

December 13, 2023

By Email Only

Garry and Sandra Mallett

Statement of Concern No. 32162
Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Application No. 32029082
Location: 12-34-052-02 W4M

Dear Garry and Sandra Mallett,

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern (SOC) about Application No. 32029082. 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 was conducted on June 18, 2017 (landscape and soil) and August 22, 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 vegetation and landscape parameters, as well as the soil for compaction and rooting restrictions. The parameters assessed appeared to be comparable both on and off-site and met the Reclamation Criteria.
- Regarding your specific concerns about the uneven distribution of alfalfa, the AER did note that alfalfa was sparse within the tear drop area, overall the site still met the reclamation criteria. The alfalfa distribution did not appear to be caused by any of the parameters assessed under the 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