THE ALBERTA ENERGY REGULATOR

PROCEEDING ID NO. 430

IN THE MATTER OF the Responsible Energy Development Act, SA 2012, c R-17.3 and the Regulations and Rules made thereunder;

AND IN THE MATTER OF an Application to Amend Commercial Scheme Approval No. 11475 for the Kirby In Situ Oil Sands Project, KN08 and KN09 Development (Application No. 1936092)

AER PROCEEDING

VOLUME 1

Calgary, Alberta

February 6, 2024

Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 403-531-0590

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1	Proceedings taken at Govier Hall, Calgary, Alberta	
2		
3	February 6, 2023	Morning Session
4		
5	Cindy Chiasson	Panel Chair
6	Brian Zaitlin	Panel Member
7	Meg Barker	Panel Member
8		
9	William McClary	AER Legal Counsel
10	Shannon Peddlesden	AER Legal Counsel
11	Andrew Lung	AER Staff
12	Denise Parsons	AER Staff
13	Anastasia Stanislavski	AER Staff
14	Fahad Hamdan	AER Staff
15	Maryam Rahimabadi	AER Staff
16	Susan Harbidge	AER Staff
17	Maksim Xhaferllari	AER Staff
18	Felix Chiang	AER Staff
19	Scott Botterill	AER Staff
20	Baohong Yang	AER Staff
21	Elwyn Galloway	AER Staff
22		
23	J.P. Jamieson	For Canadian Natural
24		Resources Limited
25		
26		

1 M. Riley For ISH Energy Ltd. 2 A. McLeod For ISH Energy Ltd. 3 4 S. Murphy, CSR(A) Official Court Reporter 5 S. Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR Official Court Reporter 6 7 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED AT 9:17 AM) 8 Opening Remarks 9 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So a question before we start. 10 Are we standardly leaving the door open to the foyer 11 I suspect it would be a noise distraction. there? 12 Thank you. 13 Good morning, and welcome to Govier Hall. Thank 14 you for attending to participate in and observe the hearing in Proceeding 430. My name is Cindy Chiasson, 15 and I am the hearing commissioner chairing this 16 17 hearing. The other Panel Members are on my right, Meg Barker and on my left Dr. Brian Zaitlin. 18 19 COMMISSIONER ZAITLIN: We ask that the parties refer to us as "Commissioner Chiasson", "Commissioner 20 21 Barker", and "Commissioner Zaitlin", and that you 22 refrain from using the term "Madam Chair". 23 My colleagues and I respectfully acknowledge that 24 we are holding this proceeding on the traditional 25 territories of peoples of Treaty 7 region in southern 26 Alberta, which includes the Siksika, Piikani, and

Tsuut'ina Nation and the Stoney Nakoda Nation, which 1 includes the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First 2 3 Nation, Mohkinstsis, also known as the City of Calgary, is also home to Metis Nation of Alberta Region 3. 4 I want to introduce the AER staff who are 5 6 assisting the panel in this proceeding. Please 7 identify yourself when I read your names. So we have Will McClary and Shannon Peddlesden of 8 9 the law branch, when I read your names. 10 Andrew Lung, the hearing coordinator for this 11 proceeding. The technical staff assisting the Panel 12 are Susan Harbidge, Maksim Xhaferllari, Felix Chiang, 13 Scott Botterill, Baohong Yang, and Elwyn Galloway. 14 Additional staff supporting the hearing may change throughout the week. This morning we have Denise 15 Parsons and Fahad Hamdan from hearing services, and do 16 we have Anastasia there as well? 17 And, Anastasia, I apologize because I remember 18 your maiden name but not your married name. So I will 19 correct that when I have a chance to look. The hearing 20 panel and all the AER staff in the hearing room are 21 22 wearing name tags whether they are assisting in the proceeding or observing participating. If you have 23 questions about this proceeding, please approach the 24 25 staff supporting the hearing for assistance. 26 Communications with the Hearing Panel must be on

the record; therefore, don't speak to Panel Members unless it is part of the hearing. We're not trying to be unfriendly, but, to be fair and transparent to the hearing parties, all communication with us must be on the record. We appreciate everyone's understanding and respect on this request.

7 In addition to AER staff, we have court reporters 8 to transcribe the proceeding. We ask the hearing 9 parties to be mindful of speaking slowly and not 10 interrupting or talking over each other for the court 11 reporter's benefit.

12 Video of the hearing is being live streamed 13 through a link on the AER's website. We do not keep a 14 record of videocast, and the video is not an official 15 transcript. The court reporter will prepare the only official transcript of this hearing. To any viewers 16 who are observing the video cast, we advise that 17 recording or rebroadcasting of hearing audio or video 18 is strictly prohibited, and the same applies to anyone 19 here in the room. 20

As well, we would advise for anyone in the room that there is the possibility because you are video casting that may show up on the video, so if you have concerns please speak to hearing staff.

25 Mr. Lung, please tell us the safety procedures as26 well as the particulars of this proceeding and the

publication of the notice of hearing. 1 2 A. LUNG: Thank you, Commissioner 3 Chiasson. In case there is a building alarm, listen for directions and ask -- to evacuate turn left as you 4 evacuate Govier Hall and proceed down the stairs. 5 The 6 muster point is in the lobby of the Eau Claire Tower, 7 which is across the street to the west of us. In the event of a medical emergency, call 9-1-1 8 9 and then alert an AER employee, who will notify 10 building security. The first aid kits, defibrillator, and first aid extinguisher can be found by the sink in 11 12 the foyer area that you came in. 13 The fire phone on this floor is located right 14 outside of the elevator lobby. Ms. Harbidge, in the back row, is trained in first aid. 15 An AER employee will be present to assist anyone 16 17 who requires support to evacuate should there be an emergency. For other emergencies, please alert any AER 18 staff. Please note that Govier Hall is the only AER 19 room on this floor, all other conference rooms are 20 21 private, and if not booked for your use, please don't 22 use it. 23 The subject of today's proceeding is Application 1936092. On March 11, 2022, the AER 24

26 Resources Limited under Section 13(1) of the Oil Sands

received Application 1936092 from Canadian Natural

25

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Conservation Act and Directive 23, oil sands project
 applications to amend Commercial Scheme Approval
 Number 11475.

The amendment is for Pads KN08 and KN09 within -or with the addition of two SAGD drainage boxes. The statement of concern from ISH Energy Limited was received on April 8th, 2022.

8 The AER determined that the application should be 9 set down for a hearing on May 1st, 2023. The notice of 10 hearing and notice of scheduling of hearing are 11 Exhibits 2.01 and 51.001 respectfully and were 12 distributed directly to all parties.

13 The materials filed for the hearing have been 14 marked as exhibits. The parties were sent a copy of 15 the most recent exhibit list on February 1st, 2024. 16 That's all, Chiasson Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you, Mr. Lung.

We will now register the hearing participants. Please speak clearly and not too quickly into the microphone so the court reporters can hear you and for the video webcast. State your name for the record, spell your surname for the court reporter, and confirm the party you are representing.

And this piece here is applicable for the whole hearing. Technical limitations only allow five microphones to be live at any one time, and you'll see

we've got a multiplicity of them here. So please mute 1 2 your microphone when you are finished speaking. 3 Who is representing the applicant, Canadian 4 Natural Resources Limited? Good morning, Commissioner 5 J. JAMIESON: 6 Chiasson. My name is JoAnn Jamieson. Jamieson is 7 spelt J-A-M-I-E-S-O-N, and I am here representing Canadian Natural Resources Limited as the applicant in 8 9 this application. 10 I do want to clarify, if I could, that seated here 11 at the table with me are two corporate representatives. 12 I can introduce those just for the record. So there's no co-counsel, but Maude Ramsay, spelled R-A-M-S-A-Y, 13 14 is regulatory manager for Canadian Natural Resources 15 Limited. And seated beside Ms. Ramsay is Mr. Gerard Iannattone -- Iannattone, and he is vice president of 16 Athabasca Oil Sands for Canadian Natural. 17 Iannattone is spelled I-A-N-N-A-T-T-O-N-E. Yes, correct. 18 Ι believe those are all our comments. 19 Thank you. 20 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you, Ms. Jamieson. Who 21 is representing ISH Energy Ltd. 22 M. RILEY: Good morning. My name is Marlé Riley, R-I-L-E-Y, and with me I have Andrew 23 24 McLeod, McLeod, M-C-L-E-O-D, and we are counsel for ISH 25 Energy. Thank you. COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 26 Thank you.

1 So, Ms. Jamieson and Ms. Riley, I'm going to 2 mention right now, if you're able to either adjust the 3 mics to come a little closer to you or speak a little 4 louder, 'cause I can say right now I was not hearing 5 you as clearly as -- as I might have hoped. So thank 6 you.

7 So I will now explain the procedures for this The Panel expects all hearing participants 8 hearing. 9 and observers to be respectful and civil throughout 10 this proceeding. According to Section 21 of the 11 Alberta Energy Regulator Rules of Practice, all 12 witnesses must give evidence under oath or affirmation. 13 The court reporters will provide for this when 14 witnesses come forward to give evidence. All witnesses who are sworn or affirmed are not allowed to discuss 15 evidence amongst themselves or with counsel or others 16 17 during breaks until such time they are released by the Panel. 18

19 Please note that we will not be qualifying expert 20 witnesses in this hearing. Having said that, it will 21 be open to each party to argue what weight we should 22 give a witness's evidence based on that witness's 23 qualifications or other relevant factors.

During this hearing exhibits will be referred to and displayed on the screens in this room. To assist all participants, we ask counsel and witnesses to

identify each document they refer to by its exhibit 1 2 number, then the relevant PDF page number within the 3 document, and the paragraph or line number, if 4 applicable. Please pause after giving an exhibit number to 5 6 give our staff time to find the relevant exhibit and 7 then confirm that the exhibit that you requested is being displayed. It is not our staff's responsibility 8 9 to guess about the exhibit if your reference is 10 incorrect. 11 We will be following the order of presentation set out in the AER Rules of Practice. First, I will ask 12 13 Canadian Natural to come forward and present its direct 14 evidence. Canadian Natural has been allocated through mid-afternoon today to present its direct evidence; 15 following which, ISH will begin cross-examination of 16 Canadian Natural's witnesses. We plan to wrap up Day 1 17 of the hearing at 4:35 PM. 18 On Wednesday, ISH will complete its 19 cross-examination followed by any questions for 20 Canadian Natural's witnesses by AER staff and the 21 22 Panel. After this, Canadian Natural may redirect. This is scheduled to take us to mid-afternoon on 23 Wednesday. After a break, ISH will begin its direct 24 25 evidence, and we plan to wrap up Day 2 of the hearing 26 On Thursday, ISH will complete its around 5:05 PM.

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direct evidence followed by the start of Canadian
 Natural's cross-examination. We plan to conclude Day 3
 of the hearing at 4:50 PM.

4 On Friday morning, Canadian Natural will complete its cross-examination of ISH's witnesses and AER staff 5 6 and the Panel may also question ISH. Following that, 7 ISH may redirect and Canadian Natural may present rebuttal evidence. There will then be ISH's 8 cross-examination of Canadian Natural on rebuttal if 9 10 needed and questions by AER staff and the Panel for 11 Canadian Natural on rebuttal, if needed.

12 After a break we will hear closing argument first 13 from Canadian Natural and then from ISH. Our plan is 14 to conclude the hearing around 5 PM on Friday.

After the hearing has concluded, we expect toissue the hearing decision within 90 days.

Please note that the Panel Members may be taking notes throughout the hearing. Even though we may not be making direct eye contact with you at all times, please understand that we are listening to what you are saying.

We request that the parties remain in the hearing room throughout the proceedings to maintain procedural fairness and in consideration of those giving their presentations. Should any of the parties require a break during the proceedings, please let me or hearing services staff know. We have breaks planned for each
 morning and afternoon as well as a hour lunch break
 every day.

We ask that everyone present in the room ensure that your electronic devices, including telephones and computers, are set to "silent" mode through the hearing. If you must take or make a call and cannot do so at a break, please step out of Govier Hall to do so, and by "out of Govier Hall", I mean out into the hallway outside of the foyer because the sound carries.

11 As I mentioned before, recording or transmission 12 of this hearing, other than the official transcript and 13 AER videocast, are not permitted.

In our review of the exhibits filed in this proceeding, the Panel notes that there appears to have been a narrowing and focusing of the parties' position on some hearing issues. The parties can assist us by identifying matters that are not in dispute between them. In those circumstances, we strongly encourage the parties to focus their direct evidence,

21 cross-examination, and argument on those matters that 22 are still in contention.

23 So I understand that we have two preliminary 24 matters to deal with. The Panel we have before us --25 there's the question of materials that CNRL sought to 26 file yesterday morning, and the Panel plans to deal

with that first, and then we have a motion that was to 1 2 adjourn that was filed by ISH this morning and 3 depending on the -- and the Panel will look to address that after it has dealt with the first piece on the 4 material sought to be filed by CNRL. 5 6 So, Ms. Jamieson, if you would like to proceed and tell the Panel a bit about this material that CNRL has 7 sought to -- to file. 8 9 Is this better audio if I move J. JAMIESON: 10 it forward? COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 11 Thank you. Yes. 12 Submissions by J. Jamieson 13 J. JAMIESON: Thank you, Commissioner Yes. 14 Chiasson. So I'll just provide a little bit of context. 15 The material that's in question right now is Canadian 16 Natural's direct evidence presentation, and what we did 17 18 was we put together an opening statement, and there's extensive technical evidence that's been filed in this 19 20 proceeding, so the idea was to put forward a PowerPoint presentation that Canadian Natural witnesses could, you 21 22 know, move through and provide both their opening comments as well a review of the technical evidence, 23 and that was the idea. 24 25 We -- of course, the Panel would be aware that 26 Canadian Natural's KN06 application went through a

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similar full hearing process -- that one was online 1 2 during COVID -- but we filed a very similar direct 3 evidence PowerPoint presentation. There was no issue 4 We filed it, gave it. There was no issue, and there. so we were attempting to do a very similar thing here. 5 6 With respect to timing, there was a couple of 7 We did reach out to Mr. Lung to request a -things. just a sense of timing when the direct evidence 8 presentation would need to be filed. We were advised 9 10 at least 24 hours prior to, and that's what we 11 attempted to do. So it was, of course, the weekend. 12 We filed first thing Monday morning.

13 The -- in terms of the content of the material, we 14 heard from Ms. Peddlesden late yesterday, just some concerns about the content of the direct evidence 15 presentation, and she pointed out a couple, sort of, 16 17 rules that we needed to be aware of. One was in terms of when we were presenting material in the slide deck 18 to make sure that we had sourced the exhibit number, 19 20 and we had done that by far for the majority of the information; however, there were a couple of places 21 22 where we had combined sort of maps and figures on one 23 slide, and so we had to go back and review and make sure we had identified, you know, both exhibits where 24 25 that information -- there's no new evidence being 26 filed, no new data, no new interpretations. It was

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just trying to present this very complicated technical evidence in a way that could be consumed in a three-hour block, you know, by the Panel.

4 And the other thing that we had done -- again, we hadn't -- we had reached out, again, to Mr. Lung, but 5 6 we hadn't yet received confirmation about whether or 7 not there would be a laser pointer. If we had -- vou know, because we didn't know whether there would be a 8 9 laser pointer, we had included some, you know, colour 10 and shading. Also there's some, you know, arrows on 11 some of the slides and also, you know, just visual cues 12 to sort of help the reader follow the talking points of 13 the witnesses. So that's what we had done. We thought 14 we were onside the rules by doing that, but given Ms. Peddlesden's correspondence, we did quickly -- the 15 team has spent the last six to eight hours going back 16 17 through making sure that there are exhibit numbers for each of the figures and maps, anything that we sort of 18 combined on one slide to make sure that it could be 19 tracked and -- back to the record. 20

We did remove anything that was sort of unique or outside, like, that we had -- like, visual markers that we had superimposed, with a few exceptions. There was some, you know, very light shading on a couple of images. We made that darker, that kind of thing. We also bolded.

So we have confirmation now that there is a mouse 1 2 available that the witnesses can point to things on the 3 slide. So we removed as much of that as we thought 4 was, you know, practical. We have filed a revised presentation this morning. We're prepared to proceed, 5 6 if that's acceptable to the Panel. We're also 7 prepared -- the witnesses tell me that they're -- if they can't have their visual, their direct evidence, 8 that they'll proceed by just, you know, reviewing and 9 10 going through their talking points which they prepared, 11 so if it really is a -- is a problem. The question of new evidence -- I'll just speak to 12 13 that, because we are aware of the rule in the -- AER's 14 Rules of Practice about not filing new documentary 15 evidence. There was no attempt to do that. It really was just to try to communicate very complicated 16 17 technical evidence that's already been filed. We have reviewed it. We don't believe there's anything new 18 there that can't be sourced from the record. And so 19 20 the material is with the hearing coordinator, I 21 believe, at this point. But that's really our request, 22 if we could please proceed with this revised 23 presentation. So my understanding is that 24 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 25 this is not a simple few-pages opening statement, that we have a slide deck that CNRL's present -- planning --26

1 suggesting to present about 154 slides.

2 J. JAMIESON: Yes.

3 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Which is a fairly substantial 4 matter, and if there's no new evidence, can you explain to the Panel why this could not have been provided on 5 6 January -- January 23rd when CNRL -- CNRL's deadline 7 was for filing -- filing its reply submission? J. JAMIESON: Well, I think that just simply 8 9 can be explained by time constraints. I mean, we were 10 very focused on getting the reply submission in, which 11 in itself was an extensive document. That was two 12 weeks ago, and so then the -- the -- our witness panel 13 went right into preparing their direct evidence.

14 I -- you know, my counsel to them -- because, in my experience, coming into a hearing with your direct 15 evidence or your opening statement is standard, and 16 17 like I say, for the KN06 proceeding, we did that in the form of the PowerPoint and because there's so much 18 technical evidence, but it has literally taken two 19 20 weeks to prepare that PowerPoint as well as the 21 speaking points because, of course, it's a review of 22 literally hundreds of pages of technical evidence. 23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: And that's not something that 24 could have been a heads-up given to both ISH and the 25 Panel.

26 J. JAMIESON: Yeah. I appreciate your

point, and, believe me, in hindsight that's exactly 1 what we were -- what we would have done. 2 We did not 3 believe we were presenting anything new or novel. It's 4 just a summary of Canadian Natural's technical The actual opening comments, I think, are 5 evidence. 6 less than ten slides, and then it goes into the five 7 hearing issues as well as Dr. Boone's independent assessment, and, you know, that's -- I have no other 8 9 explanation. That's the time it took to put that 10 together. 11 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you, 12 Ms. Jamieson. 13 We would like to hear from Ms. Riley now. And, 14 Ms. Riley, what we would like to hear from is not in 15 relation to your motion. At this point we would like to hear in relation to what CNRL is seeking to put on 16 17 the record. Submissions by M. Riley 18 19 M. RILEY: Certainly. Thank you. 20 The problem that we have, in the first place, is I 21 understand that this morning at 20 to 8, this new 22 updated slide deck was -- was sent by email. I was not 23 favoured with that email. I learned about that when I met with my -- with my client. Apparently it was sent 24 25 to co-counsel, but I did not receive it, and I was not with him this morning. 26

1 So as we stand here, I have not even seen this new 2 slide deck. The purpose of the 24 hours is to allow us 3 to verify what is on that slide deck to go to the 4 record, to compare what is there, to see if we have any 5 concerns, anything that we need to tell the -- the 6 Panel. We do not have that opportunity.

7 What is proposed now is that the slide deck be 8 filed, and while we're listening to the evidence, we 9 have to go to the record, see what is there, see if 10 there is anything we want to cross-examine on, and that 11 is wholly unfair and not within the rules.

12 There's been quite a bit of mention about what 13 happened in the KN06 hearing. In KN06 it was a virtual 14 hearing. The directors made provision for the filing 15 of an opening statement. This directive in this 16 hearing does not provide for that.

Ms. Jamieson also mentioned that it took two weeks 17 If they -- CNRL had two weeks to prepare 18 to prepare. the slide deck, surely ISH should be allowed a little 19 bit more than an hour to have a look as well. 20 We 21 object to the filing of this document, and we submit 22 that it should not be allowed at this late -- this 23 time. Thank you, Ms. Riley. 24 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON:

Thank you. We're going to take a short break, and the Panel is going to step out to discuss.

1 (ADJOURNMENT)

2 Decision

3 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you all for your 4 Actually, before we get going, just a patience. reminder from the panelists again -- and I would point 5 6 out to counsel you can pick up the mic and move it 7 So adjust it on the dais. around. We need you to have it close to you so that it's -- so that it's coming 8 9 So we'll do that. through.

10 Thank you, everyone, for your patience. The Panel 11 has discussed, and we have determined -- we heard 12 reference to two documents, one that CNRL filed yesterday and a revised one that they produced this 13 Neither of -- we have decided that neither of 14 morning. those documents will be allowed, and we've taken into 15 consideration in making that determination the fairness 16 to ISH in relation to how it would affect them in terms 17 of managing -- managing in this proceeding and the lack 18 of preparation time. CNRL has indicated to us that 19 20 they are prepared to proceed without the document. And the Panel would like to note that we 21 22 appreciate that there was reference made by both 23 parties to the 397 proceeding and that such matter was allowed in the 397 proceeding. We would point out, 24 25 one, the 397 proceeding was a fully electronic

26 hearing -- the first electronic hearing that the AER

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had held because of COVID -- this is not -- and also 1 2 that the 397 proceeding is not binding on this Panel or 3 on this proceeding, and, in that vein, we would remind 4 the parties that nothing that was on the record in 397 is automatically part of this proceedings, materials, 5 6 or record. So if either party is looking to 7 incorporate and make reference to -- or want us to consider any materials that were live in 397, those are 8 9 not on our -- those -- unless they've been filed by 10 parties, they're not on our record, and you can govern 11 yourselves accordingly in relation to that. So, in that vein, we will mention that we are open 12 13 to allowing CNRL to adjust before seating their witness 14 panel. What we want to do is move on to -- we also have before us a motion from ISH this morning to 15 adjourn. So what we want to do is move on to that. 16 17 So, Ms. Riley. Submissions by M. Riley 18 19 M. RILEY: Thank you. 20 The motion by ISH engages the AER jurisdiction to 21 make orders in respect of its own procedure to instruct 22 parties to file further material and to adjourn matters 23 on any terms that the Panel may deem fit. I want to be 24 clear that before we received this presentation from 25 CNRL that has now not been allowed to be filed we had no intention of seeking an adjournment. 26 ISH had

1 prepared its submissions based on the record.

A great deal of the concerns that ISH has, and as a part of the basis of the application for adjournment, was the prejudice that stemmed from this presentation, which arguably now may be cured because the presentation is not allowed on the record; however, that does not resolve the problem.

8 What we saw in that presentation is that there is 9 further information available specifically on the 10 modelling that is not before the AER. It also appeared 11 to ISH from that presentation that CNRL has changed its 12 interpretation that is extremely relevant to the Panel 13 and to the hearing issues.

14 The AER cannot be expected to make a decision in the vacuum of all relevant information. 15 Specifically, ISH's problem is this: 16 When we approach the 17 geomechanical evidence, it was on the basis that there 18 is nothing before the AER regarding deformation. Then we received the response to the AER's information 19 20 request and the modelling again, and we had another 21 look. Nothing in the information requests filed or 22 responses filed dealt with the deformation issue. It 23 is a standard model you used for caprock integrity, but 24 it did not answer the actual issue before this Panel, 25 and that relates to the underlying strata and what 26 would happen to those strata while SAGD operations are

1 underway.

2 In Slide 116, we saw new information regarding the 3 modelling, relevant information, and information that 4 would -- would change ISH's experts' views and would also result in further questions being asked by ISH's 5 6 experts. To this end, that is why ISH does not just 7 want an adjournment. ISH is also applying for further procedural direction. ISH is requesting that the 8 9 technical experts meet so that we can determine exactly 10 where the -- this alignment between ISH and CNRL is so 11 that we can have a focused hearing on just the issues that are still in dispute. 12 13 It's clear from the presentation that there is 14 more to be seen yet and more to be said. And in the public interest, all of the relevant information should 15 be before the Panel before the Panel makes a decision. 16

Another issue that appeared from this presentation that was not allowed is the issue of CNRL's ever-changing ask. For instance -- and you see that from our model -- or from our motion -- CNRL indicated that they seek a maximum operating pressure of five thousand five -- no -- sorry -- not MOP, a standard operating pressure of 5,500.

But if you look at ninety -- Slide 96, their work is still being done at 6,000 kPa. So it's not clear to ISH what exactly CNRL wants, and that makes it very

1 difficult to prepare for a hearing and to know what 2 case to meet.

3 CNRL will complain about prejudice if this hearing 4 is adjourned. We have two responses to that. Any prejudice that CNRL suffers will be financial -- and 5 they have indicated that financial harm is not 6 7 something the AER should care about -- and they are the author of their own misfortune. They have decided to 8 file further -- well, attempted to file further 9 10 evidence on the eve of this hearing. Had we not known 11 about this further information, well, we don't know 12 what we don't know, but now that we know about it, this 13 allowing CNRL to file it does not make that information 14 go away, and that is why ISH is seeking the adjournment, the directives for a technical meeting 15 further evidence, and then ancillary relief. 16

17 Those are my submissions. I don't know if there's18 any questions.

19 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes, there are.

