



Provincial Agricultural Land Commission - Staff Report

Application: 52175

Applicant: Canadian Natural Resources Ltd
Agent: Pioneer Land and Environment
Local Government: Peace River Regional District

Proposal: Non-farm Use - Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) is proposing to use greater than 7 ha per quarter section for oil and gas development.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The proposed activity on Crown Land is to complete in-fill drilling in the existing Fireweed oil and gas field. If approved the total area of existing and proposed non-agricultural disturbance in Unit 52, Block H, Group 94-A-13 will be 10.5 ha.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Legal Description: Unsurveyed Crown Land
Property Area: 70.7 ha
ALR Area: 64.1 ha
Location: Birch Access Road
Owner: Province of British Columbia - Unsurveyed Crown Land

LAND USE

Current Land Use:
Oil and Gas development - wellsites, pipelines, access roads
Forest Development

Surrounding Land Uses:

North: ALR - Oil and gas development, forestry, tributary of Aiken Creek
East: ALR - Oil and gas development and forestry
South: ALR - Oil and gas development, forestry, Aiken Creek
West: Non-ALR - Oil and gas development, forestry, tributary of Aiken Creek

PROPOSAL DETAILS

Non- Farm Use Area: 64.1 ha
Non- Farm Use Type: Industrial: Oil and Gas Activities
Agricultural Capability:
The majority of the area under application is rated as: Secondary
Source: CLI
Mapsheet: 94A/13

RELEVANT APPLICATIONS

RELEVANT APPLICATIONS

Application ID: 52155

Applicant: Canadian Natural Resources Ltd

Proposal: Non-farm Use - Proposal: use 1.48 ha of Crown Land over a 7 ha quarter section limit in constructing the proposed wellsite. Total area of existing and proposed non-agricultural disturbance is to be 8.48 ha

Decision:

Resolution #	Decision Date	Decision Description
54/2011	February 22, 2011	CEO approval under Resolution #008N/2011

Application ID: 44067

Legacy #: 37452

Applicant: Canadian Natural Resources Ltd

Proposal: Non-farm use on the 65 ha subject property to construct a 4th wellsite with a 260m access road and a decking site. This will bring the total area of non-farm use in this unit to 10.9 ha. specifically the proposal includes a 1.69 ha wellsite, a 0.52 ha wellsite lease and a 0.12 ha decking site.

Decision:

Resolution #	Decision Date	Decision Description
512/2007	October 5, 2007	Allowed as proposed subject to reclamation when the use is completed.

Application ID: 44065

Legacy #: 37450

Applicant: Canadian Natural Resources Ltd

Proposal: The proposed project is composed of an irregularly shaped wellsite with an associated access road and a (common) remote sump having total areas of 1.5 ha, 0.1 ha and 0.6 ha respectively. The total new area of non-farm use is 2.44 ha. This will mean that the combined area of non-farm uses on the 65 ha area will be 10.88 ha.

Decision:

Resolution #	Decision Date	Decision Description
514/2007	October 5, 2007	Allowed subject to reclamation upon completion of non-farm use.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Official Community Plan:

Bylaw Name: North Peace OCP Bylaw No. 820, 1993

Designation: Rural Resource - Agricultural

OCP Compliance: Yes

Zoning:

Zoning Bylaw Name: PRRD Zoning Bylaw No. 1000, 1996

Zoning Designation: A-2 Large Agricultural Holdings

Minimum Lot Size: 63.0 ha

Zoning Compliance: Yes

Comments and Recommendations:

Board/Council

The Regional Board adopted a standing resolution to authorize all non-farm use application for oil and gas activities to proceed to the ALC and the Oil and Gas Commission, including a comment that non-farm use and alienation of agricultural land be kept to a minimum.

ALC STAFF COMMENTS

It is recommended that the Commission consider the following:

- 1) The CLI rating for the subject 64.1 ha property is predominantly 6:4T 4:5C.
- 2) The 70.7 ha subject property is surrounded by other oil and gas development properties. There are currently no agricultural operations in the area.

ALC STAFF COMMENTS

3) The proponents are making the application under Section 20 (3) of the Agricultural Land Commission Act, pursuant of non-farm use greater than 7 ha. The total area of the existing and proposed disturbance in Unit 52, Block H, Group 94-A-13 would be 10.5 ha.

4) No non-ALR drill sites were considered as the majority of the Fireweed fields falls within the ALR, and proximity to surrounding infrastructure is necessary for geologically recommended bottomholes and pipeline implementation.

5) This is considered a long-term project, but the proponent states that full reclamation is expected after decommissioning. A site assessment report by Pioneer Land and Environmental recommended that at the time of reclamation that the topsoil be evenly distributed, vegetation density be within 80 percent of the surrounding area or better, and both contour and drainage be recreated to equal or better than pre-disturbance conditions. Pioneer Land and Environmental also suggested that all equipment should be steam cleaned prior to arrival at the construction site to minimize potential spread of noxious weeds or soil borne diseases.

ATTACHMENTS

52175_Proposal Sketch.pdf

52175_ContextMap50k.pdf

52175_AirphotoMap20k.pdf

END OF REPORT

Prepared by: Liz Sutton