



EA2425-02

EA2526-01

June 3, 2025

Notice of Proceeding

Norman Wells Operations and Norman Wells Operations Closure and Reclamation

Re: Initial scoping steps for Imperial Oil NWT Ltd.'s (Imperial) Norman Wells Operations and Norman Wells Operations Closure and Reclamation environmental assessments

This Notice of Proceeding **describes the initial steps of scoping** the environmental assessments (EAs) of Norman Wells Operations (Operations EA) and Norman Wells Operations Closure and Reclamation (Closure EA). The scoping of these two interconnected EAs will be coordinated and phased.

To begin scoping, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) will undertake two activities:

- an EA scoping information session, and
- community scoping sessions in K'áhshó Got'ıne (Fort Good Hope) and Tłegóhtı (Norman Wells).

The Review Board will hold a technical scoping workshop in Yellowknife and community scoping sessions in Délıne and Tulıt'a¹ in September.

1. Determining the scope of the environmental assessments

Scoping an environmental assessment requires careful thought about:

- 1) the development being proposed (the scope of development)

¹ Délıne and Tulıt'a informed the Review Board that they are not available over the summer for scoping sessions.



- 2) the most important impacts to study (the scope of issues)
- 3) the spatial and temporal limits of the assessment (the scope of assessment)

The Review Board recognizes that outcomes of the scoping for the Operations EA will look different than that of the Closure EA due to the difference in what is known about the two developments. The Review Board is tailoring its scoping process to reflect the differences.

2. Initial scoping phase

The initial steps of the coordinated scoping of the Operations and Closure EAs are expected to proceed as follows.

2.1 EA scoping information session – June 6 and June 10, 2025 (9:30-10:30AM)

The Review Board will begin scoping the Operations and Closure EAs with a scoping information session. This meeting will be virtual, with an option to attend in person at the Review Board's boardroom. The purpose of the meeting is to provide parties with information about scoping generally, and to describe the scoping process for the Operations and Closure EAs. There will be an opportunity for parties to ask Review Board staff questions about a draft workplan for the initial steps of scoping.

2.2 Community scoping sessions

Review Board staff will facilitate in-person scoping sessions in K'áhshó Got'ıne (Fort Good Hope) on June 24th and in Tłegóhtı (Norman Wells) on June 25th. Community scoping sessions are an opportunity for community members to identify and prioritize concerns about impacts from the continued operation of Imperial's Norman Wells oilfield, and from the proposed closure activities. This input will help the Review Board focus the environmental assessments on the most important impacts from operations and the considerations that matter most for closure.

Indigenous governments, community members and other groups are invited to participate in these sessions. Interpreters will be present but the sessions will not be transcribed or recorded. Imperial will be at the community scoping sessions to provide information on the operations of the oilfield, as well as its interim plans for proposed closure. Imperial will also answer questions from participants. Detailed agendas will be provided in advance of the meeting.



3. Initial outcomes from scoping

After the community scoping sessions, the Review Board staff will produce summary reports which will be posted to the registry. The Review Board will fully consider the views expressed and determine which comments relate to which of the two EAs. The Review Board will release an initial draft *Terms of Reference* for the Operations EA and a draft scoping document for the Closure EA. The Review Board will issue these documents for review on the Online Review System over the summer, and will discuss and solicit feedback on them at the technical scoping session and community scoping sessions in Délı̄nę and Tulı́t'a in September.

Terms of Reference

The draft *Terms of Reference* provides an opportunity for the Review Board to validate what it heard during scoping about what issues matter most. It is an intermediary step in the development of the *Terms of Reference*; parties' comments on the draft *Terms of Reference* will help the Board determine the final *Terms of Reference*. The *Terms of Reference* defines the scope of the environmental assessment for a proposed project. It provides detailed instructions for the developer to prepare its *Developer's Assessment Report*. Along with the scope, the *Terms of Reference* includes the assessment principles and specific requirements for the *Developer's Assessment Report*. It is a guideline for the developer to follow to provide its predictions and views on the potential impacts. The predictions and views from the developer will be thoroughly evaluated and assessed during the EA.

Scoping Document

For the Closure EA, the scoping document is expected to be initial step in scoping how the Review Board will assess what final closure will look like for the Norman Wells oilfield. Recognizing the complex nature of closure, the scoping document is a starting point for the development of a draft *Terms of Reference*. It will reflect what is heard in community scoping sessions, as well as what is described in Imperial's *Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan*. It will allow parties to think strategically about what acceptable closure looks like for them, and provide those thoughts back to the Review Board.

While the full scope of development and scope of assessment are not known in detail, the comments on the scoping document, community scoping sessions in Délı̄nę and Tulı́t'a, and technical scoping sessions will lead to a draft *Terms of Reference* for the Closure EA.

4. Next steps

In early fall, following parties' review of the draft *Terms of Reference* and scoping document, the Review Board will host technical scoping sessions in Yellowknife. The Review Board will also host community scoping sessions in Délı̄nę and Tulı́t'a.



The next steps for scoping will be informed by what is heard during the initial scoping steps, including comments on the draft scoping documents.

5. Proposed schedule

Below is the proposed schedule for the initial steps of the scoping phase for the Operations and Closure EAs. Additional details will be provided closer to the dates.

Process Step		Date
EA scoping information session		June 6, 2025 June 10, 2025
Community scoping sessions	Fort Good Hope	June 24, 2025
	Norman Wells	June 25, 2025
First Draft Terms of Reference (Operations EA) and scoping document (Closure EA) provided to parties for comment		Mid-July
Technical scoping sessions	Yellowknife	September
Community scoping sessions	Tulit'a	September
	Déłjne	September

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