

Get the facts: Imperial's response at Kearl

Imperial takes the situation at our Kearl oil sands facility very seriously. We are taking all necessary steps to correct the issues to ensure they do not happen again.

We are publicly sharing our progress on ongoing cleanup, mitigation, and remediation actions. We are also engaging in factual dialogue about the work we are doing with communities and all levels of government. There continues to be widespread misinformation in the public domain. We recognize and appreciate the real concerns of stakeholders and communities; it is critical those concerns be addressed factually without rhetoric and speculation. We encourage decision makers and stakeholders to assess the facts before coming to conclusions about our ongoing efforts to address the situation at Kearl to avoid confusion or unfounded assumptions.

Imperial is engaging directly with Indigenous community leaders and members to answer their questions, provide information and begin to rebuild trust. This includes in-community meetings in the coming days. Contrary to what continues to be reported inaccurately in media, Imperial did notify communities at the time of both incidents in May 2022 and February 2023. We deeply regret communications during our investigation into the May incident were not regularly provided to communities following our initial notification as we did not meet their expectations. Imperial has committed to taking the necessary steps to improve our communications, so this does not happen in the future.

We have been working closely with the Alberta Energy Regulator since we first detected the issues and reported to communities we were investigating. We will continue to work with regulatory officials from the Alberta Energy Regulator, Government of Alberta, Environment and Climate Change Canada as well as Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Key facts:

- **Cleanup and installation of mitigation measures are well-advanced** - nearly 200 people working on remediation and related activities at the Kearl site.
- All seven Indigenous communities have been **invited to tour site and do independent water testing**.
- **There is no danger to drinking water.** Imperial's current monitoring and water sampling data has been stable and shows no impacts to local waterways or drinking water. We are sharing our water sampling data on our website: [Environmental protection order: Updates on Imperial's actions](#)
- The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has **declared drinking water to be safe** in the community of Fort Chipewyan.
- There continues to be **no indication of impacts to wildlife or fish**. Imperial has conducted significant wildlife monitoring and installed additional fencing at inactive work areas to prevent potential access.
- **Imperial did notify communities at the time** of both incidents in May 2022 and February 2023. We deeply regret communications during our investigations into the May incident were not regularly provided to communities.

Correcting misinformation on frequently asked questions:

Q: Imperial isn't taking this issue seriously, why did you not report these incidents to communities?

A: Imperial is taking the situation very seriously. We have more than 200 people working on remediation and related activities at the site. Since Kearl was first developed 15 years ago, this is the first time the facility has been issued an environmental protection order.

The Alberta Energy Regulator and local Indigenous communities were notified of both incidents when first discovered. Throughout the investigation that determined the seepage issue, we engaged with the Alberta Energy Regulator, which led to the submission of an action plan in December 2022.

As our investigation progressed, we advised communities we were continuing to investigate. We should have kept the communities informed on the steps of the investigation. It was always our intent to share our findings when we had more definitively determined the cause and planned actions. We recognize we have fallen short of expectations when it comes to communication, and we are committed to rebuilding trust by engaging communities and ensuring they are regularly informed as we continue to address the issue.

Q: Why is Imperial not actively addressing seepage? What's the status of the overflow cleanup?

A: Cleanup for the drainage pond overflow is awaiting final soil testing and review by the Alberta Energy Regulator to confirm completion.

On the seepage situation, Imperial launched an intensive investigation when areas of discolouration were first identified. Remediation efforts began as soon as Imperial understood modifications to our seepage interception were required. The possibility of seepage is anticipated and included in mine design as part of regulatory requirements. Kearl's seepage interception system is designed to capture seepage in deeper groundwater layers; however, the noted seepage originated in shallower layers.

To address this issue, Imperial is installing additional monitoring and pumping wells, as well as additional drainage structures in the area to collect water to be pumped back to collection areas. Imperial has several drilling rigs onsite and work is near completion. We remain on track for completion before spring melt.

Q: Are the waterways contaminated? Can we drink the water?

A: Imperial's current monitoring and water sampling data continues to show that there has been no impact to local waterways or drinking water. The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo has declared drinking water to be safe in the community of Fort Chipewyan. Environment and Climate Change Canada, Alberta Environment and Protected Areas as well as independent third parties and some Indigenous communities have also performed their own testing.

We have shared our water sampling data on our website. Imperial has maintained a robust water sampling program at Kearl since operations began a decade ago and contracts independent third-party organizations to provide water monitoring services.

Q: Has this incident harmed wildlife and fisheries?

A: There continues to be no indication of impacts to wildlife or fish. Additional fencing has been installed to avoid potential wildlife access in inactive work areas. As an added precaution, Imperial is planning to collect the fish from an local waterbody and install a fish barrier to prevent future migration.

Q: Environment and Climate Change Canada indicated seepage has reached fish. Is this true?

A: Environment and Climate Change Canada indicated the seepage could be harmful to fish in the event it reached fish-bearing water. There continues to be no indication this has occurred. Our water sampling data continues to show there has been no impact to local waterways or drinking water and no indication of impact to local fish populations.

Q: Will you be allowing the communities to bring their own environmental monitors to the site?

A: We have invited all seven communities to bring their monitors to the Kearl site, which the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation has already done.