20 So my understanding is, from what Ms. Jamieson 21 told us earlier, that what we disallowed had no new 22 evidence, so what we're looking to proceed on today is 23 all the material that's been on the record. You made 24 reference to geomechanical modelling, the rest of it. 25 We've had an extensive procedure in this proceeding, 26 including extensive information requests, the last of

1	which were filed, I believe, three weeks ago. Why		
2	weren't we hearing concerns about this three weeks ago,		
3	Ms. Marlé Ms. Riley?		
4	M. RILEY: We indicated that in our		
5	motion. We had a look at it. We saw that well,		
б	there's still no information about deformation. So		
7	from that, we take it that CNRL is not concerned about		
8	deformation, which is ISH's concern. We prepared for		
9	this hearing on the basis that that work was simply not		
10	done. It's not ISH's application; it's CNRL's, so CNRL		
11	has to convince this Panel that there is no concerns.		
12	Now we know that there is a whole host of		
13	information that we've simply not been privy to.		
14	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Which my understanding is not		
15	on our record.		
16	M. RILEY: Indeed.		
17	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So are you suggesting, then,		
18	that we need to adjourn this proceeding and reopen?		
19	M. RILEY: Indeed that is that is the		
20	request. That is why we		
21	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: And		
22	M. RILEY: ask that the and I will		
23	file the further information that there be a technical		
24	meeting of the experts and that there be further		
25	evidence filed.		
26	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: I have to say I'm struggling a		

1	little bit with the concept of why this is something		
2	that is a concern that's only coming to us the morning		
3	of the hearing when we've had extensive exchanges		
4	between the parties.		
5	M. RILEY: Well, the process did not		
6	allow for ISH to make any further submissions or ask		
7	any further questions of CNRL after the filing of their		
8	information responses, and, as I said, we had a look at		
9	what they filed, decided, Well, if we were to do		
10	anything more, it will result in an adjournment, and		
11	given that this work that we now see wasn't done, we		
12	would proceed on that basis.		
13	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: And sorry. But when		
14	would when would enough be enough?		
15	M. RILEY: Once all of the information		
16	underlying CNRL's geomechanical modelling is on the		
17	record and before the Panel.		
18	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So you've mentioned about		
19	deformation. Isn't that what's covered in the video		
20	evidence that was filed by ISH?		
21	M. RILEY: It is ISH ISH's		
22	interpretation, yes.		
23	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Just a moment. Okay.		
24	Thank you.		
25	We will hear from Ms. Jamieson now.		
26	Submissions by J. Jamieson		

1J. JAMIESON:Thank you, Commissioner2Chiasson.

I want to confirm for the record that no new evidence is being presented in either of the PowerPoint presentations that are not on the record. We've -we've made a request to file it on the record, and that has not occurred.

In terms of new information, again, I would 8 reiterate that what Canadian Natural was attempting to 9 10 do with that direct evidence was present an extensive 11 record in an efficient and a visually digestible way, 12 and that's what -- so I think Ms. Riley used the term 13 "they haven't seen this work before" or "this work has 14 not been seen". That simply is not the case. All of 15 this data, evaluation, assessment, you know, is all sitting on the record, either in Canadian Natural's 16 17 hearing submission or in its responses to the AER, 18 including the geomechanical modelling as well as Canadian Natural's reply submission, which is where 19 things like deformation, Canadian -- the deformation. 20 Those were issues that ISH had raised and Canadian 21 22 Natural was addressing in its reply submission. But I 23 don't believe there's anything new. I'm going to 24 confer with our geomechanical experts, if I can, just 25 to confirm, because she did point out one or two 26 slides, and I'll just make sure there was nothing new

there, that it all came from either the modelling or 1 2 the IR responses. If you will give me a moment. 3 Ms. Chiasson, I'm learning as we go myself, but in respect to Slide 116 that Ms. Riley referenced, this is 4 all information that is sitting in the GeoSim modelling 5 6 report, you know, the figures and the numbers, all pull 7 from that, and then what I understand is on one bullet, they articulated the maximum confinement strata uplift, 8 9 which is actually part of the GeoSim model. So it's 10 baked into the model, if you will. But, again, this is all filed on the record, and I 11 12 would -- you know, my -- the Canadian Natural witnesses 13 can speak to that point if it's an issue. 14 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you, Ms. Jamieson. So we'll take a short break. One thing, though, 15 before we take the break that I want to make abundantly 16 17 clear to both parties is that, as you've indicated, we've not allowed these -- either of these materials, 18 these presentations, and I want the parties to 19 understand the Panel has not seen either of the 20 21 presentations. So when you're making references to the 22 particular slides of that, we have no idea what's on 23 We have not seen any of that material. there. Okay. 24 We're going to take another short break. 25 (ADJOURNMENT) 26 Decision

31

1 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you, all. So we've considered what we've heard from both 2 3 parties, and on this we have decided that we will not 4 grant the adjournment motion brought by ISH. We heard that there is no new evidence being provided in this, 5 6 so we are dealing with what has been on the record 7 for -- some of it for some time, several months; some of it for a few weeks, but what has been on the record. 8 9 We know -- we heard reference to making the case. 10 The last proceeding, 397, was a regulatory appeal, 11 which is different than this proceeding, which is an 12 application. In a hearing on an application, the parties can present what evidence they choose to 13 14 convince us with respect to meeting application 15 requirements and any necessary conditions that might need to be attached should we choose to approve the 16 17 application. That -- parties have had ample opportunity in this to test the evidence, file motions, 18 raise concerns, et cetera, and we would note that we 19 20 have adjusted the proceeding schedule previously to 21 adjust timelines at the request of each party. So we have accommodated in the past where it's done so, and 22 we feel that that's sufficient. 23 We would also remind the parties that we are well 24 25 aware of Rule 24(5), that argument in a hearing must be 26 based on the evidence before the proceeding and that we

feel that that would safequard against any potential 1 2 prejudice together with our other procedural rules. 3 So, as such, we deny the motion, and we would look 4 to proceed. Discussion 5 6 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Ms. Jamieson, can you advise 7 us whether or not CNRL would like some time to adjust before you seat your witness panel. 8 9 J. JAMIESON: Yes, Commissioner Chiasson. 10 We would appreciate 30 minutes, if we could. That'll take us to 11:00. We could be ready to go by then. 11 12 I want to point out that in terms of efficiency, 13 we might have a -- it might be clunkier, the 14 presentation, because they're going to rely on their They're going to try to reduce the number 15 scripts now. of exhibits that they need to be -- that need to be 16 17 pulled up on the screen, but we will still ask for some visuals up on the screen so that they can speak to 18 those maps or figures or whatever they need to, but we 19 20 will absolutely endeavour to present the direct evidence within the -- within the rules and the 21 22 confines of your rulings. 23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. And, Ms. Jamieson, just for clarity's sake, when 24 25 you refer to "scripts", your clients -- I'm assuming -will be referring to -- referring to that material that 26

we've disallowed just in terms of -- as, like, speaking 1 2 notes, aide-mémoire --3 J. JAMIESON: Speaking notes, exactly. 4 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes. Okay. 5 J. JAMIESON: So they had speaking notes 6 prepared with the slides, which -- and, again, the 7 slides were just a compilation of all the evidence 8 sitting on the record. So, yes, what they have, none 9 of this is intended to be filed, but they will have 10 their -- their materials -- their application materials 11 in front of them and their speaking points, and now 12 they will have -- because the exhibit numbers for their figures are sitting in their slides, so they may need 13 14 to refer to those to get it up, you know, Exhibit 15.01, 15 Tab 42, and then it can go up on the screen, but there's no intention to, you know, do anything outside 16 17 of that. COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 18 Okay. Thank you, 19 Ms. Jamieson. 20 Ms. Riley, any concern in relation to speaking 21 notes? 22 M. RILEY: None. 23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. 24 M. RILEY: Assuming that ISH has the same 25 privilege. 26 That's -- that's -- that's COMMISSIONER CHIASSON:

totally fine. We fully expected something complex like this that witnesses would be making use of -- making use of notes, and we would recognize as well that it's fully open to counsel to question witnesses in relation to what they're referring to, so ...

All right. We will break now. We will look to reconvene at 11:00, and, during this break, the Panel will take a look at the schedule to look at where we can adjust accordingly to give people a better idea of timing going forward. So thank you, all. We will be back at 11:00.

12 (ADJOURNMENT)

13 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So, Mr. Lung, Ms. Jamieson, 14 we're good to go? Thank you. Okay. Let's proceed. I 15 will give the reminder again because we've got lots of 16 people with lots of mics that --

17 (AUDIO DIFFICULTIES)

COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: That's always an eery feeling. 18 Anyhow, just -- just -- just a reminder -- and I don't 19 20 mean to be nagging; I will remind this all the way 21 along -- we've got lots of people, lots of mics so just 22 to remember, only five mics can be live at any one 23 time, so it makes it a whole lot easier for everyone if 24 you mute your mic when you're done speaking. Thank 25 you.

26 Please proceed, Ms. Jamieson.

1 J. JAMIESON: Thank you, Commissioner 2 Chiasson. Again, my name is JoAnn Jamieson, and I am 3 here representing Canadian Natural in this proceeding. 4 With me still at the table is Maude Ramsay, manager of regulatory affairs for thermal and conventional 5 6 development at Canadian Natural. I'll take my cue, but 7 I'm thinking before I introduce the Panel this would be a good time to have them sworn in or informed. 8 9 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes. We'll get the court 10 reporters to deal with that. 11 Actually, while they're being sworn or affirmed, I 12 will mention that the plan is to go till noon, which was our regular scheduled lunch break; we'll take the 13 14 lunch break; and then we anticipate, given the time that we have allotted for CNRL, we would anticipate 15 going to 3:00 to be able to -- and ideally that gets us 16 to the end of your direct at 3, and we take a break 17 So it pushes the break back a touch, but --18 then. Understood. And we did 19 J. JAMIESON: Sure. 20 have -- we do have, like, one hour --21 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes. 22 J. JAMIESON: -- of material --23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yeah. -- until the break. 24 J. JAMIESON: And so I will know if Mr. Lavigne's within, you know --25 26 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes.

-- five minutes of finishing. 1 J. JAMIESON: 2 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yeah. 3 J. JAMIESON: Maybe we can do that. 4 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yes. Please let me -- let me know if that's the --5 6 J. JAMIESON: Okay. 7 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Yeah. -- case. 8 J. JAMIESON: And just on scheduling, just 9 the other point I want to make at this point, we're 10 already pretty confident that we don't need the full 11 hour -- full three hours requested for our 12 cross-examination of ISH. So that is a spot we could cut back. 13 14 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you. Yes. 15 J. JAMIESON: Okay. COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: We'll -- we'll -- we'll -- our 16 17 plan is essentially to assess as we go along and see how things --18 19 J. JAMIESON: Okay. 20 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: -- see how things flow. 21 J. JAMIESON: Understood. 22 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. 23 If I could have the J. JAMIESON: Yes. 24 court reporter swear our witnesses in, that would be 25 appreciated. 26 DEVIN OLLENBERGER, THOMAS BOONE, LENNON ROCHE,

MARC SCRIMSHAW, Affirmed 1 2 GERARD IANNATTONE, JASON LAVIGNE, SCOTT SVERDAHL, 3 DALE WALTERS, XIANG WANG, PETER THOMSEN, SCOTT BARLAND, 4 Sworn Direct Evidence of Canadian Natural Resources Limited 5 6 Witness Panel 7 J. JAMIESON: Thank you, Court Reporter. 8 So I'd like to commence by introducing the 9 Canadian Natural witness panel. I'm going to do this 10 in a fairly quick, abbreviated order just in the 11 interest of time. So as I introduce each of you, if 12 you could identify yourselves to the Panel and the 13 other folks in the room, as well as I'm going to ask 14 you to confirm that your curriculum vitae information is as filed on the record. All right? 15 16 J. JAMIESON: So, Mr. Iannattone, I'm going Ο 17 to start with you. Mr. Iannattone is seated in the middle. He is vice president for the Athabasca oil 18 sands region and the chair of the Canadian Natural's 19 20 witness panel, is Canadian Natural's senior 21 representative on the witness panel and has authority 22 to make decisions with respect to the KN08 and KN09 23 application? Mr. Iannattone has a bachelor of science in 24 25 mechanical engineering and is a professional engineer 26 by trade. He has over 40 years experience in the oil

and gas industry which includes a broad and diverse 1 2 experience within the Western Canadian Basin as well as 3 internationally. Is my pace okay? A little fast. 4 Okay. I'll slow 5 it down. You bet. 6 Mr. Iannattone, can you please confirm for the 7 record that your curriculum vitae as filed on the record in Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 8 9 professional qualifications and experience and was 10 prepared under your direction and control? 11 G. IANNATTONE: Yes, I do. Α 12 J. JAMIESON: Turning now to Mr. Iannattone's right is Mr. Scott Sverdahl. 13 14 Mr. Sverdahl has a bachelor of science in geophysics 15 and is a professional geophysicist with APEGA here in Alberta, is the exploration manager for the Kirby 16 Athabasca thermal asset. 17 Mr. Sverdahl, can you please J. JAMIESON: 18 0 confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the 19 20 record as Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 21 professional qualifications and experience and was 22 prepared under your direction and control? 23 S. SVERDAHL: Α Yes. 24 J. JAMIESON: Seated to Mr. Sverdahl's right 25 is Mr. Jason Lavigne. Mr. Lavigne has a master's of 26 science in geology and is a professional geologist by

Mr. Lavigne was a Canadian Natural employee for 1 trade. 2 11 years as a district geologist on the thermal 3 exploration team, is now working as a senior consultant in the development of the Kirby north project. 4 5 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Lavigne, can you confirm 0 6 that your curriculum vitae as filed on the record in 7 Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your professional qualifications and experience and was prepared under 8 vour direction and control? 9 10 Α J. LAVIGNE: Yes, I can. 11 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Devin Ollenberger is 12 seated to Mr. Iannottone's left. Mr. Ollenberger is a chemical engineer with over 16 years of experience in 13 14 SAGD reservoir and exploitation engineering. 15 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Ollenberger, can you 0 please confirm for the record that your curriculum 16 vitae as filed on the record as Exhibit 40.01 17 accurately sets out your professional qualifications 18 19 and experience and was prepared under your direction and control? 20 21 Yes, that is correct. Α D. OLLENBERGER: J. JAMIESON: 22 Mr. Thomsen is to 23 Mr. Ollenberger's left. Mr. Peter Thomsen has a 24 bachelor of science in petroleum engineering and is a 25 professional engineer by trade. He has experience and 26 expertise in thermal recovery processes, exploitation,

and reservoir engineering, geomechanics of the oil 1 2 sands formation and caprock integrity. 3 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Thomsen, can you please 0 4 confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the record as Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 5 6 professional qualifications and experience and was 7 prepared under your direction and control? Yes, that is correct. 8 Α P. THOMSEN: 9 Seated to Mr. Thomsen's left J. JAMIESON: 10 is Dr. Thomas Boone. Dr. Boone has a bachelor of 11 science in civil engineering, a master's of science in 12 structural engineering from the University of Texas, 13 and a PhD in structural engineering from Cornell 14 University. He has over 39 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, including extensive experience in 15 geomechanics, hydraulic fracturing, reservoir 16 17 engineering, numerical simulation modelling, heavy oil recovery processes, thermal recovery processes, pilot 18 design and operation, reservoir surveillance, and 19 formal risk assessment. 20 21 J. JAMIESON: Dr. Boone, can you please 0 22 confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the 23 record as Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 24 professional qualifications and experience and was 25 prepared under your direction and control? 26 T. BOONE: Yes, I can confirm. Α

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1	Q	Can you please describe what you were retained to do
2		for Canadian Natural in this proceeding?
3	A	I was retained by the independent assessment of
4		Issues 1 to 4 for this hearing.
5	Q	And can you please confirm that your independent
6		your initial independent report was filed as part of
7		Canadian Natural's Hearing Submission 15.01 as
8		Appendix 2, and you also filed a supplemental report as
9		Exhibit 50.002 in this proceeding?
10	A	Yes, that's correct.
11	Q	And does your written report identify and include the
12		data or information upon which it was based, including
13		any factual assumptions made, research conducted, and
14		any other data or documents relied upon?
15	A	Yes, it does.
16	Q	Do you have any corrections or revisions to your
17		written evidence?
18	A	No, I don't.
19	Q	And please also confirm that you're providing an
20		independent professional opinion evidence in this
21		proceeding and that you understand your duty here is to
22		provide evidence to the Regulator that is fair,
23		objective, and impartial?
24	A	Yes. I understand that obligation.
25		J. JAMIESON: Turning to the back row, and
26		I'll start with Mr. Lennon Roche. He's in the far

corner.

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2 Mr. Lennon Roche is a chemical engineer. He has 3 17 years experience in production engineer and 4 optimization with a focus on thermal production for the 5 past six years.

6 Q J. JAMIESON: Mr. Roche, can you please 7 confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the 8 record as Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 9 professional qualifications and experience and was 10 prepared under your direction and control?

11 A L. ROCHE: Yes, I confirm.

12 J. JAMIESON: Seated next to Mr. Roche's 13 right is Mr. Dale Walters. Mr. Walters has a 'B' --14 bachelor of science in civil engineering as well as a master's of science in geotechnical engineering. 15 He has over 25 years of engineering experience 16 17 participating in large reservoir and geomechanical engineering studies throughout the world within a 18 multidisciplinary team environment. 19

He is currently working with Canadian Natural as a reservoir geomechanic specialist with responsibilities for supporting all the geomechanical projects related to cyclic steam stimulation, SAGD, unconventional and carbon capture sequestration.

25QJ. JAMIESON:Mr. Walters, can you kindly26confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the

record as Exhibit 40.01 accurately sets out your 1 2 professional qualifications and experience and was 3 prepared under your direction and control? 4 D. WALTERS: Yes, I confirm. Α Seated beside Mr. Walters is 5 J. JAMIESON: 6 Mr. Marc Scrimshaw. Mr. Scrimshaw has two bachelors of 7 sciences, one in microbiology and one in civil environmental engineering. He has over 20 years 8 experience working in the area of regulatory 9 10 applications and environmental assessments and is now 11 the lead regulatory team member for thermal projects. 12 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Scrimshaw, can you please 0 13 confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the 14 record as Exhibit -- and I don't know. I'll have to check with Mr. Lung and provide you with a number 15 because I don't know the most recent exhibit numbers, 16 17 but I will provide you with that information -- sets out your professional qualifications and experience and 18 was prepared under your direction and control? 19 20 M. SCRIMSHAW: Yes, I confirm. Α 21 Thank you. 0 22 J. JAMIESON: Next we have Dr. Xiang Wang, 23 and Dr. Xiang -- sorry -- Dr. Wang has a master's of 24 science in structural geology and geochemistry. He 25 also has a master of science in structural geology and rock mechanics and a PhD in geology from the University 26

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of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. 1 He has more 2 than 20 years of experience in multiple sedimentary 3 basins with a variety of tectonic styles and has 4 experience in structural geology, rock mechanics, sedimentology, geochemistry, statistics, and 5 6 geomodelling and also extensive experience in 7 interpreting image logs for Canadian Natural's thermal 8 operations.

9 Q J. JAMIESON: Mr. Wang -- or Dr. Wang, can 10 you kindly confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed 11 on the record as Exhibit 48.001 accurately sets out 12 your professional qualifications and experience and was 13 prepared under your direction and control?

14 A X. WANG: Yes, I confirm.

And next we have Mr. Scott 15 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Barland has a bachelor of science -- two 16 Barland. 17 bachelors of science actually, one in geology and another one in agriculture. He has -- he's also a 18 professional geologist with the Association of 19 20 Professional Engineers and Geosciences of Alberta, 21 He has 13 years experience in the SAGD industry APEGA. 22 as a geologist. He pioneered work at Devon Canada using GCMS analysis to identify barriers and baffles in 23 24 the McMurray formation pay starting with the first 13 25 cores analyzed by Devon Canada in 2013. To date he has 26 analyzed or reviewed over 140 cored wells that have

This would be across Canadian 1 GCMS data across it. 2 Natural's thermal assets in Jackfish, Pike, Kirby, and 3 Primrose areas. J. JAMIESON: 4 Mr. Barland, can you please Ο confirm that your curriculum vitae as filed on the 5 6 record, again as Exhibit X, accurately sets out your 7 professional qualifications and experience and was prepared under your direction and control? 8 9 Α S. BARLAND: Yes, I can. 10 0 Thank you. 11 Mr. Iannattone, a couple of last questions for 12 you. Can you please confirm that Canadian Natural's 13 written evidence, with the exception of Dr. Boone's 14 report, was prepared under your direction and control? 15 G. IANNATTONE: Yes, it was. Α And do you adopt that evidence on behalf of Canadian 16 0 17 Natural in this proceeding? Yes, I do. 18 Α Can you confirm that Canadian Natural's evidence is 19 0 20 accurate to the best of your knowledge and belief? I confirm. 21 Α 22 Do you have any corrections or revisions to make to the 0 Canadian Natural evidence? 23 24 No, I don't. Α 25 Thank you. 0 26 J. JAMIESON: All right. And with that,

Commissioner Chiasson, I will turn it over to Canadian 1 2 Natural's witness panel. We do have about 50 minutes 3 of material here, so we'll try to cut it to 12 noon as 4 best we can, and I will signal, you know, if we do need additional time, but there's a chance we'll get through 5 6 it. Thank you very much. 7 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. Okav. Please 8 proceed. 9 I think Mr. Lung perhaps had the exhibit number? 10 A. LUNG: That's right. For 11 Mr. Scrimshaw and Mr. Barland's curriculum vitae, it's Exhibit 58.001. 12 13 J. JAMIESON: Thank you. 14 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Great. Thank you. Please 15 proceed. My name is Gerard Iannattone. 16 G. IANNATTONE: Α 17 I am Canadian Natural's -- sorry. Got that off all of 18 a sudden. I'll start again. I am Canadian Natural's senior representative and 19 20 the chair of Canadian Natural's panel. I'm also here 21 to speak to policy issues. 22 Good morning, Commissioner Chiasson, Baker [sic], and Zaitlin. I would like to thank the Panel for the 23 24 opportunity to present our direct evidence. Canadian 25 Natural is Canada's largest and most diverse energy 26 I would like to take a moment here to read company.

our mission statement. It is to: (as read) 1 2 Develop people to work together to create 3 value for the company shareholders by doing it right with fun and integrity. 4 Canadian Natural staff live the mission statement in 5 6 all aspects of their work, including this hearing, by 7 creating value for the public interest via royalty and tax payments to the Alberta and federal governments, 8 9 doing it right by adhering to all governing laws and 10 regulations as a responsible operator, being honest and humble, demonstrating integrity. 11 Canadian Natural has over 24 years of thermal 12 13 development and operating experience. As part of this 14 vast base, we have safely started up and operated over 390 well pairs at our SAGD projects. 15 Highly experienced technical and operational staff have proven 16 Canadian Natural to be a safe SAGD operator with no 17 incidents of lost steam to other formations during 18 circulation startups or continuous SAGD operations. 19 Fundamental to our SAGD business is Canadian 20 Natural's ability to contain steam chambers. 21 22 The KN08, KN09 pads are part of the next 23 development phase for the Kirby north project, and 24 these pads are expected to recover between 30 and 25 35 million barrels. The project is an example of how 26 Canadian Natural creates value for all Albertans

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1 through positive contributions to the local, regional 2 economies during both construction and operations with 3 direct, indirect, and induced employment. The 4 successful execution of this project will also deliver 5 up to \$250 million in royalties.

6 On the flip side, value can be easily eroded by 7 spending unnecessary dollars as the Kirby north project is in a post-payout royalty position. Every dollar 8 spent reduces a net profit and the royalties payable by 9 10 30 to 40 cents. In effect, Albertans are funding 30 to 11 40 percent of the costs. It is Canadian Natural's 12 responsibility, as the operator, to be as efficient as 13 possible.

Mr. Lung, I would like to bring up an exhibit now.
I will give you the number. It is Exhibit 01.01, PDF
page 18 of 387. Thank you.

To provide some regional context, the following figure is a map of the Kirby north project development area and associated drainage boxes. The blue outline represents the Kirby north development area in the scheme approval, which is the red outline.

The grey boxes represent the KNO1 to KN07 drainage boxes, which are on continuous SAGD production. The KN08, KN09 proposed boxes are outlined in red. Canadian Natural respects ISH's concerns and takes them seriously. We have engaged with ISH since December of 2021 prior to filing of the application and have attempted to address their concerns at every opportunity since. Obviously we were unsuccessful and are here today to demonstrate that there is a low risk to the gas resource.

6 Canadian Natural has taken and will continue to 7 take all reasonable steps to mitigate and/or avoid any 8 impact to the gas resource. Canadian Natural also 9 understands that ISH is not seeking an order preventing 10 the KN08, KN09 development, but rather is asking the 11 Panel to impose certain conditions.

Draft Directive 23, Section 4.2 describes the requirements for stakeholder involvement program. The directive states that the ERCB expects applicants to respond in a meaningful way with any party that has raised a concern or has questions regarding oil sands projects and to make reasonable efforts to address concerns raised before filing the application.

19 Canadian Natural did provide ISH confidential data 20 addressing ISH's concerns directly in the application 21 as filed on March the 10th, 2022. ISH filed their 22 statement of concern on April the 8th, 2022, and three 23 rounds of extensive supplementary information requests 24 from the AER were answered.

In 2023, Canadian Natural initiated twoface-to-face meetings with ISH. Canadian Natural has

made a bona fide effort to address and resolve ISH's 1 2 concerns. 3 Mr. Lung, I'd like to bring up another exhibit. It is Exhibit 15.01, paragraph 29, PDF page 10 of 505. 4 5 Okay. 6 A. LUNG: Sorry, Mr. Iannattone. Can 7 you repeat that. 8 Α G. IANNATTONE: Can we try Tab 4 -- Tab 4, 9 PDF 107 of 505. Yeah. There it is. Thank you. 10 In the stratigraphic sense, there are two 11 commercial bitumen reservoirs located below the 12 Wabiskaw B, or more formerly known as the Kirby upper 13 Mannville II qas pool. The red vertical bars shown on 14 the graph here represent the gas trapped in the 15 Wabiskaw B and also the gas trapped at the top of the Wabiskaw D. 16 The Wabiskaw D bitumen reservoir and the McMurray 17 18 Post 2 incision bitumen reservoir are shown by the vertical green bars. The KN08, KN09 proposed 19 20 development is in the McMurray bitumen reservoir. From an aerial sense, it is important to note here 21 22 that the Kirby Upper Mannville II gas pool overlies 23 both the commercial McMurray and the Wabiskaw D bitumen 24 reservoirs. 25 Mr. Lung, I would like another slide. It is --26 let's see if I can get this one right. It's

Exhibit 50.003, Tab 3, PDF page 48 of 250. You just passed it. Yeah. Thank you. This is a complex slide, but I will walk through it as it is important to understand the gas situation in the Kirby north area.

