

17-0019

2018 PLAB 21

Appellant – Aurora Peat Products ULC, **Operator** - Aurora Peat Products ULC, **Location** – near Rochester in Athabasca County, **Type of Appeal** - Discontinuance

A Notice of Appeal was received on November 22, 2017 from Mr. Scott Briscoe and Aurora Peat Products ULC with respect to the October 24, 2017 decision of the Director, Alberta Environment and Parks, to refuse an application by Aurora Peat Products ULC for Surface Mineral Exploration (SME 170030) near Rochester. The application was refused because it was not consistent with the land management objectives of the area based on the fact that the SME falls within the Rochester Wildlife Habitat Management Area (RWHMA). The Department's management plan for the RWHMA provides the frame work to manage lands for biodiversity and select species of priority management concern. Additionally, the lands also serves as a wildlife corridor in the greater habitat assemblage. Surface material extraction activities would degrade this connectivity, potentially eliminating connectivity for certain species.

On November 22, 2017, the Board wrote to the Appellant and the Director acknowledging receipt of the appeal and notifying the Director of the appeal.

In consultation with the parties, the Board scheduled a mediation meeting for January 29, 2018 in Edmonton. As a result of the resolution reached at the mediation, the appeal was withdrawn on January 29, 2018. The Board discontinued its proceedings and closed it file in this matter.

Cite: Aurora Peat Products ULC v. Director, Alberta Environment and Parks (25 July 2018), Appeals No. 17-0019 (A.P.L.A.B.)