

**January 16, 2009**

**AMMONITE SHELL INFORMATION BULLETIN 2009-01**

**Subject: Issuance of New Ammonite Shell Agreements**

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This Information Bulletin is an update to Ammonite Shell Information Bulletin 2008-01.

In September 2005 Alberta Culture and Community Spirit (CCS) asked the Department of Energy to suspend issuance of new ammonite shell agreements to allow time for consultation with the Blackfoot Nation on the commercial exploitation of ammonite shell. Ammonite shell is the source of *iniskim*, which plays an integral role in Blackfoot ceremonial life.

Energy agreed to suspend both the issuance of new agreements and the acceptance of new applications until the consultation with the Blackfoot was completed and CCS had advised us of the outcome. CCS has now asked Energy to extend the suspension until June 30, 2009 as consultations are not yet complete. While the department is reluctant to have this matter drag on, it is our view that it would be best to complete the consultation and resolve the matter.

The department has therefore agreed with the extension request from CCS and will extend the suspension until June 30, 2009. The department will not accept new ammonite shell applications or issue new ammonite shell agreements until the consultation is completed.

Note that this suspension affects only applications and the issuance of new agreements, and existing ammonite shell agreements are not affected.

A further information bulletin will be issued in mid-2009 to advise when ammonite shell leasing and acceptance of applications will be resumed.

For further information please contact:

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