There are a total of five GOBed Mannville gas 5 6 pools in the Kirby area. The GOBed gas pool names --7 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Sorry -- sorry to interrupt, but just -- and I should have said this earlier on. 8 Τf 9 you're going to use acronyms, just for the record, can 10 you explain what the acronym is first so that we're clear for the record and also for anybody who is 11 12 watching on the videocast. So, for example, "GOB". 13 G. IANNATTONE: GOB, gas over bitumen. Α Okav. 14 Thank you.

For a total of five gas over bitumen GOB Mannville gas pools in the Kirby areas. The GOB gas pool names and areas are shown in red.

The GOBed Kirby Upper Mannville II pool boundary, which is the subject gas pool in this hearing, is highlighted in -- oh -- in purple, yes, it is, yeah, and the Kirby north drainage boxes are outlined in black.

In addition to the GOBed gas pools, there are four Mannville gas pools that are allowed to produce. The producing names and the areas are shown in green, with the currently active gas wells highlighted in black

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1 circles.

2 In terms of the regulatory framework, the GOB 3 decisions gave priority and time to the bitumen The GOB decisions concluded there exist 4 development. potential impact on bitumen recovery from the 5 6 pressure-depleting effects of producing overlying gas. 7 The decisions ordered the shut-in of the Kirby Upper Mannville II gas pool to protect the Wabiskaw D and 8 9 McMurray bitumen reservoirs. Subsequently, Canadian 10 Natural and ISH have received substantial royalty 11 adjustment payments as compensations for direct impacts 12 caused by the shut-in order.

13 Bitumen resources can be directly inversely 14 affected by pressure depletion of connected gas. Ιf containment of the steam chamber is lost, the amount of 15 steam required will increase while the bitumen 16 17 production and recovery factor will decrease, making pad economics uncompetitive for capital allocation. 18 Ultimately, this could lead to the stranding of bitumen 19 20 resource.

21 Canadian Natural requires certainty that bitumen 22 pressure depletion will not occur before investing 23 hundreds of millions of dollars on pad developments. 24 Pressure in the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool are 25 already significantly pressure depleted as measured at 26 the 10-01 well. The current declining pressures are likely due to connectivity to other producing gas
 pools, and any further decrease in pressure is a threat
 to the efficient recovery of the Wabiskaw D bitumen.

As a joint owner of the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool, Canadian Natural shares a mutual interest in protecting the overlying gas as well as protecting the bitumen resource.

8 This protection relies on responsible operatorship 9 of both the bitumen resource developer as well as the 10 gas operator as required under the Oil Sands 11 Conservation Act, the GOB order, and the Oil and Gas 12 Conservation Act.

I wish to clarify here that this hearing is not 13 14 about the protection of this bitumen resource from pressure depletion, but rather the reverse situation 15 where ISH is concerned about the potential damage to 16 17 the remaining gas reserves in the Kirby Upper 18 Mannville II pool caused by SAGD operations in the McMurray Post-B2 reservoir. We are here today to 19 present that Canadian Natural's technical evidence 20 demonstrates that the risk to the Wabiskaw B gas 21 22 resource is low due to an effective containment barrier 23 and no evidence of fractures or faults, and Canadian Natural's evidence will also demonstrate that it's 24 25 proposed mitigation and monitoring measures are 26 reasonable in the circumstances given the nature of the

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potential effects, practisability [sic], effectiveness, and cost benefits.

Mr. Lung, one more for me, please. It is Exhibit 50.003, Tab 4, PDF page 49 of 250. Thank you.

This is Canadian Natural's workflow. 5 Throughout 6 the course of the hearing, the Panel will be required 7 to value or weigh a large amount of technical evidence. The slide highlights that the difference between 8 directly measured data and data which requires 9 10 interpretation and expertise to evaluate. In addition, 11 the diagram illustrates no dataset is used in isolation 12 but rather involves an integration of multiple diverse 13 datasets and disciplines.

14 The arching arrows in blue indicate the workflow 15 is iterative bringing various perspectives together to 16 promote alignment. The best results note that's the 17 overlying triangular area labelled "assessment" in the 18 middle of the diagram are always obtained when there is 19 a convergence of data interpretations and models that 20 support the same conclusion.

21 Commissioner Chiasson, this concludes my opening 22 statement. I would now wish to turn the presentation 23 over to Canadian Natural's technical panel to address 24 the hearing issues starting with Mr. Lavigne.

25AJ. LAVIGNE:Thank you, Mr. Iannattone. My26name is Jason Lavigne, and I'm a geologist -- I'm a

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geologist and will be addressing the first hearing 1 2 The first hearing issue is whether there's an issue. 3 effective barrier or top seal overlying the 4 bitumen-bearing McMurray formation consisting of a deposit or series -- or aggregation of strata that is 5 6 not permeable to steam over the life of the KN08 and 9 7 box -- drainage boxes, which includes but is not limited to whether or not there are fractures in the 8 9 strata between the McMurray formation and the 10 Wabiskaw B member.

In this section, we will discuss the presence and characteristics of the barrier, and we will discuss the presence or absence of fractures separately in a later section.

15 Canadian Natural uses the definitions of 16 "barriers" and "baffles" as follows: Barriers are not 17 permeable to steam over the life of operations, while 18 baffles interfere with and impedes the movement of 19 steam but doesn't stop it entirely.

20 While it is well understood that the regional 21 mudstone units may ultimately contain steam, barriers 22 and baffles that occur within the reservoir units also 23 significantly affect steam chamber development. 24 Extensive operational experience since the gas over 25 bitumen rulings show that steam is often effectively 26 contained in heterolithic strata below the regional mudstone. These aggregations of strata contain
 numerous barriers and baffles that work together to
 ensure containment of the steam chamber over the life
 of the operations.

In order to ensure efficient operations, the steam 5 chamber must be contained within the reservoir 6 7 Unanticipated barriers or baffles within the interval. reservoir zone -- and leak off into the overlying units 8 9 diminish the thermal efficiency of the SAGD process and 10 negatively affect oil recovery. The ratio of steam 11 injected to the volume of oil produced is a key metric 12 in evaluating the viability of potential SAGD pads, and 13 potential loss of steam from the reservoir unit is a 14 risk that is thoroughly assessed in advance of development. 15

16 To facilitate steam chamber containment, an 17 analysis of the overlying confinement strata is critical. Characteristics of effective confinement 18 strata include typically mudstone facies with greater 19 than 50 percent volume of shale or V shale and the 20 resulting low vertical permeability and units that are 21 22 stratigraphically correlatable and have significant lateral extents relative to the drainage boxes. 23 These 24 units must also be geomechanically competent over the 25 life of SAGD operations, which will be covered in 26 Hearing Issue 3.

Because of the large capital expenditure of SAGD 1 2 projects, Canadian Natural applies a multidisciplinary 3 approach to evaluation and de-risking potential 4 This section focuses on the geo -- the developments. geoscience component of that analysis. 5 Canadian 6 Natural uses wireline logs, cores, and image logs to 7 evaluate details of reservoirs and also the confinement strata. 3D seismic helps to define and identify the 8 9 continuity of both reservoir -- the reservoirs and 10 confinement strata units and constrain key depositional 11 Geochemical analysis of oil samples taken from edqes. 12 cores helps identify potential barriers and baffles 13 within the reservoir and the overlying confinement 14 strata units.

After steam injection has begun, temperature logs 15 in 4D seismic are used to monitor the growth of the 16 17 steam chamber. Canadian Natural employs a philosophy of continuous improvement and relies on its extensive 18 experience in operating oil sands assets and leverages 19 20 its large set of internal production analogs to help assess the results of new data and adjust its 21 22 evaluation and execution strategies to ensure effective 23 and efficient operations.

One tool that can be utilized to potentially proactively predict the presence of barriers and baffles within the reservoir and confinement strata

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1 units prior to steaming is gas chromatography mass 2 spectrometry, or "GCMS". This geochemical tool may 3 also be used to help assess the potential sealing 4 capacity of confinement strata units by indicating 5 layers across which hydrocarbon concentration profiles 6 change markedly. If oil concentrations were not able 7 to equilibrate across low permeability beds or heterolithic units over geological time, it is very 8 9 unlikely that steam will be able to migrate through 10 these lower permeability zones over the life of the 11 KN08 and -- and 9 pads. When closely tied to the confinement strata 12 13 stratigraphy, GCMS is an important tool in predicting 14 the vertical rise of steam within both the reservoir 15 and overlying confinement strata units. Mr. Lung, could I please bring up Exhibit 043.002, 16 17 Tab 7A, PDF page 180. THE COURT REPORTER: 18 Mr. Lavigne, can you just slow down with the terms. 19 20 J. LAVIGNE: Okay. Α Sorry. Thank you. 21 If I could please see the figure at the bottom of 22 the page, Mr. Lung. Thank you very much. 23 24 Graphically depicted on the left, connected 25 reservoirs show a gradual downward decrease in light hydrocarbons due to preferential biodegradation of 26

light hydrocarbons at the oil/water contact. In the centre, baffles are identified by bends in the downward decreasing profile. On the right, barriers show two separate downward decreasing hydrocarbon profiles that are laterally offset.

6 Canadian Natural uses a third-party vendor to 7 conduct the analysis and follows industry standard practices for plotting the data. 8 Wells are 9 strategically sampled at a reasonable density based on 10 known stratigraphic surfaces and mudstone interbeds 11 within the reservoir and confinement strata intervals. 12 GCMS is used as a qualitative test of stratigraphic 13 surface and is but a part of Canadian Natural's overall 14 evaluation program. However, when closely tied to stratigraphy and analyzed in the context of production 15 temperature data, it has been observed that the rise of 16 steam chambers has been halted across horizons that 17 18 sometimes display relatively minor concentration 19 changes.

Again, molecular diffusion and hydrocarbon biodegradation happen over geological time and geochemical indications of baffles are likely to be barriers to steam over the time scale of a SAGD operation.

Throughout this presentation, GCMS -- GCMS plots
like this will be used to support Canadian Natural's

position that barriers and baffles exist in the strata 1 2 between the McMurray formation reservoir and the 3 Mannville II gas pool at the top of the Wabiskaw B. 4 Mr. Lung, could I please have up Exhibit 15.01, Tab 4, PDF page 107. 5 6 Thank you. 7 We will now examine the confinement strata over the KN08 and KN09 boxes in detail. Looking at the 8 9 stratigraphic column in the KN08 and 9 area, 10 bitumen-saturated intervals are shown in green, 11 including the McMurray reservoir and the overlying

Wabiskaw D sandstone. On the right-hand side of the column, note the position of the regional B2 and A2 mudstones, which were defined in the regional geological study, and the mid-B1 mudstone in the -- in the dashed line defined by the KN06 decision report. Where present, these three regional mudstones have been deemed to be effective barriers to steam.

Over the KN08 and 9 drainage boxes, the Wabiskaw D 19 20 incision cuts deeper and removes portions of the upper 21 B1 regional sequence across the centre of the KN08 --22 across the centre of the KN09 box and the northern 23 third of the KN08 drainage box. This incision never cuts down to the level of the mid-B1 mudstone, and as 24 25 Canadian Natural will demonstrate, this widespread 26 regional barrier is present over the drainage boxes.

North of the boxes where it cuts deeper, the 1 Wabiskaw D incision contains thick saturated 2 3 sandstones. These sandstones are flanked and onlapped by two mudstone-prone facies, the Wabiskaw D 4 non-reservoir, and the basal upper Wab D heterolithic 5 6 unit, both of which hold back gas caps. 7 To the south, over the KN08 and 9 boxes, the incision shallows, and while the basal sandstone is 8 9 much thinner, the two mudstone units are present. 10 Canadian Natural will demonstrate that, where present, 11 these additional units would also be expected to 12 contain steam. 13 Mr. Lung, could I please bring up -- my apologies; 14 I'll -- one second. Sorry -- Exhibit 050.003, Tab 6, 15 PDF page 51. 16 Thank you. 17 Graphically illustrated, an annotated seismic section with wells projected on it demonstrates the 18 distribution of confinement strata over the KNO8 and 19 20 KN09 drainage boxes. Looking at the total confinement 21 strata present, the post-B2 non-reservoir in grey shows 22 variable thickness. The regional B1 sequence in green, 23 including the dashed mid-B1 mudstone, is present over 24 both boxes, where it is cut out by deeper Wabiskaw D 25 incision just north of the KN09 drainage box. The thin 26 A2 mudstone in red is present over the southern

two-thirds of the KN08 drainage box on the left. 1 The two Wabiskaw D confinement strata units in 2 3 purple are undifferentiated in this diagram but can be seen to cover the entirety of both boxes where the 4 incision shallows to the south on the left. 5 Similarly, 6 the thin Wabiskaw C in blue also covers the entirety of 7 the boxes. Could I please bring up Exhibit zero -- 01.01, 8 9 Figure 2-19, PDF page 53. 10 That's okay. Sorry. I'll continue with this 11 figure. This isn't exactly the one I was hoping. My 12 mistake. 13 In the AA -- oops. Did I -- I'm sorry. 14 0 J. JAMIESON: Mr. Lavigne, if I could 15 assist --Yeah. 16 Α 17 -- because -- is this the one you're looking for? 0 18 Α Yes. It's on the same one, but the exhibit number is towards 19 0 20 the end, I believe. It's Exhibit 15.01. That's the --21 or the hearing submission. Tab 9. 22 15.01, Tab 9, PDF page 16 -- 216? Okay. I'm going to Α 23 just continue. 24 If that's not the right one, the next reference is 0 25 right there, 219. Page 219. 26 That's not it. Α

1 Last try. Could we please try page 16. Okay. 2 My apologies. I don't have the correct Okay. 3 reference. 4 I'm sorry, Mr. Lung. Could I please have page 216 of that document. My apologies for -- that -- that --5 6 that's it. Thank you very much. Sorry about the 7 confusion. I'll now describe the confinement strata units 8 9 in -- in detail. The post-B2 non-reservoir unit occurs 10 directly above the McMurray formation SAGD reservoir. 11 This unit consists of a muddying upwards package of 12 inclined heterolithic strata with 'V' shales greater 13 than 50 percent. 14 Similar deposits have been well studied in outcrops of the McMurray formation north of Fort 15 McMurray where individual mudstone beds may be traced 16 17 for tens to over a hundred metres and their geometry and depositional character are well documented. 18 Could I please have Exhibit 050.003, Tab 16, PDF 19 20 page 61. 21 Thank you. 22 As mentioned, point bar facies are well understood 23 in both modern and ancient settings. The image on the right shows a section of the modern Bow River south of 24 25 Strathmore, Alberta. Note the position and frequency 26 of abandoned reaches of channel left of centre in the

These portions of abandoned channels represent 1 figure. 2 incipient mud plugs and -- as they will ultimately be 3 filled with mudstone deposits. The effects of 4 differential compaction on mudstone such as these will be discussed in more detail later in Canadian Natural's 5 6 direct evidence. This reach of the Bow River valley 7 bears a striking similarity to the post-B2 reservoir isopach map over the KN08 and KN09 boxes in the lower 8 9 left, where mudstone abandonment plugs are highlighted 10 in grey.

11 Note the yellow shaded area corresponds to the 12 post-B2 incision valley. The variability in post-B2 13 non-reservoir unit thickness is explained by the 14 distribution of these mud plugs in relation to top set 15 mud beds and the position of the KN08/9 drainage boxes 16 on the inside bend of the post-B2 incision valley.

While the mudstone-dominated character of the post-B2 non-reservoir would, where present, be expected to contain steam, many well -- many wells contain beds that suggest that steam could be contained below this mudstone-dominated facies.

Could I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 11, PDF
page 21.
That is not it. Oh, I'm sorry. This is the
correct figure. My apologies.
In the 100/1-3 well, within an otherwise

continuous connected hydrocarbon column, an upwards --1 2 an upwards increasing shift in hydrocarbon 3 concentrations -- sorry. Within an otherwise connected 4 column, an upwards shift in hydrocarbon columns occurs 5 at a high gamma ray mudstone layer at about 580 metres, 6 which suggests the low permeability mudstone has 7 affected the hydrocarbon concentrations in the column. Geochemistry would suggest this is a baffle rather than 8 a barrier. Both below and above this point, the 9 10 concentration profile has equilibrated and established 11 a uniform gradient.

12 The fact that it hasn't done so at 580 metres is 13 likely a result of lower permeability in the mudstone 14 unit. While oil concentration profiles equilibrated over geological time, practical experience in operating 15 SAGD reservoirs shows that in this horizon in this 16 17 well, steam is most likely to be halted at this The top -- the top of the -- the expected 18 mudstone. steam chamber top would be picked at this horizon and 19 production forecasts would be based on its height above 20 the injector. 21

After steaming operations have begun, temperature logs can help to understand steam chamber development. The numerous producing SAGD pads within its portfolio provide Canadian Natural with well understood analogs with which to better predict and understand complex 1 reservoirs and operational data.

2 Could I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 12 -3 yeah -- PDF 224.

4 Thank you.

5 On the left, PNX logs in the 102/6-4 well show 6 that the steam top has been held up by mudstone-rich 7 IHS. Increased gas saturation above the steam 8 temperature top is due to conductive heating but steam 9 remains contained.

10 On the right, PNX suite of logs in the 11-4 well 11 for two thousand -- 2022 and 2023 demonstrate that a 12 mud class breccia has been holding up steam for 13 approximately one year. In these logs from the Kirby 14 north Pad KN02, the year-over-year increase in gas 15 saturation associated with the development of the steam 16 chamber, which is at 200 degrees Celsius.

17 This nearby analog was not available at the time of the KN06 hearing. SAGD is very sensitive to 18 vertical permeability changes, and, where present, the 19 20 post-B2 non-reservoir base is effective at confining 21 the steam chamber. The KN02 pad is in the same post-B2 22 incision valley as the KN08 and 9 pads. The 23 stratigraphy is virtually identical to that at KN08 and 24 KN09, and therefore these data are useful in understanding the predicted limits to vertical steam 25 The chamber is contained and will not 26 chamber growth.

be able to rise and affect the overlying GOB zone. 1 2 Moving up above the post-B2 non-reservoir, the 3 next unit in the confinement strata is the regional B1 4 sequence and, in particular, the mid-B1 mudstone. Despite the heterolithic nature of these regional 5 6 sequences and variations in the relative percentages of 7 sandstone and mudstones, the units are correlatable over the entirety of the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes. 8 9 These units contain a high visual mud index. 10 Examination of well logs and cores demonstrates 11 that the mid-B1 mudstone can also be correlated over the adjacent KN08 and 9 boxes. Like KN06, the unit 12 13 also displays some variation in facies, and, similarly, 14 GCMS also confirms that the B1 regional sequence also contains baffles and barriers that would be expected to 15 provide steam containment over KN08 and 9. 16 17 Could I please have Exhibit 050.003, Tab 5. 18 As illustrated in Canadian Natural's reply submission, these core photos from across the KN08 and 19 20 9 drainage boxes demonstrate that while the lithofacies of the upper and lower B1 units are heterolithic and 21 22 variable, they contain a high mudstone percentage. 23 They also demonstrate that the mid-B1 mudstone which 24 overlies the marine flooding surface is widespread and 25 was deposited over the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes. 26 My apologies. I just need one second.

Commissioner Chiasson, I'm 1 J. JAMIESON: just watching the clock here. We're just past noon. 2 Ι 3 believe this witness has 15 -- 10 to 15 minutes left to qo. So I'm in your hands. If you want to break for 4 5 lunch, he can come back and finish up then. 6 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: If it's about 15 minutes, 7 let's continue and finish -- finish this piece. Thank you. 8 J. JAMIESON: 9 Α J. LAVIGNE: In this figure from the reply 10 submission, there are differences between the 11 distribution, the mid-B1 mudstone as proposed by ISH, 12 where the mid-B1 mudstone has been interpreted to be 13 removed in the blue area. And -- if -- if I could please have 14 Exhibit 050.003, Tab 7. 15 16 Thank you. 17 As discussed in its reply submission, Canadian Natural acknowledges that the 100/01-03 well, in 18 the well, the typical mid-B1 lithofacies is not 19 20 present. At this level, an upper B1 tidal channel 21 appears to have locally erosionally removed the mid-B1 22 mudstone. Within this channel, a mudstone rich 23 interbedded lithofacies has been deposited at approximately mid-B1 level. 24 25 The three-well cross-section in the top centre of 26 offsetting wells demonstrates that typical mid-B1

mudstone facies is present in surrounding wells and that the 100/1-3 well represents an isolated tidal channel which are normal parts of tidal flat sequences. The lateral extent of this channel is small, and there is no significant down cutting through the underlying mudstone prone lower B1 sequence.

7 Can I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 11, PDF8 page 219.

9 Could we please scroll down one page. Down one 10 more, please. One more. One more. Could I try 219, 11 please. 218, perhaps. Yeah. That's it. Thank you. 12 My -- my mistake. Sorry.

GCMS analysis in the previously mentioned well shows that this heterolithic unit may have acted as a baffle to hydrocarbon biodegradation and that the upper Bl unit contains numerous breaks in the hydrocarbon concentration profile suggesting a baffle noticed by these back stepping of values.

It's worth noting, as previously mentioned, that 19 20 the predicted steam top in this well would occur lower There's a well equilibrated hydrocarbon 21 at about 580. 22 column up into the lower B1 sequence where there is a 23 decrease in concentration, suggesting a barrier in the Where the -- where the tidal channel has 24 lower B1. 25 locally cut into the mid-B1 mudstone, the decrease --26 upwards decreasing concentration profile suggests

barriers or potentially baffles. But above this at the base of the Wabiskaw D, the sharp increase -- sorry -the sharp decrease in concentration profiles supports the existence of a barrier at this -- at this spot.

5 This suggests that while the channel feature has 6 resulted in the very localized removal of the mid-B1 7 mudstone, other baffles and a strong barrier are 8 present above that would act to contain steam. This 9 reinforces the concept of confinement strata where no 10 single unit is relied to contain steam but all units 11 work together in -- in tandem.

12 In summary, we -- we spent some time on the B1 13 sequence and the mid-B1 mudstone. It's worthwhile to summarize the units as confinement strata before moving 14 15 on to others. In summary, the facies of the regional B1 sequence consist of bioturbated heterolithic 16 17 sandstones and mudstones. They are separated by the thin but laterally extensive marine mid-B1 mudstone. 18 This mudstone can be correlated regionally over the 19 20 nearby KN06 box and beyond the Kirby north initial development area several miles to the east. It can be 21 22 readily identified on logs and in core.

In one well, the KN08 drainage box appears to have been removed by a very localized tidal channel, but GCMS data suggests that in this well baffles exist within the channel itself and there's a barrier at the

top of the upper B1 base of the Wabiskaw D. 1 2 Could I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 7, PDF 3 page 193. 4 I'm sorry. Could we please have -- from the same document -- Tab 8, PDF page 198. Page 326 instead, 5 6 please. Thanks for your patience, Mr. Lung. 7 The A2 mudstone has a very distinctive log -signature and easily identifiable in core. Canadian 8 9 Natural has provided mapping that shows the aerial 10 extent of the regional A2 mudstone over the KN08 and 11 KN09 drainage boxes. It has locally been removed by 12 the Wabiskaw D aged incision. Where present, the A2 13 mudstone has been shown to provide a barrier separating 14 underlying bitumen reservoirs from the overlying gas But even where it has been removed, other 15 resources. confinement strata exist to assist in providing steam 16 17 containment. Moving on to the Wabiskaw D. As mentioned, it has 18 cut down into the upper McMurray sequence over the KN08 19 20 and 9 drainage boxes. It has deposited two mudstone 21 prone units that act as confinement strata. The lowest 22 is the Wabiskaw D non-reservoir unit. 23 Could I please have Exhibit 043.002, Tab 1E, PDF 24 page 29. 25 Thank you. 26 In order to better understand the Wabiskaw units

above the KN08/KN09 drainage boxes, one must examine 1 2 the Wabiskaw D more broadly in the Kirby north area. 3 In the map on the left, thick Wabiskaw D sandstones --4 Oh, thank you. there is no map. In the bottom left -thick Wabiskaw D sandstones in orange exist just north 5 6 of the KN08 and 9 drainage boxes. It occurs in a 7 southwest/northeast oriented title scour that thins out over the top of the KN08/KN09 drainage boxes. 8

To understand the distribution of facies in the 9 10 Wabiskaw D, Canadian Natural has submitted this 11 geomodel slice that shows two Wabiskaw D 12 mudstone-dominated units that onlap and drape the 13 sandstone body. The Wabiskaw D incision does not cut 14 as deeply, and the sandstone component thins dramatically to the south over the KN08 and KN09 boxes. 15 Despite this, the two Wabiskaw D mudstone-prone facies 16 17 are correlatable over the KN08/KN09 drainage boxes. Could I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 16, PDF 18 19 page 327.

20 Thank you.

The Wabiskaw D non-reservoir unit occurs in a southwest/northeast oriented -- orientation along the flank of the Wabiskaw D pay trend previously mentioned. It covers most of the KN08 box and the western two-thirds of the KN09 box. It is identified in core by a high volume of characteristically dark grey

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mudstone and sits directly on top of the bitumen 1 2 saturated Wab D sandstone. 3 Can I please have Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 142 and 4 143. So we could start at 142, perhaps. Could I request to go to 143, please. 5 6 Thank you. 7 This is typical facies of the Wab D non-reservoir It has a visual mud index of about 60 percent. 8 units. 9 While the individual mudstone beds within the unit are 10 laterally likely on the decimetre to metre scale, as a 11 package -- the package as a whole is mappable over 12 several kilometres. This unit locally holds back small 13 qas caps in underlying -- in the underlying Wab D 14 sandstone, which supports its potential sealing 15 capacity. 16 Could we please go up -- sorry -- to 142. Yeah. Okay. 17 That's okay. We can use this as well. 18 Above the Wab D non-reservoir, the basal upper Wabiskaw heterolithic unit is the highest of the 19 Wabiskaw D confinement strata. The basal upper 20 Wabiskaw D unit is a mudstone-prone interval similar in 21 22 character to the underlying Wabiskaw D non-reservoir 23 To the north, it marks the base of a coarsening unit. 24 upward cycle near the top of the Wabiskaw D unit. Over 25 the KN08/KN09 drainage boxes where the Wabiskaw D 26 incision is thinner, it is composed predominantly of

dark grey mudstone with centimetre scale saturated 1 sandstone interbeds and a visual mud index of over 2 3 50 percent. Over the boxes, it sits directly on top of the Wabiskaw D non-reservoir unit where the contact is 4 typically demarcated by concretionary cement. 5 6 Could I please have 15.01, PDF page 2. My 7 Page 328. apologies. Thank you. This is an isopach map of the basal upper 8 9 Wabiskaw D unit, and note how it occurs in the same 10 region where the A1 mudstone has been removed. Its 11 high visual mudstone index suggests it would be 12 expected to be a barrier to the vertical rise of steam. 13 Could I please have Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 370. 14 So what I'm going to do is I'm going to walk down here the -- the basal upper Wab D unit is the dark 15 mudstones at the bottom of this slide. 16 17 Could we please go down to page 371? 18 Thank you. 19 This series of core photos is directly beneath the 20 previously shown ones. The base of the basal upper Wabiskaw D heterolithic unit is marked with a red line. 21 22 Note the light oil saturation in the three box -- in the three tubes of sand immediately below this. 23 This is a good illustration of the basal upper Wab D 24 25 heterolithic unit's ability to act as a barrier to 26 In this particular well, the lighter saturation steam.

