



NWT OFFICE OF THE REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations

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Ryan N. Munro  
Manager Pipeline Abandonment Planning  
Canadian Natural Resources Limited  
SUITE 2100, 855 – 2 ST SW  
CALGARY AB T2P 4J8

August 8, 2025

Dear Ryan N. Munro:

**Decision: Application for an Operations Authorization (OA-2025-001-CNRL)**

On April 2, 2025, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application from Canadian Natural Resources Limited (CNRL) for an Operations Authorization to abandon the natural gas and produced water pipelines between the Liard P-66 and Liard K-29 well sites in the Dehcho region of the Northwest Territories.

OROGO also received CNRL's response to information requests as follows:

Information Request No. 1 – received on May 26, 2025; and

Information Request No. 2 – received on June 11, 2025.

The Regulator, designated under section 121 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* (OGOA), may issue an Operations Authorization under section 10(1)(b) of that act. On August 2, 2020, the Commissioner in Executive Council designated me as the Regulator under section 121 of OGOA.

The Regulator must fulfill their obligations as a regulatory authority under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). They must also determine the adequacy of Aboriginal consultation, where a decision has the potential to adversely impact an asserted or existing Aboriginal right.

I make the following findings with respect to CNRL's application for an Operations Authorization:

1. CNRL's application and supplemental information submissions satisfy the minimum application requirements of OGOA and of section 5 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* (OGDPR) in relation to the proposed activities. I am persuaded that CNRL intends to conduct the proposed activities in a manner consistent with the purposes set out in OGOA.

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2. Preliminary screening – In its April 2, 2025, application, CNRL states the activities proposed under OA-2025-001-CNRL were subject to preliminary screening by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) under Land Use Permits MV2002A0089, MV2009X0007, and MV2017X0034.

I reviewed the Preliminary Screening Reports for these Land Use Permits and determined that MV2009X0007 scoped in remediation and reclamation of the Liard P-66 well site and included both abandonment and decommissioning activities. Therefore, I am not required to conduct a preliminary screening for OA-2025-001-CNRL as the MVLWB, a board established under Part 4 of the MVRMA, has already conducted a preliminary screening scoping in the activities proposed under OA-2025-001-CNRL. I advised the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board of this determination on August 6, 2025.

3. Land Use Plan conformity – The proposed activity does not fall within the boundaries of a Land Use Plan approved under the MVRMA. Therefore, there is no requirement to assess land use plan conformity under the MVRMA.
4. Indigenous and community consultation – OA-2025-001-CNRL proposes the abandonment of pipelines that are no longer in use, contributing to the remediation and reclamation of the Liard P-66 well site. The pipeline abandonments will reduce the impact of previous development on existing or asserted Aboriginal rights by returning the site to a more natural state.

CNRL's Engagement Package, submitted with its April 2, 2025, application, and response to Information Request No. 1, indicate it has engaged with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation, the Acho Dene Koe Band Land Services, the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee, the Dehcho First Nations, the Dene Nation, the Dene Tha' First Nation, the Hamlet of Fort Liard, the Nahanni Butte First Nation, the Naha Dehe Development Corporation, the Sambaa K'e First Nation, and the Sambaa K'e Development Corporation.

CNRL has also applied to the MVLWB for a Land Use Permit (MV2025X0003) encompassing the activities proposed under OA-2025-001-CNRL. As the review of this application is underway, I cannot assess consultation and engagement activities carried out using the MVLWB's online review system, although such activities will occur as CNRL proceeds through the Land Use Permit process.

Nonetheless, considering the nature and scale of the activity, I am prepared to issue OA-2025-001-CNRL with specific terms addressing future consultation and engagement by CNRL.

5. Proof of Financial Responsibility – CNRL has provided satisfactory proof of financial responsibility in accordance with sections 13 and 64(1) of OGOA. This proof of financial responsibility must remain in force for the duration of the activity and for one year after the pipeline has been successfully abandoned.
6. Safety – I have consulted with the Chief Safety Officer, in accordance with section 12 of OGOA, and am satisfied with the safety of the proposed activities.

CNRL's application is approved, subject to the terms contained in the attached Operations Authorization.

CNRL must post a copy of the attached Operations Authorization in a clearly visible location at the work site.

Sincerely,



Pauline de Jong  
Regulator

Encl. Operations Authorization OA-2025-001-CNRL

- c. Tara Methuen, Facility Decommissioning and Pipeline Abandonment Coordinator, CNRL  
Arly Castillo, Regulatory Coordinator, CNRL

## OPERATIONS AUTHORIZATION

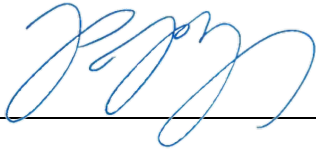
Subject to the terms listed below, operations authorization **OA-2025-001-CNRL** is granted under Section 10 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and Part 2 of the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations* to

Company Name	Operating Licence #
Canadian Natural Resources Limited	NWT-OL-2014-001
Responsible Officer	
Ryan N. Munro, Manager, Pipeline Abandonment Planning	

for

Scope of Work	Region
Abandonment	Dehcho

This authorization expires on **November 2, 2026**.

Issued at	Issued on
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories	August 8, 2025
Issued by	Signature
Pauline de Jong, Regulator	

## Additional Terms

1. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act* and the *Oil and Gas Drilling and Production Regulations*, as well as any other acts or legislation as may apply.
2. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with any guidelines and/or interpretation notes issued by the Regulator under section 18 of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.
3. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall cause the approved work and activities to be conducted in accordance with the specifications, standards and other information referred to in its application dated April 2, 2025, and subsequent submissions.
4. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall request approval from the Regulator prior to undertaking any change to or deviation from the authorized work or activities, including but not limited to key personnel, the safety plan, the environmental protection plan, and contingency plans.
5. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall submit to OROGO all Waste Management Plans and Spill Contingency Plans, including revised versions, submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, within 7 days of submitting them to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.
6. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall provide all staff and contractors for this program with its Emergency Response Plan and the OROGO 24-hour Incident Reporting phone number (867-445-8551) prior to commencing any work or activity.
7. Canadian Natural Resources Limited notify OROGO at least 10 days prior to the start of approved operations.
8. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall submit to OROGO an updated operator contact list for this program prior to any work or activity.
9. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall submit to OROGO, within 7 days of Land Use Permit MV2025X0003 being issued, a report describing:
  - Consultation and engagement activities undertaken as part of the application process for Land Use Permit MV2025X0003;
  - The results of those activities, including any Canadian Natural Resources Limited commitments for future actions; and
  - Consultation and engagement activities planned for the duration of the approved operations.
10. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall submit to OROGO, by January 6, 2026, an application for a post-abandonment remediation Authorization for the Liard P-66 well site.

11. Canadian Natural Resources Limited shall submit an Operations Report 30 days after pipeline decommissioning is completed. This report shall include:
  - A map and locations of the pipelines, including the locations where they were cut, capped, and buried;
  - A list of all surface infrastructure removed from the site;
  - A list of the nature and amount of all hazardous materials removed from the site, including their disposal location(s);
  - A list of the nature and amount of all hazardous materials remaining on the site, including their location; and
  - A list of any remaining infrastructure or environmental liabilities remaining on the site.