AUSTWIDE NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

Introduction

Welcome to our spring newsletter.

We trust you will enjoy reading this edition.

Petroleum Land Access Update – Land Manager Notifications (NT)

The Department of Mines and Energy (**DME**) have released an updated policy affecting new Exploration Permit applications and new applications for work program approval.

From the outset, Land Managers will now be among those parties notified of acreage releases.

Following application for a new EP, successful applicants will be provided with a new form for landholder notification. While the first part will be provided to the landholder by the applicant, the second half will be submitted to DME. DME will subsequently undertake notification to the Land Manager.

Although acknowledgement of receipt of the notice and feedback from the Landholder / Land Manager is encouraged to take place within 14 days of the notification, this feedback will not form a part of the objection process, nor will the grant process be delayed by non-response.

Prior to undertaking exploration activities, the permit holder is required to undertake consultation and provide evidence to DME. This is in addition to new provisions whereby a 14 day notice is to be served on the Landholder / Land Manager prior to activities being undertaken.

Austwide has incorporated these policies and welcomes you to contact Don Perry or Lucy Oborn for assistance with permit applications, work program approvals or address any queries you may have regarding the above or any other matter.

Amendments to the *Mineral Titles Act* (NT)

Austwide and other key users of the *Mineral Titles Act* (the **Act**), have been invited by the Department of Mines and Energy (**DME**) to review various proposed amendments to the Act.

The amendments are intended to address discrepancies, concerns and other suggested improvements that have come to light since the Act commenced on 7 November 2011.

Austwide is keen to ensure that amendments are in the best interests of industry with due regard paid to decreasing unnecessary administrative burden on both industry and the DME. Commentary is being provided to the DME by 30 September 2015.

In case of any queries, please contact Don Perry or Lucy Oborn.

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Amendments to the Financial Evidence Guidelines (NSW)

Review is currently underway to amend the guidelines governing financial capability assessments that form part of applications for new tenements, lodgement of renewals and transfers.

Austwide is keen to ensure the guidelines are able to be implemented on a practical level to improve the accessibility of the State to responsible operators and will keep you informed of the progress.

In case of any queries, please contact Roy Burton or Lucy Oborn.

Lessons of the day (WA)

i) Royalty Administrative Procedures

Did you know that all Mining Leases are granted subject to tenement conditions relating to the lodgement of production reports, royalty returns and royalty payments?

Pursuant to the *Mining Regulations 1981*, lodgement and payment is to be made no later than 30 days after the end of each quarter for tenements which are in production.

A breach of these conditions causes the Department of Mines and Petroleum to commence automatic forfeiture proceedings against any non-compliant tenements.

Please note that once royalty returns have been provided and not withstanding that production may cease, there is an on-going requirement to lodge nil production reports unless the Department removes that requirement upon request.

For further information please contact Kate Major or Jacqui Chamia.

<u>ii) List of Standard Conditions and Endorsements</u>

After grant of title, standard conditions and endorsements are placed on mining tenements to regulate activities that may be carried out by registered holders. This is in addition to conditions specifically imposed by the Minister (on certain titles).

It is essential that all prescribed conditions are complied with and we welcome you to contact us should you have any queries or require any further information. For your ease, we provide below a copy of the List of Standard Conditions /Endorsement released by the DMP in August 2015.

Please click on the link below + press CTRL

Standard Conditions and Endorsements

Contacts

For further information, please contact our team on (08) 9309 0400, or

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