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marks the presence of a gas cap at the top of the
 Wabiskaw D in this well. Note the light saturation at
 the top of the sand.

4 The results of the analysis in this well are significant for two reasons: Firstly, at a location 5 6 where the total confinement strata is relatively thin, 7 multiple high-quality barriers still exist. Secondly, as can be seen with the basal upper Wab D unit in this 8 well, intervals with high V shale greater than 9 10 50 percent can still be seen to contain gas caps. 11 Units that are capable of containing gas caps would also be capable of containing steam. 12

13 A summary of GCMS data shows a consistent decrease 14 in hydrocarbon compounds across the top of the McMurray to the base of the Wab D. There is strong geochemical 15 evidence that there is a hydrodynamic barrier that has 16 not allowed hydrocarbon concentrations to equilibrate 17 across the base of the Wab D over geological time. 18 Ιt is therefore more likely than not that the barriers 19 20 that exist to impede this uniform biodegradation over 21 geological time will also prevent the passage of steam 22 over the life of operations of KN08 and KN09 pads. The Wabiskaw C is the highest interval of 23 24 confinement strata units that separate bitumen from --25 in the McMurray formation from the gas in the 26 Mannville II pool at the top of the Wabiskaw B.

Could I please have Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 370.
 Thank you.

3 The Wabiskaw C represents a transgressive sheet of muddy sandstone with a visual mud index of about 4 70 percent that has been nearly entirely bioturbated to 5 6 the point that very few primary sedimentary structures 7 have been preserved. In core, the bioturbation and lighter colour make it easily differentiated from the 8 9 dark mudstones of the Wabiskaw D below and the intact 10 bedding and variably saturated sandstones of the 11 overlying Wabiskaw B. The Wabiskaw C is present over 12 the entirety of the KN08 and 9 drainage boxes in 13 thicknesses greater than 1 metre. The bioturbation has 14 introduced clay into the pore throats and the resultant vertical permeability is low. 15

In summary, over the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes, 16 17 six low vertical permeability units are present in aggregate thickness of 3.9 to 14.3 metres, as 18 discussed, while individual confinement strata units 19 20 showed variable thickness and character, an aggregate 21 package of predominantly mudstone-rich facies with low 22 vertical permeability exists over the KN08 and KN09 23 drainage boxes. Stratigraphic context is a very 24 important factor in assessing a unit's ability to 25 provide confinement of steam. GCMS analysis shows that 26 the confinement strata units display changes in

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hydrocarbon concentrations that suggest barriers to biodegradation over geological time that would be expected to provide steam chamber confinement over the life of the KN08 and KN09 pads. This is particularly true of the regional B1 sequence, including the mid-B1 mudstone, and the Wabiskaw D, which seems to act as a barrier in virtually all wells analyzed.

8 Within the post-B2 reservoir, GCMS supports the 9 presence of barriers and baffles near the top of the 10 reservoir. Operational experience suggests steam will 11 be effectively contained below the post-B2 12 non-reservoir unit.

13 The regional mid-Bl mudstone was deposited over an 14 area much larger than the KN08 and 9 drainage boxes. 15 It sits in the middle of the regional Bl sequence, 16 which contains a high volume of shale. GCMS suggests 17 numerous barriers and baffles within this interval.

18 The regional A2 mudstone, where present, acts as a The Wabiskaw D contains two mudstone-prone 19 barrier. units that are deposited over the area where the A2 20 mudstone has been removed. GCMS defines a strong 21 22 barrier at the base of the Wabiskaw D in all the wells 23 analyzed, and gas caps are trapped beneath these units. The Wabiskaw C has a high 'V' shale and occurs 24 25 everywhere over the drainage boxes.

Canadian Natural concludes that there is an

1	effective barrier or top seal over the bitumen bearing
2	McMurray formation that would not be permeable to steam
3	over the life of the KN08/KN09 drainage boxes.
4	Thank you for your patience as I struggled with
5	some figures.
6	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you, Mr. Lavigne.
7	J. JAMIESON: This would be a good time to
8	break. I may have misspoke earlier, so that concludes
9	addressing hearing the first part of Hearing Issue 1,
10	and it will be Mr. Lavigne that continues when we come
11	back from the break.
12	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you.
13	All right. We are at 12:30. We will reconvene at
14	1:30. We would encourage folks to the room won't be
15	locked, so if you have belongings that you're concerned
16	about security, please take them with you rather than
17	leaving them in the room.
18	
19	PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 1:30 PM
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1	Proceedings taken at Govier H	Hall, Calgary, Alberta
2		
3	February 6, 2023	Afternoon Session
4		
5	Cindy Chiasson	Panel Chair
6	Brian Zaitlin	Panel Member
7	Meg Barker	Panel Member
8		
9	William McClary	AER Legal Counsel
10	Shannon Peddlesden	AER Legal Counsel
11	Andrew Lung	AER Staff
12	Denise Parsons	AER Staff
13	Anastasia Stanislavski	AER Staff
14	Fahad Hamdan	AER Staff
15	Maryam Rahimabadi	AER Staff
16	Susan Harbidge	AER Staff
17	Maksim Xhaferllari	AER Staff
18	Felix Chiang	AER Staff
19	Scott Botterill	AER Staff
20	Baohong Yang	AER Staff
21	Elwyn Galloway	AER Staff
22		
23	J.P. Jamieson	For Canadian Natural
24		Resources Limited
25		
26		
i i		

1 M. Riley For ISH Energy Ltd. 2 A. McLeod For ISH Energy Ltd. 3 4 S. Murphy, CSR(A) Official Court Reporter 5 S. Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR Official Court Reporter 6 7 (PROCEEDINGS COMMENCED 1:32 PM) 8 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you, everyone. 9 So we're now back from the break, so, Ms. Jamieson, 10 just as a time check. By my calculations, time-wise 11 we're close to about halfway through the time allotted 12 for CNRL's direct. Does that jive with where you're -you were expecting to be in your materials? 13 Yeah, I -- I have to be 14 J. JAMIESON: 15 honest. I think we're about a third of the way through our presentation, but I also know there's some 16 17 opportunities to condense further in. Mr. Laviqne's and Mr. Sverdahl's is sort of the most dense part of 18 the presentation, so I think if we can just proceed on 19 20 that basis. 21 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. 22 J. JAMIESON: We'll endeavour to --23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Let's proceed. We'll 24 see how far we get. At the very latest, we will plan 25 to take a break at 3:30. 26 J. JAMIESON: Understood. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: If you don't reach the end of 2 your evidence beforehand. 3 J. JAMIESON: Yes, that sounds good. Thank 4 you. 5 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So Panel, please proceed. 6 DEVIN OLLENBERGER, THOMAS BOONE, LENNON ROCHE, 7 MARC SCRIMSHAW, Previously Affirmed GERARD IANNATTONE, JASON LAVIGNE, SCOTT SVERDAHL, 8 9 DALE WALTERS, XIANG WANG, PETER THOMSEN, SCOTT BARLAND, 10 Previously Sworn 11 J. LAVIGNE: Thank you. Α 12 Thank you for this. I'm going to move up through a series of core photos. 13 The first part of the Hearing 14 Issue 1 dealt with the presence of barrier or an 15 aggregation of strata expected to confine steam, and 16 just very briefly, before we move on to the assessment 17 of fractures in these intervals, I just wanted to move 18 quickly up through a core. This is the AA/1-3 well near the centre of the 19 20 KN08 pad, and the bitumen-saturated sands at the bottom is the top of the reservoir, and this is where we would 21 22 interpret -- we would predict the top of the steam 23 And so there is -- there is a unit of chamber will be. 24 post B2 non-reservoir. Then we move up into the more 25 heavily bioturbated heterolithic deposits of the lower 26 В1.

Could we please move up one photo or -- am I in control as well? Sorry. Or -- okay. Okay. Thank you.

In the bottom three tubes is the lower B1 regional 4 sequence, which contains locally some paleosols and 5 6 coals that occur near the top of that. Then we can see 7 the regional mid-B1 mudstone. Above it in the top tubes is the -- the bioturbated deposits of the upper 8 9 B1 regional sequence. And if we could go up another 10 one, please. We pass up in through there to the top of 11 the upper B1 sequence. We can note that it's 12 heterolithic -- its heterolithic nature but also its 13 relatively high V shale component. The base of the 14 Wabiskaw D incision can be seen with the dark grey mudstones in this Wabiskaw D sandier interval. 15 16 Go up one more, please. 17 And then we pass into the two high V shale Wabiskaw D confinement strata units. As mentioned, 18 19 this is the contact between the top Wab D non-reservoir 20 and the basal upper heterolithic unit.

If we could go up another, please.
COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Actually, Mr. Lavigne, if you
don't mind, one brief question. I'm not a geologist,
and so this is my non-geologist -- can you just explain
to me briefly what you mean by "V shale".
J. LAVIGNE: Sorry. The volume of shale,

1 so the percentage of fine grain material relative to 2 the entire unit. So 50 percent V shale would be half 3 shale, half sand --4 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. 5 J. LAVIGNE: -- or mudstone. 6 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Super. Thank you very much. 7 J. LAVIGNE: So the two Wabiskaw D units Α with a high volume of shale, high mud percentage. 8 Then the base of the Wabiskaw C, which is the heavily 9 10 bioturbated heterolithic package, and then we see the 11 base of the Wabiskaw B. 12 And if we could please go up another slide. We 13 could see abundant calcite concretions within the unit 14 and the lighter saturation that's starting. 15 And if we could go up one more, please. And this 16 is getting up into the Mannville II gas pool that 17 occurs at the top of the Wabiskaw B in these lower saturation units. 18 19 So in summary, there's a sequence of multiple 20 units with high mudstone content and low vertical 21 permeability between the top of the McMurray formation 22 reservoir and the base -- and the Wabiskaw B, which contains the Mannville II gas pool. 23 24 Now -- now, we'll turn -- excuse me -- to the 25 second hearing issue -- or part of the first hearing issue, which is the determination of whether or not 26

there are fractures in the strata between the McMurray
 formation and the Wabiskaw B member.

3 Canadian Natural believes it's very important to 4 the success of a SAGD project to determine if faults 5 and fractures are present as they represent a risk to 6 steam containment. Any loss of steam from the SAGD 7 chamber would be very detrimental to the efficiency of 8 the operation and would severely negatively affect 9 project economics.

10 Also, as previously discussed, Canadian Natural is 11 a majority working-interest partner in the Wabiskaw B 12 gas pool and has a common goal to protect the future 13 production of gas resource once the SAGD bitumen 14 operations are complete.

Canadian Natural has an extensive 15 multidisciplinary workflow to identify the magnitude 16 and locations of potential faults and fractures, not 17 just within the confinement strata units but also 18 within the SAGD reservoir zone, the caprock, and deeper 19 20 Paleozoic sediments. This includes geological and 21 geophysical structure mapping, 3D seismic amplitude 22 mapping, as well as core and image log interpretation. 23 This data is then integrated with a review of 24 operational data such as pressure monitoring of the McMurray bottom water versus pressures observed in the 25 26 gas cap and a review of lost circulation events in

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1 nearby wells.

2	Post-steam, Canadian Natural also regularly	
3	reviews data for any indications of loss of steam,	
4	including loss of steam via potential faults or	
5	fractures through RST or PNX logs, 4D seismic, and	
6	continued pressure and steam balance monitoring.	
7	We will now discuss the core and image log data	
8	and see how they can be used to identify faults or	
9	fractures.	
10	Canadian Natural has conducted a review of its	
11	core and image log data at KN08 and 9. Well logs, core	
12	data, and image logs were reviewed from 43	
13	stratigraphic test wells in the KN08 and 9 areas. No	
14	faults or natural fractures were observed within the	
15	confinement strata intervals on 24 cored wells.	
16	Additionally no fractures were observed on 36 image	
17	logs within the confinement strata units.	
18	Could I please bring up Exhibit 01.01, PDF	
19	page 272. Thank you.	
20	Prior to examining Canadian Natural's core	
21	evidence, it is important to take a moment to describe	
22	the difference as observed in core between in situ	
23	natural fractures that are present at depth and induced	
24	fractures that were created by the coring process	
25	itself. Fractures are often induced by the coring	
26	process due to in situ compressional stresses in the	
1		

vicinity of the bottom hole. They can be distinguished 1 2 from natural -- naturally occurring fractures observed 3 in core by their distinctive shapes and 4 characteristics. Specifically, coring-induced fractures can be characterized as petal centre line or 5 6 petal line -- petal centre line fractures as per the 7 schematic on the left. Centre line fractures wander from side to side, down the middle of the core. 8 Petal 9 fractures are curved and often propagate downwards 10 towards the centre of the core where they may join 11 centre line fractures. Vertical cracking is also 12 commonly observed in oil sands due to degassing of the 13 core on retrieval from depth. In contrast, natural 14 fractures, as illustrated in the figure on the right, are plainer and usually intersect the entire core. 15 Could I please pull up Exhibit 050.003, Tab 8, 16 page 53. 17 Thank you.

In its January 2024 geology report, ISH referenced 18 the online blog of Ogilvie 2021 and showed Figure 5B in 19 20 the upper left to illustrate coring-induced petal Figure 5A, also from Ogilvie, was not shown 21 fractures. 22 in the submission which illustrates open coring-induced 23 centre line fractures. It should be noted that 24 Figure 5A bears a striking resemblance to the images of 25 fractures ISH observed in cores over the KN08 and KN09 boxes shown on the left -- on the right. 26

Canadian Natural believes all of the fractures ISH 1 2 submitted are coring induced. Furthermore both of 3 these examples -- I'm sorry -- the two centre examples, ISH Figure 6 and ISH Figure 9, are from 4 calcite-cemented intervals. These drilling-induced 5 6 fractures in these concretions commonly happen due to 7 an increase of weight on the bit during the drilling process in order to continue to core through these 8 9 hard, dense intervals. These are not indicative of in 10 situ natural fractures.

11 The oil seen on the fracture plains wicks into the 12 fracture plain during the coring process and is not 13 indicative of a natural in situ fracture network 14 through which oil can migrate.

Other examples from ISH's hearing submission are shown in pairs of photos throughout the slide. In the photo pairs, the photos submitted by Canadian Natural are on the left, and the -- ISH has interpreted fractures and annotated them on the paired right-side image.

21 Note the hackily nature of the fracture plains and 22 the similarity in appearance to the induced fractures 23 referred to in Ogilvie Figure 5A.

The frequency of these fractures is very small and even if present at depth would not be indicative of a connected natural fracture network that could be a pathway to steam. However, Canadian Natural reiterates that there is no evidence of natural fractures within the confinement strata interval over the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes, and the examples highlighted by ISH are coring induced.

6 Could I please have Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 273. 7 Similarly, it would be useful to Thank vou. quickly describe how fractures are interpreted on image 8 Referring to the figure on the top, an image log 9 loas. 10 can be thought of as an unrolled section of the 11 wellbore surface as shown. Dipping bedding plains will appear as low amplitude sinusoids; horizontal bedding 12 13 will be -- will appear horizontal and fractures will 14 appear as high amplitude sinusoids cutting across the bedding plains of the image log. 15

16 An example of a fracture as seen in image logs is 17 shown on the bottom right where a high amplitude 18 sinusoid cuts across the low amplitude sinusoids of 19 bedding and can be easily identified.

20 Could I please have Exhibit 15.01, Tab 25,21 page 339. Thank you.

22 Canadian Natural has conducted an extensive review 23 of its image log data at KN08 and KN09 and has found no 24 evidence of natural fractures within the confinement 25 strata. As part of its response to AER, SIR1, 26 Question 2, Canadian Natural supplied image logs and

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core photos of coring-induced fractures within the 1 2 various confinement strata intervals. The fractures 3 observed in core in the AA/16-33 wells shown are coring induced. 4 They are centre line fractures in a calcite-cemented interval in the Wabiskaw B. 5 They're a 6 common occurrence in oil sands cores in calcite 7 concretions as mentioned previously.

The image log over this interval shows no fracture 8 9 in the image in the bottom right, merely continuous 10 bedding shown by the continuous low angle sinusoids. 11 The fractures that can be seen in the core at the top 12 are not seen at depth in the walls of the wellbore; 13 therefore, they are not present at depth.

14 Could I please have Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 275. 15 Thank you.

The figure on this slide is an example from this 16 17 response showing a portion of the post B2 non-reservoir strata in the AA/15-34 well. As can be seen in the 18 19 core photo, there are some fractures observed which are 20 interpreted to be coring-induced petal and centre line 21 fractures. The image log from the corresponding 22 interval in the upper right shows continuous dipping 23 beds expected from this muddy ISH confinement strata, 24 but no high angle -- high amplitude sinusoid features 25 indicative of natural fractures are present. 26

Note also the effective mud smearing on one of the

pads which somewhat obscures the detail in that track. 1 2 Additionally sand-filled skolithos-like burrows can be 3 seen in the core photo but not on the image log. That is because the burrows are of low density and do not 4 occur in the walls of the wellbore. 5 They are small 6 with narrow apertures and are not a viable pathway for 7 steam.

8 Could I please have Exhibit 050.003, page 55.9 Thank you.

10 Canadian Natural has re-examined all of the 11 features on image logs purchased by ISH that were 12 interpreted to be fractures as depicted in Table 1 of 13 ISH's hearing submission. Canadian Natural interprets 14 the majority of the fractures observed by ISH to be artifacts caused by tool marks from the imaging tool 15 marking the wellbore walls rather than natural 16 17 fractures.

An example of this is shown in the 1AA/11-2 well at around 436 metres within the Wabiskaw A formation, which is part of the caprock. Canadian Natural observed several linear features on the image log around 436 metres, which are characteristic of tool marks, not fractures.

In the higher-quality static image right of centre, note how the dark feature at about 436.5 metres is not continuous over all of the tracks, and continuous horizontal bedding exists higher to the left of this dipping feature. The three pads starting second from the left on the dynamic image log show no evidence of this feature. It does not describe a sinusoid; therefore, it is not a plain and therefore it cannot be a fracture.

7 ISH purchased numerous image logs from a third-party vendor in the Kirby north area and provided 8 9 a map of where the interpreted fractures were present 10 or absent. From this review, the only well from the 11 purchased image logs that ISH observed a fracture over 12 the KN08/KN09 pads was in the AA/11-2 well that was 13 just described as representing tool marks. 14 Additionally, this fracture as interpreted by ISH was not within any of the confinement strata units but 15 rather above the Wabiskaw B gas zone in the caprock 16 interval. 17

Canadian Natural also reviewed the remaining 18 fractures identified by ISH on these wells, and as per 19 Table 1 in the Canadian Natural hearing 20 21 submission as -- interpreted that none of the fractures 22 identified within the confinement strata represent 23 natural in situ fractures as per Table 12B in Canadian 24 Natural's reply submission. Canadian Natural concludes 25 that the fracture density within the confinement strata 26 values at KN08 and KN09 based on the image log data

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1 purchased by ISH is very low to nonexistent.

2 ISH had half -- a petrophysical consulting company 3 review in detail only 2 out of the 11 image logs 4 supplied by Canadian Natural. The -- these wells were located in the southern part of the KN08 drainage box. 5 6 HEF identified only four fractures -- sorry. HEF 7 identified only four fractures within any of the confinement strata intervals within these two wells. 8 9 Canadian Natural states that this would constitute a 10 very low fracture density within the confinement strata 11 units if the four fractures observed were, in fact, 12 natural. However, Canadian Natural has reviewed these 13 four features identified by ISH in these wells and 14 concludes they're also tool marks and not in situ fractures as per the table in Tab 9 of the reply 15 submission. 16 17 Additionally, HEF had made some general statements in their hearing submission report about the fracture 18

20 that are worth restating. For the AB11-34 well:

nature and density they had observed in these wells

21 (as read)

19

There are no obvious faulting indicated bythe bedding data.

Fractures are sparse and there aren't enough
of them to comment on orientation trends.
[For the AA/9-3 well] There is no obvious

faulting indicated by the bedding data. 1 The image interval has a low-to-moderate 2 3 intensity of open fracturing with a similar 4 intensity and orientation of heel fractures. There are no observed shears or interpretable 5 6 large fractures in the image. 7 I would like to correct it in the second well. Sorry. It's the AA/9-33 well. My apologies. 8 9 Finally, as will be discussed further in Canadian Natural's direct evidence, it is noted that the two 10 11 wells selected by ISH for analysis are near the seismic 12 feature observed as a zone of expected heterogeneity on 13 the spectral decomposition slice provided in Canadian 14 Natural's application. ISH did not request HEF to review the image log provided by Canadian Natural at 15 the AD/13-34 strat well that directly penetrates this 16 seismic feature, but it will be shown shortly in 17 Canadian Natural's direct evidence that there are no 18 features within the confinement strata as seen on image 19 20 logs from this well. 21 In summary, Canadian Natural states from its 22 evaluation of core and image log data at KN08 and 9 the

evaluation of core and image log data at KN08 and 9 the following: No natural fractures have been observed within the confinement strata units on the 24 cores reviewed by Canadian Natural. Canadian Natural interprets all fractures observed by ISH on submitted core photos as coring induced, not naturally occurring at depth. No natural fractures have been observed within the confinement strata units on 36 image logs reviewed by Canadian Natural. The majority of the fractures identified by ISH on the purchased image logs that they or HEF reviewed are interpreted by Canadian Natural to be tool marks.

8 Canadian Natural concludes from its review of core 9 and image log data that the fracture density within the 10 confinement strata is low to nonexistent and will not 11 pose a risk to steaming operations at KN08 and KN09.

I will now introduce my colleague Mr. Scott 12 Sverdahl, professional geophysicist, to continue with 13 14 Canadian Natural's direct evidence on Hearing Issue Number 1. He will speak to Hearing Issue 1B. 15 S. SVERDAHL: Thank you, Mr. Lavigne. 16 Α Ι will now go through Canadian Natural's seismic 17 evidence, along with a discussion on differential 18 compaction and Canadian Natural's interpretation as to 19 where the Wabiskaw B gas at KN08 and KN09 originated. 20 We will then conclude with Canadian Natural's 21 22 operational evidence showing there are no faults or 23 open natural fractures within the confinement strata units that would be a risk to steam breakthrough. 24 25 Reviewing Canadian Natural's seismic data 26 evidence, we have conducted a thorough review of its 3D

95

seismic data at KN08 and KN09, and we summarize the following: No large-scale faulting resulting from underlying salt dissolution or Paleozoic karsting is observed or expected at the project area. 3D seismic structure and attribute mapping also show no evidence of faulting within the confinement strata units.

7 Structural sags from a minor amount of differential compaction over mud-filled abandonment 8 9 channels is present at KN08 and KN09. This causes some 10 minor folding in the overlying sediments; however, 11 faults from this amount of differential compaction is not expected nor is it observed on Canadian Natural's 12 13 3D seismic. Canadian Natural disagrees with ISH's 14 fault interpretation on a representative seismic line supplied in the application and will proceed to show 15 why. 16

17 Could I have up Exhibit 01.01, PDF page 68,
18 please. Just one moment, please. Sorry. I meant 63.
19 Page 63. Thank you.

As supplied in the application, this map shows that KN08 and KN09 areas are approximately 30 kilometres west from the Prairie Evaporite salt dissolution edge. The project is in a regionally tectonic stable area and faulting or other deep-seated structural events are not expected here. Could we go to page 64, please. Thank you. 1 This deep seismic line through the application 2 area extends from the Clearwater to the basement, which 3 is just below the interpreted red beds reflector on 4 this line. It confirms that no deep faulting is 5 present at KN08 and KN09 from salt dissolution.

6 Canadian Natural has supplied a collage of various 7 seismic cross-sections and attribute maps as well as depth-converted structure maps at the Wabiskaw B level 8 9 and the Paleozoic level in its various submissions. 10 These seismic interpretation products show no evidence 11 of faulting or fracturing at KN08 and KN09, but do show 12 some stratigraphic heterogeneities within the post B2 incision SAGD reservoir trends -- start. 13 These seismic 14 interpretation products show no evidence of faulting or fracturing at KN08 and KN09 but do show some 15 stratigraphic heterogeneities within the post B2 16 17 incision SAGD reservoir trends, including some effects of differential compaction, which will be discussed in 18 more detail here further. 19

20 Could I have Exhibit 50.003, page 58, please.21 Thank you.

22 Canadian Natural would now like to address some 23 differences in interpretation of faults and/or 24 fractures with ISH on supplied representative seismic 25 line at KN08. To start, I'll take a few moments to 26 orient the Panel as to what is being shown on this figure. The original line as supplied by Canadian Natural is on the left, and the line interpreted by ISH, with some additional annotations added by Canadian Natural, is on the right. The near vertical black lines on the right image are ISH's interpretive faults and may have also annotated some near horizontal dashed lines at or near seismic reflector events.

8 Canadian Natural placed several letters on the 9 right figure near ISH's faults to serve as a key, 10 namely, an 'A', 'B', or 'C'. Canadian Natural has also 11 highlighted an interval at the top of the figure on the 12 right in pink, which is the stratigraphic interval of 13 the wet porous Clearwater sands that lie above the 14 impermeable Clearwater caprock.

