



April 22, 2026

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VIA EMAIL

Negha Dágondih Chief Vital:

Notice of Cancellation of Environmental Assessments for Imperial's Line 490 Replacement Project (EA2425-01) and Norman Wells Operations (EA2425-02) and an Update on the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Operations (EA2526-01)

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is writing to:

1. Provide you with an update on the status of Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited's (Imperial) environmental assessments (EAs) before the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board), including:
 - a. The cancellation of the EAs for the Line 490 Replacement Project ([EA2425-01](#)) and Norman Wells Operations ([EA2425-02](#)); and,
 - b. Confirmation that the EA for the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities ([EA2526-01](#)) remain active and is proceeding; and,
 - c. Reiterate the GNWT's approach to consultation including how the Review Board's process will support meeting the duty to consult and, if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to your asserted or established Aboriginal¹ and/or Treaty rights resulting from the decision by the responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA.

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¹ The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to demonstrating respect to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and recognizes the shift in preferred terminology from "Aboriginal" to Indigenous. The use of the term "Aboriginal Peoples" or "Aboriginal rights" is defined in the *Constitution Act, 1982*, and is used in this context, and throughout this document, as a reference to legally defined Aboriginal rights.

Through this letter, the GNWT intends to provide clarity and ensure consistency to support your effective participation in the Review Board's process moving forward.

Background on Line 490 Replacement Project and Norman Wells Operations EAs

In September 2024, the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated (SSI) referred both the Line 490 Replacement Project ([EA2425-01](#)) and Norman Wells Operations ([EA2425-02](#)) to the Review Board for EA. On January 30, 2026, [Imperial requested cancellation of both EAs](#) and withdrew its associated regulatory applications. Specifically:

- Imperial withdrew its Type B Water License Application ([S24L1-002](#)) and Type A Land Use Permit Application ([S24A-005](#)) with the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB) for the Line 490 Replacement Project;
- Imperial withdrew its Type A Water License Renewal Application ([S24L1-005](#)) with the SLWB for the continuation of the Norman Wells Operations; and,
- Imperial withdrew its applications to the Canada Energy Regulator (CER) for a Variance of CER Operations Authorization 1210-001 and for the Line 490 Replacement Activities ([Commission Hearing Order OH-001-2023](#)).

On February 2, 2026, the SLWB confirmed that its associated proceedings had been closed ([S24A-005](#); [S24L1-002](#); [S24L1-005](#)), and on February 11, 2026, the Commission of the CER confirmed that its [associated proceedings had been closed](#). On March 2, 2026, the Review Board cancelled the EAs for both projects.

As outlined in the Review Board's [Reasons for Decision](#), the cancellations were granted because the proposed developments—replacement of Line 490 and continued operations of the Norman Wells Facilities beyond existing authorizations—cannot proceed without the associated regulatory applications. In the absence of these applications, the Review Board determined it is no longer required to conduct the EAs under paragraph 126(2)(b) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA).

Should Imperial decide in the future to apply to replace Line 490, or to continue operations and production at the Norman Wells Facilities beyond current authorizations, such proposals would be subject to Part 5 of the MVRMA and require a new EA.

Closure and Reclamation Environmental Assessment ([EA2526-01](#)) – Ongoing Process

The EA for the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities ([EA2526-01](#)) remain active and is proceeding before the Review Board. The Review Board [indicated](#) on February 10, 2026, that this EA will follow a collaborative and phased approach:

- In the first and current phase, the Review Board will facilitate a collaborative closure planning process involving Imperial, Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, regulators, and other parties. This phase will focus on updating Imperial's Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan into a proposed Final Closure Plan. Through workshops and engagement activities, parties will review closure goals, identify key issues, evaluate potential closure options for different site components, and consider approaches to long-term monitoring and stewardship. As a next step, this phase will include Closure Planning and Terminology Workshops organized by the Review Board in Fort Good Hope, Norman Wells, Tulita, Délı̄ne, and potentially Yellowknife.
- In the second phase, once Imperial submits an updated project description based on the proposed Final Closure Plan, the process will include the Review Board developing a Terms of Reference, preparation of a Developer's Assessment Report by Imperial, and a detailed assessment of the potential environmental and socio-economic impacts of the proposed closure and reclamation activities.

The Review Board has indicated the process will include opportunities for community engagement, technical review, information requests, and public hearings. Imperial will be required to provide information to support the assessment of potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures related to closure and reclamation activities. We encourage your participation in both phases of the Review Board's process to ensure that community knowledge, concerns, and perspectives are reflected in the assessment of Imperial's proposed closure and reclamation activities. Your involvement will help inform the Review Board's Report of EA and any recommended mitigation or follow-up measures.

Approach to Consultation with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations

Consultation on Line 490 Replacement Project and the Norman Wells Operations have concluded following the cancellation of their EAs. The GNWT continues to welcome and encourage your participation and views on the ongoing EA for the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities.

The GNWT has a duty to consult with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, and if appropriate, accommodate potential adverse impacts to asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights resulting from the decision by the responsible ministers on the Review Board's Report of EA. The GNWT relies on the Review Board's process as the primary means to assist in fulfilling our consultation and accommodation obligations in relation to the responsible ministers' decision on the Report of EA under Section 130 of the MVRMA. For further information on the Review Board's approach to consultation and engagement, please refer to their [Reference Bulletin on consultation and engagement in environmental impact assessment](#).

Throughout the Review Board's process, the GNWT actively monitors adverse impacts on asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights identified by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations.

We want to hear from you in the Review Board process

As the GNWT relies on the Review Board's process as the primary means to assist in fulfilling Aboriginal consultation obligations, your participation in this EA is important to help the GNWT understand how the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities could affect your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights. Your participation will inform the planning of future steps in the Review Board's process, additional Aboriginal consultation that may be required, and allow potential concerns to be considered by the Review Board and responsible ministers.

If you identify any potential adverse impacts to your asserted or established Aboriginal and/or Treaty rights with respect to the Closure and Reclamation of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities, we ask that you provide the following information to the Review Board:

- a. The specific rights that may potentially be adversely impacted;
- b. The specific potential adverse impacts; and,
- c. How the potential adverse impacts might be mitigated or accommodated.

The information provided during the EA process will be given full and thorough consideration prior to any decisions being made.

GNWT Contact

The Project Assessment Branch of the Department of Environment and Climate Change is the consultation coordinator for the GNWT. If you have any questions for the GNWT, please contact me at lorraine_seale@gov.nt.ca or (867) 767-9180 ext. 24020.

Sincerely,



Lorraine Seale
Director, Impact Assessment and Security
Management
Environment and Climate Change

b. Distribution List

Distribution List:

The Honourable R.J. Simpson
Premier

Kyla Kakfwi-Scott
Chief of Staff

Dr. Joe Dragon
Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada

John MacDonald
Secretary to Cabinet/Deputy Minister
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Shawn McCann
Deputy Secretary, Indigenous and Intergovernmental Affairs
Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Soham Srimani
Band Manager
Nahanni Butte Dene Band

Robert Jenkins
Deputy Minister
Environment and Climate Change

Joanne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board



April 22, 2026

President Paul Urngaut
Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated
P.O. BOX 638
IQALUIT NU X0A 0H0
president@tunngavik.com

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Dear President Urngaut:

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Sincerely,



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Shawn McCann
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Kilikvak (Karen) Kabloona
Chief Executive Officer
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Joanne Deneron
Chairperson
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board