

December 13, 2023

www.aer.ca

By Email Only

Regan and Christine Mallett

Statement of Concern No. 32160
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Application No. 32028945
Location: 10-34-052-02 W4M

Dear Regan and Christine Mallett,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 32028945. 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) of the wellsite and access road was conducted on July 17, 2017 (landscape and soil) and September 2, 2022 (vegetation) which showed that the conditions of the soil, landscape, and vegetation parameters for the wellsite and access road were comparable both on-site and off-site. An AER Reclamation Assessor reviewed the DSA and confirmed that all parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Cultivated Lands (updated 2013)* were met.
- A site visit was conducted on June 19, 2023 wherein AER staff checked the site for compaction and rooting restrictions. These parameters appeared to be comparable both on and off-site and met the Reclamation Criteria.
- Regarding concerns about the uneven distribution of alfalfa, the AER notes that even distribution of species is not part of the reclamation criteria, however, AER staff observed that the sparse

distribution of alfalfa within the tear drop area did not appear to be due to any of the parameters assessed.

- Regarding your specific concerns about the lease edges, based on the site visit, the site appeared to meet the Reclamation Criteria.

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: Jessica Gysler, CNRL
SOC Inbox, AER
Drew Lockwood, Reclamation Assessor, AER
Field Operations East, AER