15 I'll now describe why Canadian Natural disagrees 16 with ISH's fault -- fault interpretation on this 17 seismic line.

We will start with the faults marked with the 18 letter 'A' in the right-hand image. You can observe 19 there are -- there is a significant amplitude anomaly 20 at the Wabiskaw B VF level in between the two 'A's. 21 22 This amplitude anomaly is likely due to a relatively 23 thicker gas in the Wabiskaw B in this area relative to the remainder of the seismic line. ISH has annotated 24 25 faults at both edges of this amplitude anomaly. However, gas amplitude anomalies can cause phase 26

chainage in the seismic response that can be
 misinterpreted as faulting.

3 Secondly, there are several faults annotated with ISH has accentuated potential offset 4 the letter 'B'. at the locations marked with a 'B' with near horizontal 5 6 dashed lines on either side of their interpretive 7 fault traces as shown in black. When compared to the original line without the horizontal or vertical 8 9 annotations, it is clear that there is only a very 10 minor amount of structural role at the corresponding locations with no distinct breaks observed on the 11 nearest seismic event. Canadian Natural interprets 12 13 this to be subtle folding at best, not faulting. ISH has also taken liberties to extend these 14

postulated fall traces deeper down into the 15 stratigraphy, including into the confinement strata 16 units and further down into the McMurray. 17 It is observed on these deeper seismic events. 18 That structural role is not even present, let alone a 19 distinct break on seismic reflection events. 20 This is 21 not evidence of faulting as speculated by ISH.

Thirdly, ISH has marked faults at the edges and within some observed structural sags in the McMurray SAGD interval and have extended them vertically up through the confinement strata units and beyond. These are marked with the letter 'C'.

Canadian Natural observes that minor structural 1 2 sag at and above these locations is present to 3 differential compaction of mud-filled abandonment 4 Reviewing the original figure on the right at pluqs. the location of these interpreted sags shows no 5 6 distinct breaks at the seismic events at or above the 7 marked letter, letter 'C', which would be indicative of It is also noted that the amount of sag 8 faulting. 9 diminishes with shallowing depth above the features. 10 Finally, ISH's fault interpretation has a significant number of faults extending all the way up 11 12 into the zone of the Clearwater sands as marked in 13 If these faults were real and exist as open pink. 14 conduits for steam as ISH contends, the Wabiskaw B gas would have leaked up into the Clearwater sands a long 15 time ago, and there would be no gas trapped within the 16 17 Kirby Upper Mannville II pool.

18 In summary, Canadian Natural maintains that there 19 is no seismic evidence of faulting at KN08 and KN09 20 between the McMurray and Wabiskaw B gas and that ISH's 21 seismic fault interpretation is incorrect and 22 speculative.

23 Canadian Natural will now discuss differential 24 compaction present at KN08 and KN09 and go through its 25 evidence that faults or fractures have not formed 26 within the confinement strata units as a result of this compaction observed at the proposed drainage boxes.
 Could I please have Exhibit 50-003, page 60,
 please. Thank you.

4 Canadian Natural observes that differential 5 compaction at KN08 and KN09 is mostly related to areas 6 of the post B2 incision edges and where mud-filled 7 abandonment channel plugs within the incision exist.

Abandonment plugs are areas where the active 8 9 channel within a river system have been cut off and 10 subsequently filled with mud and clay sediments. This 11 is very common in fluvial river systems. An example of 12 this can be seen in the modern Bow River -- actually --13 We can see this in the modern Bow River example sorry. 14 just outside of Calgary.

It is important to understand the relative 15 positioning of abandonment plugs to the adjacent point 16 17 bar sand deposits as they compact to a greater degree than the sands when buried with an -- with overlying 18 sediment. As sediment continues to be deposited, the 19 20 layers overlying the -- overlying also sag into the pression [sic] at the location of the underlying 21 22 mud pluq. This process is the primary mechanism of 23 differential compaction observed at KN08 and KN09 as -as shown in the schematic in the lower left of this 24 25 figure.

26

It is also important to understand the relative

scale of the abandonment channel plugs at KN08 and
 KN09. Post-B2 incision valleys at Kirby north are
 tributary systems on a much smaller scale than deposits
 at other McMurray developments, such as at Aspen, which
 was referenced to in Dr. Boone's October 10th, 2023,
 independent report.

7 Abandonment channel plugs at Kirby north, including KN08 and KN09, are visually observed to be 8 9 approximately 200 to 400 metres in width and 6 to 10 12 metres deep post-compaction. Visual inspection of 11 the figure provided in Dr. Boone's report for Aspen 12 where -- where some minor faulting due to differential 13 compaction is observed shows it is a much larger 14 McMurray channel system with abandonment plugs in the order of 700 to 1,000 metres wide and depths of 25-plus 15 16 metres post-compaction.

Resulting amount of compaction observed over these 17 small abandonment plugs at KN08 and KN09 is in the 18 order of 3 to 5 metres at the Wabiskaw B level. 19 This is considered a minor amount of structure due to 20 21 compaction, and, in Canadian Natural's experience, 22 faults or fractures are not expected from this small 23 amount of sag, which has been confirmed by Canadian Natural's review of its seismic core data and image 24 25 logs.

Could I get up Exhibit 50-003, PDF 62, please.

As you can see on this figure, Canadian Natural 1 2 provided a seismic spectral decomposition slice in the 3 2022 application, which is presented in the upper middle of this slide. 4 There was a northeast/southwest feature noted on the map that was labelled "Area of 5 6 Expected Heterogeneity", which my colleague is now 7 This feature is present -- this feature pointing to. is present on many of Canadian Natural's other 8 geophysical and geological mapping products, such as 9 10 the seismic lines shown in the bottom right portion of 11 this slide. On this seismic line, a structural sag on 12 various reflectors observed -- is observed as -- and is 13 circled in red. This sag is directly through the area 14 of expected heterogeneity. Canadian Natural interpreted this feature to be a result of differential 15 compaction from a mud-filled abandonment channel 16 somewhere within the post-B2 incision reservoir. 17 This channel trend, along with other trends 18 observed from other data sources, was incorporated into 19 20 a map similar to the one shown on the upper right 21 portion of this figure, which is -- this map is a total 22 post-B2 non-reservoir isopach.

23 Canadian Natural decided to test the -- this
24 interpretation to determine the exact stratigraphic
25 level of the anomaly, as well to determine an amount of
26 reservoir-quality sand potentially remaining underneath

the feature with a stratigraphic test well. You could
 see the location here with a red star on the spectral
 decomposition slice and on the map on the top right.

This well could also test if this area of
anticipated differential compaction actually had faults
or fractures within the confinement strata units by
running an image log.

Could I please have Exhibit 050.003, PDF 62, 8 9 please. Oh, this is it. Sorry. The same one, yeah. 10 Yeah. Canadian Natural drilled the 1 AD/13-34 11 strat well, and the well logs here are on the very This well was drilled in February of 2022 12 left. 13 directly -- as mentioned, directly through the subject 14 zone of expected heterogeneity at the northeast extent As you can see on the well logs on the 15 of the trend. left, the well encountered a mud-filled abandonment 16 17 plug at the top of the Bos [sic] B -- post-B2 incision reservoir as expected. A sag observed on the seismic 18 line at the well location was confirmed to be 19 differential compaction with 3 to 5 metres of lower 20 21 structure observed through the post-B2 incision tops 22 and up through the Wabiskaw B versus the same 23 geological tops in the nearest offsetting wells. 24 Now I'd like PDF 63, please. Thank you. 25 This image log analysis of the 180/13-34 well 26 confirmed that despite going through an area of

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relatively more differential compaction compared to the 1 2 other portions of the pad, there are no faults or 3 fractures within the confinement strata units. As shown -- as shown as this -- this is -- figure in the 4 centre of the slide. Note this was -- well was also a 5 directional well with an inclination of around 6 7 43 degrees through the confinement strata, so any vertical fractures or near vertical fractures, if 8 9 present, should have been detected by the wellbore, but 10 none were found. The only fracture event observed on 11 the image log was significantly higher up from the top 12 of the confinement -- confinement strata units near the 13 Viking level.

14 In summary, this assessment confirms Canadian Natural's interpretation of differential compaction in 15 the KN08 and KN09 areas and shows there are no fracture 16 17 events present at this geophysical anomaly. The actual 18 results prove Canadian Natural's model that differential compaction is caused by mud-filled 19 20 abandonment plugs and that the magnitude of compaction 21 This conclusion is in direct contrast to ISH's is low. 22 postulated differential compaction model where it 23 speculates that open faults and fractures must be present within the confinement strata due to compaction 24 over thick channel sands. Canadian Natural's evidence 25 26 does not support this theory.

We will now discuss Canadian Natural's evidence
 showing there has likely been no vertical gas migration
 from the McMurray to the Wabiskaw B gas thrones -- gas
 zones through faults and fractures.

5 Could I have Slide 65, please, of this exhibit.6 Thank you.

7 Canadian Natural disagrees with ISH's statements that Wabiskaw B gas is only present in the KN08 and 8 KN09 areas when overlying thick McMurray channel sands. 9 10 Canadian Natural shows, as per the map in the upper 11 right of the slide, that Wabiskaw B gas does indeed 12 exist to the northeast of the Kirby Upper Mannville II This gas exists within a smaller structural high 13 .loog 14 that is away from the underlying thick McMurray post-B2 incision channel trends as shown in this cross-section. 15 Can you just point ... So my colleague's pointing 16 to the thick channel sands here and then the absence of 17 them in the gas identified to the northeast. 18

19 ISH's assertation that Wabiskaw B gas only exists 20 over thick underlying McMurray reservoir sands is 21 incorrect.

22 Could I have page 66 from this exhibit, please.23 Thank you.

ISH has also stated that the McMurray Wabiskaw B gas within the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool could have only come from degraded McMurray oil by migrating vertically through preexisting open fractures and
 faults. Canadian Natural disagrees and postulates an
 alternative and more likely reason for the occurrence
 of Wabiskaw B gas in the KN08 and KN09 in greater Kirby
 north areas is that the Wabiskaw B gas is self-sourced.

6 Specifically, the Wabiskaw B gas came from the 7 degradation of Wabiskaw B oil that was originally in place in significant volumes at Kirby north. As shown 8 9 in this figure, the amount of Wabiskaw B bitumen in 10 place within a 1-mile radius around the Kirby Upper 11 Mannville II and Devenish Wabiskaw A pools is 12 comparable in volume to the amount of developable 13 McMurray bitumen volume in the existing and applied-for 14 pads at Kirby north.

This is a more likely explanation for the occurrence of Wabiskaw B gas also explains why there is also gas to the northeast of the Upper Mannville II pool where there is not any significant thick McMurray post-B2 incision sands present.

As a side note, gas -- gas exsolved from this
bitumen as a result of Wabiskaw B pressure decline also
contributed to the cumulative gas production from the
Kirby Mannville II and Devenish Wabiskaw A pools.
Some final comments on the presence of Wabiskaw B
gas in and around KN08 and KN09. ISH has repeatedly
asked, Where did the McMurray gas go? Canadian Natural

asserts that the gas generated from degraded McMurray oil likely over geological time migrated laterally away from the area updip along the post-B2 incision valley trend that carries further east into the north for several tens of kilometres, where it finally joins up with the main McMurray trunk valley system.

7 Additionally, there is no evidence of any top water and/or lean zones of low bitumen saturation at 8 the top of the post-B2 incision sands at KN08 and KN09 9 10 that might have indicated early trapping of McMurray 11 gas that was then breached by faults or open fractures. 12 It is more likely that faults and open fractures 13 between the McMurray SAGD reservoir sands and the 14 Wabiskaw B gas have just never existed as per all the other evidence shown here by Canadian Natural. 15

To conclude, we will now -- I will now describe some of Canadian Natural's operational evidence that there are no faults or open fractures that would be a risk to contaminating steam operations between the McMurray and Wabiskaw B gas.

Lost circulation of drilling fluids during drilling operations can be a direct indicator of faults or open fractures. Canadian Natural has observed no lost circulation events during the drilling of the 43 stratigraphic test wells in the KN08 and KN09 areas and also had no loss circulation events in the recently

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drilled 16 producer injector wellbores at offsetting
 KN06.

3 Could I have Exhibit 50.09, page 340, please.4 Thank you.

This slide shows the pressure data at the 10-1 5 6 well within the Wabiskaw B gas of the Kirby Upper 7 Mannville II pool as well as the pressures observed within the McMurray bottom water leg at the 7-29 and 8 9 12-34 wells. It would be expected that there would be 10 no pressure differential between these zones if there were faults or an open connected fracture system 11 12 between the McMurray and Wabiskaw gas zone at KN08 and 13 KN09.

14 However, as you can see, a significant pressure differential does exist, confirming these zones are not 15 in communication with each other. This is compelling 16 17 evidence that faults and/or open connected fractures between the McMurray and Wabiskaw B gas zone at KN08 18 and KN09 do not exist, or, in the unlikely case they do 19 exist and remain undetected, they are closed to fluid 20 21 flow.

In summary, Canadian Natural has shown substantial -- substantial evidence showing no faults or fractures within the confinement strata units at KN08 and KN09. We reviewed that there are -- there is no evidence of faults or fractures with the confinement strata intervals on core, image log, and seismic data. We also show that differential compaction at KN08 and KN09 has not caused faults and fracture and that the Wabiskaw B gas did not likely come from the McMurray via vertical faults and fractures within the proposed drainage box areas.

Finally, Canadian Natural's operational and
drilling data support there is most likely no faults or
fractures with the confinement strata units or if they
do exist, they are closed to fluid flow.

11 To close, Canadian Natural concludes that there is 12 a low to nonexistent fracture density within the strata 13 between the McMurray formation and the Wabiskaw B 14 member that would pose a risk to the containment of 15 steaming operations at KN08 and KN09.

16 This concludes Canadian Natural's direct evidence 17 on Hearing Issue 1. I will now turn it over to 18 Mr. Peter Thomsen to discuss Canadian Natural's direct 19 evidence for Hearing Issue Number 3.

20 A P. THOMSEN: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

Thank you, Mr. Sverdahl, for explaining the geoscience evidence and showing that there are no currently open pathways through the confinement strata. Next I will present the geomechanics evaluation, which addresses the third hearing issue. It will be shown that the proposed MOPs are appropriate for confinement

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strata containment of steam over the life of the KN08
 and KN09 drainage boxes.

Kirby north has significant field experience with
starting steam circulation without fracturing. Through
continuous improvement, enhanced start-up practices
have been developed and used for the KN06 start-up.
These enhancements will be carried forward to the KN08
and KN09 start-ups.

9 There are four components to the risk -- to --10 mitigating components to the risk of start-up-induced 11 hydraulic fracturing. Number 1, leakoff within the 12 McMurray reservoir and confinement strata; Number 2, a 13 stress contrast between the McMurray reservoir and the confinement strata; Number 3, elastic stress increases 14 within the McMurray reservoir; and Number 4, limited 15 rate and limited volumes injected with elevated 16 17 pressures.

18 I will now address operating pressures and maximum operating pressures, "MOPs". SAGD starts with steam 19 20 circulation, which lasts for approximately three to four months. Once a sufficient amount of heat has been 21 22 transferred into the reservoir during circulation, the 23 SAGD well pair is converted into gravity drainage 24 operation. The typical SAGD operating time is 25 approximately 10 to 15 years. During start-up, 26 Canadian Natural will endeavour to initiate circulation

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with bottom-hole pressures less than 5,500 kPa. Once circulation starts, the bottom-hole pressure will reduce to near the bottom water pressure. The 5,500 kPa threshold pressure is to try starting circulation with bottom-hole pressures below the post-B2 reservoir sand minimum stress.

7 In the event of challenging operational circumstances, such as high emulsion pipeline 8 9 pressures, it may be necessary to initiate circulation 10 with bottom-hole pressures above 5,500 kPa and below 11 the requested temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa. Use of 12 elevated pressures would be for short time periods of 13 less than 24 hours and with small volumes of injected 14 steam, less than 180 cubic metres.

15 In the event of an operational interruption such 16 as a power outage or a wildfire, circulation stops. 17 Once operations can resume, circulation would need to 18 be reinitiated, which could potentially require 19 elevated bottom-hole pressures. Other than circulation 20 start-ups, all other SAGD operations would be 21 constrained by the long-term MOP.

The original application -- the original application requested MOP was 6,000 kPa. Underneath all of the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes is McMurray bottom water, which has high water permeability and a hydraulically connected area much larger than the KN08 1 and KN09 drainage boxes.

The bottom water pressure underneath KN08 and KN09 is approximately 2,600 kPa. SAGD operations will need to operate near a balanced pressure with the bottom water over the long term. Neither production from or injection into the bottom water is acceptable for extended periods of time for the bitumen resource recovery.

9 The purpose of the long-term MOP being above the 10 bottom water pressure is operational flexibility 11 following downtime and for wellbore issues such as 12 scale plugging.

13 From a confinement strata integrity perspective, 14 there are two risks to consider. The first is the 15 short-term risk of the start-up potentially fracturing from the SAGD wells to the Wabiskaw B gas. Hydraulic 16 fracturing is a mechanism which can create a 17 18 transmissive flow path. The second risk is a long-term risk of the SAGD-induced stress changes in the 19 confinement strata and whether this could lead to 20 21 either hydraulic fracturing or shear failure in the confinement strata. The proposed SAGD operations are 22 low risk for both of these. 23

One fracture containment mechanism is leakoff.
Leakoff describes fluid flow through porous media and,
specifically for the SAGD start-ups, applies to water

flowing within the post-B2 reservoir. Number 1, water 1 2 flowing via water permeability, which occurs in the 3 cold and undepleted McMurray oil sand. Number 2, water 4 flowing into the McMurray bottom water, which has a leakoff capacity. In the unlikely event of hydraulic 5 6 fracturing within the sand, Number 3, water flowing 7 away from a fracture. Leakoff accommodates some injection volume and constrains potential hydraulic 8 9 fracture heights. If temporary MOPs are used with 10 small volumes, this de-risks fracturing to or through 11 the confinement strata.

12 In the setting of the KN08 and KN09 confinement 13 strata, stresses are a primary driver for hydraulic 14 fracturing. A fracture pressure needs to be greater than the minimum stress for a hydraulic fracture to 15 initiate and propagate. This extra pressure above the 16 minimum stress is called the "net fracture pressure". 17 18 A hydraulic fracture orientation depends on -- upon the orientation of the minimum stress, which can be 19 20 considered as taking the path of least resistance. For the KN08 and KN09 confinement strata, the minimum 21 22 stress is oriented horizontally, and this leads to hydraulic fracture orientations to be vertical and to 23 open against the minimum horizontal stress. 24 25 For the confinement strata, rock strength is not a

26 primary control of hydraulic fracture behaviour, and,

in fact, the low rock strength benefits the sealing of 1 2 natural fractures and faults. 3 Mr. Lung, please pull up Exhibit 15.01, PDF 4 If we could zoom into the upper Figure 6, page 96. 5 please. 6 Within the subsurface, stresses cannot be measured 7 Instead we use diagnostic fracture injection directly. tests, DFITs, to determine an in situ stress. In this 8 9 figure is a conceptual DFIT graph of pressure versus 10 time. During a DFIT, following the breakdown, the pressure stabilizes at a fracture propagation pressure. 11 12 A fracture is open when the injection is stopped, and as the pressure declines, a point will come when the --13 14 where the fracture will close. The pressure at this point is called the "fracture closure pressure", the 15 This is equivalent to the minimum stress. 16 FCP. 17 DFIT-measured pressures consistently show the fracture propagation pressures to be greater than the 18 19 fracture closure pressures due to the hydraulic 20 fractures requiring additional pressure above the minimum stress, the net fracture pressure. 21 22 Mr. Lung, if you could please pull up 23 Exhibit 15.01, PDF page 39, Table 1. Stresses have been characterized from DFITs, and the minimum stress 24 25 gradients are 14.6 kPa per metre for the regional B1 26 sequence and 13.1 kPa per metre for the post B2

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reservoir sand. Please note the minimum stress
gradient difference of 1.5 kPa per metre, which
provides fracture containment in the unlikely event of
hydraulic fracturing within the post B2 reservoir sand.
This is the second fracture containment mechanism.
This is consistent with the KN06 stress
characterization.

Next, SAGD circulation will create stress 8 9 increases within the post B2 reservoir sand. In the 10 unlikely event of a hydraulic fracture within the sand, 11 the increased pressure and temperature will create The result of the stress increases 12 stress increases. 13 are that in order to continue propagating a hydraulic 14 fracture, the fracture pressure will increase through In a situation with a pressure limit, this will 15 time. force a reduction in injection rate and can ultimately 16 lead to a fracture closing. Elastic stress increases 17 within the sand are the third fracture containment 18 mechanism. 19

In Kirby north, 146 SAGD wells have been started up. These wells were assessed for indications of hydraulic fracturing. 145 out of the 146 wells conclusively initiated circulation without hydraulic fracturing of the sand. A 46 -well subset were started up with bottom-hole pressures greater than 6,000 kPa. It should be noted that the use of the elevated pressure for initiating steam circulation is not a theoretical prediction, but, rather, there is a

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3 significant Kirby north experience with this type of4 operation.

The risk of fracturing the post B2 reservoir sand 5 6 is low, and without initiating a hydraulic fracture 7 within the sand, the risk of fracturing through the confinement strata is even lower. When bottom-hole 8 9 pressure is -- greater than 6,000 kPa were used, it was 10 for short time frames, typically between one to four 11 hours, and small volumes of steam were injected, 12 typically 1 to 10 cubic metres per well. The requested MOPs are a low likelihood for initiating hydraulic 13 14 fractures within the post B2 reservoir, and this is supported by the Kirby north start-up field data. 15 The stress characterization used for this 16 evaluation is representative for the KN08 and KN09 17

18 drainage areas. This is supported by four points.
19 Stresses tend to be regionally consistent for a given
20 stratigraphic unit. Regionally present mud-prone
21 heterolithic strata have consistent elastic properties
22 which are directly related to horizontal stress
23 gradients.

The commercial scale Kirby north data set of -starting up 146 wells on steam circulation does not show stress variability with either variable or low fracture pressures. And, finally, significant
 geological structural features such as karsts are not
 present in the KN08 and KN09 drainage area.

4 The requested temporary MOP is low risk in part due to the short durations of less than 24 hours and 5 6 minimal injection volumes of less than 180 cubic 7 Additional DFITs are not required over the metres. KN08 and KN09 drainage areas, and Canadian Natural is 8 not willing to conduct additional DFITs since the 9 10 requested temporary MOP is low risk. Further DFITs 11 will increase costs and may result in a further project 12 delay. Additionally DFITs are also unlikely to change 13 the requested MOPs.

14 The long-term operating pressure gradient will be approximately 5.5 kPa per metre, which is far below the 15 post B2 reservoir sand minimum stress gradient of 16 17 13.1 kPa per metre. The bottom water driver on SAGD 18 operating pressure de-risks the long-term risk of hydraulic fracturing of the sand or the confinement 19 20 Further, the operating pressure gradient of strata. 21 around 5.5 kPa per metre is below the water hydrostatic 22 head pressure gradient of 9.8 kPa per metre. Shear 23 failure is generally considered low risk at operating 24 pressures below the hydrostatic head of water. This is 25 exemplified by Long Lake Pads 14 to 15 which have an 26 MOP of the hydrostatic head of water near seismic scale 1 faults in the caprock.

Next we will review the geomechanical modelling. 2 3 The objectives for the geomechanical modelling were to 4 evaluate the short-term and long-term risks. For the short term, what is the potential to initiate and 5 6 propagate hydraulic fracturing within the post B2 7 reservoir sand and what is the minimum magnitude of a stress contrast to contain hydraulic fractures? 8 9 Specific to the long-term risk is representing

SAGD-induced stress changes within the confinement strata and assessing factors of safety. The simulator used for this modelling is GeoSim, which is an AER-recognized simulator for thermal caprock integrity and is an industry standard. GeoSim features include fracture mechanics, multi-phased flow, and coupled reservoir and geomechanical modelling.

The methodology for evaluating the potential for 17 start-up-induced fracturing includes consideration of 18 the initial and the dynamic stress state, flow through 19 20 effective permeability to water, and appropriate rock Two locations were evaluated for potential 21 properties. 22 start-up-induced fracturing: One is the location of the shallowest well, which is near the toe of KN08 12I, 23 which is more prone to fracture initiation due to the 24 25 depth.

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The second location is where there is the shortest

distance between the base of the regional B1 sequence 1 2 and the top of the post B2 reservoir. This is near the 3 heel of KN08 6I. For evaluating the long-term SAGD 4 impacts, a 2D model was extracted from the heels of the KN08 development where there is a short distance again 5 6 between the regional B1 sequence and the top of the 7 post B2 reservoir. Long-term pressure and temperature effects were predicted, which involves uplift of the 8 9 overburden, including the confinement strata. The 10 modelled stress changes within the regional B1 sequence 11 were assessed for impacts to the tensile and shear 12 factors of safety.

Finally, a 30-day period of elevated injection pressure -- of elevated injection pressures was implemented after a time period of one and five years of SAGD operation.

Conservative inputs have been used for many of the 17 inputs in the modelling. Some of these conservative 18 inputs are representing low effective permeability to 19 water and not representing leakoff to the bottom water. 20 21 For the start-up modelling, the injected fluid was cold 22 water, which is conservative and does not include any 23 thermal elastic effects from temperature increase. 24 Further, only one hydraulic fracture is represented 25 along the length of the horizontal well. 26 Low compressibility inputs have also been used.

As has been described earlier, four fracture 1 2 containment mechanisms are represented in the 3 modelling: Number 1, leakoff of water into the post-B2 reservoir; Number 2, a stress contrast between the 4 post-B2 reservoir and the confinement strata, 5 6 specifically the regional B1 sequence; Number 3, poral 7 elastic stress increases around a hydraulic fracture; and the fourth fracture containment mechanism is 8 9 implicit with the inputs of a maximum continuous time 10 of 24 hours with using an elevated pressure and a 11 maximum steam rate of 180 cubic metres per day. 12 This is conservative, considering the typical use 13 of elevated pressures above the long-term MOP is a 14 duration of one to four hours with a volume of 1 to 10 cubic metres. 15 Mr. Lung, please pull up Exhibit 46.002, page 64. 16 17 Please zoom in to Figure 20. Mr. Thomsen, could I just ask A. LUNG: 18 19 you to slow down a little bit for our court reporters. 20 Thank you. 21 P. THOMSEN: And zooming in on the upper Α 22 figure, please. The most realistic representation of the 23 short-term risk includes the fracture containment 24 25 mechanisms. This is Case Number 2, which is located at the shallowest well in the KN08 and KN09 drainage 26

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boxes. Case Number 2 is modelled without a constraint on the bottom-hole pressure. In the graph of pressure versus time, the Case Number 2 green line shows a near immediate increase above 6,600 kPa. An unconstrained bottom-hole was required with the modelling in order to initiate a small fracture.

