

**17-0035**

**2018 PLAB 23**

**Appellant** – JH Drilling Inc., **Operator** – JH Drilling Inc., **Location** – near Tawatinaw in Westlock County, **Type of Appeal** – Discontinuance

A Notice of Appeal was received February 13, 2018 from JH Drilling Inc. with respect to January 25, 2018 decision of the Director, Alberta Environment and Parks, to refuse an application by JH Drilling Inc. for an exploration under Surface Mineral Exploration (SME 150046) at E1/2-14 and SE 23 Twp. 061-24-W4. The Director refused the application as it was not consistent with the land management objectives of the area based on the fact that this area has previously identified aggregate resource. Further, according to the Allocation Policy for Commercial Use on Public Land where the volume of aggregate is already known or estimated, Environment and Parks had chosen to allocate the lands through a tender.

On February 2, 2018, the Board wrote to the Appellant and the Director acknowledging receipt of the appeal and notifying the Director of the appeal.

Westlock County was permitted to participate in the appeal since there was a possibility Westlock County may be affected if the Director's decision to refuse the application for SME 150046 was varied.

In consultation with the parties, the Board scheduled a mediation meeting for May 23, 2018 in Edmonton. As a result of the resolution reached at the mediation, the appeal was withdrawn. Based upon the withdrawal of the appeal, the Board discontinued its proceedings and closed its file in this matter on May 25, 2018. The Board advised Westlock County on May 28, 2018 of the outcome of the mediation meeting and provided them with a copy of the Resolution from the mediation as it was agreed by the Director and the Appellant the resolution is a public document.

Cite: JH Drilling Inc. v. Director, Alberta Environment and Parks (25 July 2018), Appeals No. 17-0035 (A.P.L.A.B.)