

April 3, 2019

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

By E-mail

www.aer.ca

Jim and Carol Hern,

**RE: Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL)
Application No. 429265 (the Application)
Statement of Concern No. 31397
Land Location: 100/10-31-19-02W4M
Disposition: MSL 10825_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:

- A shallow gas well was drilled on the site using minimal disturbance practices.
- 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*.
- With respect to your concerns regarding grass growth and the need for additional seeding on the wellsite, Salix Resource Management (Salix) conducted a detailed site assessment (DSA) on July 18, 2018. 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 Native Grasslands* (the *Reclamation Criteria*).
- Further, a Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment conducted on July 11, 2014 concluded that soils sampled from the wellbore area met applicable guidelines and that soil qualities were equivalent to those offsite. The site was also inter-seeded three times since abandonment of the well with a native grass seed mix recommended by the Special Areas Agrolgist to enhance

vegetation coverage. Accordingly, application of further seed to the wellsite is not warranted.

- The Special Areas land manager supervises all grazing leases and associated wellsites within Special Areas and has not raised any concerns to date regarding the wellsite or access trail.
- 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,
Nolan Ball, Special Areas Agrologist, AER SOC Coordinator,
AER Medicine Hat Field Centre,