7 If you could scroll down to the next page and zoom8 in to Figure 22, please.

9 This image shows the geometry of the most 10 realistic Case Number 2, which has minimal growth 11 within the post-B2 reservoir sand of less than 2 metres 12 in height.

The key finding is that with realistic modelling of the post-B2 reservoir and with a constraint of a bottom-hole pressure of 6,600 kPa, there is a low risk of fracturing the post-B2 reservoir. It is likely that a temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa will not result in fracturing of the sand.

In the highly unlikely event of propagating a
fracture to the base of the regional B1 sequence, the
stress contrast would contain a fracture below the
regional B1 sequence and far below the Wabiskaw B gas.
Sensitivity cases have been modelled in order to
evaluate fracture containment mechanisms.
Same exhibit, if we could go to page 71, please,

26 and Figure 31. If you could zoom in on that, please.

Cases 7 to 8 were modelled in order to consider 1 2 reduced minimum stress contrasts and fracture 3 containment. Case Number 8 uses a conservatively low 4 effective permeability to water, no bottom-hole pressure constraint, and has no elastic stress 5 6 increases within the post-B2 reservoir sand. The Case 7 Number 8 inputs use a minimum stress gradient difference of only 0.3 kPa per metre. 8 These changes from a realistic scenario were used in order to 9 10 model -- represent a fracture propagating to the base of the regional B1 sequence. On this image is the 11 fracture size after 24 hours of injection, which shows 12 13 containment within the regional B1 sequence. This 14 shows that a minimum stress gradient difference of only 0.3 kPa per metre is sufficient to contain hydraulic 15 The regional B1 sequence has a minimum 16 fractures. stress gradient difference of 1.5 kPa per metre. 17 18 Please change to PDF page 53 and zoom in to 19 Figure 10A, the upper one. 20 For the long-term risk, a 2D cross-section was extracted from the heels of the KN08 drainage area. 21 22 12 SAGD well pairs were modelled for 15 years of 23 operation. The steam chamber pressure was set to

25 water. This is conservative, considering that the 26 bottom water pressure is 2,600 kPa.

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4,000 kPa with -- removing any leakoff to the bottom

Shown is a model cross-section where the shear 1 stress level -- shown is a model cross-section showing 2 3 the shear stress level, and one can also identify variable unit thicknesses which have been represented. 4 Same exhibit, please, go to page 72, Table 4. 5 6 Through the life of the SAGD operation, the 7 minimum factors of safety were identified within the middle of the regional -- within the middle of the 8 9 The minimum shear factor of safety is Bl sequence. 10 1.9, and the minimum tensile factor of safety is 2.1. 11 These are both far from the onset of failure and are 12 above the Directive 86 shallow SAGD minimum factor of 13 safety of 1.25. Kirby north is not within the shallow 14 SAGD area, but this comparison is made to illustrate that the proposed operating conditions are reasonable. 15 16 Sensitivity cases for the long-term SAGD operations were modelled for a 30-day period of steam 17 injection at a bottom-hole pressure of 6,000 kPa after 18 one and five years. Due to the high compressibility of 19 20 the steam chamber, there are negligible effects, 21 impacts on confinement strata stress changes. 22 The hearing issues are focused around whether 23 steam could communicate with the Wabiskaw B gas. This is confined to an economic risk, and there are not 24 25 health, safety, or environmental consequences. For the 26 short-term risk, a sufficient factor of safety is

present with the proposed operating conditions due to 1 2 the limited durations and volumes for the potential use 3 of elevated pressures, the other three fracture 4 containment mechanisms, operational enhancements for SAGD start-ups, and Kirby north field experience of 5 6 initiating steam circulation with bottom-hole pressures 7 above 6,000 kPa without communication to the Wabiskaw B 8 qas.

9 For the long-term risks, the factors of safety are 10 well above the D86 minimum factor of safety of 1.25, 11 which, again, is not applicable to Kirby north, but 12 this comparison is made to illustrate the proposed 13 operating conditions are not pushing the envelope.

14 In conclusion, the requested temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa is low risk of fracturing through the 15 confinement strata due to multiple fracture containment 16 Number 1, leakoff within the McMurray 17 mechanisms: 18 reservoir and confinement strata; Number 2, a stress contrast between the McMurray reservoir and the 19 confinement strata; Number 3, elastic stress increases 20 21 within the McMurray reservoir; Number 4, limited rate 22 and volume injected with elevated pressures.

The proposed operating conditions, including a long-term MOP of 6,000 kPa, are a low risk to the confinement strata integrity for long-term SAGD operations.

Regarding modifications to the requested operating 1 2 limits, the originally requested MOP and temporary MOP 3 are technically justified, as shown in the application and the written materials submitted in this hearing. 4 While not required, Canadian Natural has modified 5 6 its requests. Regarding the temporary MOP, Number 1, 7 limit the maximum continuous time to 24 hours when using bottom-hole pressures above 5,500 kPa and below 8 9 the requested temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa. Number 2. 10 limit the maximum gross steam rate to be 180 cubic 11 metres per day when using bottom-hole pressures above 12 5,500 kPa. Regarding the -- the MOP, reduce the MOP from 6,000 kPa to 5,500 kPa while maintaining the 13 requested temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa for the purpose of 14 initiating circulation. 15

While unnecessary, these modifications provide further risk mitigation and demonstrate Canadian Natural's reasonableness. Thank you for your attention, and I will now pass the presenting over to Mr. Devin Ollenberger, who will be addressing Hearing Issues Number 2, 4, and 5.

D. OLLENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Thomsen.
Good afternoon, Commissioners. As mentioned
earlier, my name is Devin Ollenberger, and I am the
exploitation engineering manager for the Kirby north
asset. Today I will be talking about Hearing Issues

Number 2, 4, and 5, which generally cover appropriate monitoring and observation wells; whether to approve the use of co-injection, more specifically, hydrocarbon-assisted start-up; and the thermal compatibility and/or abandonment of identified wells within or adjacent to the KN08 and KN09 pad developments.

I will begin my commentary with Issue Number 2. 8 9 Canadian Natural plans to execute a robust monitoring 10 strategy consisting of data collected from both gas 11 monitoring wells and SAGD well pairs in combination 12 with appropriate process controls and operating 13 This strategy is demarcated into two time procedures. 14 periods: the circulation start-up phase and the 15 long-term SAGD operation phase. This is to ensure that the relevant differences of these two operational 16 17 phases are adequately addressed. When we're available, 18 Canadian Natural also plans on using 4D seismic data to monitor the KN08/09 development. The last such seismic 19 20 shoot at Kirby north was completed in O1 2022. 21 Finally, Canadian Natural plans to report all relevant 22 monitoring data as part of the AER Directive 54 23 requirements or directly to the AER on an as-needed 24 basis, subject to approval conditions.

Canadian Natural originally applied for start-up
enhancements for pads KN08 and KN09 that are similar to

those that have been successfully executed at KN06.
This includes holding a workshop at least 30 days prior
to start-up, which will cover hydraulic fracturing, in
situ stresses, and previous Kirby north circulation
examples where temporary MOP pressures were required to
establish circulation.

7 Building on the content of the workshop, the surveillance graphs that will be used to review 8 9 realtime data will be modified to include clear 10 indiction of in situ stresses on bottom-hole pressure 11 During start-up, a geomechanics expert will trends. 12 also review the rate and pressure data for several of 13 the initial wells on each pad to test for evidence of 14 abnormal or unexpected fracturing behaviour.

One advancement that Canadian Natural proposes for KN08 and KN09 development which builds upon the start-up enhancements executed for pad KN06 is the pressure criteria utilized for pad start-up mitigations, which may need to occur during initial unloading of the SAGD well pairs.

Here, as Mr. Thomsen just discussed, Canadian Natural adopts Dr. Boone's suggestion that the pressure limit used prior to utilizing the temporary MOP be set at 5,500 kPa versus 6,000 kPa and less than the proposed temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa. 5,500 kPa will only be exceeded if after four hours circulation is not 1 established.

2	Again, Canadian Natural would like to reiterate
3	that the technical evidence my colleagues have
4	discussed this morning supports a long-term MOP of
5	6,000 kPa. However, in light of ISH's concerns,
б	Canadian Natural is prepared to reduce the long-term
7	MOP to 5,500 kPa and all, accordingly, all SAGD
8	monitoring conditions will utilize this pressure in
9	place of the 6,000 kPa which was previously applied
10	for. Normal operations will continue to target
11	pressures in balance with the bottom water.
12	Canadian Natural believes that the two monitoring
13	wells mentioned in its submission, the 10-1 well and
14	the 100/1-3, will provide sufficient monitoring of the
15	Kirby Upper Mannville II pool, the pool which overlies
16	all of the KN06, KN08, and KN09 pad developments.
17	First, the 10-1 well on pad KN06 remains a
18	suitable monitoring well for the pool, which I'll speak
19	to more shortly.
20	In addition, the inclusion of the $100/1-3$ well
21	will provide further robustness to monitoring the Kirby
22	Upper Mannville II pool. The well is ideally located
23	in the heart of the SAGD pay for the KN08 pad
24	THE COURT REPORTER: Can I get you to slow down,
25	please.
26	D. OLLENBERGER: You bet.

-- just south of KN09 and is near three wells
 identified in the AER SIR Round 2 Question Number 1.
 The SIR was in regard to cement return volumes for the
 three OSE wells that were in question.

5 The 10-1 well remains a sufficient and relevant 6 monitoring well for the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool, 7 just as it was in August 2021 when the AER stated that 8 it was satisfied with Canadian Natural's investigation 9 of the well and that no remediation was required.

10 The well has been on stable pressure decline since 11 March 30th, 2021, and has not been impacted by the 12 initiation of SAGD operations on the KN06 pad that 13 began in May 2023. Canadian Natural does believe that 14 the decline in the well pressures is indicative of the 15 depletion of the gas over bitumen gas resource in the 16 Kirby Upper Mannville II pool.

17 In ISH's response to Canadian Natural Information 18 Request Number 20, which is Exhibit 044.002, page 66 of 19 95, ISH indicated that they agreed that the 10-1 well 20 data is reliable over the last three years.

I will now transition to speaking on Issue Number 4, whether to approve the use of co-injection for the proposed KN08 and KN09 development.

First, as was stated in our submission, Canadian Natural would like to clarify that hydrocarbon agent assisted start-up is not a co-injection process, as steam injection is halted prior to hydrocarbon
 injection.

In this case, typical SAGD steam circulation is conducted for 30 to 90 days before circulation is stopped and hydrocarbon is injected at a controlled rate and volume. This allows pressure to remain below MOP as hydrocarbon injection is initiated after the near wellbore region has been heated, providing additional mobility.

10 For this reason, no additional geomechanical risk 11 is generated by hydrocarbon injection. A maximum -- a maximum hydrocarbon volume of 350 metres cubed per well 12 13 pair has been requested to provide flexibility for the 14 potential maximum length of the KN08 and KN09 well pairs and the pad scale nature of the test. 15 The injected solvent will only occupy less than 2 percent 16 17 of the pore space in the near wellbore region and is 18 expected to stay within a 3-metre radius of the wellbore. 19

Further, given the small injected volume relative to the near wellbore fluids and xylene's full solubility in bitumen and lack of solubility in water, the solvent is expected to combine with the bitumen and be produced back in the early days of SAGD production.

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As mentioned, injected hydrocarbon volume and

rates are controlled in such a way the injection 1 2 pressure will stay below the approved MOP, 5,500 kPa as 3 proposed. The temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa will not be 4 applied to hydrocarbon-assisted start-up. Of additional interest, xylene is a component in 5 6 many common chemicals used in the gas production 7 process, such as wax disbursements and demulsifiers. ISH has indicated that they use such chemicals in their 8 9 gas operations in their IR response to CNRL ISH 10 Number 34, which is Exhibit 044.05, pages 3 and 34 of 62. 11 12 Though Canadian Natural does not support a 13 comprehensive monitoring program for 14 hydrocarbon-assisted start-up, such operations will be monitored closely using traditional monitoring methods 15 such as that that was utilized previously on our pad 16 17 KN01 test. 18 Finally, four other SAGD operators have also utilized hydrocarbon start-up without issue, which is 19 20 why it is extremely unlikely that the 21 hydrocarbon-assisted start-up process would impact the 22 overlying gas resource. I will now transition to discussing Issue 23 As per Directive 23, Section 7.8 and the 24 Number 5. 25 requirement for well integrity in the Kirby commercial 26 scheme approval Condition Number 13, Canadian Natural

has reviewed all well bores that penetrate the McMurray
formation within a 300-metre buffer of the proposed
KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes. Four wells were
identified as thermally non-compatible following
Canadian Natural's review. I will cover these wells
and associated mitigation shortly.

7 Canadian Natural does require timely approval in 8 order to gain access and execute these workovers by the 9 end of Ql 2025 in order to progress the KN08 and KN09 10 development pending regulatory approval. Canadian 11 Natural maintains an implied commitment to restore 12 production capability of the gas resource once the GOB 13 order is lifted.

Canadian Natural is willing to accept ISH's 14 recommendation and convert the 10-34 well to Wabiskaw B 15 gas monitoring well. This will also provide a 16 redundant gas monitoring well location within the KN08 17 pad in addition to the 100/1-3 well. For the 10-218 well, the McMurray zone will be -- sorry -- the 19 20 McMurray will be zonely [sic] abandoned and the 21 perforations into the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool 22 will be patched, and the wellbore will be cemented to 23 allow the uphole Grand Rapids to be returned to production. 24

25 The implementation of a patch is to minimize26 workover losses and maintain existing Kirby Upper

Mannville II potential, protecting our combined gas 1 2 The additional expense of the casing patch resource. 3 is \$30,000 and is above and beyond Canadian Natural's 4 normal recommendation. 12-34 well was previously equipped with continuous 5 6 monitoring, but pressure data ceased on November 19th, 7 2020. The data taker and radio had failed and were repaired on August 14th, 2022. This well is now 8 9 thermally compatible due to the restoration of 10 continuous monitoring. And, finally, the 10-3 well will be abandoned. 11 12 Canadian Natural believes that we are in 13 alignment -- sorry -- that alignment has been achieved 14 with ISH's hearing submission on all four well workover 15 proposals. 16 In ISH's hearing submission at paragraphs 141 and 142, Exhibit 32.02, PDF pages 44 and 45 of 47, they 17 stated several requested monitoring conditions and 18 conditions of approval. Throughout our direct evidence 19 20 this morning, Canadian Natural has largely discussed 21 the major components with regard to what Canadian 22 Natural is willing to commit to with respect to ISH's 23 request with three exceptions that I will now touch on. First, in addition to the 10-1, 100/1-3, and 10-3424 25 wells, Canadian Natural is also willing to commit to a 26 future monitoring well location on or in the vicinity

of the KN09 pad development and to have that well in place prior to KN09's steaming operations in order to satisfy ISH's request of one monitoring location per pad.

5 The second item is the inclusion of surface gauges 6 on monitoring wells. Canadian Natural actively 7 responds to and mitigates all downhole gauge issues and 8 therefore does not believe that surface gauges are 9 required.

10 The final item not previously touched on is with 11 respect to ISH's request for gas sampling. Here 12 Canadian Natural is willing to take baseline samples 13 from a well over the KN08/KN09 development and another 14 sample prior to production of the GOB gas for 15 comparison purposes.

16 Canadian Natural does not, however, support 17 ongoing sampling over the life of the KN08/KN09 18 development.

Mr. Lung, can you please bring up Exhibit 050.002,page 43, Table 4.

21 Thank you.

In ISH's response to Canadian Natural's Information Request Number 19, they provided estimated values of the gas resource both individually and -- and combined for the Kirby Upper Mannville II and Devenish Wabiskaw A pools. These values are provided in the

leftmost common of the table on your screen. 1 Of note is that ISH used an effective date of January 1st, 2 3 2024, for their economic evaluation. This date does 4 not capture the appropriate discounting of the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool which is currently shut in 5 6 under a GOB order.

7 Utilizing the values provided by ISH, Canadian Natural has provided discounted values of the gas 8 resource assuming both 10 and 20 years delays. 9 These 10 are in the next two columns on your table.

11 Assuming that the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool 12 will not be able to produce until the bitumen resource 13 at Pads KN08 and KN09 are completed, a 20-year delay is 14 appropriate. SAGD pads known in industry have exceeded 15 this productive lifespan.

After applying appropriate discounting, the value 16 17 range of the gas resource is 548,000 for the Kirby Upper Mannville II pool, and using \$5-per-million BTU 18 gas pricing and 3 percent escalation as provided by ISH 19 20 can reach up to 1.175 million using a 100 percent 21 working interest and assuming communication of both 22 pools. ISH's share of the Kirby Upper Mannville II 23 pool would be 46.25 percent, and these values would 24 also assume 100 percent of the gas resource is 25 impacted, which is highly unlikely. 26

Mr. Lung, can you please bring up Exhibit 050.002,

PDF page 44, Table 5. You've just got to scroll down. The table provided in Canadian Natural's reply submission as shown on the screen summarizes the estimated cost for ISH's requested monitoring and approval conditions on the left side of the table; in contrast, to the estimated costs of Canadian Natural's commitments on the right.

It is evident that the costs of Canadian Natural's 8 committed monitoring, which are near-term expenses at 9 10 \$1.10 million is essentially equivalent to the high-end 11 100 percent working interest discounted value of the 12 combined Kirby Upper Mannville II and Devenish Wabiskaw 13 A pools of \$1.175 million and twice the value of the 14 remaining gas in the GOB Kirby Upper Mannville II gas pool at five thousand -- \$500,048. 15

Additional monitoring measures will increase the disproportionate nature of the risk mitigation costs in comparison to the value of the gas resource. Canadian Natural's proposed mitigations and monitoring measures are reasonable under these circumstances.

Thank you. I would now like to hand it back to
Dr. Tom Boone who has previously been --

23 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Actually, before you move on,

24 Mr. Ollenberger, in relation to this Table 5 --

25 D. OLLENBERGER: Yes.

26 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: -- just some clarification

1	here, which, I think was causing us a bit of concern
2	ahead of the hearing. We've got 'M'. We've got 'K'
3	showing up in the this in this table. We've got
4	estimated
5	D. OLLENBERGER: Sorry.
б	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: cost dollars 'M'. We've
7	got under ISH request, the second box down on the very
8	left-hand side
9	D. OLLENBERGER: I see that now, yes.
10	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: three wells times 20K.
11	Can you please clarify
12	D. OLLENBERGER: I will clarify that both
13	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: for the Panel the
14	abbreviations so that we're making sure that we're all
15	understanding the same thing.
16	D. OLLENBERGER: Yes. We thought we had
17	cleaned off all the Ks. Both 'M' and 'K' in this
18	instance are \$1,000.
19	COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you.
20	D. OLLENBERGER: You're welcome. Thank you for
21	that clarification.
22	Sorry. If there are no further questions, I will
23	now hand over to Dr. Tom Boone as previously being
24	introduced as Canadian Natural's independent expert
25	witness.
26	T. BOONE: Thank you, Mr. Ollenberger.

Now, I'm going to be about 20 minutes and Gerard 1 2 is maybe five, four? 3 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Well, as we indicated, we will 4 be having a hard stop at 3:30 for a break in any event, 5 so --6 J. JAMIESON: I think we're going to make 7 There's a path forward here. it. COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 8 All right. Thank you. 9 Α T. BOONE: Thank you. Good afternoon, 10 Hearing Commissioners. My name is Tom Boone, and I've 11 been engaged by CNRL to provide an independent assessment of Issues 1 to 4 with specific focus on the 12 13 confining strata at KN08 and KN09. 14 Now, this presentation will summarize key points that I made in my initial and supplemental reports that 15 I have prepared independently. Now I'm only going to 16 17 refer to figures in my supplemental report, which is Exhibit 050.003, and if it's okay, I will just refer to 18 19 the PDF page numbers going forward. 20 So can I have PDF page 9, please. Now, with 21 respect to the first hearing issue, the approach I've 22 taken is to conduct a comprehensive technical review of 23 factors that may affect the containment of steam. Now in the chart shown, I've listed a suite of parameters 24 25 along with criteria for assessing each parameter. My 26 assessment of the parameter is in the third column,

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which is coloured based on whether it's supportive of 1 2 containment, is neutral -- supportive of containment 3 being green, neutral being yellow, and lack of 4 containment being red, although there are none there. I'll briefly comment on most of these parameters 5 using this slide and then highlight the production 6 7 pressures and core assessment. 8 So, first, geology stratigraphy. As discussed by 9 Mr. Lavigne, stratigraphic mapping shows there are 10 multiple low permeability zones in the confinement 11 strata at all the stratigraphic wells. 12 Core assessment. There is 24 core wells within 13 the drainage area. All these wells have significant 14 zones of low strength, low stiffness mudstones, where 15 any fractures are very likely to be closed. I'll comment subsequently on how the mud content 16 17 will act to contain steam. 18 Microimaging logs. There is 36 microimage logs from the drainage areas with very few, if any, observed 19 fractures in the confinement strata. Nowhere is the 20 21 observed fracture frequency near the threshold that 22 would be required for a connected pathway through the 23 containment strata. 3. Seismic. There is full 3D seismic coverage of 24 25 the drainage areas. No large-scale faults have been 26 identified. Also there's no underlying salt

dissolution, karsting, or other such features that might contribute to faulting or local variations in the stress state. Only minor differential compaction features associated with relatively shallow mud channels have been observed.

GCMS. There's six wells within the KN08/KN09
drainage boxes that have GCMS sampling. And all show
one or more likely barriers to fluid migration within
the confinement strata.

10 Analoq data. The annual in situ performance 11 presentations are available for all major SAGD projects 12 in Alberta. They include a variety of temperature and 13 saturation logs which can be used to ascertain if steam 14 is migrated into the overlying confining strata. I've reviewed most of the available documents and have not 15 found any where steam has migrated more than a few 16 metres into the muddy confining strata. 17

18 Now, I'll just discuss pre-production pressures. Now, in conventional reservoir engineering, pressure 19 20 monitoring is the primary tool used to assess 21 connectivity between reservoirs. A pre-production 22 difference -- pressure difference is definitive 23 evidence of a barrier or a lack of communication. So I requested that CNRL review its historical 24 25 data for all original pressure measurements in the Kirby north area. Critically, there are two consistent 26

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pre-production pressure measurements from the 1970s in the McMurray formation that also agree with more recent pre-SAGD pressure measurements. Now, plots are included in my original report. I'll just summarize briefly what the results are.

6 So the results are that the original pressure 7 measurements in the Wabiskaw B gas zone are 8 approximately 100 kPa above the McMurray pressure 9 gradient. I concluded based on these measurements that 10 over a production time scale, there's likely no 11 hydraulic connection between the McMurray sands and the 12 Wabiskaw B gas.

Now, considering post-production pressure
measurements. The pressures in the Wabiskaw B gas zone
were approximately 1,100 kPa shortly after gas
production was shut in in 2004 due to the GOB decision.
In the subsequent two decades, pressures have continued
to decline to approximately 800 kPa, most likely due to
nearby ongoing production.

However, if there was any significant hydraulic connection between the McMurray at approximately 2,000 kPa and the Wabiskaw B gas zone, the gas zone pressure would have been expected to rebound after the GOB shut in due to water migration from the McMurray up to the Wabiskaw.

Can I have PDF page 18 now, please.

Now, Mr. Lavigne, previously showed you core 1 images like the one on the screen and discussed it from 2 3 a geologic perspective. However, since this issue was 4 framed in terms of the steam migration over the lifetime of the drainage boxes were approximately 15 to 5 6 20 years, it's very much a reservoir engineering and a 7 qeoloqic issue. I've reviewed all the core photos for all the wells available from the perspective of a 8 9 reservoir engineer to assess the presence of both 10 barriers and baffles to steam. Based on my experience, it's extremely difficult for me to imagine steam 11 12 migrating through the confinement strata for any of the 13 cores.

14 Now, SAGD is a very sensitive process, and even one single thin mudstone can act as a barrier over the 15 life of the project. However, in order to provide a 16 17 quantitative measure of the time required for steam to 18 migrate through the confinement strata, I developed a methodology that's presented in my supplemental report. 19 The method is tied to the standard facies definition 20 21 used by most SAGD operators. It estimates steam rise 22 rates for the different facies based on a theoretical 23 model matched to field data, along with measured, 24 model, and estimated permeabilities.

Now, the colour coding adjacent to the core in the image on the bottom of the screen there corresponds to the facies definition in the table on the upper right.
The facies are assigned based on visual determination
of the mud content. Facies 5 shown in orange is, for
practical purposes, a barrier to steam. This facies
also corresponds to the confinement strata as described
previously by Mr. Lavigne.

7 Based on the total thickness of the five facies in this core, the method estimates that steam would 8 9 require 393 years to rise through the F5 facies. Now. 10 this is much longer than any production time; however, 11 it's clearly supported by the observation that there's 12 a gas cap in the Wabiskaw D that is contained by the Wabiskaw D heterolithic and Wabiskaw C at the five 13 14 facies over a geologic time scale.

Now, I'm also showing this well because it's 15 located in the north of KN09 pad where the Wabiskaw D 16 17 has cut into the McMurray B1, and as can be seen, the McMurray B1 mudstone, which is identified by orange in 18 the middle at the bottom of the screen there, is 19 20 relatively thin. Now, the facies -- sorry -- and then 21 what generally is not included in CNRL's geologic 22 assessment of the confinement strata is the F4 facies 23 which corresponds here to 30 to 70 percent mud content. 24 An example in this well is the muddy B1 facies 25 just below the mid-B1 mudstone that I just referenced. These facies can be described as a strong baffle to 26

1 steam rise.

7

Now, as shown in the table, the method estimates it would take 34 years for steam to rise through the F4 facies. So, in effect, the F4 facies alone would act as a barrier to steam over the life of the drainage boxes.

Can I return to PDF page 9, please.

