

July 23, 2026

EA2526-01

Environmental Assessment Closure and Reclamation – Imperial’s Norman Wells Facilities (EA2526-01)

Jurisdictional Workshop Summary Report



1. Workshop overview

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (Review Board) hosted a hybrid Jurisdictional Workshop in Yellowknife on June 24, 2026 ([PR74](#)) to improve understanding of the regulatory and jurisdictional framework that will govern the closure, reclamation, remediation, abandonment, and long-term monitoring of Imperial's Norman Wells facilities ([PR77](#)). Approximately 40 people attended, representing regulatory agencies, Indigenous governments and organizations, federal and territorial governments and Imperial. See [Appendix A](#) for full list of attendees.

1.1 Workshop objectives

The workshop was intended to:

- clarify roles, responsibilities, and authorities throughout the closure process
- identify opportunities for coordination and information sharing between regulators and governments
- assist the Review Board in identifying jurisdictional issues that may influence the environmental assessment

2. Key discussion topics

2.1 Coordination between boards and agencies

The Review Board outlined its overall approach to coordination which will guide interactions between the Review Board and other regulatory bodies during environmental assessments. The Review Board shared that it will develop a project-specific coordination framework for this environmental assessment. The Review Board shared its [approach to coordination](#), as well as its [Reference Bulletin on Coordination](#) as part of the discussion.

Participants discussed how the environmental assessment process could be coordinated with future regulatory applications submitted to the Sahtú Land and Water Board (SLWB) and the Canada Energy Regulator (CER). The Review Board noted that the amount of overlap in processes would depend on Imperial's readiness to submit applications and that effective coordination could reduce overall timelines while maintaining regulatory oversight.

2.2 Regulatory roles and responsibilities

Presentations were provided by:

- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
- Canada Energy Regulator



The discussion focused on the mandates and authorities of the regulatory bodies involved in closure and reclamation planning, including how their responsibilities intersect during the environmental assessment and licensing processes. Parties wanted to understand the roles and responsibilities of the Review Board, the SLWB and the CER.

2.3 Indigenous governments and organizations perspectives

Indigenous governments and organizations discussed how they view their roles in the environmental assessment process. They emphasized the importance of ensuring their interests, rights, knowledge, and authorities are appropriately considered throughout the assessment and closure planning process.

2.4 Existing and future authorizations

Imperial currently holds authorizations from the CER and SLWB, which expire in 2028. As Imperial prepares to apply for authorizations for interim care and maintenance, participants sought clarification regarding:

- authorizations currently held by Imperial and what is allowable under those authorizations
- authorizations likely required in the near term
- longer-term regulatory approvals associated with closure and reclamation activities

Participants were interested in understanding what activities Imperial could currently undertake, and how those activities were related to closure activities. Participants were interested in downhole well abandonment and whether well abandonment or other activities Imperial is permitted to undertake could be classified as closure activities. Staff from the CER clarified that while Imperial has not applied for closure specific authorizations, existing operational authorizations allow well abandonment activities.

The CER clarified that closure-specific activities would only be approved once the environmental assessment is complete and Imperial submits relevant applications for closure. Staff also noted that to cover the time between the expiry of Imperial's current authorizations and when it receives its closure authorizations, Imperial will be submitting an application for interim care and maintenance.



2.5 Information request responses

Parties wanted to understand:

- the geographic extent and timeframe of the land tenure information requested by the Review Board
- the parties that should respond to the information requests
- whether Imperial was able to provide responses to some or all of the IRs

The Review Board encouraged parties to:

- submit any relevant information regarding ownership, authorizations, or jurisdiction, regardless of whether a specific information request was directed at them
- explain where information requests are not applicable to their organization or mandate
- provide available GIS datasets to support jurisdictional mapping efforts

To help parties and the Review Board visualize the jurisdictional landscape, the Review Board requested parties provide all available GIS data from within the Norman Wells Proven Area for inclusion in its Regional Database Mapping Tool. This data would help everyone understand the jurisdictional boundaries, authorizations, and ownership of the Norman Wells Proven Area and surrounding areas in the Sahtú. Participants noted that jurisdictional data layers may differ depending on the year in which they were created. In response, the Review Board stated that it could use time-stamped data layers to show changes in jurisdiction and authority over time.

Imperial currently has tenure and authorizations on land in the Norman Wells Proven Area. Imperial will be providing that information to the Review Board as part of the responses to the information requests.

2.6 Canada's multiple roles in the environmental assessment

Participants discussed Canada's one-third ownership interest in the Norman Wells Proven Area and sought clarification regarding:

- Canada's role as both an interest holder and decision-maker
- how impartiality would be maintained during the environmental assessment
- how consultation obligations would be fulfilled given Canada's multiple responsibilities and interests



3. Next steps

The Review Board committed to:

- working with parties to address terminology specific to the Norman Wells closure EA, including potentially organizing terminology workshops for both participating parties and interpreters
- developing a clearer mapping of key decision-making opportunities throughout the assessment process, including decisions related to goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria.



Appendix A – List of attendees

Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited	Sarah McLaren, John Bertrand, Leanna Han, Kristine Mason
Gwich'in Tribal Council	Ruari Carthew
ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)	Catarina Owen, Gillian Donald, Skylar Lipman
K'áhshó Got'ıne Committee	Ceilidh Stubbs, Daniel T'Seleie
Délıne Got'ıne Government	Todd Slack
Tulı'ta Land Corporation	Darryl Korell
Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated	Scott Parker, Emma Russell
GNWT-ECC	Alison Heslep, Lorraine Seale, Katie Rozestraten, Kelvin Igwe, Millicent Fiadjoe, Nathalie Oldfield
GNWT-MACA	Chris Hewitt, Lorie Fyfe
Environment and Climate Change Canada	Erik Allen
Canada Energy Regulator	Anne-Marie Hesse, Christy Wickenheiser, Justin Ford, Kris Hyslop, Helen Gittersos, Carol Vats
Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Paul Harper, Nicholas Wasilik
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada	Megan Larose, Chris Rose, Mauricio Nothen
Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board	Meghan Schnurr
Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board	Angela Plautz



Sahtú Land and Water Board	Melissa Pinto, Natalie Lipa
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board	Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Simon Toogood, Kate Mansfield, Malorey Nirlungayuk, Alan Erhlich, Melissa Pink

