



File: 30050-20/ADIS-05-06

Reference: 311539

August 23, 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL

Darcy Janko
Regulatory Manager, Natural Gas Division
Aurora LNG Ltd.
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Dear Mr. Janko:

Thank you for your letter of August 21, 2017, regarding the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the proposed Aurora LNG Digby Island Project (Aurora LNG Project). Nexen Energy ULC (Nexen) has requested that the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) suspend the Application Review time limit to provide the time necessary for Nexen to address outstanding questions and analyses required to support the EAO's assessment of the Aurora LNG Project.

The Prescribed Time Limits Regulations, BC Reg. 372/2002 establishes a time limit of 180 days for review of an Application under the *Environmental Assessment Act* (the Act). Pursuant to Section 24(2) of the Act, and after considering your request and reasons, I have granted your request to adjust the review schedule and suspend the review time limit for the Aurora LNG Project effective today, August 23, 2017, on day 142 of the 180-day review period.

I have been advised by the EAO Project Assessment Manager that key technical questions and information remain outstanding, including those noted in your letter, and that the EAO is finalizing information requests that will be issued to Nexen shortly. This information is necessary to support the EAO's analysis and conclusions regarding potential adverse effects and mitigation measures associated with the Aurora LNG Project.

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The 180-day timeline will resume once I am satisfied that the following specific deliverables have been completed:

- a) Final adequate responses to information requests issued by the EAO;
- b) Final Aboriginal Consultation Report #3 when (a) is completed;
- c) Updated Public Consultation Report #3 when (a) is completed.

In completing the aforementioned deliverables, Nexen's responses to the EAO's information requests must be informed by engagement of Working Group representatives, including topic-specific sessions and other meetings, as directed by the EAO Project Assessment Manager.

Once Nexen has submitted its responses to the information requests, the EAO will seek input from the Working Group and Indigenous Groups to inform its determination of the adequacy of the information. The EAO may request Nexen to attend discussions with the Working Group and Indigenous Groups.

Please endeavour to provide draft and final responses to information requests to the EAO as they are completed. This incremental approach will support a more timely consideration of the adequacy of responses.

As the Aurora LNG Project is undergoing a substituted EA, the EAO has notified the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency of the timeline suspension, in accordance with the *Memorandum of Understanding between the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and the British Columbia Environmental Assessment Office on Substitution of Environmental Assessments (2013)*.

If you have any questions related to this letter or the time limit suspension of the EA process, please contact Sean Moore, Project Assessment Manager, by phone at 250 356-5326 or by email at Sean.Moore@gov.bc.ca.

With best regards,


Kevin Jardine
Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office

cc: Sean Moore, Project Assessment Manager, Environmental Assessment Office
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