Now, returning to Hearing Issue 1, in summary, 8 9 collectively all of the assessed parameters are 10 supportive of the confinement strata being an effective 11 barrier to steam. The conclusion that I've drawn from 12 conducting my assessment is that it's very unlikely 13 that steam will migrate through the confinement strata 14 from the McMurray sands to the Wabiskaw B gas zones during the life of the drainage boxes. The key reasons 15 supporting the assessment are the historical pressure 16 17 measurements, the high interbedded mud content in the confinement strata, the absence of fractures in the 18 confinement strata, the high likelihood that any 19 fractures will be sealed, and the absence of any known 20 21 occurrence of steam migration through similar 22 confinement strata at any SAGD operations in Alberta. 23 Page 28, please. Now, before moving to Issue 2, 24 I'll address two pertinent geomechanical concepts: the 25 first being brittleness of the mudstones or why natural or induced fractures in the confinement strata at KN08 26

and KN09 are very likely to be closed and sealed. Now,
 rocks commonly behave in a brittle manner at shallow
 depths and in a ductile manner at greater depths. The
 figures shown on this page provides a clear, succinct
 illustration of brittle versus ductile behaviour.

6 In the top left of the figure is a typical 7 stress/strain diagram for a triaxial test of rock. Notably, after the peak stress is reached, there's a 8 9 decline in the stress with additional strain. This 10 behaviour is termed "strained softening". It's commonly seen in most rocks at lower confining 11 12 Now, it's important because it is the reason stresses. that shear fractures or faults form in most rocks as 13 shown in the figure -- in the lower left of the figure. 14 However, at higher confining stresses, the stress does 15 not decline with additional strain, and induced 16 17 fractures are less likely to occur.

Now, what is most critical from the perspective of 18 whether the fracture is open or sealed is whether it 19 behaves in a brittle or ductile manner, as shown on the 20 21 right of the figure. Brittleness is associated with 22 volumetric dilatancy in a laboratory test; means the test specimen expands because of the added volume of 23 the fracture. Ductile behaviour is associated with 24 25 volumetric contraction or non-dilatancy. When rock 26 behaves in a ductile manner, the failed rock at the

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fracture face smears along the fracture face, sealing 1 2 the fracture. 3 Page 26, please. And, yes, if we can just make 4 that figure fully visible. Thanks. Dr. Chalaturnyk has provided some very useful and 5 6 pertinent test data in ISH's response to CNRL's 7 Specifically, I'm referring to information requests. the compression test data of Wabiskaw D mudstones from 8 Suncor's MacKay River project. Test -- CTS4 is a good 9 10 example of brittle or ductile behaviour, whereas CTS5 11 is ductile or non-dilate. 12 Now, in the top figure, I've plotted the degree of 13 dilation or contraction for the samples taken at 14 4 percent axial strain versus the confining stress. This figure illustrates that there is a transition from 15 brittle to ductile behaviour at approximately 16 17 1,400 kPa. Now, the confining stress is also the minimum 18 effective stress in these tests. And since CNRL has 19 20 measured the minimum effective stress gradient at Kirby 21 north, the gradient can be used to estimate the depth 22 at which behaviour will transition from brittle to 23 ductile. The figure on the bottom shows that this 24 25 transition would occur at a depth of approximately

26 140 metres. However, the confinement strata at KN08

Dicta Court Reporting Inc. 403-531-0590 and KN09 pads is at a depth of 470 metres, where the
minimum effective stress is greater than 4,000 kPa.
Clearly the confinement strata is in the ductile regime
and, as a result, any fractures are highly likely to be
closed and sealed. This also explains why there are
very few fractures observed in the confinement strata
at KN08 and KN09.

8

Page 31, please.

9 Now, I'll get to this table in a minute, but 10 Dr. Chalaturnyk has speculated that there's potential 11 for SAGD operations to induce open fractures or 12 pathways in the confinement strata and offers 13 centrifuge test results as evidence. However, the beam 14 centrifuge tests were approximately scaled to a much shallower SAGD site and not scaled in any way to KN08 15 or KN09. 16

The -- the overburdened stress in the model scales to about 500 -- scales to about 500 kPa or 50 metres of depth. This compares to the confining strata depth of approximately 450 metres at KN08 and KN09.

Now, not only does the model scale to very shallow depth, the overburden on top of the caprock in the model has no stiffness. Also, the material in the model simulates Clearwater caprock and not the McMurray Wabiskaw confining strata. Furthermore, the loading is mechanical and not representative of thermal SAGD 1 loading.

The resulting mostly tensile fractures are shallow, low stress, low confinement phenomenon. It's my opinion that these tests should not be considered when making engineering or regulatory decisions related to KN08 and KN09.

Now, referring to this chart here, induced shear deformations in the confining strata that are caused by SAGD operations can be very effectively identified, imaged, and quantified using multi-censored caliper surveys from SAGD wells.

12 In cyclic steam operations, it's very common to 13 observe induced shearing this way; however, SAGD is a much gentler process, and the operations induce much 14 In my supplemental report, I've 15 less shear movement. included tables of casing deformations from 16 multi-caliper logs for the Jackfish and the Kirby 17 The table for the Kirby site is shown here. 18 sites. While shear deformations are observed in shallower 19 strata, none have been observed in the confinement 20 21 Furthermore, even if they were to occur, it's strata. 22 highly likely the fractures would be sealed, as 23 discussed previously. Page 24, please. 24 25 Now, moving on to Issues 2, 3, and 4, in my

tool for assessing the acceptability of a wide variety 1 2 of operations involving steam, solvent injection, and 3 then determining monitoring needs. In my supplemental 4 report, I've included risk assessments that address Issues 2, 3, and 4. I've elected to use the same 5 6 format as the ISH Aardwolf report to facilitate 7 comparison. However, I've been much more specific in describing the risk, which is critical to enabling more 8 9 objective evaluation of the likelihoods.

10 In the figure on the screen, the original 11 unmitigated risks are shown in red. The final risks 12 after consideration of mitigating factors such as 13 monitoring and other factors specific to Kirby north 14 are shown in green. It can be seen that all the 15 resulting risks are in the white or low-risk category. 16 Page 23, please.

Now, I don't expect you to read this table, but I'll refer to it. It's in my report. Okay? The -and I'm going to address Hearing Issue 2: Is one additional monitoring well sufficient?

The specifics of Risk 1 in this table for steam mitigation -- for steam migration from the McMurray into the Wabiskaw B gas zone are summarized in the chart on the right. The risk scenario assumes a 300-metre long subseismic open fracture results in 20,000 cubic metres of steam and reaction products migrating into the Wabiskaw B gas zone over the life of
 the drainage box.

150

Now, while ISH assumed in its risk assessment that all value of the gas zone was lost, in this more specific scenario, calculations show that only a small region of the gas zone is impacted, so only a fraction of the gas value is impaired.

The likelihood is difficult to estimate because 8 9 there are no known occurrences of steam migration 10 through similar confinement strata at other SAGD 11 operations. The initial likelihood is assessed as 12 "could happen once in the lifetime of the project". 13 However, recognizing the confinement strata at KN08 and 14 KN09 has very few identified fractures and the 15 fractures are expected to be sealed, the final likelihood I've assessed to be "not during the lifetime 16 17 of the project".

Now CNRL's surveillance program includes one 18 existing and one additional monitoring well for the 19 20 Wabiskaw B gas zone. This will be supplemented with produced water to steam ratio monitoring to assess for 21 22 any significant steam loss into the gas zone. However, 23 no likelihood credits are taken for this monitoring as 24 its direct impact on the consequence is likely very 25 limited. Nonetheless, the resulting risk here is 26 assessed to be low.

Additional considerations are the cost of -additional monitoring is comparable to the financial risk itself, and there are no known specific locations of high concern such as a fault that might warrant additional monitoring.

6 So it's my assessment that no additional 7 monitoring wells should be required for the purpose of 8 mitigating steam migration through the confining 9 strata.

10 Now, Hearing Issue 3, determination of the 11 temporary MOP, is addressed by Risk 2 in this table. 12 And, again, while ISH assumed that -- for this risk, 13 that all the value of the gas zone was lost, a realistic scenario is one where only tens of cubic 14 metres of condensed steam with no reaction products 15 enters the gas cap through an induced fracture. 16 The 17 only possible consequence is that a producing gas well might require a workover at some time in the future to 18 19 remove the water.

For this risk, there's a reliable set of data from the wells that have been -- previously been started up at Kirby, which can be used to assess the likelihood of the event. In my risk assessment, three likelihood credits are applied for leakoff barriers, stress barriers, and the proximity to a gas well. So any -any fracture would have to be near a gas well to impact 1 it.

The resulting risk is low, and my assessment is that the temporary MOP of 6,600 kPa should be allowed during the start-up period for KN08 and KN09 pads with the planned additional start-up mitigations. And, again, it's noteworthy that similar mitigations were applied to wells at KN06 and were effective.

And, now, moving on to Issue 4: Should solvent injection during start-up be approved? This is addressed by Risk 3. ISH considered the value of potentially lost solvent in the risk assessment. However, lost solvent is a consequence to CNRL and not to ISH.

Here I have taken the scenario to be a small 14 volume of solvent, tens of cubic metres, not containing 15 any reaction products enters the Wabiskaw B gas zone 16 17 through a preexisting open conductive fracture. Since 18 any solvent that might enter the gas zone will fully mix with the bitumen in the gas zone, it will be 19 practically immobile and have no financial consequence. 20 The likelihood of the event is so low because of 21 22 the very low frequency of fractures in the confining strata and the high likelihood that any fractures are 23 Hence, the resulting risk is low. 24 closed. 25 So it's my assessment that solvent injection 26 should be allowed with the maximum pressure during this 1 operation being the MOP.

2 This concludes my presentation. Thank you for 3 your attention, and I'll now hand it over to 4 Mr. Iannattone.

5 A G. IANNATTONE: Thank you, Dr. Boone.

6 In closing, Canadian Natural's evidence 7 demonstrates that the development of the McMurray bitumen resource at the KN08/KN09 drainage box will not 8 9 impact ISH's mineral rights. You heard from 10 Mr. Lavigne that the mud-filled facies create an 11 effective barrier to steam with up to six intervals of 12 confinement strata. This is not just argued but is 13 strongly supported by Dr. Boone and in the academic 14 literature.

15 Mr. Sverdahl confirmed no evidence of faulting or 16 fractures are observed. The risk of breach to the 17 confinement strata from natural fractures or faults is 18 extremely low.

19 Mr. Thomsen's geomechanical data and analysis that 20 was further supported by GeoSim modelling demonstrates 21 that a 6,600 kPa temporary start-up pressure will not 22 hydraulically fracture through the confinement strata. 23 Having said this, Canadian Natural is prepared to 24 modify the temporary start-up time and steam volume 25 conditions as shown -- sorry -- and lower the requested 26 long-term MOP to 5,500 kPa.

Mr. Ollenberger's evidence shows that the 1 2 monitoring of the gas pool pressure at a total of four 3 locations is more than adequate with the existing 10-1 well, the 10-34, and the 1-3 well on the KN08 4 drainage box. Also, Canadian Natural is committed to 5 6 providing a future gas monitoring well on or in the 7 vicinity of KN09 prior to the commencement of steaming. Mr. Thomsen and Dr. Boone have shown that an 8 9 additional DFIT is not warranted or justifiable given 10 the cost and project timing delay. 11 Mr. Ollenberger, supported by Dr. Boone's risk 12 assessment, concluded that hydrocarbon-assisted 13 start-up poses no threat to the GOB gas. Also, 14 Mr. Ollenberger has shown that Canadian Natural will make wellbores thermally compliant in a safe and 15 efficient manner following AER directives. 16 Canadian Natural has made reasonable gas 17 18 monitoring commitments. The ISH requested monitoring, which could add up to a total of \$6 million of project 19 20 costs, are not justified in comparison to the discounted value of the gas pool. More importantly is 21 22 that Canadian Natural is being asked to spend 23 significant dollars today to monitor for potential 24 damages to a low value resource that will not likely be 25 allowed to produce for decades. 26 Canadian Natural is a majority leaseholder of the

GOB gas pool. Any potential impacts to the pool would
 not only affect ISH's gas rights but would also impact
 Canadian Natural's gas rights. This fact should be
 taken into account in the Panel's deliberations.

Canadian Natural recognizes its responsibility to 5 6 develop the bitumen in a manner that also protects the 7 It is Canadian Natural's view that the qas resources. technical evidence and commitments to the continued 8 9 enhanced monitoring and controls demonstrates that the 10 development and operation of the KN08/KN09 project will not impact ISH's gas rights. Additional conditions as 11 12 requested by ISH will add unnecessary incremental costs 13 and schedule delays to the project, which ultimately 14 are significantly funded by Albertans.

Finally, I would like to remind the Panel that if 15 damages occur, Canadian Natural is prepared to pay for 16 17 the cleaning of the gas or connection of the gas to be burnt as fuel or pay reasonable compensation for the 18 damage at the time when the gas production from the 19 20 Kirby Upper Mannville II pool is allowed to resume. 21 Respectfully, Commissioners Chiasson, Barker, and 22 Zaitlin, the merits of Canadian Natural's technical evidence and additional commitments warrant the 23 24 approval of the KN08/KN09 development without imposing additional conditions. Thank you for your attention to 25 26 Canadian Natural's direct evidence.

1 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. 2 We'll now break for 15 minutes 'til 3:45, at which 3 point, unless there's anything we need to be aware of, 4 we would look to have ISH start their 5 cross-examination. All right? Thank you. 6 (ADJOURNMENT) 7 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: So thank you, everyone. Α couple of points just on timing for today. What we are 8 thinking of now is to look at starting up and going 9 10 'til about 5 and assessing just before 5 where we're --11 where we're at in -- in relation to that if that suits 12 in terms of a spot for you to break, Ms. Riley. Ιf not, we -- I would suggest that we may be able to go 13 14 later, but we would anticipate not going any later than 15 5:30 today at the -- at the maximum. And that -- then the other piece, just to get 16 17 started, is we are aware that ISH has provided in the timeline that was set out in relation to aids to cross, 18 19 and we're just checking to make sure no concerns --20 no -- all right. So Mr. Lung will mark that in. 21 Yes? 22 A. LUNG: Yeah. We can mark in as an 23 AO, AO Number 1. 24 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you. 25 And otherwise, then, Ms. Riley, please proceed. 26 M. RILEY: Thank you very much, Panel

I will note that we have -- with the planned 1 Members. 2 timing of today, have identified one or two, maybe 3 three topics that we can cover, and then we would like to break, and we will still finish within the time 4 5 allotted, if we start tomorrow as planned. 6 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. So, yes, if you 7 just let us know, then, where it -- where it suits for you to -- for you to break, then that's -- that's fine. 8 9 We're glad to work with that. 10 M. RILEY: Thank you. 11 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. 12 M. RILEY: Very well. Mr. Lung, if you 13 could then bring up EQ1, the first of the ISH aids to 14 cross-examination. 15 M. Riley Cross-examines Canadian Natural Resources Limited Witness Panel 16 And I will address the 17 M. RILEY: 0 questions to Mr. -- and I apologize if I get this 18 19 wrong. I always thought it was Iannattone. Apparently 20 it's Iannattone. 21 G. IANNATTONE: It is Α You're correct. 22 Iannattone, but that's the Italian. So if you want to go with that, I'm fine with it too. 23 24 Very well. 0 25 So, Mr. Iannattone, you testified about the values 26 of CNRL and specifically your mission statement the

1		first thing this morning; is that correct?
2	А	That's correct.
3	Q	If we look at the screen at PDF page 3, we see there a
4		printout from Canadian Natural's website, and it
5		essentially confirms what you said this morning, that
6		Canadian Natural's main purpose is to develop people to
7		work together to create value for the company's
8		shareholders; is that correct?
9	A	That's correct.
10	Q	So if we go to the next page, we again, a printout
11		from the company's website, and here we have CNRL's
12		strategy. And the main message here in blue at the top
13		of the page is "we are creating value for our
14		shareholders"?
15	А	That's what it says.
16	Q	And it is fair to say that if you look at your mission
17		statement, you look at your strategy, these things are
18		what informs your decision-making?
19	A	Sorry?
20	Q	If we look at your mission statement, we look at your
21		strategy, these are the things that inform CNRL's
22		decision-making, at a high level?
23	A	Yes, at a high level.
24	Q	If we then go on and and we just looked at CNRL's
25		peers. If we look at Cenovus's strategy
26		M. RILEY: If you could just move on to

the next page, please, Mr. Lung.

1

2 The very first thing that is 0 M. RILEY: 3 part of Cenovus's strategy is top-tier safety 4 performance and environmental, social, and governance If we scroll down and we look at Cenovus's 5 leadership. 6 purposes and value, they energize the world to make 7 people's lives better. If we look at the values on the next page, they start with, "We protect what matters". 8 So it's a bit different from CNRL's? 9

10 Α G. IANNATTONE: I wouldn't really say so. Ι 11 think it's quite similar. I see that "doing it 12 together" is on the list. You know, "making it 13 better", "doing it right" is on the list. What vou 14 don't see on Canadian Natural's website is we have another layer of values and principles that we use 15 internally, and, you know, we have nine core values --16 17 I'm not going to read them here, but I'll just, you know, highlight a few of them, adhere to the mission 18 statement is important to Canadian Natural. 19 Safety is 20 paramount. We do it right. Way down the list, Number 5, we return real value to shareholders; 21 22 humility prevails; working together really matters; and 23 outstanding corporate citizen -- citizenship is a core 24 value. So although that is not directly accessible to 25 the public, it is directly accessible to every Canadian 26 Natural employee. In fact, we take the mission

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1 statement very seriously. We have mission statement 2 meetings with every employee no matter what their 3 position is at least once a year. So -- and at those 4 mission statements, they are run and presentations are 5 given by the executive team. 6 So that is very interesting to me because if we were to 0 7 compare CNRL's general approach to monitoring with some of your industry peers, it does not look to be the 8 9 same. Is that -- is that surprising to you or ... 10 Α It's not surprising to us. We don't mold No. 11 ourselves to mimic our competitors necessarily. We do 12 what's right for us. That's the "doing it right" in 13 the mission statement. 14 Doing it right for CNRL. Good. 0 15 We provided some industry examples in -- in -- in the evidence, and I can find you the reference if it's 16 17 important to you, but the way we interpreted what 18 CNRL's response was -- the examples that ISH provided 19 was not really applicable to the situation; is that 20 correct? 21 I'm not sure what your reference to -- referencing, the Α 22 examples. Which examples? I will -- tomorrow when we get into this a 23 0 Very well. 24 bit more, I will come back to this topic. 25 One of our questions was that if CNRL owned 26 100 percent of the gas, would it waste it in favour of

1		the bitumen production?
2	A	Would it sorry be wasted? Is that what you said?
3	Q	In favour of the bitumen production.
4	A	No, it would not be.
5	Q	If ISH was not yet to request additional monitoring,
6		would you have undertaken the additional monitoring
7		that you have now offered?
8	A	Sorry. I'm just pulling up some notes on gas wastage.
9		Yeah. CNRL has no intention of gas wastage under
10		any circumstances. Canadian Natural is a majority
11		working interest owner of the GOB gas, and AER
12		recognizes Alberta case law that, you know, bitumen
13		rights mineral rights owner can extract bitumen even
14		if it interferes with another minerals. So we would
15		not we would not waste the gas. That's for sure.
16	Q	That was the only question.
17		The second question was that you haven't
18		answered yet if ISH was not here to request
19		additional monitoring, would you have undertaken the
20		monitoring that you have now offered in your reply?
21	A	No, we wouldn't. We've gone beyond what we think is
22		reasonable, to tell you the truth. We think one
23		gas-monitoring well is sufficient, but we also
24		understand that we have to accommodate ISH's request to
25		some extent.
26	Q	I see.

1 M. RILEY: Mr. Lung, if we could go to 2 Exhibit 50.002, paragraph 13, and I did not write down 3 the page number. 4 Ms. Riley, is it possible if COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 5 you either pull the mic a little closer or speak up a 6 little more. We found that the speakers tend to be 7 pointed towards the main room rather than us, so it -it makes it a little challenging sometimes for us to 8 9 hear. Thank you. 10 M. RILEY: I believe it is on page 6. 11 Paragraph 13. Yes. 12 M. RILEY: So if I can direct your 0 13 attention to paragraph 13. And specifically there in 14 the middle of the -- of the paragraph, it's a reference 15 to the staff submission group, and there's a reference to three referenced -- the Kirby Upper Mannville II 16 pool in potential vertical association with the 17 18 Wabiskaw D valley fill and McMurray channel. So the issue in -- in the GOB decisions, the 19 20 underlying rationale was that there could be 21 communication between the gas pools and the underlying bitumen zone; correct? And that could eventually -- if 22 23 we produce the gas, the bitumen production would become 24 uneconomical. That's -- that's the underlying 25 rationale? 26 Α I think I have that in my opening statement. Yes.

So how does that work with CNRL's assertion that the 1 0 2 Wabiskaw B gas is isolated from the SAGD operations? This, I believe, was a 2003 document. 3 You know, at the Α 4 time, there was a limited amount of information. Since 5 that time, there's been a tremendous advancement in 6 SAGD knowledge and technology, not to mention a 7 tremendously greater amount of information where you heard in our evidence from our geoscientist that --8 that we have confinement -- confinement strata that 9 10 isolates -- that isolates the Wabiskaw B from the McMurray channel reservoir. 11 12 In the beginning of your evidence, you adopted all of 0 13 the CNRL evidence. Did that include the application? 14 Was the application prepared under your direction and 15 control? 16 Yes, it was. Α 17 What did Mr. Scrimshaw prepare? Ο 18 Α Sorry? 19 What did Mr. Scrimshaw prepare? 0 Mr. Scrimshaw? 20 Α 21 The lead application officer. 0 Yes. 22 What -- sorry. Α 23 0 Or your --24 I can't -- I'm sorry. Could you maybe speak a little Α 25 slower and --26 Certainly. So even the application was prepared under 0

1		your direction and control?
2	A	That's correct.
3	Q	Did any other panel member other than Dr. Boone have
4		any direct involvement with any of the application
5		material?
6	А	With the application, yes. I would say Dr. Boone had
7		no involvement, but most of the other panel members
8		would have had some involvement for sure.
9	Q	We've heard all of your evidence, and we've heard very
10		little from most of your panel. I'm just curious what
11		their expected role is.
12	A	The back bench here is for support primarily, and we
13		have if we start there with Mr. Roche, he is a a
14		production expert. Dale Walters is a geomechanical
15		expert. Specifically, Dale Walters was responsible for
16		the geomodelling. Marc Scrimshaw is regulatory.

Mr. Wang is log interpretation, image logging. 17 The panel was introduced quite extensively. They all have 18 19 a role, and they all have a reason. And, finally, Scott -- Scott Barland here is primarily focused on the 20 GCMS -- GCMS evidence. 21

22 0 I was just curious because you also mentioned that Albertans pay essentially 40 percent of -- of your 23 24 expenses, and it's a very extensive panel, most of whom 25 have not given direct evidence.

26 That -- that is a fact, but -- you know, and to Α Yes.

1 quite honestly say, you know, we don't want to be here; 2 and we don't want to incur the hearing expenses. We 3 believe it is -- it's very expensive for us. It's expensive for ISH. It's expensive for the regulatory. 4 And I would also add given our perceived value of the 5 6 gas resource, it's unjustified. 7 We will get into the gas values tomorrow. 0 We will now turn to the topic of GCMS data and 8 analysis. 9 The evidence was that CNRL uses a third body 10 to do their analysis. Who -- who is that? 11 Sorry. If I could have a minute. We just need to get Α 12 the right person to answer this question. 13 Mr. Barland will answer this question. 14 Α S. BARLAND: So Schlumberger labs does all 15 of our GCMS analysis. They're an industry leader. They actually bought Gusher Energy or Gusher 16 17 Laboratories that started -- or pioneered the GCMS analysis and have continued that same procedure. 18 19 Why do we not see a report from Schlumberger? 0 20 We have several reports from Schlumberger. They have Α not been filed, but what we do is we take the data from 21 22 them and interpret it, plot it versus depth, and 23 interpret these concentration gradients. 24 So the interpretation is actually CNRL's work, it's not 0 Schlumberger's work? 25 26 Α Yes.

