

By Email Only

August 25, 2020

Ivan Schlaht

**CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED**

**APPLICATION NO. 1680943**

**STATEMENT OF CONCERN NO. 31625**

**LOCATION: 100/12-09-021-02W4M**

Dear Ivan Schlaht:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern about Reclamation Certificate Application No. 1680943. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your statement of concern, along with the company's application, and all applicable requirements and other submissions or information about the application. The AER has decided that a hearing is not required to consider the concerns outlined in your statement of concern.

In our review of your concerns, we considered the following:

- The results of the Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) conducted on November 5, 2014, are consistent with the *Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines – ABT1G* (ESRD, 2014).
- The Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) completed on August 13, 2019, for the site and the access road showed that all soil, landscape, and vegetation parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Cultivated Lands* (Reclamation Criteria) were met. All parameters were comparable both on-site and off-site.
- At the site visit conducted on April 22, 2020, by representatives from the AER and yourself, some riling and rutting was observed. This type of erosion is common in fields that are bare soil during the spring runoff/melt. Normal farming practices should alleviate the issue.
- The AER Reclamation Assessor conducted an observation visit on July 21, 2020, and concluded that the vegetation in the general vicinity of the area of concern appeared to be consistent and there were no visible signs of vegetation stress.
- The Reclamation Criteria are applied to evaluate whether “a site has met equivalent land capability.” Given the findings made in the DSA and during the AER site visits, the AER is satisfied that the site and access road have met equivalent land capability and that your concerns have been addressed.

Based on the above, the AER has concluded that it is not necessary to hold a hearing before making a decision on the application. The AER has issued the applied-for Reclamation Certificate, and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the Reclamation Certificate is attached.

All AER-regulated parties must comply not only with the conditions of their authorizations, but with all of the AER's regulatory requirements. To ensure industry compliance, the AER has developed its *Integrated Compliance Assurance Framework*, which embodies the three main components of all effective compliance assurance programs, those being education, prevention, and enforcement. You can find out more about how the AER verifies industry compliance and responds to noncompliance here: <https://aer.ca/regulating-development/compliance/compliance-assurance-program>.

You may file a regulatory appeal on the AER's decision to issue the certificate if you meet the criteria within section 36 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*. Filing instructions and forms are on the AER website under Regulatory Appeal Process.

If you have any questions, please contact [SOC@aer.ca](mailto:SOC@aer.ca).

Sincerely,

<Original Signed By>

Andrew MacPherson  
Director, Regulatory Applications

Enclosure (1): **Reclamation Certificate**

cc: Kayley du Plessix, Canadian Natural Resources Limited  
Tracy Kupchenko, AER  
Maribel Arguello, AER  
SOC Assessor, AER  
Reclamation Inbox, AER  
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre