

# Joint Review Panel

## Established to review the Pierre River Mine Project

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 160 Elgin Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Place Bell Canada, Ottawa, ON, K1A 0H3, 613-948-2674  
Alberta Energy Regulator, 9915 Franklin Avenue, Provincial Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Fort McMurray, AB, T9H 2K4, 780-742-7473

February 13, 2014

Andrew Rosser  
VP, Heavy Oil Sustainable Development and Regulatory  
Shell Canada Energy  
<contact information removed>

Dear Mr. Rosser,

The Panel is in receipt of your letter dated February 11, 2014 wherein Shell indicated that it plans to adjust the development timing for its Pierre River Mine (PRM) Project and that information filed in support of the Project Application, such as the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), may no longer be accurate and will require updates. The Panel further notes that Shell is not prepared to proceed to public hearing until it has updated its evidence and has requested that the review process be suspended.

In light of the information contained in your letter, the Panel has concluded that it does not have adequate information to proceed to public hearing. Specifically, the Panel requires the updated information that will more accurately reflect Shell's development plans for the PRM Project. The Panel understands that Shell will provide an update on its internal evaluations by February 11, 2015. Pursuant to subsection 44(2) of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012*, the Panel requests that Shell update its Project Application and EIA accordingly and provide that information to the Panel in a timely fashion so that the review process can proceed as efficiently as possible. The Panel further requests that Shell provide quarterly updates as to the status of its evaluation of the timing of the PRM Project and when the Panel will likely receive the updated information supporting the Project Application and EIA.

Prior to receipt of your letter, the Panel was reviewing the additional information provided by Shell in response to the Panel's information requests dated October 25, 2012, and the public comments received. The Panel was preparing a number of additional information requests for Shell as the Panel had concluded that Shell's responses did not adequately address the Panel's Information Requests. Given that Shell will be updating its information supporting the Project Application and EIA, the Panel will send its further information requests to Shell in the coming weeks and expects that Shell will be able to respond to these requests in the updated information that it will provide.

Once the additional information has been received from Shell, the Panel will make the information available to the public for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days. Based on the additional information provided by Shell and the public comments, the Panel will then determine if it has adequate information to proceed to hearing. The Panel assumes that the updated information will reflect changes that are within the scope of the original Project Application and EIA. However, if it becomes apparent to Shell that the updated information will depict a project that is fundamentally different from what was proposed in the Project Application, the Panel requests that Shell advise the Panel of the change without delay.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Jill Adams at 613-948-2674 or Amanda Black at 780-742-7473 or via email at [Shell.Reviews@ceaa-acee.gc.ca](mailto:Shell.Reviews@ceaa-acee.gc.ca).

Regards,

<original signed by>

Alex Bolton  
Joint Review Panel Chair