

June 26, 2009

## AMMONITE SHELL INFORMATION BULLETIN 2009-02

### **Subject: Lifting of Ammonite Shell Leasing Moratorium**

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This Information Bulletin is an update to Ammonite Shell Information Bulletin 2009-01.

Alberta Culture and Community Spirit (ACCS) and Alberta Energy have concluded consultations with the three Alberta Blackfoot First Nations (Kainai, Piikani and Siksika) on the commercial mining of ammonite shell. The purpose of the consultation process was to develop recommendations for the existing regulatory process that take into consideration the significance of ammonite (*iniskim*) to Blackfoot spiritual life. This is in keeping with Alberta's First Nations Consultation Guidelines on Land Management and Resource Development.

ACCS has advised Alberta Energy that the moratorium on the issuance of ammonite shell agreements may now be lifted. Alberta Energy will now proceed to deal with the ammonite shell applications that were received prior to the moratorium, but which have not yet been issued as agreements. The first step will be to contact those ammonite shell agreement applicants who were affected by the moratorium to determine if they are still interested in obtaining an agreement.

ACCS has also advised Alberta Energy that it will be implementing a First Nations consultation trigger on *Historical Resources Act* exemptions. Further, First Nations consultations may be required when ammonite shell mining is proposed on lands where ACCS has knowledge of Blackfoot traditional surface collection of *iniskim*. Further information on this will be forthcoming from ACCS. In addition, Alberta Energy intends to work with the Blackfoot First Nations on the development of an informational pamphlet regarding the importance of *iniskim* to Blackfoot culture for distribution to ammonite shell agreement holders.

Alberta Energy will begin to accept new applications for ammonite shell agreements effective **Monday, July 27, 2009**. Applications will be dealt with on a first come, first served basis and must be received in Alberta Energy offices (Edmonton or Calgary) in order to be considered. Applications received prior to July 27 will be rejected. Applications will only be considered on lands where the minerals belong to the Crown. Interested parties should consult the ammonite shell maps on the Alberta Energy website (<http://www.energy.alberta.ca>) to determine the status of lands.

For further information contact:

Gary White  
Manager of Mineral Operations  
Coal and Mineral Development  
Alberta Energy  
9945 108 Street  
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G6  
Phone: (780) 415-0349  
Gary.V.White@gov.ab.ca