



Calgary Office
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General Counsel & Corporate Secretary
Ray B. Hansen, Q.C.

LAW DEPARTMENT & LAND ADMINISTRATION

Senior Counsel
Edith A. Cook

Corporate Counsel
Holly Wuntke
Taylor Armfield

Please reply to Calgary office

**Assistant Corporate Secretary
& Land Administrator**
Jocelyne C. George

January 20, 2014

Fort McMurray Office
Corporate Counsel
Susan Greeves

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
160 Elgin Street, 22nd Floor
Place Bell Canada
Ottawa, ON
K1A –H3

From the office of: Edith Cook
<contact information removed>

Attention: Pierre River Mine Joint Review Panel Secretariat

**RE: NOTICE OF INTEREST OF SYNCRUDE CANADA LTD.
CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGISTRY Reference #59539
SHELL CANADA LIMITED PIERRE RIVER MINE PROJECT APPLICATION**

Syncrude Canada Ltd. (“Syncrude”) respectfully requests to participate in the public hearing for the Pierre River Mine Project as an Interested Party.

Contact personnel for Syncrude are as follows:

Edith Cook
Syncrude Canada Ltd.

Fred Payne
Syncrude Canada Ltd.

<contact information removed>

Syncrude operates integrated oil sands mines, extraction facilities and an upgrader (“Syncrude Project”). Operation of the Syncrude Project commenced in 1978 at Mildred Lake with production of approximately 100,000 barrels per day of synthetic crude oil (“SCO”). Through a series of expansions (known as “Syncrude 21”), Syncrude currently has approval to expand SCO production to 470,000 barrels a day. Investment in the Syncrude Project, as spent and committed, exceeds 16 billion dollars.

To ensure future supply of bitumen feedstock in support of Syncrude 21, Syncrude holds title to eight oil sands leases in the Athabasca Oil Sands region. Syncrude currently operates approved facilities on Leases 17 and 22 (“Mildred Lake”) and Leases 10, 12, and 34 (“Aurora North”), and has approval to construct and operate a facility to develop the bitumen resource on Lease 31 (“Aurora South”). Syncrude plans further developments on Leases 29 and 30, but has not yet applied to provincial regulators for approval of these developments.

Syncrude submits that the hearing Panel is likely be provided evidence and recommendations from stakeholders that reflect concerns with oil sands development, regional impact, and government and regulatory policy, as well as concerns and recommendations specific to the Pierre River Project. Further, the Panel is likely to be provided evidence pertaining to the operations of other projects, including those of Syncrude, as material to their consideration of the Pierre River Project. Syncrude notes that such situation occurred in the recent JackPine Mine Expansion Project hearing.

As a result of the above, Syncrude’s interests may be affected by both the proceedings of the Pierre River Project hearing and the comments and conclusions offered by the Panel. Syncrude therefore requests that it be granted status of Interested Party, so that it may both engage in examination of any evidence presented that might affect Syncrude’s interests, and offer any comments to the Panel that it feels necessary to clarify Syncrude’s perspective on any matters affecting its interests.

With a near 50 year history of development and operations in the oil sands industry, Syncrude submits that our participation will provide expertise that will be of assistance to the Panel. Syncrude does not intend to provide direct evidence, but may engage in examination and summary argument.

Given Syncrude’s rationale for participation, collaboration with other groups is not contemplated.

We trust you will find the foregoing in order.

Sincerely,

<original signed by>

Edith A. Cook
Senior Counsel
Syncrude Canada Ltd.

cc Fred Payne - Syncrude

Fort McMurray office:
200, 9911 MacDonald Avenue
P.O. Bag 4023, Maildrop 2800
Fort McMurray, Alberta T9H 3H5
<personal information removed>

Calgary office:
7th Floor, 525 – 3 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0G4

<personal information removed>