

BY EMAIL ONLY

January 17, 2020

Ivan and Louise Schlaht, Landowners

**CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LTD. (CNRL)
APPLICATION NO. 400940
STATEMENT OF CONCERN NO. 31331
LEGAL LAND LOCATION: 100/12-10-21-02W4M**

Dear Ivan and Louise Schlaht:

You are receiving this letter because you filed a statement of concern about Application No. 400940. The Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) has reviewed your statement of concern, along with the company's 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 statement of concern.

In our review of your concerns, we considered the following:

- A shallow gas well was drilled on the wellsite using minimal disturbance practices on May 25 and 26, 2002 and was abandoned on August 17, 2014.
- EOG Resources Inc. contracted SECURE Energy Services Inc. on CNRL's behalf, to conduct well center sampling on July 2, 2014. Laboratory analysis indicated that the soil meets the *Alberta Tier 1 Soil and Groundwater Remediation Guidelines* (2010).
- Ridgeline Canada Inc. conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on July 24, 2018. The DSA shows that the conditions of the soil, landscape, and vegetation on the wellsite meet the parameters of the *2010 Reclamation Criteria for Wellsites and Associated Facilities for Cultivated lands* (the *Reclamation Criteria*).
- Joint site visit occurred on November 6, 2018, which included Mr. Ivan Schlaht, and representatives for CNRL, Enviro Consultant and AER respectively. The attendees walked along the East-West portion of the access trail and discussed of the historical use of the trail. Mr. Schlaht was of the view that CNRL had moved the access trail 1 – 3 meters to the north from its original location. He also requested CNRL to move the trail 3m to the south and reclaim the existing trail.

- No historical complaints or concerns were noted in previous 17 years regarding the location of the access trail.
- The soils in the area are susceptible to erosion.
- The request to move the East-West portion of the trail is not reasonable from a soil conservation perspective because the current trail would have to be worked and reseeded, which could jeopardize soil stability.
- In order to reclaim the existing trail, all use would have to cease. This trail is a major access to the yardsite and the risk of reclamation failure is high. Disturbing soils is not recommended in the circumstances.
- The criteria applied to the site are used “to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability.” The DSA indicates that the wellsite and access road meet the parameters of the *Reclamation Criteria*. Accordingly, the AER is satisfied that the wellsite and associated facilities 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 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.

<original signed by:>

Joanne Petryk on behalf of Tania De Silva,
Director, OGP Closure and Liability
Enclosure **Reclamation Certificate**

cc: Kayley Jochaud Du Plessix, Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.,
Michelle Willms, Ridgeline Canada Inc.
SOCAR,
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre,