

ILLUSTRATIVE REGULATORY & PROJECT WATCH

McMullen Thermal Pilot: what should management watch next?



A management-level sample showing how Iron Buffalo can convert a live public application into decision triggers, unknowns and a focused monitoring plan.

PUBLIC FILING	AER applications 1962232 / 001-511845
APPLICANT	Spur Petroleum Ltd.
WATCH RESULT	MONITOR - NO POSITION TAKEN

Prepared 1 September 2026 | Iron Buffalo Energy Intelligence | ironbuffalo.ca
This sample was not commissioned by, and is not affiliated with, the applicant or the AER.

EXECUTIVE SIGNAL

A small pilot with a near-term public milestone.

The AER notice describes a proposed expansion and modification of an existing bitumen-recovery scheme in Township 79, Range 1, W5M. The project would increase approved capacity from 500 bpd to 1,000 bpd, begin with two cyclic steam stimulation wells and use modular facilities. The immediate management value is not a prediction of approval. It is a disciplined watchlist for timing, competitive context, infrastructure implications and the evidence still missing from the notice.



Public filing timeline

Project timing is applicant-stated; approval timing is not inferred.

7 AUG 2026

1 SEP 2026

7 SEP 2026

Q1 2027



Recommended management posture

1

Monitor, do not speculate. Treat the notice as a verified project signal, not proof of approval, financing, construction or commercial performance.

2

Resolve strategic relevance first. Determine whether the lands, recovery method, facilities or timing intersect the client's acreage, infrastructure, service market or competitive outlook.

3

Escalate on evidence. Move from monitoring to technical or commercial diligence only when application records, decisions or client-specific exposure make the signal material.

FACT / GAP DISCIPLINE

What the notice establishes - and what it does not.

A useful regulatory brief separates verified filing facts from questions that require application records, regulator decisions or client information. That distinction prevents a public notice from being stretched into an unsupported investment conclusion.

Topic	Verified in the public notice	Open question for diligence
SCOPE	Amend OSCA approval 11494C and obtain EPEA approval for an expanded and modified thermal pilot.	What conditions, supplemental information requests or linked approvals could affect scope and schedule?
LOCATION	Township 79, Range 1, W5M; specified portions of Sections 10-15 and 22-24.	Which client lands, facilities, roads, water systems, dispositions or stakeholders are close enough to be relevant?
RECOVERY	Two initial CSS wells, with two to three potential additions based on performance.	What reservoir, fluid, pressure, steam-oil ratio and pilot-success criteria support the design?
FACILITIES	Modular OTSG, water treatment, production handling and tanks; no central processing facility.	What are the source-water, disposal, fuel, emissions, trucking, tie-in and operating constraints?
TIMING	First steam is anticipated in Q1 2027; operational life is estimated at 10 years.	What approvals and construction milestones sit on the critical path, and how could review timing move it?
PUBLIC INPUT	Statements of concern are due by 11:59 p.m. on 7 September 2026.	Will any registered concern, response, procedural decision or hearing-related step become material?

Five business-impact pathways to test

COMPETITION Does the pilot change the local development or land narrative?	INFRASTRUCTURE Could modular thermal operations affect shared roads, power, water, disposal or services?	TECHNOLOGY Could public pilot results become relevant evidence for similar reservoirs or recovery concepts?	STAKEHOLDERS Are there public concerns or engagement issues that may matter to nearby activity?	SERVICES Could the schedule create demand for steam, water, facilities or field-support capability?
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WATCH PLAN

Turn a filing into explicit triggers and owner actions.

The monitoring cadence should match the decision, not the news cycle. A short weekly check is appropriate around the filing deadline; later reviews should be event-driven unless the project is directly relevant to the client.

Window	Public signal to monitor	Trigger	Suggested action
NOW - 7 SEP	Notice page, filing deadline and any disclosed amendments or corrections.	Material scope or deadline change.	Refresh the one-page brief and notify the assigned commercial or regulatory owner.
POST-DEADLINE	Registered concern, applicant response, procedural direction or public clarification, if any.	Issue touches client lands, infrastructure, stakeholders or schedule.	Escalate to regulatory counsel or stakeholder specialists; do not rely on an AI summary for filing decisions.
REVIEW PERIOD	Supplemental-information record, public decision, approval conditions or changed timing.	New evidence alters probability, timing, cost or strategic relevance.	Commission a technical-commercial readout tied to the client's exposure and decision threshold.
PRE-FIRST STEAM	Licensing, construction, linked approvals, operator disclosure and stated schedule.	Visible movement toward field execution or material delay.	Update competitor, service-demand, infrastructure and technology-learning scenarios.
OPERATIONS	Public operating, environmental, production or regulator information when available.	Reliable performance or compliance evidence emerges.	Compare outcomes with the original design and update any analog or competitive interpretation.

A useful client version would add

CLIENT INPUT	HOW IT CHANGES THE ANSWER
Land and infrastructure map	Confirms proximity, overlap and exposure rather than assuming regional relevance.
Commercial objective	Tailors monitoring for competition, partnership, service demand, land strategy or technology learning.
Materiality thresholds	Defines which capacity, timing, cost, stakeholder or performance changes require escalation.
Internal technical view	Tests whether the proposed recovery concept is a relevant analog for the client's reservoirs and facilities.

SCREENING RESULT

MONITOR - ESCALATE ONLY ON MATERIAL EVIDENCE

This sample does not recommend supporting, opposing, acquiring, selling or investing. It demonstrates the research system that keeps those decisions tied to evidence.

METHOD & SOURCES

Fast enough for a live issue; bounded enough to trust.

This public-data sample applies a simple discipline: identify the decision, capture only verified filing facts, separate unknowns, define materiality triggers and assign the next research action. It is designed to support management awareness, not replace technical experts, counsel or direct review of the applications.

Stage	What was done
Frame	Defined a management question about timing, strategic relevance and escalation triggers.
Verify	Used the AER notice for project scope, location, capacity, facilities, timing and filing deadline.
Separate	Distinguished facts in the notice from diligence questions and conditional business-impact hypotheses.
Monitor	Mapped public signals to triggers, owners and proportional next actions.
Bound	Withheld legal, technical, environmental, approval-probability and investment conclusions.

Sources reviewed

1. Alberta Energy Regulator - McMullen Thermal Pilot notice. Primary source for application numbers, location, proposed capacity, wells, facilities, project timing and statement-of-concern deadline.
[aer.ca / applications 1962232 and 001-511845](#)
2. Alberta Energy Regulator - Statement of Concern. Official description of filing eligibility, required contents, public-record treatment and the review process.
[aer.ca / statement of concern](#)
3. Alberta Energy Regulator - In Situ Oil Sands Authorizations. Official overview of OSCA in situ application types, review steps and indicative category timelines; no category is assigned here.
[aer.ca / in situ oil sands authorizations](#)
4. Alberta Energy Regulator - Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act. Official overview of EPEA application content, public participation and technical review steps.
[aer.ca / EPEA application process](#)
5. Alberta Energy Regulator - Directive 042. Official context on measurement, accounting and reporting-plan requirements for thermal bitumen schemes.
[aer.ca / Directive 042](#)

IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS

Only public web pages were reviewed; the full applications and supporting records were not obtained. No client lands, technical data, economics, contracts, stakeholder records or legal position were assessed. The notice describes proposals and anticipated timing, not approvals or outcomes. This brief must be refreshed when the public record changes.

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