

February 8, 2021

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By Email Only

Todd Plandowski, President & CEO
Section 25 Management**Statement of Concern No. 31687**
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Application No. 1722290
Location: 08-22-052-02W4

Dear Mr. Plandowski,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) on behalf of Garth George about Application No.1722290. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your SOC, along with the 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 SOC.

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

- The Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) completed on September 16, 2019, by Nor-Alta Environmental Services Ltd. shows that all soil, landscape, and vegetation parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Cultivated Lands* (Reclamation Criteria) were met.
- Information from the site inspection conducted by the AER Reclamation Assessor on July 28, 2020, and the DSA demonstrated that the Reclamation Criteria for cultivated lands were met.
- The AER considered the crop yield data you provided to the AER per location, associated location bushel per acre (bu/ac), and check yield bu/ac measurements, and notes that the Reclamation Criteria does not include these kinds of measurements when determining whether satisfactory reclamation has been achieved.

- 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 staff site visits, the AER is satisfied that the site has met equivalent land capability and that Mr. George’s 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 Reclamation Certificate if you meet the criteria within section 36 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*. Filing instructions and forms are located here: <https://www.aer.ca/regulating-development/project-application/regulatory-appeal-process>.

If you have any questions please contact SOC@aer.ca.

Sincerely,

<Original Signed By>

Andrew MacPherson
Director, In Situ
Regulatory Applications
/ml

Attachment (1): Reclamation Certificate

cc: Jessica Gysler, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Brad Dunkle, AER
SOC Inbox, AER
Field Operations East, AER