

COURT FILE NUMBER 2401-05179

COURT OF KING'S BENCH OF ALBERTA

JUDICIAL CENTRE OF CALGARY

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES' CREDITORS ARRANGEMENT ACT, R.S.C.

1985, c. C-36, as amended

AND IN THE MATTER OF A PLAN OF COMPROMISE OR ARRANGEMENT OF

ALPHABOW ENERGY LTD.

DOCUMENT <u>CCAA INITIAL ORDER</u>

ADDRESS FOR SERVICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION OF PARTY FILING THIS

DOCUMENT:

BENNETT JONES LLP

Barristers and Solicitors 4500, 855 – 2nd Street S.W. Calgary, Alberta T2P 4K7

Attention: Keely Cameron / Sarah Aaron

Telephone No.: 403-298-3324/3177

Fax No.: 403-265-7219 Client File No.: 88323.6

DATE ON WHICH ORDER WAS

**PRONOUNCED:** Friday, April 26, 2024

NAME OF JUDGE WHO MADE

**THIS ORDER:** The Honourable Justice M. J. Lema

**LOCATION OF HEARING:** Edmonton Law Courts

1A Sir Winston Churchill Square, Edmonton,

AB T5J 0R2

UPON the application of AlphaBow Energy Ltd. (the "Applicant" or "AlphaBow"); AND UPON having read the Originating Application, the Affidavit of Ben Li sworn on April 15, 2024 (the "Li Affidavit"); AND UPON having read the Affidavit of Service of Stephanie Dumoulin sworn April 25, 2024; AND UPON reading the consent of KSV Restructuring Inc. to act as

Monitor; **AND UPON** having read the First Report of the Proposal Trustee and Pre-Filing Report of the Proposed Monitor dated April 19, 2024 (the "**Pre-Filing Report**"); **AND UPON** noting that the Applicant filed a notice of intention to file a proposal on March 28, 2024, in the Court of King's Bench of Alberta Action No. 25-3062078 (the "**NOI Proceedings**"); **AND UPON** noting the Reasonable Care and Measures Order issued by the Alberta Energy Regulator (the "**AER**") to AlphaBow on March 30, 2023 (the "**RCAM Order**") and the Suspension Order issued by the AER to AlphaBow on June 5, 2023 (the "**Suspension Order**"); **AND UPON** noting that pursuant to the RCAM Order and the Suspension Order, on September 6, 2023, the Orphan Well Association ("**OWA**") was directed by the AER to take possession of all licensed sites of AlphaBow to provide reasonable care and measures and since then, has remained, and continues to remain, in possession of all of AlphaBow's license sites; **AND UPON** hearing counsel for the Applicant, and any other interested parties appearing at the application;

#### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DECLARED THAT:

#### **SERVICE**

1. The time for service of the notice of application for this order (the "**Order**") and the Li Affidavit are deemed good and sufficient and this application is properly returnable today.

## **CAPITALIZED TERMS**

2. Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined in this Order shall have the meaning given to such terms in the Li Affidavit.

## **APPLICATION**

- 3. The Applicant is a company to which the *Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act*, RSC 1985, c C-36 (the "CCAA") applies.
- 4. The NOI Proceedings commenced by the Applicant under Part II of the *Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act* (the "**BIA**") are hereby taken up and continued under the CCAA and the provisions of Division I of Part III of the BIA shall have no further application to the Applicant, save that any and all steps, agreements and procedures validly taken, done or entered into by the Applicant during the proposal proceedings shall remain valid and

binding notwithstanding the termination of the NOI Proceedings and the commencement of the within CCAA proceedings. Further, the Notice of Intention to File a Proposal filed by the Applicant on March 28, 2024, is and shall be deemed for all purposes to be withdrawn, and the NOI Proceedings are hereby terminated.

#### POSSESSION OF PROPERTY AND OPERATIONS

# 5. The Applicant shall:

- (a) remain in possession and control of its current and future assets, undertakings and properties of every nature and kind whatsoever, and wherever situate including all proceeds thereof (the "**Property**");
- (b) subject to further order of this Court, continue to carry on business in a manner consistent with the preservation of its business (the "Business") and Property; and
- (c) be authorized and empowered to continue to retain and employ the employees, consultants, agents, experts, accountants, counsel and such other persons (collectively "Assistants") currently retained or employed by it, with liberty to retain such further Assistants as it deems reasonably necessary or desirable in the ordinary course of business or for the carrying out of the terms of this Order.

Nothing in the foregoing shall be interpreted as amending or otherwise impacting the direction of the AER that the OWA take possession of all licensed sites of AlphaBow to provide reasonable care and measures pursuant to the terms of the RCAM Order.

- 6. To the extent permitted by law, the Applicant shall be entitled but not required to make the following advances or payments of the following expenses, incurred prior to or after this Order:
  - (a) all outstanding and future wages, salaries, employee and pension benefits, vacation pay and expenses payable on or after the date of this Order, in each case incurred in the ordinary course of business and consistent with existing compensation policies and arrangements; and

- (b) the reasonable fees and disbursements of any Assistants retained or employed by the Applicant in respect of these proceedings, at their standard rates and charges, including for periods prior to the date of this Order.
- 7. Except as otherwise provided to the contrary herein, the Applicant shall be entitled but not required to pay all reasonable expenses incurred by the Applicant in carrying on the Business in the ordinary course after this Order, and in carrying out the provisions of this Order, which expenses shall include, without limitation:
  - (a) all expenses and capital expenditures reasonably necessary for the preservation of the Property or the Business including, without limitation, payments on account of insurance (including directors and officers insurance), maintenance and security services; and
  - (b) payment for goods or services actually supplied to the Applicant since the commencement of the NOI Proceedings.
- 8. The Applicant shall remit, in accordance with legal requirements, or pay:
  - (a) all amounts which could be subject to a demand under subsection 224(1.2) of the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) or any similar provision of the *Canada Pension Plan*, the *Employment Insurance Act*, or any provision of any provincial legislation that has a purpose similar to subsection 224(1.2) of the *Income Tax Act* or that refers to subsection 224(1.2) of the *Income Tax Act* in respect of any amounts that arise and are payable on or after the commencement of the NOI Proceedings.
  - (b) all goods and services or other applicable sales taxes (collectively, "Sales Taxes") required to be remitted by the Applicant in connection with the sale of goods and services by the Applicant, but only where such Sales Taxes are accrued or collected after the commencement of the NOI Proceedings; and
  - (c) any amount payable to the Crown in Right of Canada or of any Province thereof or any political subdivision thereof or any other taxation authority in respect of municipal realty, municipal business or other taxes, assessments or levies of any nature or kind which are entitled at law to be paid in priority to claims of secured

creditors and that are attributable to or in respect of the carrying on of the Business by the Applicant.

- 9. Until such time as a real property lease is disclaimed or resiliated in accordance with the CCAA, the Applicant may pay all amounts constituting rent or payable as rent under real property leases (including, for greater certainty, common area maintenance charges, utilities and realty taxes and any other amounts payable as rent to the landlord under the lease) based on the terms of existing lease arrangements or as otherwise may be negotiated by the Applicant from time to time for the period commencing from and including the date of this Order ("Rent"), but shall not pay any rent in arrears.
- 10. Except as specifically permitted in this Order, the Applicant is hereby directed, until further order of this Court:
  - (a) to make no payments of principal, interest thereon or otherwise on account of amounts owing by the Applicant to any of its creditors as of the date of the commencement of the NOI Proceedings;
  - (b) to grant no security interests, trust, liens, charges or encumbrances upon or in respect of any of its Property; and
  - (c) not to grant credit or incur liabilities except in the ordinary course of the Business.

