



EA2526-01
May 29, 2026

Via email:

The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated
c/o Charles McNeely

EA2526-01 – Closure of Imperial’s Norman Wells Facilities

Re: The Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated’s concerns about the environmental assessment of the closure of Imperial’s Norman Wells Facilities

Dear Chairman McNeely,

Thank you for your May 14, 2026, letter about the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the closure and reclamation of the Norman Wells Facilities. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) understands the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated’s (SSI) concerns about the proposed timeline and its request to focus the EA on healing Sahtu lands and waters.

As you correctly pointed out, the Review Board - not Imperial - decides the pace and structure of the EA. While the Review Board cannot fully control how long Imperial takes to reply at every stage, it can meaningfully influence timelines. The Review Board has tools it can use, such as issuing process directives and setting clear procedural expectations, to keep the assessment on track. The Review Board will use these tools as needed to maintain an efficient and timely process and expects Imperial to do its part to meet the established timelines.

The Review Board also needs to make sure all parties can take part effectively for a fair, efficient and timely EA. Each party needs to commit enough time, people, and resources to fully participate. This includes ensuring Sahtu communities have the resources they need to participate meaningfully. This requires adequate Northern Participant Funding, through Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada’s Northern Participant Funding Program. When all parties are properly supported and engaged, the EA can proceed more fairly, and efficiently, to avoid unnecessary delays.

The Review Board has heard SSI’s comments about restoring the land and water and the outcomes it hopes to see. This EA is a chance to set a long-term vision for areas that have been affected by Imperial’s operations, including the Mackenzie River and surrounding lands. Through the EA, parties—including Sahtu rights holders—can express their vision for the





future of the area, including how the land and waters should be left for future generations. This input is essential to establishing clear closure goals and objectives for the area. The EA needs to look at current site conditions, what is technically possible, and what outcomes can reasonably be achieved across Imperial's Norman Wells facilities, the surrounding community, and the broader Proven Area. The Review Board has clearly heard SSI's emphasis on restoration, along with broader goals to heal land and waters after years of industrial use.

This EA can help build a shared vision for the future —one that aims to restore, heal, and protect land and waters as much as possible, while being clear about limits or trade-offs. Thank you again for sharing SSI's perspectives. The Board looks forward to working with SSI and all parties to ensure that the EA proceeds in a fair, timely, and rigorous manner, and delivers strong outcomes for the Sahtu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "M. Cliffe-Phillips".

Mark Cliffe-Phillips

Executive Director, Mackenzie Valley Review Board

Cc

SSI Board Members

Daniel McNeely, Sahtu MLA

Paul Dixon, Executive Director, Sahtu Land and Water Board

Frank Pope, Mayor, Town of Norman Wells

Déljñę Got'jñę Government

Tłęgóhłį Got'jñę Government

Honourable Rebecca Chartrand, Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs

