



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Bill Peterson
Senior VP, Development Operations
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.
Suite 2100, 855 – 2 ST SW
CALGARY AB T2P 4J8

December 17, 2018

Dear Bill Peterson:

Direction:

Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. Request for an Operations Authorization for Abandonment of Non-Compliant Suspended Wells (OA-2018-005)

On November 26, 2018, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application from Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) for an Operations Authorization (OA). The OA covers the proposed abandonment of thirteen wells operated by CNRL in the Fort Liard area.

On December 17, 2018, I issued my decision with respect to CNRL's request for an extension to the deadline for the abandonment of its non-compliant suspended wells. The request was denied.

Given the manifest inadequacies of CNRL's initial application and its responses to Information Requests No. 1 and No. 3, I direct that CNRL submit the following information by 12:00 noon (MDT) on May 31, 2019:

- 1) Evidence that CNRL has engaged in discussions with other operators of suspended wells in the vicinity of the 13 suspended wells that are the subject of this application. The evidence must include the identity of the operators and the nature of the discussions in relation to shared access, equipment, and related matters in support of the abandonment program.
- 2) Confirmation that CNRL has submitted a Benefits Plan applicable to the full scope of the proposed activity (13 wells), or a request for waiver of the requirement, to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Government of the Northwest Territories.

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- 3) Confirmation that CNRL has applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for any land use permit or water licence (or amendment of same) necessary to carry out the proposed 13 well abandonments and all associated activities (including winter road building and site access).
- 4) A plan for conducting well inspections of the nine non-compliant wells, which must:
 - a. Include an inspections schedule providing for two inspections a year, with one of the two annual inspections taking place during the July-September period, and continuing until the non-compliant wells are abandoned to the satisfaction of the OROGO decision maker;
 - b. Provide information on the qualifications of inspection personnel;
 - c. Provide for 30 days notification to OROGO of intended inspections; and
 - d. Confirm that completed and signed inspection forms are to be sent to OROGO within 30 days of the completion of each inspection.

If you have any questions, please contact Pauline de Jong at (867)767-9097 or by email at [Pauline Dejong@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Pauline.Dejong@gov.nt.ca).

Sincerely,



James Fulford
Chief Conservation Officer

- c. Arty Castillo, Regulatory Coordinator, CNRL
Shelagh Montgomery, Executive Director, MVLWB
Menzie McEachern, Director, Petroleum Resources Division, ITI



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TO CNRL - BILL HENDERSON STREET ADDRESS (P.O. BOX NOT ACCEPTABLE) SUITE 210, 855 - 2ND ST SW CALGARY AB CITY PROVINCE POSTAL CODE TELEPHONE NUMBER T2P 4J8 (403) 517-1700		DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS LITR	SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS		No. PKGS (EST) 1	WT SUBJECT TO CORRECTION Kg 1.2	COURIER TARIFF
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