# NO PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE APPLICANT OR THE PROPERTY

11. Until and including May 6, 2024, or such later date as this Court may order (the "Stay Period"), no proceeding or enforcement process in any court (each, a "Proceeding") shall be commenced or continued against or in respect of the Applicant or the Monitor, or affecting the Business or the Property, except with leave of this Court, and any and all Proceedings currently under way against or in respect of the Applicant or affecting the Business or the Property are hereby stayed and suspended pending further order of this Court.

#### NO EXERCISE OF RIGHTS OR REMEDIES

- 12. During the Stay Period, all rights and remedies of any individual, firm, corporation, governmental body or agency, or any other entities (all of the foregoing, collectively being "Persons" and each being a "Person"), whether judicial or extra-judicial, statutory or non-statutory against or in respect of the Applicant or the Monitor, or affecting the Business or the Property, are hereby stayed and suspended and shall not be commenced, proceeded with or continued except with leave of this Court, provided that nothing in this Order shall:
  - (a) empower the Applicant to carry on any business that the Applicant is not lawfully entitled to carry on;
  - (b) affect such investigations, actions, suits or proceedings by a regulatory body as are permitted by section 11.1 of the CCAA;
  - (c) prevent the filing of any registration to preserve or perfect a security interest;
  - (d) prevent the registration of a claim for lien; or
  - (e) exempt the Applicant from compliance with statutory or regulatory provisions relating to health, safety or the environment.
- 13. Nothing in this Order shall prevent any party from taking an action against the Applicant where such an action must be taken in order to comply with statutory time limitations in order to preserve their rights at law, provided that no further steps shall be taken by such party except in accordance with the other provisions of this Order, and notice in writing of such action be given to the Monitor at the first available opportunity.

## NO INTERFERENCE WITH RIGHTS

14. During the Stay Period, no person shall accelerate, suspend, discontinue, fail to honour, alter, interfere with, repudiate, terminate or cease to perform any right, renewal right, contract, agreement, licence or permit in favour of or held by the Applicant, except with the written consent of the Applicant and the Monitor, or leave of this Court.

#### **CONTINUATION OF SERVICES**

- 15. During the Stay Period, all persons having:
  - (a) statutory or regulatory mandates for the supply of goods and/or services; or
  - (b) oral or written agreements or arrangements with the Applicant, including without limitation all computer software, communication and other data services, centralized banking services, payroll services, insurance, transportation, services, utility or other services to the Business or the Applicant;

are hereby restrained until further order of this Court from discontinuing, altering, interfering with, suspending or terminating the supply of such goods or services as may be required by the Applicant or exercising any other remedy provided under such agreements or arrangements. The Applicant shall be entitled to the continued use of its current premises, telephone numbers, facsimile numbers, internet addresses and domain names, provided in each case that the usual prices or charges for all such goods or services received after the date of this Order are paid by the Applicant in accordance with the payment practices of the Applicant, or such other practices as may be agreed upon by the supplier or service provider and each of the Applicant and the Monitor, or as may be ordered by this Court.

#### NON-DEROGATION OF RIGHTS

16. Nothing in this Order has the effect of prohibiting a person from requiring immediate payment for goods, services, use of leased or licensed property or other valuable consideration provided on or after the date of this Order, nor shall any person, be under any obligation on or after the date of this Order to advance or re-advance any monies or otherwise extend any credit to the Applicant.

## PROCEEDINGS AGAINST DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

17. During the Stay Period, and except as permitted by subsection 11.03(2) of the CCAA and paragraph 13 of this Order, no Proceeding may be commenced or continued against any of the former, current or future directors or officers of the Applicant with respect to any claim against the directors or officers that arose before the date of this Order and that relates to

any obligations of the Applicant whereby the directors or officers are alleged under any law to be liable in their capacity as directors or officers for the payment or performance of such obligations, until a compromise or arrangement in respect of the Applicant, if one is filed, is sanctioned by this Court or is refused by the creditors of the Applicant or this Court.

