



## **Kearl EPO Update #3 – March 1, 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.*

*One issue is related to our seepage interception system for our tailings area. Imperial notified the provincial regulator of this issue in May 2022 after ongoing monitoring programs identified pooled surface water in the area. This surface water includes groundwater mixed with precipitation that has been in contact with coarse sand tailings used in tailings area construction and process water from the tailings pond. Based on our monitoring to date, there are no reported impacts to wildlife and no measurable impact to local waterways.*

*Since that time, we have been working to determine the cause and have implemented mitigations, including installing additional monitoring and pumping wells. Some of the actions that we plan to implement are additional monitoring and control measures, including water catchment features, and additional monitoring and pumping wells.*

*The second incident is related to an overflow from a process water drainage pond. This pond contains water collected from the seepage interception system and other surface water drainage and collection in the area. This is not the main tailings storage area. The cause of the release is still being determined. There is no indication of impact to wildlife or vegetation.*

*Based on our monitoring to date, there is no measurable impact to local waterways, or reported impacts to wildlife; additionally, any risk to the public is extremely low.*

### *Updates*

### **Regulatory submissions**

Imperial has submitted the documents required for the Feb 28 submission deadline and discussions about these plans are ongoing with the AER. These documents include the Sampling and Monitoring Plan, Source Control and Containment Plan and the Remedial Action Plan.

### **Cleanup from overflow**

Tree clearing has been completed in the overflow release area. Access has been created to mobilize equipment and cleanup of impacted snow and ice off-lease is underway.

### **Wildlife**

Wildlife monitoring continues around the Kearl site and no impacted wildlife have been identified to date. Impacted areas north of the lease had wildlife sweep work conducted in fall and winter 2022/23. No wildlife den features were identified in these areas.

Monitoring to date at one on-lease waterbody indicates there has been no change in baseline conditions. As a precaution, we plan to collect and relocate the fish from this waterbody and install a fish barrier to prevent migration. We anticipate that fish collected will be mostly minnows.

### **Source containment work**

Imperial is working on plans to implement additional monitoring and control measures, including water catchment features, and additional monitoring and pumping wells at different depths.

Drilling program progress is on track for completion as planned:

Deep monitoring wells: 48 of 72 have been drilled  
Shallow monitoring wells: 0 of 42 have been drilled  
Pumping wells: 16 of 17 have been drilled

The planned number of wells may change due to geological conditions encountered in the field and available access for drilling equipment.

We have started work to build drain structures in the area, which will collect water that can be pumped back to closed-loop collection areas. Additional surface pumps will be installed in key areas in the spring.

Ongoing monitoring and sampling programs, as well as risk assessments, will help inform plans for additional actions that may be implemented in the future.