



## **Kearl EPO Update 53 – February 28, 2024**

*Imperial is committed to complying with an environmental protection order that was issued by the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER) related to industrial wastewater at our Kearl oil sands operating site. We regret these incidents and are making every effort to learn from it and apply preventative measures.*

*Imperial will provide regular updates to communities and potentially affected stakeholders. Updates will be posted to Imperial's website weekly and notifications will be sent via e-mail.*

*There are two separate incidents included in the order issued on Feb. 6, 2023. We are working with the regulator on next steps for both.*

Imperial continues to provide regular updates on work underway at its Kearl oil sands facility to address four areas of shallow seepage of industrial wastewater from its operating lease area.

### **Current status:**

- Mitigations in place, monitoring and assessment ongoing
- Winter drilling underway to install additional pumping and monitoring wells
- Data continues to show mitigations are working, reviewed by third-parties
- Seepage has not reached any waterways, including Firebag River
- No indication of adverse impacts to local wildlife or fish populations
- Data and monitoring reports regularly to communities

The focus of our mitigation work has been on expanding and improving our seepage interception system and our monitoring network. We have installed interception trenches and sumps along with a wellpoint vacuum system and we have added liners to on-site ditches.

Data shows that the mitigations are working as intended and preventing further off-site migration of impacted water at those locations. Monitoring of these mitigations and water sampling is ongoing. Additional run time and data will be used to enhance the mitigations if necessary. A winter drilling program is underway to install additional pumping and monitoring wells.

Enhanced water and wildlife monitoring continues in the area and fencing around infrastructure remains in place to prevent access. To date, there is no indication of adverse impacts to wildlife or fish populations in nearby river systems, or risks to drinking water for local communities.

Imperial is also supporting independent testing and site tours for local Indigenous communities and is providing opportunities for input into our approach to environmental monitoring activities. Indigenous communities are also conducting independent technical reviews of the company's mitigation and monitoring plans. Community notification protocols have also been updated to ensure communities are informed early and through multiple channels.

The company also continues to provide information to regulatory officials from the Alberta Energy Regulator and government departments and has been hosting regular site tours by officials. Imperial provides monitoring data/reports to the Alberta Energy Regulator every two weeks, which are also shared with communities.

**Additional information**

We have shared a factsheet about Imperial's response at Kearl on our website: [Getting the facts - Imperial response at Kearl \(imperialoil.ca\)](#)

**Questions:** [kearl.communities@esso.ca](mailto:kearl.communities@esso.ca)