## APPOINTMENT OF MONITOR

- 18. KSV Restructuring Inc. is hereby appointed pursuant to the CCAA as the Monitor, an officer of this Court, to monitor the Property, Business, and financial affairs of the Applicant with the powers and obligations set out in the CCAA or set forth herein and that the Applicant and its shareholders, officers, directors, and Assistants shall advise the Monitor of all material steps taken by the Applicant pursuant to this Order, and shall cooperate fully with the Monitor in the exercise of its powers and discharge of its obligations and provide the Monitor with the assistance that is necessary to enable the Monitor to adequately carry out the Monitor's functions.
- 19. The Monitor, in addition to its prescribed rights and obligations under the CCAA, is hereby directed and empowered to:
  - (a) monitor the Applicant's receipts and disbursements, Business and dealings with the Property;
  - (b) report to this Court at such times and intervals as the Monitor may deem appropriate with respect to matters relating to the Property, the Business, and such other matters as may be relevant to the proceedings herein and immediately report to the Court if in the opinion of the Monitor there is a material adverse change in the financial circumstances of the Applicant;
  - (c) advise the Applicant in its preparation of the Applicant's cash flow statements;
  - (d) advise the Applicant in its development of the Plan and any amendments to the Plan;
  - (e) assist the Applicant, to the extent required by the Applicant, with the holding and administering of creditors' or shareholders' meetings for voting on the Plan;

- (f) have full and complete access to the Property, including the premises, books, records, data, including data in electronic form and other financial documents of the Applicant to the extent that is necessary to adequately assess the Property, Business, and financial affairs of the Applicant or to perform its duties arising under this Order;
- (g) be at liberty to engage independent legal counsel or such other persons as the Monitor deems necessary or advisable respecting the exercise of its powers and performance of its obligations under this Order;
- (h) hold funds in trust or in escrow, to the extent required, to facilitate settlements between the Applicant and any other Person; and
- (i) perform such other duties as are required by this Order or by this Court from time to time.
- 20. The Monitor shall not take possession of the Property and shall take no part whatsoever in the management or supervision of the management of the Business and shall not, by fulfilling its obligations hereunder, or by inadvertence in relation to the due exercise of powers or performance of duties under this Order, be deemed to have taken or maintain possession or control of the Business or Property, or any part thereof. Nothing in this Order shall require the Monitor to occupy or to take control, care, charge, possession or management of any of the Property that might be environmentally contaminated, or might cause or contribute to a spill, discharge, release or deposit of a substance contrary to any federal, provincial or other law respecting the protection, conservation, enhancement, remediation or rehabilitation of the environment or relating to the disposal or waste or other contamination, provided however that this Order does not exempt the Monitor from any duty to report or make disclosure imposed by applicable environmental legislation or regulation. The Monitor shall not, as a result of this Order or anything done in pursuance of the Monitor's duties and powers under this Order be deemed to be in possession of any of the Property within the meaning of any federal or provincial environmental legislation.
- 21. The Monitor shall provide any creditor of the Applicant, with information provided by the Applicant in response to reasonable requests for information made in writing by such

creditor addressed to the Monitor. The Monitor shall not have any responsibility or liability with respect to the information disseminated by it pursuant to this paragraph. In the case of information that the Monitor has been advised by the Applicant is confidential, the Monitor shall not provide such information to creditors unless otherwise directed by this Court or on such terms as the Monitor and the Applicant may agree.

