

Opening

Good morning, Mr. Chair, and members of the committee.

My name is Brad Corson, the CEO of Imperial. I am joined by Simon Younger, the senior vice president of the upstream at Imperial.

Thank you for the invitation to participate today and I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chair and committee members for your flexibility in accommodating schedules.

I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting today in Ottawa, on the unceded and un-surrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation.

In this meeting today, and every day that we carry out our business across the country, we do so on the traditional territories of First Nations, Métis and Inuit who have lived on and cared for these lands for generations.

We are all entrusted to care for the land, and that is a responsibility Imperial takes very seriously.

We come today fully committed to our reconciliation journey.

Recap

As this committee knows, I was here on April 20th. At that time, I unequivocally apologized for what happened at Kearl and remain deeply sorry for the events that occurred and the community fears that stemmed from it.

Since our last appearance we have focused on three key areas:

1. We have been working very hard on our mitigation efforts and I will say more on that shortly,
2. We are continuing to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected, and communities are safe; and,
3. We have increased our communication and engagement with our neighbouring communities.

On this last point, I want to emphasize that Imperial is communicating with the Athabasca Chiefs and Presidents on a regular basis by phone, text and email. We also provide a weekly status update on our website.

We have met with communities ~70 times, arranged more than 20 community site visits to Kearl and I have personally met face to face with several Chiefs and Presidents, as recently as October.

I want to emphasize we are collaborating with Indigenous leaders and their communities to align on improved communication protocols to ensure we are meeting their expectations, and we continue to support independent water and wildlife testing by all communities.

Mitigation work

Since we last spoke seven months ago, I'm pleased to report that the measures we have put in place to expand and optimize our seepage monitoring and collection systems are working and

there continues to be no indication of adverse impacts to human life, wildlife, vegetation or fish populations in nearby river systems.

Furthermore, I can confidently report that the seepage has not reached any waterways, including the Firebag River, the Muskeg River, the Athabasca River or any other waterbodies including those in the Northwest Territories. There is no indication of any risks to drinking water for communities downstream.

This has been confirmed by testing done by government and our own testing, which number more than 2,000 samples taken from more than 500 locations, including along the banks and within the Firebag river. Independent testing, as you are aware, has been undertaken by 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.

Over the summer we increased the number of pumping wells from 19 to 27 with an additional 28 to be completed this winter. We have also completed 165 monitoring wells with an additional 171 to be drilled over the coming months.

This brings the total number of monitoring wells to almost 500 and will help us to further enhance our understanding of the geology and hydrogeology at site. This work is reviewed by a third party, and we share the results with regulators and communities.

We are very pleased that these newly installed groundwater mitigations are working as intended and are preventing further off-site migration of impacted water. Preliminary delineation data indicates there is no deep seepage found beyond 1.3 kilometers north of the Kearl lease; for context, the Firebag river is an additional two kilometers north. We test and monitor the remaining distance to the river and there is no indication of risk to water or wildlife. Furthermore, there are no drinking water sources in this area.

Ongoing monitoring and sampling are an integral part of all our operations, and we continue to provide regular reports to communities, the AER, and federal regulators on the work I have outlined.

Notwithstanding this positive update, we remain committed to enhancing these mitigations if future data demonstrates they are required.

Closing

On behalf of the more than 5,000 employees at Imperial, I want you all to know that this matter continues to have the full attention of our company.

I would like to re-extend my offer to the committee to come to Kearl where you can all see firsthand the work; we are doing to protect the communities and the environment where we operate and to earn back your trust.

Thank you for the invitation to speak with you and I am happy to take your questions.