Alberta Energy Regulator

Calgary Head Office
Suite 1000, 250 – 5 Street SW
Calgary, Alberta T2P 0R4
Canada

www.aer.ca

October 16, 2023

By Email Only

Diana Boxma
Special Areas Board

Statement of Concern No. 32144
Canadian Natural Resources Inc. (CNRL)
Application No. 31963052
Location: 06-01-023-05 W4M

Dear Diana Boxma,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 31963052. 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:

- A Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) was conducted on August 3, 2022 (soils, vegetation, and landscape) which showed that the conditions of the lease were comparable both onsite and offsite. An AER Reclamation Assessor reviewed the DSA and noted that all parameters of the 2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Native Grasslands (Reclamation Criteria) were met. Additionally, AER staff conducted a site inspection on September 25, 2023, and confirmed that the site met the Reclamation Criteria at the time of the site visit.
- Regarding your concerns about the access road conditions, AER determined that the areas of concern were associated with Application No. 31955331 and related SOC 32145, as such it does not apply to the subject application. Furthermore, Application No. 31955331 was refused on September 28, 2023, to allow CNRL to address access road and wellsite conditions.

- Regarding your concern about the rocks on the temporary trespass trail located at SE-12-023-05 W4M, it is noted that CNRL has removed the large rocks, and the concern has been addressed to the satisfaction of the AER.

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
/jg

Attachment (1): Reclamation Certificate

cc: Kayley Wickenhauser, CNRL
SOC Inbox, AER
Brad Dunkle, Reclamation Assessor, AER
Field Operations South, AER