

BY E-MAIL ONLY

June 14, 2019

Jim and Carol Hern

**RE: Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)  
Reclamation Certificate Application No. 378149 (Pilot 161351)  
Statement of Concern No. 31151  
Land Location: 08-07-20-02W4M  
Disposition: MSL 10807\_SA**

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hern:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern about Application No.378149. 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 centre sampling on June 24, 2014. Laboratory analysis indicated that the soil meets the *Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines* (2010).
- Salix Resource Management conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on October 9, 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 centre 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 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 Agrolgist,  
AER SOC Coordinator,  
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre,