

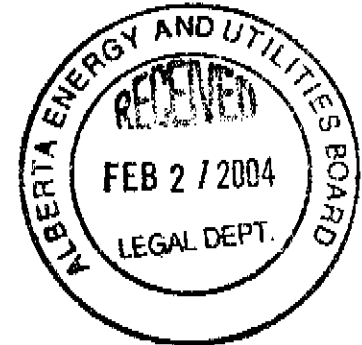


**Canadian Natural**

BY FAX AND COURIER

February 26, 2004

Alberta Energy and Utilities Board  
640 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.W.  
Calgary, Alberta  
T2P 3G4



**WITHOUT PREJUDICE**

**Attention: Mr. Gary Perkins**  
**Board Counsel**

Dear Mr. Perkins:

**Re: GB 2003-28 Phase 3 Proceedings: Schedule for filing Reply Evidence**

Canadian Natural Resources Limited ("CNRL") is writing to object to the deadline imposed by the EUB on parties to file reply evidence in the Phase 3 Proceedings. Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004 was the deadline for parties to file evidence supporting any disagreements with the Staff Submission Group's ("SSG") recommendations. Parties are to file their reply evidence by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

In order to file reply evidence, CNRL must:

- Reproduce, review and analyze the filed evidence
- Analyze and prepare the required geological and engineering data
- Gather, analyze, and incorporate any additional pressure data; and
- Comply with the copying and distribution requirements for this Reply Evidence.

As of Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the submission of only one company, Bonavista Petroleum, was available on the EUB Website. By 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004, the submissions of CNRL, Devon, Nexen, Petro-Canada, Stylus and Superman were available on the EUB Website. While certain parties are serving their evidence in disc format, such were only received late in the day on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

As of 9:00 AM on Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004 neither CNRL nor its Counsel have received the evidence of all of those parties that CNRL expects to be filing evidence in the Phase 3 Proceedings. CNRL does not fault these parties for this. Rather, CNRL submits that this is further evidence that the schedule being imposed is unworkable in

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these circumstances and CNRL will not be able to file adequate or proper Reply Evidence by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004.

If we optimistically assume that all of the submissions are available by the morning of Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2004, CNRL will be forced to review, analyze and reply to all such evidence in three working days. This deadline is completely unfair and unreasonable. CNRL cannot prepare reasonable, professional and proper replies in this amount of time. If the EUB cannot even post the evidence to the EUB Website in two working days, how can CNRL provide accurate and reasonable reply evidence in three working days?

The insistence by the Board to adhere to this Schedule, serves only to deny to the affected parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard regarding this Reply Evidence. Accordingly, CNRL reiterates its request for more time to prepare reply evidence and for an adjournment of the hearing now scheduled for March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004. CNRL again points out that it is attempting to comply with this schedule under protest and without prejudice to later argue that such is unfair, unreasonable and a denial of natural justice.

Sincerely yours,

**CANADIAN NATURAL RESOURCES LIMITED**



Lyle Stevens  
Senior Vice President Exploitation