

**Norman Wells Waste Management Facility
Imperial Oil Resources
Environmental Assessment start-up meeting
June 29, 2022
10AM – 12:10 pm**

EA Start-up meeting

On June 29, Review Board staff hosted an online start-up meeting for the environmental assessment of Imperial's Norman Wells Operation Waste Management Facility.

Powerpoint slides shown by Review Board staff to assist with the meeting are here: [EA Start-up meeting - online June 29, 2022](#).

Summary of questions and answers from the meeting

The following is a summary of questions from meeting participants grouped into broad topics. Responses are from Review Board staff unless noted otherwise.

Timelines

Q - What is normal timeline for the scoping phase?

A: Approximately 6 months

Q: What are the timelines to register to be a participant?

A: For the scoping phase of an EA you do not need to register as a participant. The views of any organization or individual are accepted during scoping.

Q: It is coming on summer. When do you see community scoping meetings beginning?

A: We are flexible. Hope to have meetings between July and Sept. Will work closely with communities to find suitable time.

Canada Energy Regulator

Q: What's happening with the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) Process as the EA starts up?

A: CER - Waiting for procedural hearing and next steps as to how we integrate with EA.

A: Working on coordination with CER to the greatest extent.

Q: Is there participant funding from CER?

A: CER – funding is available for Indigenous peoples and organizations potentially affected in the project [Canada Energy Regulator - Norman Wells Waste Management Facility](#)

Scoping meetings

Q: Are Review Board members involved in scoping meetings or just staff? Please clarify.

A: Board staff usually facilitate both community and technical scoping sessions.

A: The Review has held scoping hearings in the past where Board members are present. That is an option. The Review Board will decide on whether scoping meetings should be staff-led or whether to hold a scoping hearing where Board members are present. The Review Board will make a final Scoping decision, as well as a Terms of Reference after that. These are Review Board decisions.

Engagement and participation

Q: Will community leads be paid for time and effort?

A: Participants will be funded by Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Development (CIRNAC).

Q: If CIRNAC is responsible for funding, does each community need to be responsible to applying for funding?

A: Yes, CIRNAC will describe participant funding at this meeting.

Q: Will the Crown be relying on this EA to fulfill aspects of duty to consult and accommodate?

A: GNWT – GNWT and Canada are working on consultation letters right now to send out. We do rely on the Review Board's process to fulfill some aspects. We try not to duplicate things due to capacity of Indigenous Governments and organizations to respond

A: Northern Project Management Office – We are the Crown consultation lead and collaborate with GNWT. We rely on the EA process and additional information.

A: GNWT – We have started initial consultation now. Formal consultation letters to Indigenous Governments and organizations will likely not go out until scoping is completed.

Q: It seems participant funding is needed before community lead is hired to participate in scoping. This may throw your schedule off.

A: The timing of participant funding is important to scoping meetings in communities

CIRNAC Northern Participant Funding Program presentation

Staff with Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Development announced participant funding at the meeting. Their presentation is here: [CIRNAC Northern Participant Funding Program - Imperial WMF June 29](#)

Q: How long will it take to get funding

A: CIRNAC - Will try to get funding out as quick as possible.

Q: Is funding available for individuals?

A: CIRNAC – Yes, funding is available for individuals.

Q: Approximately how much funding is available? Has the proponent been approached yet to cover any shortfall in funding to meet the needs?

A: CIRNAC – Funding depends on the number of applications we get.

Q: Seems an uncertain amount of funding is available and the review committee is not yet together to decide. Are we going to see money by August?

A: CIRNAC - Hoping to finalize review committee in next couple of weeks

A: We are planning engagement and trying to schedule times with communities. Know there is uncertainty regarding funding. Board has given us direction to begin. If we waited until funding was in place, that'd extend the timeline we have, so we're trying to balance the two. If the EA process reflects in any way Crown's duty to consult it is important to get meetings and funding right.

A: We want to hear from community members directly. Need to hear the right voices. Funding is a part of it, but also other considerations, including when is the best time to hold meetings.

Q: How long do you anticipate that it will take to approve the funding application? What is the timeline?

A: CIRNAC - Application submission due date is July 27 [Public Notice - Participant Funding CIRNAC](#)

Q: Does the funding reimburse activities that have taken place or does it need to be secured in advance?

Q: CIRNAC - Yes, can be used for activities in the past.

Project specific

Q: Are they cleaning up drilling sites in this EA? What is the scale? We need to clarify this project. We need to know more because we use this area.

Q: The scoping meetings will focus on what this project should be about. A really important part of community meetings is what should the board look at. This will be a focus early in this EA because it frames everything after.

Q: Hope more communities downstream participate. Want to make reference to the six artificial islands. AMEC report 2016 highlighted that armor would be taken off, and then allow the islands to naturally erode. Huge concern for everybody. Water flows downstream. Not an engineer, but over 1 million cubic meters of materials. Have a natural waterway there. Do you want to take the chance of blocking the only barge route due to this natural erosion proposal? Want to leave that question out there.

A: This is one of the topics that scoping meetings will be about.

Presenters:

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB):

Chuck Hubert, Simon Toogood, Jeremy Freeman, Alan Ehrlich, Eileen Marlowe, Catherine Janz, Mark Cliffe-Phillips

Participants included representatives from:

Deline Got'ine Government
Deline Renewable Resources Council
Yamoga Land Corporation
Fort Good Hope Metis Land Corporation
Norman Wells Land Corp
Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Hamlet of Tulita
Tulita Renewable Resources Council
Fort Norman Metis Community
Sahtu Land and Water Board
Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
Canada Energy Regulator
Government of Canada
Canada Energy Regulator Crown Consultation Team
Government of the Northwest Territories
Imperial Oil Resources
Individuals: Dakota Erutse, Sahtu beneficiary, Danny McNeely