

BY E-MAIL ONLY

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

May 22, 2019

www.aer.ca

Jim and Carol Hern

RE: Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)

Reclamation Certificate Application No. 427279 (the Application)

Statement of Concern No. 31396

Surface Location: 100/10-29-19-2W4M

Disposition: MSL 10867_SA

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hern:

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:

- Two shallow gas wells (100/10-29-019-02W4M and 100/02-29-019-02W4M) were drilled at different types on the wellsite using minimal disturbance practices.
- Salix Resource Management (Salix) conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on July 19, 2018. The DSA indicates that the conditions of the soil, landscape, and vegetation on the wellsite and N-S portion of the 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 Special Areas Agrologist supervises all grazing leases and associated wellsites within Special Areas and has not raised any concerns regarding the wellsite or access trail to date.
- The *Reclamation Criteria* are applied “to evaluate whether a site has met equivalent land capability.” The DSA indicates that the wellsite and N-S portion of the access trail meet the *Reclamation Criteria*. Accordingly, the AER is satisfied that the wellsite and N-S portion of the access trail have met equivalent land capability.

- With respect to your concerns regarding the E-W portion of the access trail, photographic and written evidence submitted by CNRL and Salix indicates that this portion of the access trail existed prior to construction of the wellsite, that CNRL's activities have not caused further impacts, and that the access trail is vegetated between tracks, is stable and continues to be utilized by 3rd parties. As a result, the AER is satisfied that the E-W portion of the access trail does not require additional reclamation 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.

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,