

September 21, 2023

www.aer.ca

By Email Only

Sasha Kusiak, Service Team Lead
Welltraxx**Statement of Concern No. 32175
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Applications No. 32019415 and 32030277
Landowner location: Sections 15 & 23-022-09W4M**

Dear Sasha Kusiak:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC), on behalf of Paul Klassen, about Applications No. 32019415 and 32030277. 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:

- A Detailed Site Assessment (DSA) was conducted for the 16-23-022-10W4M wellsite, and the 16-15-022-09W4M wellsite and associated access road on July 23, 2022, and August 7, 2022, respectively. The DSA's showed that the conditions of the vegetation, landscape and soil were comparable both onsite and offsite, and indicated that all parameters of the *2010 Reclamation criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Cultivated Lands* (Reclamation Criteria) were met.
- A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment was conducted on the wellsites and associated access road on July 6, 2022, where the remediation and confirmatory results concluded that *Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines* (AENV 2007, as amended) were met.
- A site visit was conducted on July 12, 2023, wherein AER staff determined that the vegetation, landscape, and soil were comparable on and off site.

- The Reclamation Criteria requires an evaluation of whether "a site has met equivalent land capability." Given the findings made in the DSA's and site visit, the AER is satisfied that the site has met equivalent land capability and that the 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 applications. The AER has issued the applied-for Reclamation Certificates, and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the Reclamation Certificates are 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 Certificates 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
/ma

Attachment (2): Reclamation Certificate

cc: Kayley Wickenhauser, Canadian Natural Resources Limited
Sasha Kusiak, WellTraxx
Brad Dunkle, AER
Field Operations South, AER
ADR Inbox, AER
SOC Inbox, AER