

MEDIA RELEASE

PROPOSED WELL SUSPENSION AND ABANDONMENT GUIDELINES AND INTERPRETATION NOTES

YELLOWKNIFE (June 6, 2016) - The Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) has started a public engagement process on proposed *Well Suspension and Abandonment Guidelines and Interpretation Notes* (Guidelines).

The objectives of the guidelines are to:

- Support compliance with the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* (OGDPR);
- Ensure good oil field practices are used to suspend and abandon wells in the Regulator's jurisdiction;
- Achieve a level of consistency with the requirements of other western Canadian regulators, where appropriate; and
- Reflect the context of oil and gas activities in the Regulator's jurisdiction, particularly:
 - The legislative framework, and
 - The remote operating environment.

The proposed guidelines and a question and answer document are available at www.orogo.gov.nt.ca. Comments will be accepted until August 31, 2016. A summary of the submissions received will be publicly available on OROGO's website.

Quote:

"OROGO continues to strive for increased openness and transparency in the regulation of oil and gas in the Northwest Territories. I believe that these draft guidelines will clarify the expectations for well suspension and abandonment, providing more certainty to industry and reassurance to the public."

- **James Fulford**, Executive Director, OROGO

Quick Facts:

- The Oil and Gas Operations Act (OGOA) came into force with devolution on April 1, 2014.
- The Regulator may issue guidelines and interpretation notes under section 18 of OGOA.
- In 2015-16, OROGO regulated thirteen well suspensions and one well abandonment.

Related Links:

www.orogo.gov.nt.ca/news

Media Contact for OROGO:

Pauline de Jong
Senior Advisor, Legislation and Policy
Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations
Government of the Northwest Territories
867-767-9097 x 78003
Pauline_dejong@gov.nt.ca