

April 16, 2021

By Email Only

Mr. Rick Stelter

**Statement of Concern No. 31915
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Applications No. 31100353, 31102664, 31102678, 31102685, 31102718, and 31102726**

Dear Mr. Stelter,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Applications No. 31100353, 31102664, 31102678, 31102685, 31102718, and 31102726. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your SOC, along with the applications, and all applicable requirements and other submissions or information about the applications. 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 concerns raised are operational in nature, and are not specific to the extension application which is an administrative application.
- Your concerns related to wildlife, in particular Grizzly bears, have been previously raised and were adequately addressed by SOC 31449 in 2019. In addition, they are in relation to previously approved licences and do not demonstrate how the approval of the extension application will directly and adversely affect you.
- Your wildlife concerns are addressed through the previously approved *Public Lands Act* disposition, Mineral Surface Lease (MSL) 180800. The disposition for MSL180800 includes requirements for a wildlife sweep prior to entry and construction, and to leave a buffer zone from any important wildlife features (including occupied bear dens) identified during the wildlife sweep. *The Public Lands Act* and the *Wildlife Act* protect occupied bear dens, and require industry to ensure they do not disturb these important wildlife features during construction.

- CNRL will be required to adhere to all relevant regulatory requirements.
- Should any operational issues arise, you may submit an operational complaint to the Energy and Environmental Emergency 24-Hour Response Line: 1-800-222-6514

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

Lane Peterson
Director, Oil & Gas Surface
Regulatory Applications
/sl

Attachments (6): Approvals

cc: Justyna Puhl, CNRL
Brent Korolischuk, CNRL
Nelson Lord, CNRL
Steven Lee, AER
SOC Inbox, AER