

January 11, 2008

INFORMATION LETTER 2008-02

Subject: Department of Energy's First Nations Consultation Guidelines

This information letter advises of an update to the *Government of Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development* (Guidelines).

Alberta's First Nations Consultation Policy on Land Management and Resource Development (Policy), approved in 2005, established principles for First Nations consultation and provided for the development of sector specific guidelines to support and implement this Policy. On September 1, 2006, the Department of Energy (Energy), in coordination with other Alberta government departments with resource management responsibilities, released departmental First Nations consultation guidelines. These guidelines were updated and re-released on November 14, 2007.

The Policy, and Energy's Guidelines, may be accessed on Energy's website at <http://www.energy.gov.ab.ca/AbRel/521.asp>. The complete Government of Alberta Guideline package can be accessed on International, Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Relations website at <http://www.international.gov.ab.ca/1.cfm>.

Alberta has determined that the leasing of Crown mineral rights does not, in and of itself, adversely impact First Nations rights and traditional uses, therefore, First Nations consultation is not a requirement prior to acquiring or renewing mineral agreements.

However, the Department recognizes that exploration and development activities undertaken following the acquisition of Crown mineral rights may have the potential to adversely impact First Nations rights and traditional uses. Mineral lessees are advised that the Policy and Guidelines will apply to Crown approved surface activities that follow the acquisition of Crown mineral rights and are therefore encouraged to undertake First Nation consultation early in their planning processes.

Alberta will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Government of Alberta's consultation guidelines and will release updated guidelines as are deemed necessary.

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