

June 05, 2019

By E-mail

Swenson Farms

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

www.aer.ca

**RE: Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Application No. 378849 (Pilot 168883) (Application)
Statement of Concern No. 31245
Land Location: 100/07-07-21-02W4M
Disposition: n/a**

Dear Mr. Swenson:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern in respect of the Application. 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 your cultivated lands in June 2005, using minimum practices.
- Confirmatory sampling at well center was conducted post abandonment (in August 2014) that confirmed soil quality at well center using Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines. One sample from 0.6m below ground was found to have a slight exceedance of Sodium Adsorption Ratio (SAR) readings.
- Secure Energy Services, which conducted the study, determined that the SAR exceedance does not warrant further remediation as the reduction in soil quality is negligible because the exceedance is located at the base of the rooting zone (i.e., 1.50 m bgl) and is the result of naturally elevated salts. Therefore, the risk of an adverse effect to the vegetation growth and equivalent land capability is low.

- Salix Resource Management (Salix) conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on July 26, 2017. The DSA indicates 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 Cultivated lands* (the *Reclamation Criteria*).
- With respect to your concerns regarding Downy Brome on the wellsite, the 2017 DSA noted that the crop exceeded the criteria and that there was no Downey Brome observed on or offsite.
- The *Reclamation Criteria* are applied “to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability.” The DSA indicates that the wellsite and access trail meet the *Reclamation Criteria*. As a result, the AER is satisfied that the wellsite and access trail have met equivalent land capability.

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 of 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.

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,
AER SOC Coordinator,
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre