



## **Kearl EPO Update #8 – April 5, 2023**

*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. We are working with the regulator on next steps for both.*

### **Imperial takes additional actions to protect local waterbody**

Imperial today provided an update on work underway at its Kearl oil sands facility. The company continues to advance work to address seepage and collect water on site ahead of spring melt. Meetings with community leadership and members are ongoing, and we continued to accommodate requests from communities and governments for visits and independent water sampling at our site. We continue to work with regulatory officials from the Alberta Energy Regulator and government departments to provide information.

### **Summary**

- Progressed work on expansion of seepage interception system
- Submitted additional and accelerated plans to the Alberta Energy Regulator to further protect nearby waterbody from potential seepage
- Continued to meet with Indigenous leaders and communities to share progress on ongoing cleanup, mitigation and remediation actions
- Water testing has indicated drinking water is safe, which has been confirmed by the local regional municipality.
- There continues to be no indication of impacts to wildlife or fish.

### **Seep mitigation and prevention**

Imperial continued to advance work to address seepage and collect water on site ahead of spring melt. Ongoing work includes tie in of monitoring and pumping wells, as well as drainage structures in the area which will continue to collect water that can be pumped back to collection areas. About 200 people continue to work on related activities at the site.

There continues to be no indication of impact to wildlife. Additional fencing continues to be installed as work is completed to prevent potential access by wildlife. Wildlife monitoring is ongoing, with regularly scheduled sweeps in the area. We are working in collaboration with communities to incorporate their feedback on our monitoring plans.

**Cleanup of drainage pond overflow**

Sampling has been conducted to confirm cleanup of impacted materials resulting from wastewater released from a drainage pond on January 31, 2023. Imperial continues to work with the Alberta Energy Regulator on cleanup certification.

Based on our monitoring, released fluids did not enter any waterways and water sampling shows there has been no impact to local drinking water sources. There is no indication of impact to wildlife.

**Water quality**

Earlier this week, we received information from the Alberta Energy Regulator on recent sampling data from a waterbody located primarily on the Kearl lease showing low concentration detections of Naphthenic Acids and F2 hydrocarbons.

As indicated by the regulator, the [water continues to meet aquatic life guidelines](#) for F2 hydrocarbons. No guidelines exist for Naphthenic acids, however they were detected in low concentrations.

Testing has not detected these constituents at the outlet of the waterbody that connects to a tributary of the Firebag River.

We will be working with the regulator on plans for further testing in this area and are taking actions to prevent potential impacts to downstream waterbodies. We have put forward a plan to the regulator to install additional recovery equipment and accelerate an already planned recovery program in addition to enhancing our monitoring efforts. We have also shared this plan with local communities.

We have created an [informational video](#) featuring Imperial's water lead that provides information regarding our ongoing water sampling and monitoring program.

**Meeting with communities**

Imperial continues to engage directly with Indigenous community leaders and other community members to answer questions, provide information and begin to rebuild trust. We recognize that we still have work to do in this area and are committed to improving our communications in the future.

We continue to hold in-community meetings to share information directly with communities and hear their feedback. We have shared our mitigation and monitoring plans with communities and have offered for them to complete their own independent reviews of our technical work. We are also seeking input from communities on our plans to improve our communications going forward.

**Additional information**

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