- 22. In addition to the rights and protections afforded the Monitor under the CCAA or as an Officer of this Court, the Monitor shall incur no liability or obligation as a result of its appointment or the carrying out of the provisions of this Order, save and except for any gross negligence or wilful misconduct on its part. Nothing in this Order shall derogate from the protections afforded the Monitor by the CCAA or any applicable legislation.
- 23. The Monitor, counsel to the Monitor, and counsel to the Applicant shall be paid their reasonable fees and disbursements (including any pre-filing fees and disbursements related to these CCAA proceedings or the NOI Proceedings), in each case at their standard rates and charges, by the Applicant as part of the costs of these proceedings. The Applicant is hereby authorized and directed to pay the accounts of the Monitor, counsel for the Monitor and counsel for the Applicant on a bi-weekly basis and, in addition, the Applicant is hereby authorized to pay to the Monitor, counsel to the Monitor, and counsel to the Applicant, retainers in accordance with such parties' retainer agreements, to be held by them as security for payment of their respective fees and disbursements outstanding from time to time.
- 24. The Monitor and its legal counsel shall pass their accounts from time to time.
- 25. The Monitor, counsel to the Monitor, if any, and the Applicant's counsel, as security for the professional fees and disbursements incurred both before and after the granting of this Order, shall be entitled to the benefits of and are hereby granted a charge (the "Administration Charge") on the Property, which charge shall not exceed an aggregate amount of \$100,000 as security for their professional fees and disbursements incurred at the normal rates and charges of the Monitor and such counsel, both before and after the making of this Order in respect of these proceedings. The Administration Charge shall have the priority set out in paragraphs 26 and 28 hereof.

#### VALIDITY AND PRIORITY OF CHARGES

- 26. The priority of the Administration Charge shall be as follows:
  - First Administration Charge (to the maximum amount of \$100,000).
- 27. The filing, registration or perfection of the Administration Charge (the "Charge") shall not be required, and the Charge shall be valid and enforceable for all purposes, including as against any right, title or interest filed, registered, recorded or perfected subsequent to the Charge coming into existence, notwithstanding any such failure to file, register, record or perfect.
- 28. The Charge shall constitute a charge on the Property and subject always to section 34(11) of the CCAA such Charge shall rank in priority to all other security interests, trusts, liens, charges and encumbrances, and claims of secured creditors, statutory or otherwise (collectively, "Encumbrances") in favour of any Person.
- 29. Except as otherwise expressly provided for herein, or as may be approved by this Court, the Applicant shall not grant any Encumbrances over any Property that rank in priority to, or *pari passu* with, the Charge unless the Applicant also obtain the prior written consent of the Monitor and the beneficiaries of the Charge, or further order of this Court.
- 30. The Charge shall not be rendered invalid or unenforceable and the rights and remedies of the chargees entitled to the benefit of the Charge (collectively, the "**Chargees**") shall not otherwise be limited or impaired in any way by:
  - (a) the pendency of these proceedings and the declarations of insolvency made in this Order;
  - (b) any application(s) for bankruptcy order(s) issued pursuant to BIA, or any bankruptcy order made pursuant to such applications;
  - (c) the filing of any assignments for the general benefit of creditors made pursuant to the BIA;
  - (d) the provisions of any federal or provincial statutes; or

- (e) any negative covenants, prohibitions or other similar provisions with respect to borrowings, incurring debt or the creation of Encumbrances, contained in any existing loan documents, lease, sublease, offer to lease or other agreement (collectively, an "Agreement") that binds the Applicant, and notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in any Agreement:
  - (i) neither the creation of the Charge nor the execution, delivery, perfection, registration or performance of any documents in respect thereof, shall create or be deemed to constitute a new breach by the Applicant of any Agreement to which it is a party;
  - (ii) none of the Chargees shall have any liability to any Person whatsoever as a result of any breach of any Agreement caused by or resulting from the creation of the Charge; and
  - (iii) the payments made by the Applicant pursuant to this Order, and the granting of the Charge do not and will not constitute preferences, fraudulent conveyances, transfers at undervalue, oppressive conduct or other challengeable or voidable transactions under any applicable law.

## **ALLOCATION**

31. Any interested Person may apply to this Court on notice to any other party likely to be affected for an order to allocate the Charge amongst the various assets comprising the Property.

