

Start-up meeting Environmental Assessment Imperial Norman Wells Operations Waste Management Facility

EA2223-01

Online meeting

June 29, 2022



Housekeeping

- Introductions with one spokesperson for each organization – video on
- After introductions, please keep your **video off, except when asking questions** to reduce internet outage risk
- Add your name and organization to your zoom image by right clicking in participant window
- Keep your microphone off unless speaking

- **If you have a question, type it into chat.** Jeremy will keep track of questions and introduce you when it is your turn to ask the question
- Meeting is not recorded. Notes of questions and answers will be taken and posted to the MVEIRB registry

Meeting outline



1. Introductions
2. Environmental assessment in the Mackenzie Valley
 - overview of EA process steps
3. Describe the scoping phase
4. Engagement and participation
 - How can we best engage with you? How would you like to participate?
5. Next steps

Introduction to the Review Board

- established by the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act in 1998
- Purpose: to assess the impacts of proposed developments in the Mackenzie Valley.



The Review Board is a co-management board



Section 115(1) of the MVRMA

The process must have regard to:

- (a) the protection of the environment** from the significant adverse impacts of proposed developments;
- (b) the protection of the social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities** in the Mackenzie Valley; and
- (c) the importance of conservation to the well-being and way of life of the aboriginal peoples of Canada** to whom section 35 of the [Constitution Act, 1982](#) applies and who use an area of the Mackenzie Valley.



Legal Requirements

The Review Board is also required to:

- ensure **public concerns** are taken into account
- incorporate **Indigenous traditional knowledge**
- carry out its duties in a **timely** manner
- run a **fair** process
- make **decisions based on the evidence**
- operate in a **transparent** manner



What is environmental assessment for?

- It is wise to carefully consider unanticipated consequences *before* major developments
- Some past development decisions in NWT led to serious environmental problems (such as Giant, Port Radium, Rayrock, Colomac...)
- EA is a set of steps to study the potential impacts of a proposed development, to **reduce or avoid** those **impacts**.
- The goal is to produce good **informed** decisions about
 - whether or not a project should proceed,
 - and if so, under what conditions.



Environmental assessment = better projects



A good environmental assessment process with meaningful, effective participation can have the following benefits:

- **improvements to project design**
- additional mitigation and **commitments** to prevent or reduce impacts
- resolve conflicts and **build relationships**
- supports sustainable development



Steps in an environmental assessment



- EA Referral
- Public registry set-up
- Public Notice to developer, regulators and the public

- Community scoping meetings
- Technical scoping meetings
- Scope of development
- Draft Terms of Reference
- Final Terms of Reference

- Developer's Assessment Report
- Information requests
- Technical sessions
- Community sessions

- Technical Reports
- Formal hearings
- Community hearings
- Closing arguments

- Board deliberation
- Report of EA writing
- Decision to Minister



EA start-up phase and scoping phase



Project design



Early community
engagement



Consider land use
and culture

Overview of start-up phase and scoping phase



May : Sahtu Secretariat Inc. refers Waste Management Facility to EA

June 29: EA start-up meeting (online)

July : Participant funding applications (CIRNAC)

July - September: Community scoping meetings (in person)

July - September : Technical scoping meeting (in person and online)

Fall: Review Board prepares draft Terms of Reference for public review (ORS)

Late Fall: Review Board issues final Terms of Reference



Sahtu Secretariat Inc reasons for referral to environmental assessment



- The proposed **waste management facility is only one part of closure and reclamation** of the Norman Wells oilfield, and needs to be considered as **part of the larger closure plan** for the entire site.
- Alternatives for reclamation and closure of the artificial islands may have **impacts on flows** in the Mackenzie River, **downstream** communities and waste management.
- An environmental assessment will help Imperial Oil, Sahtu First Nations and the Government of Canada **better understand their responsibilities and relationships with respect to closure options for the Norman Wells oilfield**, after 100 years of operation.

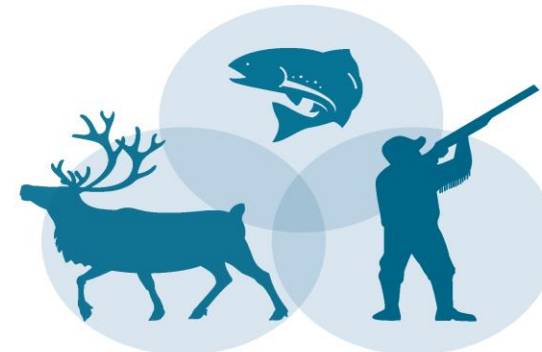
What is the scoping phase?

