PRM or the Project) that it intended to submit responses to the October 25, 2012 JRP Supplemental Information Requests (PRM SIRs) in the latter half of August 2013. This work was essentially complete when, on July 9, 2013, the JRP for the Jackpine Mine Expansion Project (JPME) released Decision 2013 ABAER 011 (the Decision Report), in which it recommended conditional approval of the JPME Project. Shell has now had an opportunity to review the Decision Report in detail and assess the potential implications of this decision vis-à-vis the PRM SIRs filing. In particular, Shell recognizes that the JPME JRP expressed concerns in the Decision Report with respect to the methodology used by Shell to assess terrestrial impacts in its environmental impact assessment (EIA) and other related filings for JPME.

Based on its review of the Decision Report, Shell, in consultation with its environmental consultant, Golder Associates, has developed a plan to address the noted concerns of the JPME JRP as part of its PRM SIRs filing. This letter is to advise the JRP of Shell's plan to complete the PRM SIRs filing and to provide an update on the expected timing of that filing. Shell also wishes to provide its views with respect to the proceeding schedule, including the potential timing for a hearing to consider the PRM Project.

As noted, Shell has determined that the Decision Report potentially impacts the terrestrial impact assessment that has been completed to date for the PRM Project. Given the current state of this assessment, Shell intends to complete this work and respond to the PRM SIRs utilizing

methodologies similar to those commonly used to assess environmental effects in past assessments for oil sands mining projects.

In addition, in response to the Decision Report, Shell will provide a parallel assessment of significance of terrestrial effects. This assessment will use a 20% habitat loss threshold applied at both the Local Study Area and Regional Study Area scales for the 2013 Application Case for determinations of significance. The parallel assessment will also quantify the error associated with regional land cover classification mapping using LANDSAT imagery.

Recognizing the time it will take to complete the additional work outlined above, Shell intends to file its response to the PRM SIRs as well as the supplemental assessment of terrestrial effects in October 2013. Subject to a decision on the adequacy of the information, as required pursuant to sections 8 through 11 of Part IV of the Appendix to the *Agreement to Establish a Joint Review Panel for the Pierre River Mine Project*, Shell submits that scheduling a hearing to consider the PRM Project in April 2014 would be appropriate and would provide all parties adequate time to organize their resources and prepare to meaningfully participate in the hearing. Shell believes that, assuming the PRM SIRs filing is submitted in October 2013, there will be ample time for public review and for the JRP to make a determination on the adequacy of the information before a Notice of Hearing is issued.

I trust the information provided herein is helpful to the panel. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Margwyn Zacaruk <phone number and email address removed>

Sincerely,

Shell Canada Energy

<original signed by>

Donald Crowe

Regulatory Approvals - Manager