



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Terran Bernhard  
Program Engineer  
Canadian Natural Resources Ltd.  
SUITE 2100, 8800 – 2 ST SW  
CALGARY AB T2P 4J8

April 4, 2023

Dear Terran Bernhard:

**Direction: Abandonment  
of the Emile Lake A-77 Well (WID1964) (ACW-2019-010-CNRL-A-77-WID1964)**

On April 3, 2023, I issued a Notice of Non-Compliance to CNRL for failing to comply with the Regulator's direction to abandon the Emile Lake A-77 well (WID1964) by March 31, 2023.

Based on CNRL's application for variation 6 to ACW-2019-010-CNRL-A-77-WID1964 (received on March 15, 2023) and response to Information Request No. 2 (received on March 28, 2023), I have concluded that additional direction is required to ensure that this non-compliant well is monitored, repaired, and abandoned appropriately.

**Therefore, I direct CNRL to:**

- 1. Submit weekly monitoring reports from the SCVF monitoring device (vent nanny) installed on Emile Lake A-77 starting as soon as the vent assemblies thaw in spring 2023.**
- 2. If the SCVF has not been eliminated, submit a comprehensive analysis of the Bio Squeeze and Interwell technologies, prepared by CNRL engineers, to OROGO by August 1, 2023. The analysis must include an assessment of the benefits and risks of applying these technologies to the Emile Lake A-77 well.**
- 3. If the SCVF has not been eliminated, submit a detailed geological analysis supporting CNRL's planned intervals for repair of the Emile Lake A-77 well to OROGO by August 1, 2023.**

Based on the information provided by CNRL on the two proposed technologies and the planned repair intervals, the Regulator will determine whether they are acceptable for use in repairing the SCVF on Emile Lake A-77. This determination will be communicated to CNRL by August 31, 2023, along with any conditions required by the Regulator.

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4. **Submit an updated Well Abandonment Plan for ACW-2019-010-CNRL-A-77-WID1964 that reflects the Regulator’s determination on acceptable technologies to OROGO by September 15, 2023.**

Failure to comply with the direction of the Regulator may result in further enforcement activity, up to and including an order by the Regulator under section 20 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA).

Sub-section 114(1)(d) of OGOA states:

“Every person is guilty of an offence who fails to comply with . . . an order of the Committee or the Regulator made under this Act.”

Sub-section 114(2) of OGOA states:

“Every person who is guilty of an offence under subsection (1) is liable on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding \$1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both.”

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong  
Regulator

- c. James Ireland, CNRL  
Wade Hartzel, CNRL  
Dale Duffy, CNRL