May 15, 2020

COAL INFORMATION BULLETIN 2020-02

Subject: New leasing rules for Crown coal rights

This Information Bulletin describes how Alberta Energy will manage Crown coal rights, including existing coal lease applications, after rescission of A Coal Development Policy for Alberta (Coal Policy). The rescission is described in Alberta Energy Information Letter 2020-23.

Coal lease applications

Alberta Energy is holding coal lease applications in the application stage because the Coal Policy restricted the issuance of coal leases in coal categories 2 and 3.

With the removal of the coal categories, all current coal lease applicants will be given the right of first refusal for the coal lease applications they hold. Alberta Energy will be sending a notification—with a list of their eligible coal lease application(s) and their options to proceed to lease or cancel the application(s)—to each applicant.

If an applicant chooses to proceed to a coal lease, they will be required to fulfill the annual rental obligation on the date that the lease is issued and each anniversary date thereafter.

If an applicant chooses to cancel their application, Alberta Energy will refund any first-year rental that is being held by the department.

Each applicant will have 60 days from the date of their notice to respond. If no response is received, the coal lease application(s) listed in the notice will be cancelled and any first-year rental held by the department will be refunded.

Moratorium on new coal lease applications

Effective May 15, 2020 Alberta Energy is placing a 120-day moratorium on all new applications for coal rights while the department resolves all existing coal lease applications.

New coal lease applications

Once the above noted moratorium is lifted, new coal leases will be accepted and will be considered requests for public sale. New rights will be issued through public offering and will be granted to the highest bidder as has been the process for coal rights in coal category 4.
Questions regarding this Information Bulletin may be directed to:

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