### **SERVICE AND NOTICE**

32. The Monitor shall (i) without delay, publish in the Daily Oil Bulletin a notice containing the information prescribed under the CCAA; (ii) within five (5) days after the date of this Order (A) make this Order publicly available in the manner prescribed under the CCAA, (B) send, in the prescribed manner, a notice to every known creditor who has a claim against the Applicant of more than \$1,000 and (C) prepare a list showing the names and addresses of those creditors and the estimated amounts of those claims, and make it

- publicly available in the prescribed manner, all in accordance with section 23(1)(a) of the CCAA and the regulations made thereunder.
- 33. The Monitor shall establish a case website in respect of the within proceedings at www.ksvadvisory.com/experience/case/alphabow (the "Monitor's Website").
- 34. The Applicant and the Monitor are at liberty to serve this Order, any other materials and orders in these proceedings, any notices or other correspondence, by forwarding true copies thereof by prepaid ordinary mail, courier, personal delivery or electronic transmission to the Applicant's creditors or other interested parties at their respective addresses as last shown on the records of the Applicant and that any such service or notice by courier, personal delivery or electronic transmission shall be deemed to be received on the next business day following the date of forwarding thereof, or if sent by ordinary mail, on the third business day after mailing. Any person that wishes to be served with any application and other materials in these proceedings must deliver to the Applicant and the Monitor by way of ordinary mail, courier, or electronic transmission, a request to be added to the service list (the "Service List") to be maintained by the Monitor.
- 35. Any party to these proceedings may serve any court materials in these proceedings by emailing a PDF or other electronic copy of such materials to counsel's email addresses as recorded on the Service List from time to time, and the Monitor shall post a copy of all prescribed materials on the Monitor's website.
- 36. An application in these proceedings is hereby scheduled to be heard before this Honourable Court at 11:00 a.m. on April 26, 2024 (the "Comeback Hearing"). The Applicant is entitled to serve any court materials in connection with the Comeback Hearing on the Service List by courier, personal delivery or electronic transmission in accordance with this Order.

## **GENERAL**

37. The Applicant or the Monitor may from time to time apply to this Court for advice and directions in the discharge of their powers and duties hereunder.

- 38. Notwithstanding Rule 6.11 of the *Alberta Rules of Court*, unless otherwise ordered by this Court, the Monitor will report to the Court from time to time, which reporting is not required to be in affidavit form and shall be considered by this Court as evidence. The Monitor's reports shall be filed by the Court Clerk notwithstanding that they do not include an original signature.
- 39. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the Monitor from acting as an interim receiver, a receiver, a receiver and manager or a trustee in bankruptcy of the Applicant, the Business or the Property.
- 40. This Court hereby requests the aid and recognition of any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body having jurisdiction in Canada or in any foreign jurisdiction, to give effect to this Order and to assist the Applicant, the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order. All courts, tribunals, regulatory and administrative bodies are hereby respectfully requested to make such orders and to provide such assistance to the Applicant and to the Monitor, as an officer of this Court, as may be necessary or desirable to give effect to this Order, to grant representative status to the Monitor in any foreign proceeding, or to assist the Applicant and the Monitor and their respective agents in carrying out the terms of this Order.
- 41. Each of the Applicant and the Monitor be at liberty and are hereby authorized and empowered to apply to any court, tribunal, regulatory or administrative body, wherever located, for the recognition of this Order and for assistance in carrying out the terms of this Order and that the Monitor is authorized and empowered to act as a representative in respect of the within proceeding for the purpose of having these proceedings recognized in a jurisdiction outside Canada.
- 42. Any interested party (including the Applicant and the Monitor) may apply to this Court to vary or amend this Order on not less than seven (7) days' notice to any other party or parties likely to be affected by the order sought or upon such other notice, if any, as this Court may order.

43. This Order and all of its provisions are effective as of 12:01 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time on the date of this Order.

Justice of the Court of King's Bench of Alberta