I will then -- just give me one moment. 1 I just need my 0 2 note because I don't want to misquote anyone. 3 The evidence this morning was that if oil 4 concentrations were not able to equilibrate over geological time, it is very unlikely that steam will be 5 6 able to migrate through these lower permeability zones; 7 correct? Yes. 8 Α 9 0 So my question is: Is the suggestion that geological 10 time is equivalent to -- and I'm not clear on whether 11 the SAGD operation is now 15 years or 25 years, but is 12 geological time equivalent to SAGD operational time? 13 I would say geological time is probably -- probably Α 14 more -- geological time, we're talking from the time of deposition, which would have been -- in the lower 15 McMurray would have been 120 million years ago. 16 The 17 SAGD lifetime of a pad would be probably 15 to 18 So the geological time equivalents is very 20 years. 19 tough to determine. 20 So it's not really accurate, then, to say that because 0 the oil concentrations were not able to equilibrate 21 22 over the geological time that the steam will not be able to migrate? 23 I -- I believe we would still say that that's true 24 No. Α 25 just because if you give something 80 or 90 million 26 years to equilibrate and then you introduce the steam

1		over 10 or 15 years, that would be an approximation.
2	Q	So what we take away from this is that the introduction
3		of steam will change things?
4	А	I don't think it would change the nature of a barrier
5		just because they're very low permeability, and over
6		80 million years approximately, it would still it's
7		been a barrier for that long, and it still will be a
8		barrier to steam.
9	Q	Very well.
10		Let's go to Exhibit 50.01, Tab 4, PDF page 218.
11		Here we see some of this interpreted GCMS results, and
12		as I understand it now, this interpretation is CNRL's
13		own work; it's not a third party's work?
14	A	No, this is our own work. The concentrations you're
15		seeing in the blue dots up there are exactly from
16		Schlumberger's work. We're just plotting them versus
17		depth.
18	Q	I see. On the topic of those blue dots, which compound
19		are you mapping?
20	A	I believe in this well, this is phenanthrene class of
21		compounds, so all of the phenanthrene molecules would
22		be grouped, some individually, at each depth location,
23		and then plotted versus that depth.
24	Q	How did you decide to use those?
25	A	So over the years, I've been working with GCMS data for
26		approximately ten years, and the phenanthrenes were

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1 chosen as a marker compound or a compound class of 2 organic -- hydrocarbon molecules that do vary versus If you have something that is uniform versus 3 depth. 4 depth, that suggests there's no change, so no 5 biodegradation in those. That doesn't help you 6 determine where barriers and baffles could be. 7 So you look for the compounds that support your I see. 0 8 outcome, and then you use those, or is there another rationale for picking a compound? 9 You want a compound that changes versus depth so you 10 Α 11 can actually determine if those changes are meaningful. 12 Do you -- and in your experience, do you think that 0 13 weigh zones are tighter -- zones or intervals are 14 tighter, that it has any effect on the biodegradation of bitumen? 15 16 Clarify "tighter". Α 17 Smaller, not as large. In other words, if -- if your 0 compartment is smaller, does it have an effect on the 18 level of biodegradation? 19 If it was wet -- if all of these zones were wet to 20 Α 21 begin with, so they had connate water or water that was 22 associated with them during deposition, if there was no room to remove that water, there could be more 23 24 biodegradation. The bacteria live in the water. 25 So it does have an effect? 0 26 Pardon me? Α

1	Q	So it does have an effect?
2	A	Yes. The longer that bacteria spend with water that
3		was associated with them originally, the more
4		biodegradation you would have.
5	Q	Is this something that you considered in your
6		interpretation?
7	A	Yes. That's the whole basis of our interpretation. If
8		you see marked changes in biodegradation in different
9		compound classes or any compound class, that signifies
10		that there was a layer or a barrier between those two
11		zones.
12	Q	And is an increase and a decrease a sufficient change
13		for you to interpret a barrier?
14	A	CNRL believes so.
15	Q	Could you could you explain the rationale for that?
16	A	So a decrease in concentration versus depth, viewed
17		from the bottom up, CNRL generally looks at things from
18		where the injector and producer would be up towards the
19		top of the reservoir because that's the way steam
20		would steam growth would occur. If we have a
21		decrease in those concentrations, that suggests a
22		perched or a paleo water contact that that compartment
23		below did not talk to the compartment above.
24		The forward stepping or an increase in
25		concentration would also suggest a lower permeability
26		layer, preventing those two zones from equilibrating

1 over geologic time. So explain to the Panel, please, how -- how 2 0 3 biodegradation works. Let me ask -- give you the premise of my question. 4 As ISH understands it, biodegradation works at --5 6 you start at a high level -- relative high level, and 7 then the value goes down up to the oil/water contact, and then it should usually increase again because there 8 9 might be a barrier. 10 Yes. Α 11 So -- so if the level going down suggests that there is Ο 12 a barrier, why would the level going up equate to a 13 second barrier? Is it not -- does it not make sense 14 that if the level keeps on going down and -- and then 15 goes up again and then goes down further that it is 16 still the same compartment? 17 That's been -- I -- I would say that any lateral change Α in biodegradation suggests that that compartment, 18 either above or below a lateral change, did not 19 20 equilibrate across that change. So the diffusion of the oil molecules or the bacteria cannot come from that 21 22 same compartment. If we can then go to Exhibit 43.02, page 6. 23 Ο 24 We see here some comparisons that CNRL has made to 25 the Weser Estuary in Germany, and I'm looking at that 26 second paragraph there, and CNRL says there, more or

1		less the last sentence of that paragraph: (as read)
2		In the KN08 and KN09 area, the Wabiskaw D
3		non-reservoir facies shows a concentration of
4		fluid muds that GCMS supports is locally a
5		barrier to communication with the overlying
б		units.
7		Do you see that?
8	A	It's hard for me to read at the very bottom, but I
9		I'm I'm sure if you read it to me, it would be fine.
10	Q	Well, in full disclosure, I I did use the acronym
11		"GCMS".
12	A	Oh, okay.
13	Q	So do you agree that what CNRL says there is that there
14		is a local barrier?
15	A	The nature of GCMS is it's a 1D technique. So you look
16		at the core in that well, and it's a vertical local
17		barrier. Lateral extents cannot be determined by GCMS.
18	Q	Can you give me one moment to confer, and then I will
19		tell you if I have more questions for you.
20		We may have one or two more questions on GCMS, but
21		that is most of what we wanted to cover with you.
22		Thank you very much. My friend Mr. McLeod is now going
23		to take over for me for a bit, and then we will see
24		what time it is. Maybe we can squeeze in one more
25		topic.
26		COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Okay. Thank you. As I said,

1		we're open to working with your timing.
2		M. RILEY: Thank you.
3		A. McLeod Cross-examines Canadian Natural Resources
4		Limited Witness Panel
5	Q	A. MCLEOD: Good afternoon. My name is
6		Andrew McLeod, M-C-L-E-O-D, for the record.
7		I'm going to ask a few questions of Dr. Boone.
8		And to start with, I'm curious, Dr. Boone, have you
9		been retained by anyone other than CNRL in the last
10		year?
11	A	T. BOONE: No, not in the last year.
12	Q	Very good.
13		Could we bring up Exhibit 50.01 at page 60.
14		Now, in the second paragraph there, Dr. Boone, you
15		write that: (as read)
16		I have also consulted with CNRL technical
17		experts to clarify specific questions and
18		make a personal assessment of the reliability
19		of the data.
20		Who were the technical experts that you consulted?
21	A	The technical experts would include numerous people
22		here: Mr. Thomsen, Mr. Walters, Mr. Wang,
23		Mr. Sverdahl, Mr. Lavigne.
24	Q	And are there any technical experts who you consulted
25		in relation to your statement on page 60 here who are
26		not present today?

1	A	What's so Mr. Gonzales is here. He's right there.
2		And I specifically consulted with him on this one.
3	Q	Okay. And Mr. Gonzales is is in the audience, and
4		he's not a sworn witness today; is that correct?
5	A	As far as I know.
б	Q	Okay.
7	A	G. IANNATTONE: That's correct.
8	Q	Now, did any of the technical experts that you
9		consulted with write any portion of either of your
10		reports?
11	A	T. BOONE: No, they did not.
12	Q	Now, you also say on paragraph or on page 60 here
13		that you made an assessment of the reliability of the
14		data, but I notice that you don't come to any
15		conclusion about your opinion on the reliability of the
16		data. Is that because the data was unreliable?
17	A	No. That's because I I assessed the data to be
18		reliable. I mean, it's it's a small pressure
19		difference, at least in in heavy oil terms. So, I
20		mean, it it if it had been 3 or 400 kPa, I
21		would've said this definitively is or this is
22		definitive evidence of lack of pressure communication
23		or a barrier between the zones. But because it's small
24		and because, you know, data like this does have some,
25		you know, some variability, I said it was only likely.
26	Q	Okay. And and when you say that this data has some
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1		variability, does that mean that your conclusions have
2		some degree of uncertainty?
3	A	I think that's always the case, yes.
4	Q	Okay. Now I'll turn you to page 62 of Exhibit 50.01.
5		And I see here that you say you have reviewed all the
6		core photos provided in CNRL's SIR response, and you
7		say: (as read)
8		I reviewed the core photos as a reservoir
9		engineer looking to identify the potential
10		for steam to migrate through the sands and
11		specifically I reviewed them looking for
12		natural fractures.
13		Now, sir, are you a reservoir engineer?
14	A	Yes, I am.
15	Q	Okay. And and you're aware that part of ISH's
16		concern has to do with the potential for induced
17		fractures, not just natural fractures; right?
18	A	Yes. Yeah.
19	Q	And so your review of what natural fractures existed
20		there would not necessarily allay ISH's concerns in
21		terms of what happens after SAGD operations start?
22	A	Correct. That's core before that was acquired
23		before operations.
24	Q	Okay. Now, later on page 62 there, you say I think
25		it's on the second paragraph under "Microimaging Logs".
26		You say: (as read)

1 I have met with CNRL's technical expert, who 2 has analyzed all of the FMI logs for 3 fractures and reviewed the process employed to identify the fractures and selected logs 4 through the confining strata. 5 6 Now, Dr. Boone, who did you meet with? 7 That would be Mr. Wang or Dr. Wang. Α 8 0 And did anybody else contribute to the analysis of the 9 FMI logs? 10 Not to my knowledge. You'd have to ask Dr. Wang. Α 11 All right. 0 12 Dr. Wang, did anyone else contribute to the 13 analysis of the FMI logs? 14 Α X. WANG: I'm the only --15 Ο Can you turn on your mic, sir. 16 Okay. Α 17 And just repeat the answer to your -- to that question. Q Yeah, I'm the interpreter for -- for the FMI. 18 Α 19 Very good. Thank you. 0 20 Now, you say that -- sorry. Dr. Boone, you say 21 that you evaluated the FMI analysis process that CNRL 22 Now, can you tell us what qualifications you uses. 23 have to evaluate the FMI analysis process? 24 T. BOONE: I'd say I'm qualified in Α 25 that -- and -- and if you look at my résumé, for my 26 last five years with ExxonMobil -- or four years, five

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1 years, I was Exxon's senior reservoir engineer for 2 enhanced oil recovery. And so I went around the world 3 on projects everywhere providing technical reviews and evaluating them in a very similar way to what I did 4 here -- to what I did here. 5 6 Now, I recognize I'm not, you know, a 7 qeophysicist, but I have some experience in the area, and I at least like to think I know of some of 8 9 the right questions to ask. 10 Q All right. I'll turn you to page 63 of Exhibit 15.01. 11 Now, right under the fifth heading there, "Seismic", 12 you say: (as read) I have reviewed the seismic cross-sections 13 14 provided and noted that CNRL's geophysicists have not identified any faults. 15 Are the geophysicists who -- who evaluated those 16 17 seismic cross-sections here today? Yes. Mr. Sverdahl is right there. 18 Α 19 And --0 20 Go ahead. Α Sorry. 21 S. SVERDAHL: Just to clarify, our -- our Α 22 staff geophysicist is not here today but also was part 23 of that review. Mr. Sverdahl, could you speak 24 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: 25 The Panel can't hear you. up. 26 Α S. SVERDAHL: My apologies. Our -- CNRL's

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1		geophysicist, Waiman [phonetic] Wang, is not here
2		today.
3	Q	A. MCLEOD: Okay.
4	A	She was part of that review.
5	Q	So aside from you and did you say it was Dr. Wang?
6	A	Ms. Wang.
7	Q	Ms. Wang.
8		So aside from you and Ms. Wang, no other CNRL
9		geophysicists were involved in the analysis of the
10		seismic cross-sections?
11	A	No. Ms. Wang and myself were the primary geophysicists
12		involved.
13	Q	And what was the source of those seismic
14		cross-sections, Mr. Sverdahl?
15	A	They were seismic sections taken out of our seismic
16		interpretation package called "Petrel" based on the
17		SEG-Y data from from the seismic data CNRL has
18		acquired at Kirby north.
19	Q	And, Dr or sorry Mr. Sverdahl, you agree that
20		the faults or other features that may exist, they
21		cannot be resolved through seismic imaging?
22	А	Smaller scale faults cannot be resolved through seismic
23		imaging. That is correct.
24	Q	And, Dr. Boone, I believe that you made that statement
25		in your report. You still stand behind that?
26	A	T. BOONE: That's definitely true.
1		

1 Q Thank you.

2		Now, I'll turn you to page 64 of Exhibit 15.01.
3		Under Heading 8 there, Dr. Boone, you say: (as read)
4		CNRL's geoscientist responsible for analysis
5		of the Wabiskaw B gas cap has compared the
6		pre- and post-production evaluation logs from
7		the Wabiskaw B gas cap and seen no evidence
8		of water invasion.
9		Sir, can you tell me is CNRL's geoscientist present
10		today?
11	А	No. Not the one that that provided that support.
12	Q	Okay. And who was that who provided that support?
13	А	Is it Ms. Holman? Ms. Holman.
14	Q	Ms. Holman. Okay.
15		And so I guess we can't test Ms Ms. Holman's
16		evidence because she's not here. But do you agree with
17		their conclusion that there's no evidence of water
18		invasion?
19	А	I mean, I didn't review the data specifically myself.
20		I I asked the question just because it seemed to be
21		a good question to ask: Do you have any evidence from
22		the wells you've drilled that there is water invasion?
23		Because that might be indicative of fluid flow through
24		fractures. And and the answer was not. Although
25		I'm going to say that's it would be it might be
26		difficult to to definitively determine that from

1 just core alone.

2 Q And so I guess --

3 And logs. I should have said "logs". I said "core", Α 4 but it's -- it's log analysis. Okay. And -- and what qualification do you have to 5 0 6 reach that conclusion that you just did? 7 Well, there's a reservoir engineering aspect to it, Α which is that -- so, you know, initially the -- the 8 9 saturations before any development in the area and 10 before -- I think this even predates gas production --11 is -- and I'm going to -- I think it was roughly 12 20 percent. Okay? And don't quote me on that. But 13 it's a relatively low number. But then the question of 14 how much it would change is a reservoir engineering 15 question. And so if water is invading, you have -- you have to look up and see what can that saturation be 16 17 driven down to? And it's called "trapped gas saturation". And it's going to be roughly half that 18 20 percent or so. So you could drive it down to 19 20 10 percent. So you're looking for that difference between the saturations. 21 22 All right. I'll turn you to page -- oh, I guess we're 0 23 already on 64. At the top of paragraph 9 there, you 24 say: (as read) 25 I've reviewed the steam injection volumes and 26 water production volumes for both the Kirby

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1		north and Kirby south fields over the life of
2		their operations.
3		How did you obtain that information?
4	A	I went to the annual reports.
5	Q	CNRL's annual reports?
6	A	Yeah. Their annual in situ reports.
7	Q	Okay. And has that information been provided to ISH?
8	A	That's in the public domain.
9	Q	Okay. Okay. I'll turn to page 66 of Exhibit 15.01.
10		Now, you say there that based on sorry. It might
11		be
12		The information contained in the D54 document, it
13		appears to be essentially like a PowerPoint
14		presentation. How are you able to do calculations
15		based on that?
16	А	I'm I I mean, there's data provided in those
17		reports that you could use for calculations, but I'm
18		I'm not sure exactly what you're referring to. Is
19		there a is there a line you could refer me to here,
20		please.
21	Q	Yeah. Just hang on one sec.
22		Let's turn back to page 64. Okay. So, yeah,
23		the the question is: Under under paragraph 9
24		there, you say that if any significant volumes of
25		fluids were migrating out of the McMurray formation,
26		either through the combining strata or down into the

bottom water zone, this would be manifested as a net 1 2 loss of fluids where the rate of water production was 3 less than the rate of steam injection. And so the question is: How did you calculate those -- those 4 rates? 5 6 Α So I -- I didn't calculate the rates. They are 7 presented in plots in the D54 annual presentations that are provided. And so -- and -- and this is something 8 9 that typically is always compared, is how much steam do 10 you inject and how much water do you produce? Because, 11 you know, you want to know where your steam is going. 12 If you're losing it, you're losing money. And they're 13 within 1 or 2 percent as best I could see from the --14 from the charts. 15 Okay. All right. So now I'll turn to page 66 of 0 Exhibit 15.01. And there -- I'm having -- oh, yes. 16 17 It's about -- it's in the second paragraph under the 18 "Required Fracture Intensity". You say: (as read) Based on laboratory tests that measured the 19 20 fluid conductivity of fractured shale, it is 21 conservative to assume that an open conductive natural fracture in the overlying 22 strata in Kirby north would have a 23 24 conductivity of no more than 300 MDM. 25 And -- and so I'm curious what lab you're referring to that conducted that test. 26

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1	A	So that's described in more detail in Appendix 1;
2		right? And the references are provided
3	Q	Okay.
4	А	in footnotes in Appendix 1. And those were papers.
5		And it's not the shales that we're specifically dealing
6		with. The work that's been done on this relates to
7		shale gas and production of shale gas because that's
8		where people worry about it most. And and I it's
9		conservative because they'll give you a you can get
10		a flow they've measured flow rates in these shales,
11		but they're much stronger and stiffer than the shales
12		we're talking about here.
13	Q	Okay.
14	А	And so they they stay open and flow.
15	Q	And and so then there wasn't any specific laboratory
16		testing performed in order for you to reach this
17		this conclusion?
18	А	No.
19	Q	Okay. And how is it that you reached the conclusion
20		that the about the maximum conductivity?
21	A	The conductivity of the fractures?
22	Q	Yes.
23	A	So I I took I looked at the data, and I picked a
24		number that was in the middle of the data and was at
25		the confining stress that's applicable to the
26		confinement strata at KN08s and KN09.

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1	Q	And the data you're referring to?
2	A	Is in these papers that are referenced in the appendix.
3	Q	Okay. And those papers refer to production of shale
4		gas?
5	A	Well, they they refer they refer to tests that
б		were done on samples that were actually quarried at
7		surface from outcrops and then taken into the lab and
8		then fractured, and then they measured the permeability
9		of those fractures.
10	Q	Right. But it's not directly relevant to or
11		directly derived from the the geology that we're
12		talking about here?
13	A	That's correct.
14	Q	As a result of that, there is some uncertainty in in
15		your conclusion that the maximum conductivity would be
16		300?
17	A	Yes, there is, but I've I really do believe it's
18		conservative. I think if you these shales here are
19		so much weaker than the shales that were tested. Like
20		I said earlier in my presentation, almost certainly
21		these fractures will be closed and not conductive.
22	Q	All right. I'll turn you now to page 74 of
23		Exhibit 15.01. Now, about halfway down the page there
24		you say: (as read)
25		Experience with SAGD has established bounds
26		on the rates of steam rise in the Athabasca
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1		oil sands.
2		Now, you're not talking about your own experience
3		there, are you?
4	A	No. I'm well, I mean, I have some experience, but
5		I'm speaking more broadly of experience in the industry
б		and what's reported in papers.
7	Q	Okay. And so it's not specifically CNRL's experience,
8		it's just the experience that you've gleaned from
9		reading papers?
10	A	To a large extent, yes.
11	Q	Okay. Now, I'll turn to
12		A. MCLEOD: Well, perhaps I'll I'll
13		mention to the chair, I've got or, rather,
14		Commissioner Chiasson that I've got maybe three more
15		questions to ask on Exhibit 50. So I think I would
16		probably be done in about 10 or 15 minutes, but I'm
17		open to stopping now if you'd prefer.
18		COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: No. Actually, we can continue
19		with your questions, and just for clarification, then
20		you're proposing to essentially finish for for the
21		day after those questions, or were you anticipating
22		more questions from Ms. Riley?
23		A. MCLEOD: Let me just confer with my
24		co-counsel, and I'll tell you.
25		COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you.
26		A. MCLEOD: Yeah. We'll conclude after

1 these last few questions for the day. 2 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Sorry. 3 Dr. Boone, did you have a question? T. BOONE: Should I be facing the 4 Sorry. 5 Panel when I answer questions? 6 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Frankly, if you're using the 7 microphone, we will be able to hear you. So if it --8 whatever you're most -- whatever you're most 9 comfortable with, but I would suggest because you've 10 got interplay going with either Mr. McLeod or 11 Ms. Riley, that that may be more suitable. We'll let 12 you know if we're having problems hearing. 13 T. BOONE: Okay. 14 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: Thank you. I'll turn you now, sir, to 15 A. MCLEOD: 0 16 Exhibit 50.003 at page 5. 17 A. MCLEOD: Can you scroll down a little bit there. 18 I thought that on this 19 A. MCLEOD: 0 20 page you said something, but hang on one second while I 21 find my reference. Oh, yeah. There it is. Okay. 22 So on the second paragraph here, after the first 23 sentence you say: (as read) 24 With the support of CNRL's geoscientists, I have classified the facies in the confinement 25 strata for four cored wells -- two from each 26

of the KN08 and KN09 drainage boxes -- and 1 made a calculation of the time required steam 2 3 to migrate through the confinement strata. Can you confirm whether those geoscientists who support 4 5 what you relied on are here today? 6 Α T. BOONE: Yes. Two of them are at the 7 end of the table down there. Okay. And are there any of those geoscientists who you 8 0 9 consulted with in -- in relation to this statement not 10 here today? 11 Oh, sorry. Colleen is -- Colleen is over here. Α 12 So we have one other geoscientist who is not a 0 Okav. sworn witness; is that right? 13 14 Α Yeah. 15 Now, I'll turn to page 10 of 0 Okay. Great. 16 Exhibit 15.03. There you say, sir: (as read) I've reviewed the available information for 17 this well and have concluded that it is 18 indeed providing reliable data. 19 20 And I'm curious what qualifications you have to opine 21 on the -- the reliability of that data? 22 Well, I'm -- I'm a reservoir engineer. I've been Α 23 involved in pilot design, pilot monitoring. I ran the 24 pilot programs at -- for Imperial at Cold Lake for many 25 years, and a big part of that is assessing reliability 26 of data that you're getting from wells.

1		And another part of it was in the KN06 hearing,
2		but I think this is in the in the record for this
3		hearing was the well test report, which as a reservoir
4		engineer, we're trained to review well test reports and
5		in reviewing that well test report, it gave me a lot of
6		confidence that this well was providing reliable data.
7	Q	And and is it that that you're saying that it is
8		presently providing reliable data or that it's always
9		provided reliable data?
10	A	It's presently providing reliable data, and there may
11		be some periods in the past where it didn't provide
12		reliable data. I can't guarantee that.
13	Q	Okay.
14	A	But a lot of the data in the past is can definitely
15		be interpreted and was interpreted by the well test
16		engineer that was hired by ISH for the KN06 hearing.
17	Q	So I I I'm a bit confused about how how you
18		could determine that the data was previously unreliable
19		and then became reliable. What objective measure are
20		you using to make that finding?
21	A	I didn't make that conclusion, by the way, that it was
22		previously unreliable. I mean, there's some data there
23		that that where you're seeing the pressures going up
24		and down and you're wondering what might be causing
25		that, and it would require some more in-depth review of
26		the data, but the recent data, when you look at it,

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1		when you look at the temperatures and the pressures,
2		they're all very consistent with a well that was shut
3		in and is now the pressure is recovering in the
4		area.
5	Q	You'd agree, though, that gauge was for the 10-01
6		well was broken at one point?
7	А	I I don't know the details on that. I believe that
8		something to that effect is in the record, yes.
9	Q	And and a broken gauge, you'd agree, wouldn't
10		provide reliable data?
11	A	Yes, I can agree with that.
12	Q	Okay. I'll turn you to Exhibit 50.003 at page 30.
13		There you say at the second-from-last paragraph:
14		(as read)
15		CNRL has run caliper logs on 12 wells at the
16		Jackfish operation and 4 wells at the Kirby
17		operation.
18		The logs have identified a total of approximately
19		60 caisson deformations that may be associated with
20		shear movement above the reservoir.
21		Can you confirm, sir, who collected those logs?
22	A	CNRL provided me that data. They have a database of
23		all the logs they run and the deformations that are
24		observed.
25	Q	And do you know if a third party collected those logs
26		on behalf of CNRL?

1	А	I'm sure they did, but I I can't speak to the
2		specifics of the contract.
3	Q	Okay. And so did CNRL interpret those logs before
4		giving them to you?
5	А	I you know, I didn't review the logs. I just asked
6		for the data, and the data is in the tables that you
7		see there.
8	Q	Okay. But you then go on to draw the conclusion that:
9		(as read)
10		Based on the considerations above, it is my
11		assessment that it is unlikely that any
12		significant shear features will be generated
13		in the confining strata.
14		So you reached that conclusion without reviewing the
15		logs?
16	А	Well, I'm not a log analyst. I mean, the logs were
17		analyzed and the results were tabulated, and they
18		provided, you know, the type of deformation that was
19		observed and the frequency of the observations. I I
20		have a lot of experience reviewing logs like that for
21		CSS operations, and in CSS operations you see a lot of
22		deformation in the the caprock and the you know,
23		the confinement strata above the CSS formation itself,
24		and when you really look at these, these are very mild
25		by comparison.
26	Q	Very good. Sir, those are all of my questions for

1 We'll have some more for you tomorrow, I today. 2 imagine, but subject to Commissioner Chiasson's 3 comments, those are my questions for today. 4 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: I think Commissioner Barker 5 has one. 6 The Panel Questions the Canadian Natural Resources 7 Limited Witness Panel COMMISSIONER BARKER: Thank you. 8 0 Dr. Boone, just wondering, what's "CSS"? 9 Could 10 you just clarify what that acronym is, please? 11 Cyclical steam simulation. Α 12 Okay. 0 Are you familiar with "cyclical steam simulation". 13 Α 14 Well, I just wanted to know what the acronym meant, 0 15 so ... 16 I can expand on that, or you can just have the answer. Α 17 That's all I need to know. Thank you very much. 0 COMMISSIONER CHIASSON: No, I think -- I believe that 18 we are done for the day, then, and I would note that we 19 20 are hoping to catch up some time tomorrow. I think 21 there is some flex in some of our timing that may --22 may catch us up. So I would just remind everyone to remove any belongings you have from here in the hearing 23 24 room, and parties, unless you've made arrangements that 25 we're not aware of with the building operator, to also 26 remove all your belongings from the breakout rooms

because there's no guarantee of security of any of the
 space.

3 And we will also remind all of the witnesses, both tables, that you're still under oath or affirmation, so 4 do not discuss any of the evidence between yourselves, 5 6 with your colleagues who are not sworn, with your 7 counsel because you're still -- you're still in the process, and we haven't released you, so that reminder 8 9 between now and when we return tomorrow morning. 10 And unless there's any other timing concerns that 11 we're not aware of, parties, we would intend to resume back here tomorrow morning at 9:00. Any questions or 12 13 Thank you all very much for your concerns? No? 14 participation today, and we will be back tomorrow 15 morning. 16 (WITNESSES STAND DOWN) 17 PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED UNTIL 9:00 AM, FEBRUARY 7, 2024 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPT: We, Sandie Murphy and Sandra Burns, certify that the foregoing pages are a complete and accurate transcript of the proceedings, taken down by us in shorthand and transcribed from our shorthand notes to the best of our skill and ability. Dated at the City of Calgary, Province of Alberta, this 6th day of February 2024. Lu Mune Sandie Murphy, CSR(A) Official Court Reporter Sandra Burns, CSR(A), RPR, CRR Official Court Reporter

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