

**NEXEN INC.**

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February 22, 2005

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board
640 - 5 Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3G4

ATTENTION: Mr. Ernie Smith, Resources Application

Dear Mr. Smith:

**RE: General Bulletin 2003-28
Bitumen Conservation Requirements
Athabasca Wabiskaw-McMurray
Phase 3 Final Proceeding
Proceeding No. 1347905**

The following is Nexen's response to the Board's letter of February 1, 2005.

Under the Pre-Hearing Decision (2004-88), Nexen is in the position of an applicant with a right of reply. On review of the submissions, Nexen is of the view that a focused Information Request process would be beneficial and potentially narrow the issues. It is Nexen's position that this process should be completed prior to filing response submissions. Nexen would be in position to provide its reply submissions by May 9, 2005, provided that Information Responses are provided prior to April 8, 2005. Thereafter, Nexen potentially will be filing a reply submission (in its position as applicant), and could do so by May 31, 2005. The hearing could thereafter commence in late June.

In response to the SSG's request for leave to file an addendum and errata to its February 14th, 2005 submission, Nexen does not have any objections. The SSG promptly filed its addendum and in Nexen's view there is no prejudice to any party.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,


NEXEN INC.

Kellie L. Johnston
Counsel, Regulatory

cc: J.P. Mousseau, SSG Counsel
Interested Parties