

BY E-MAIL ONLY

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

June 15, 2019

[www.aer.ca](http://www.aer.ca)

Jim and Carol Hern

**RE: Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)**  
**Reclamation Certificate Application No. 378072 (the Application)**  
**Statement of Concern No. 31150**  
**Surface Location: 02-06-20-02W4M**  
**Disposition: MSL 10813\_SA**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hern:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern in respect of the Application No. 378072. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your statement of concern, along with the Application, the applicable requirements, and other submissions or information about the application. The AER has decided that a hearing is not required under an enactment, or necessary, to consider the concerns outlined in your statement of concern.

In its review of your concerns, the AER considered the following:

- A shallow gas well was drilled on the wellsite using minimal disturbance practices.
- EOG Resources Inc. contracted SECURE Energy Services Inc. to conduct well center sampling on June 23, 2014. Laboratory analysis indicated that onsite soil qualities were equivalent to those found offsite.
- Salix Resource Management (Salix) conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on October 1, 2017. The DSA showed that the conditions of the soil, landscape, and vegetation on the wellsite and access trail meet all parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Native Grasslands* (the Reclamation Criteria).
- The wellsite and access trail are on a Special Areas grazing lease, which is administered by the Special Areas Board per the Special Areas Act and Municipal Government Act. The well center was inter-seeded using the Special Areas recommended seed mix.
- The Special Areas land manager supervises all grazing leases and associated wellsites within Special Areas and has not raised any concerns regarding the wellsite or access trail to date.
- With respect to your concerns regarding grass growth on the wellsite, the *Reclamation Criteria* are applied “to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability.” The DSA indicates that grass growth on the wellsite meets the parameters of the *Reclamation Criteria*.

Accordingly, the AER is satisfied that the wellsite and access trail have met equivalent land capability and that your concerns have been adequately addressed.

The AER has issued the applied-for reclamation certificate and this is your notice of that decision. A copy of the reclamation certificate is enclosed.

You may file a regulatory appeal on the AER's decision to issue the reclamation certificate if you satisfy the elements within sections 36 and 38 of the *Responsible Energy Development Act*. Filing instructions and forms are on our website under Regulatory Appeal Process.

If you have any questions, contact Tracy Kupchenko by e-mail at [tracy.kupchenko@aer.ca](mailto:tracy.kupchenko@aer.ca).

Sincerely,

< original signed by:>

Tania De Silva

Director, Oil, Gas & Pipeline, Closure & Liability

**Enclosure (1): Reclamation Certificate**

cc: Kayley Du Plessix, Canadian Natural Resources Limited,  
Joel Conrad, Salix Resource Management,  
Nolan Ball, Special Areas Agrologist,  
AER SOC Coordinator,  
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre,