



Canada Energy Regulator Régie de l'énergie
du Canada

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File 3430830
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Dear John Gregory, Nathan Baines, and Jaclyn Mersereau:

**Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited
Application for Variance of Operations Authorization 1210-001
Hearing Order OH-001-2023
Interim Extension to Operations Authorization 1210-001**

**Before: S. Luciuk, Presiding Commissioner; M. Watton, Commissioner;
K. Penney, Commissioner; S. Sajnovics, Commissioner**

The Commission of the Canada Energy Regulator is issuing an interim extension of Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited (**Imperial**) Operations Authorization (**OA**) OA 1210-001 for its Norman Wells operations, until 31 July 2025 or at a time as described below.

On 10 October 2024, the Commission issued Procedural Update No. 11 ([C31697](#)) confirming that its hearing steps, through to final argument had been completed, and suspending its assessment of Imperial's application to extend OA 1210-001 (**OA Variance**) in light of the ongoing environmental assessment processes before the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (**Review Board**).¹ The Commission advised that it would issue an interim extension of OA 1210-0-01 to allow the Norman Wells operations to continue while the Review Board's environmental assessment processes unfold.

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¹ All Review Board's letters and filings can be found on its registry at <https://reviewboard.ca/registry/ea2425-02>. The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated referred the OA Variance to environmental assessment on 30 September 2024. The Review Board is currently considering a Request for Ruling from Imperial as to the appropriateness of that referral.

Interim Extension of OA 1210-001

The Commission has broad discretion under paragraph 5.31(1)(b) of the *Canada Oil and Gas Operations Act*. The Commission can make a direction when, in the public interest, it appears to be required by the circumstances.

Although all hearing steps before the Commission, including the filing of written argument, are complete, the Review Board's processes are ongoing. Allowing the current OA 1210-001 to expire on 31 December 2024 would not be in the public interest, as the facility would not be able to operate without authorization and ceasing operations would necessitate an abrupt and unplanned winter shut-in, without appropriate planning for closure activities. Imperial also submitted to the Review Board that such a course of action would invite unnecessary risks to worker safety and the environment.

The Commission therefore issues this interim extension of OA 1210-001 to allow the Norman Wells operations to continue while the Review Board conducts its processes. The term of the interim extension is intended to provide enough time for the processes described above to be completed. Accordingly, the Commission hereby extends the term of OA 1210-001 until the earlier of:

- 3 months after the Review Board provides notification that an environmental assessment will not proceed for any reason;
- 3 months after the Canada Energy Regulator (**CER**) receives the report of the environmental assessment pursuant to section 128 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*; or
- 31 July 2025.

During the interim extension, Imperial must continue to comply with all existing conditions of the current OA 1210-001. In addition, during this interim extension, the Commission directs Imperial to make its filings using the CER REGDOCS system, which will maintain the transparency of information available to the public during the extension period.

For any questions, please contact the Process Advisor, Tony Epp, at nwoprocesshelp@cer-rec.gc.ca, or by telephone toll-free at 1-800-899-1265.

Yours sincerely,

Signed by K. McAllister

Ramona Sladic
Secretary of the Commission

c.c. All parties to the OH-001-2023 proceeding
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