



June 10, 2013

Alberta Energy Resource Conservation Board
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Alberta Environment and Sustainable Resource
Development
Regulatory Approvals Centre
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Attention: Gary Perkins

Attention: District Approvals Manager

Dear Sirs:

Re: Statement of Concern regarding Shell Pierre River Mine Project

Teck Resources Limited ("Teck") filed a statement of concern dated October 2, 2008 regarding Shell Canada Limited's Pierre River Mine Project (Application No. 001-00245358 (EPEA) and File No. 00245489 (Water Act)). The statement of concern was resubmitted to the Energy Resources Conservation Board under a letter dated March 2, 2010 by the Teck/UTS Energy joint venture and registered as Objection No.26611. The statement of concern dated October 2, 2008 and the letter dated March 2, 2010 resubmitting that statement of concern are together referred to as the "**Teck Statement of Concern**" and we have enclosed those items with this letter for your reference.

Since 2007, Shell and Teck have been engaged in discussions to resolve common development concerns which recently culminated in an agreement to exchange lease holdings allowing both companies to more efficiently develop the bituminous resource in the region. Specifically, Teck will acquire Shell Leases 309, 310, 351, 352 (portion), 475, 476, 607, 608 and 609 and Shell will acquire bituminous rights held by Teck in Lease 14. This agreement will eliminate Teck's specific concerns associated with the development of the Pierre River Project and provide for the efficient placement of Frontier Project facilities and mining of common lease boundaries.

Accordingly, Teck wishes to notify you that the concerns outlined in the Teck Statement of Concern have been resolved and Teck is withdrawing the Statement of Concern against the Pierre River Mine Project.

Note that UTS Energy Corporation became SilverBirch Energy Corporation ("**SilverBirch**") as part of a plan of arrangement in 2010 and Teck acquired 100% of SilverBirch in April 2012.

Please contact me at (403) 767 8697 if you have any questions or need further information.

Yours truly,

<original signed by>

Ian Mackenzie
Director, External Affairs - Energy

(encl.)



UTS/Teck Joint Venture

1000, 350 – 7th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB
T2P 3N9

Teck

March 2, 2010

Tara Rogers
Application Coordinator
Energy Resources Conservation Board
Fort McMurray Regional Office
2nd Floor, Provincial Building
Box 15
9915 Franklin Avenue
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 2K4

Tara,

Please consider the attached letter of October 2, 2008 as a notice of objection related to the Pierre River Mine. Shell and UTS/Teck have had preliminary discussions on developing an agreement on boundary issues between the Equinox and Pierre River mines and we do anticipate a successful completion of these discussions, however agreement has not yet been obtained and the issues described in the attached letter are still outstanding. We remain concerned about ore sterilization along the common boundary of the two proposed mining projects and particularly in Section 31 immediately adjacent to the proposed Pierre River overburden storage dump located on the highwall of the Equinox Pit (Figure 3-14).

If you have any questions or require any further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Cam Bateman
General Manager, HSE & Stakeholder Affairs
UTS/Teck Joint Venture
Suite 1000, 350 – 7th Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 3N9

Phone: 403-538-7030

Toll Free: 1-866-538-7030

cc. Luis Grilo, ERCB
Donald Crowe Shell
Ray Reipas Teck



October 2, 2008

Alberta Environment
Regulatory Approvals Center
Main Floor, Oxbridge Place
9820 – 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2J6

Attention: Director, Northern Region

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Statement of Concern - Application No. 001-00245358 (EPEA) and File No. 00245489 (Water Act) Shell Canada Limited, Pierre River Mine

Teck Cominco Limited ("Teck") and UTS Energy Corporation ("UTS") currently have the rights to the bitumen contained within Oil Sands Lease 7400120014 ("OSL 014") which is located immediately north of OSL 009 where the Pierre River Mine is proposed and south of OSL 017 where the proposed external tailings pond for the Pierre River Mine is located. Teck and UTS are planning to develop the Equinox Oil Sands Mining Project ("Equinox Project") on OSL 014 as outlined in the Public Disclosure Document filed in March 2008, and may be directly affected by any decisions that result from proceedings related to the Pierre River Mine application.

Surface Water Diversion Plans

We understand that diversions of the Asphalt and Eymundson Creeks are required to allow mining to proceed for the Pierre River Mine Project. Diversion of these Creeks is also required to allow mining of the Equinox Project on OSL 014, however the water diversion plans outlined in the Pierre River Mine application utilizes lands that are required to support the proposed mining activity for the Equinox Project. None of the various alternative water management plans considered in the Pierre River Mine application accommodate the development of OSL 014. The water diversion plan for these Creeks will need to be revised accordingly and the associated environmental impacts revisited in order to accommodate both mining projects.

North Overburden Disposal Area

The proposed north overburden disposal area in the Pierre River Mine Plan is immediately adjacent to the proposed Equinox Mine pit limit in Sections 29 and 30 of Township 98 Range 10 W4M. The overburden disposal area is some 60 metres higher than the adjacent surface topography in OSL 014 and is planned to be constructed during the same time period that is planned for the mining and excavation of OSL 014 for the Equinox Project. Construction of such a high overburden dump on the highwall of the Equinox Mine pit has some significant geotechnical and safety issues that are of concern to Teck and UTS. We are also concerned about sterilization of the ore in OSL 014 along this common boundary.

Closure Drainage Plan

The Final Closure and Drainage Plan for the Pierre River Mine includes reconstructed drainages for Asphalt and Eymundson Creeks (C6), First Creek (C10), and a downstream portion of Eymundson Creek (C9) that utilize lands on OSL 014. However these lands will be mined and reclaimed according to the Equinox Mine and Reclamation Plan. Therefore, the Closure Drainage Plan presented in the Pierre River Mine application in Figure 5-22 is not feasible. The Closure Drainage Plan, as well as the environmental assessment of the Closure Plan will need to be revised to integrate the adjacent Equinox development and closure plan.

Other Planning Issues

Some other planning issues that need to be resolved by Shell through consultation with Teck and UTS that also have a direct effect on the Pierre River Mine plan are:

- haul road access through OSL 014 to the Pierre River external tailings facility for initial dyke construction and ongoing maintenance,
- a coordinated emergency response plan, and
- common access and potential utility corridor agreements.

Although our formal public disclosure of our intent to develop the Equinox Project did not occur until March of 2008 after Shell had submitted their Pierre River Mine application, OSL 014 has been held by UTS since December 2000. As well, an initial consultation meeting to review the Pierre River Mine plan was held between Shell, Teck and UTS prior to submission, and while many of these conflicts were noted, they were not addressed nor were the plans revised accordingly.

Teck and UTS do not have an agreement with Shell regarding development of the common boundary between the respective leases and it is apparent that potentially significant revisions to both the Pierre River Mine Plan as presented and the associated environmental assessments may be required.

At this time, Teck and UTS do not object to the proposed Pierre River Mine development, but request that Alberta Environment recognize that revisions to the Pierre River Mine Plan and re-assessment of the environmental impacts will be required in order to accommodate the proposed development of the adjacent Equinox Project.

We are open to discussing how Teck and UTS can participate in the consultation and planning process in a constructive and cooperative fashion.

If you have any questions or require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact either myself at (403) 718-2077 or Cam Bateman of UTS at (403) 538-7024.

Yours sincerely,

TECK COMINCO LIMITED

<original signed by>

Ray Reipās

Vice President, Energy

cc: J. Cam Bateman, *UTS Energy Corporation*