

## Memorandum

Ministry of Energy and Resources



Government  
— of —  
Saskatchewan

**From:** Honourable Jim Reiter  
Minister of Energy and Resources

**Date:** April 4, 2023

**Phone:** 306-787-0804

**To:** Colleen Young, Chair  
Standing Committee on the Economy

**Fax:** 306-798-2009

**Re:** Bill 95 – *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*

In follow-up to questions raised at the Committee of the Economy on Monday, March 13, 2023, regarding Bill 95 – *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022*, officials informed me of the following.

**Access to surface lease agreements filed with the Surface Rights Board of Arbitration (the Board).**

Oil and gas licensees are required under the Act to submit agreements to the Board.

Landowners and parties to the agreements can access their own agreements that have been filed with the Board, if need be.

Landowners and oil and gas licensees do not have access to agreements to which they are not a party to. Those agreements are currently held in confidence by the Board.

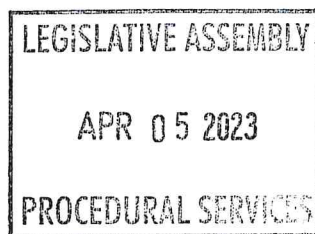
**Timing of and location of Board hearings.**

In 2021, the Board adopted new rules dealing with its hearing processes. Those rules can be found on the Board's website at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/boards-commissions-and-agencies/surface-rights-board-of-arbitration>

In the past, Board hearings were in-person and held at various locations around the province, as needed. The new rules allow for the Board to hold hearings in various formats, which include:

- (a) In-person hearing;
- (b) Video hearing;



... 2

- (c) Telephone hearing;
- (d) Written hearing; or
- (e) Any combination of (a), (b), (c) and (d).

The Board attempts to provide for hearings in a time and location agreeable by both parties.

**Consultation on *The Surface Rights Acquisition and Compensation Amendment Act, 2022***

Feedback received from individual landowners, landowner groups, rural/agricultural associations and the oil and gas industry can be found on *Saskatchewan.ca* at:

<https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/public-consultations/past-consultations/proposed-new-surface-rights-compensation-payment-enforcement-tools>

**Registration of pipelines, flowlines, and powerlines with Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call.**

In 2019, the Ministry of Energy and Resources (ER) investigated the potential use of Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call for pipelines and flowlines, but not powerlines as those are not regulated by ER. At that time, there was a significant number of pipeline companies and oil and gas producers already registered in Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call. A listing of companies currently participating in the service can be found at <https://www.sask1stcall.com/participating-companies/>

With respect to flowline locations, please note that industry must complete the retroactive licensing of previously exempt pipelines and unlicensed flowlines by January 20, 2024. Once complete, ER intends to re-examine the extent to which these lines are registered with Sask 1<sup>st</sup> Call and determine if additional measures are required.

Sincerely,



Jim Reiter  
Minister of Energy and Resources

cc: Susanna Laaksonen-Craig, Deputy Minister, Energy and Resources  
Sharla Hordenchuk, Assistant Deputy Minister, Energy Regulation Division