SCOPING WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES?

If you were on the Review Board, what issues would you focus on when you assess the project?



- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7





How is the environmental assessment process different from the licence/permit process?



Regulatory - licencing and permitting

Focus on land and water:

- water quality
- water quantity
- wildlife habitat
- land disturbance

Detail-oriented: discuss specific water quality parameters and detailed conditions for licence/permit

Environmental Assessment

Focus **expands** and includes people:

- traditional land use
- culture
- health and well-being
- economy and infrastructure
- wildlife (beyond just habitat)
- Big picture: focus is on determining if significant impacts are likely (that is, impacts that matter enough to avoid or reduce)

What is scoping?

- Describe and understand the development
 - infrastructure
 - activities
- Identify and prioritize the issues
 - **identify** how the development may impact the environment and people
 - **prioritize** the issues to focus on

Scoping leads to more focused, efficient and meaningful environmental assessment



SCOPING WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES?

If you were on the Review Board, what issues would you focus on when you assess the project?



Questions to think about during scoping meetings

1. How could the project affect the environment (such as wildlife, water)?
2. How could the project affect people (such as traditional harvesting, community structure, culture, economy)?
- 3. What are the most important issues you would focus on if you were on the Review Board?**

In scoping sessions the Board will ask for your views.

Engagement and Participation



Approach to Engagement Planning

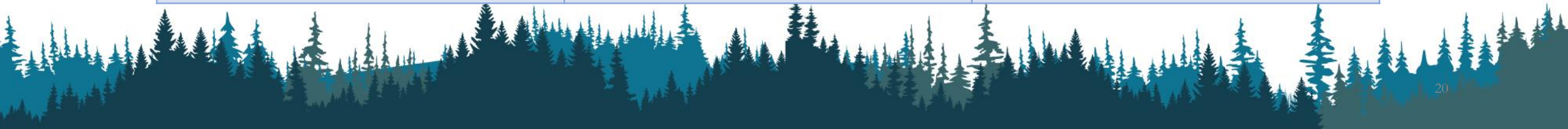
- RESPECTFUL
- INCLUSIVE
- TRANSPARENT

Co – Develop an Engagement Plan



Topics Leading Engagement

GENERAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH		
Review Board Role & Mandate	Policy & Guidelines	EA Process
<p>The Review Board will engage on its mandate, its role within the co-management system, and how their mandate differs from the Land and Water Boards, Renewable Resource Boards, along with how it works with the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Federal Government in its EA processes.</p>	<p>The Review Board will also make every effort to inform and educate individuals or groups of individuals interested in understanding its policies and guidelines.</p> <p>The Review Board will consult with IGOs, communities, and the public when a guideline or policy is proposed, during the drafting process or when an old guideline requires updating.</p>	<p>The Review Board will make every effort to inform and educate all parties interested in participating in EA so that they can meaningfully contribute to an EA process.</p> <p>The Review Board will engage on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General EA education and outreach. 2. Project specific EA education and outreach.



Engagement Planning Discussions

- Background
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Objective
- Transparency
- Identify participants
- Community etiquette and cultural considerations
- Scheduling
- Tools and tactics
- Language and translation requirements
- Capacity
- Evaluation



WASTE FACILITY - NORMAN WELLS - EA2223-01

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Details

Company Imperial Oil Norman Wells Operation

Type Environmental Assessment - Ongoing

Status public notification of commencement of environmental assessment

Contact Chuck Hubert

Imperial Oil proposes to build and operate a waste management facility to support ongoing reclamation in the period leading up to the closure of the Norman Wells Operation. The waste management facility will also be used for long-term storage of materials contaminated by the oilfield during the final closure and reclamation of the Norman Wells Operation.

Recent Documents

Review Board letter to DFO regarding species at risk	Jun 6, 2022
Review Board letter to ECCC regarding species at risk	Jun 6, 2022

Document Summary

New	Total	Stage
		Preliminary screening

Subscribe to
the public
registry

<https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea2223-01>



Proposed next steps

July-September:

Community scoping meetings
Technical scoping meeting

Fall: Review Board rules on scope of development
Review Board prepares draft Terms of Reference
public review of draft Terms of Reference
Review Board issues final Terms of Reference