



## **Kearl EPO Update #7 – March 29, 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 completes drilling program for seep mitigation**

Imperial today provided an update on work underway at its Kearl oil sands facility. The company advanced work on drainage structures and pump installation to address seepage in targeted areas 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**

- Advanced construction of drainage structures, including trenches and pump installation to expand our existing seepage interception system.
- Continued to meet with Indigenous leaders and communities to share progress on ongoing cleanup, mitigation and remediation actions.
- Continued to host community representatives at Kearl site for tours and independent water sampling.
- Engaged local community businesses to support mitigation and cleanup work
- Water testing has indicated drinking water is safe, which has been confirmed by the local regional municipality. Imperial's current monitoring and water sampling data has been stable and shows no impacts to local waterways or drinking water.
- There continues to be no indication of impacts to wildlife or fish.

#### **Seep mitigation and prevention**

Imperial progressed construction on drainage structures in the area and advanced work to complete monitoring and pumping wells related to the seep mitigation system. About 200 people continue to work on related activities at the site.

#### **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 our water sampling continues to show there has been no impacts to local drinking water sources. There is no indication of impact to wildlife.

### **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.

Over the past week we held in-community meetings, including in Fort Chipewyan, to share information directly with communities and hear their feedback. Our technical experts were available to meet with community members and answer questions. We also continued to host community representatives for tours and accommodated requests for independent water sampling at our site.

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.

Imperial did notify communities at the time of both incidents in May 2022 and February 2023. We deeply regret that during our investigation into the May incident that updates were not regularly provided to communities following our initial notification as we did not meet their expectations.

### **Engaging local businesses**

Imperial has engaged Indigenous community-owned businesses to support our work on cleanup, installation of mitigation measures and ongoing monitoring. Work conducted included environmental monitoring, overflow cleanup, drainage structure construction, soil and vegetation sampling and analysis as well as tree clearing.

### **Water quality**

Imperial's current monitoring and water sampling data continues to show that there has been no impact to local waterways or drinking water. The company 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.

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

### **Additional information**

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