

Name of Proceeding	Line 490 Replacement Project - EA2425-01
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TAKE NOTICE that a Request for Ruling will be made to the MVEIRB by

**Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T Limited**

(name of party making the Request)

at 1:00 PM (time) in Yellowknife (place), in the Northwest Territories on the 1st (day) of May (month), 2025\_ or as soon after that time as the Board may decide to address the Request.

The Ruling requested from the MVEIRB is as follows:  
 (State the relief sought as clearly as possible)

Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T Limited ("Imperial") seeks a direction from the MVREIRB adjourning the Proceeding for the reasons set out in the attached submission.

The facts or information relevant to this Request for Ruling and which should be considered by the MVEIRB are as follow: (State the information relevant to the Request in as much detail as needed)

Please see the attached submissions.

The authority or grounds for the Ruling which should be considered by the MVEIRB is as follows: (State the Rules or any law or enactment relied on and the grounds for the Ruling).

Imperial requests that the MVEIRB adjourn the Proceeding pursuant to section 118 of the Board's Rules of Procedure.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE that in support of this Request for Ruling the following documents or information have been attached:  
 (Set out all materials to be used to support the Request).

Imperial relies on the attached submissions and the documents cited (with hyperlinks) there-in.

Dated at Calgary, Alberta, on (MM/DD/YY) 05/01/2025

  
 (Signature of Party's Representative)





**Josh Hutchings**  
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May 1, 2025

Mr. Mark Cliffe-Phillips  
Executive Director  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
Box 938, 5102-50th Ave  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7

Submitted via email

Dear Mr. Cliffe-Phillips,

**Re: Request to Adjourn Proceeding EA2425-01**

Regretfully, Imperial is seeking a pause by way of adjournment of the EA2425-01 (“Line 490 EA”) Proceeding to Q4 of 2025, pursuant to rule 118 of the Rules of Procedure for Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Review Proceedings. As set out below, the requested adjournment is necessary for two primary reasons: (a) to ensure that regulatory decisions are made sufficiently in advance of the next potential construction window to allow for proper planning; and (b) to align decision-making associated with the Line 490 replacement, the variance of the Operations Authorization OA-1210-001 (“OA”) and the renewal of water licence S13L1-007 (“Water Licence”) held by Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T Limited (“Imperial”).

The requested adjournment is necessary to allow the parties to focus attention on the Norman Wells Operations EA2425-02 (“NWO EA”) Proceeding for Imperial’s OA variance and Water Licence renewal. Completion of the NWO EA process is the critical next regulatory step for Imperial to plan for future operations and to facilitate final decisions from both the Sahtu Land and Water Board (“SLWB”) and the Canada Energy Regulator (“CER”) with respect to its OA and Water Licence for the Norman Wells Operations. The requested adjournment will promote a more certain process by allowing critical decisions with respect to the OA and Water Licence to be made prior to further consideration of the Line 490 EA. Resuming the Line 490 EA in Q4 of 2025 will allow approximately 9 months to complete the proceeding and is anticipated to allow for construction of Line 490 during the 2027 construction window.

***The next available construction window***

In light of the currently scheduled process steps for the Line 490 EA, Imperial has unfortunately determined that the next most viable construction window for Line 490 is in 2027. The requested adjournment to Q4 2025 will align with this construction window.

As stated in Imperial’s written argument to the Canada Energy Regulator (“CER”) dated August 29, 2024 in respect of its application for an authorization to construct Line 490 (also known as the “Replacement Activities”), Imperial required a decision from the CER by October 1, 2024 to meet

the next available construction window at that time.<sup>1</sup> As the Board is aware, the CER's review of Imperial's Line 490 and OA applications and the SLWB's review of the Water Licence renewal and Line 490 permits were subsequently suspended pending the completion of the Line 490 EA and NWO EA.<sup>2</sup>

Consistent with its prior submissions to the CER, Imperial would now need all authorizations for Line 490 by October 2025 so that planning decisions with respect to matters such as final engineering, procurement, logistics and mobilization work could be made to meet the 2026 construction window. Regulatory approval certainty with sufficient lead time is necessary to mitigate the risk of missing critical mobilization opportunities and to inform significant investment decisions that must precede mobilization.

As noted in the Updated Draft Workplan dated April 16, 2026 (the "Work Plan"), it is now estimated that the Board will issue an environmental assessment report and reasons for decision in the Line 490 EA by August 2025.<sup>3</sup> The Minister will then have 5 months to issue a response after the Board issues its report. Based on the Work Plan, it is now apparent to Imperial that the time required to complete the Line 490 EA and to obtain a decision from the Minister now extends beyond October 2025. The CER and SLWB will also require additional time to make final decisions in respect of Line 490 which would also appear to extend well beyond October 2025. For these reasons, it appears increasingly unlikely that Imperial will obtain the necessary regulatory certainty to properly plan for and meet the available 2026 construction window.

In light of this information, Imperial now considers that the next viable construction window for Line 490 will be in 2027, accounting for mobilization work in early 2027 to facilitate execution in the summer months of 2027.

### ***Alignment of critical regulatory processes***

Several critical regulatory processes in addition to the Line 490 EA are underway with respect to the Normal Wells Operations, including:

1. Imperial is required to undertake the NWO EA in respect of its application to the CER to vary its Operation Authorization OA-1210-001 and its application to the SLWB to renew the Water Licence.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Written Argument of Imperial, [C31207-2](#) at PDF pages 58-59.

<sup>2</sup> Commission of the CER, Procedural Update No. 11 (10 October 2024), [C31697-1](#).

<sup>3</sup> MVEIRB, Updated Draft Workplan (16 April 2025) [https://new.reviewboard.ca/sites/default/files/project\\_document/april-16-2025-draft-workplan-line-490-replacement-hearing-phase.pdf](https://new.reviewboard.ca/sites/default/files/project_document/april-16-2025-draft-workplan-line-490-replacement-hearing-phase.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> See MVEIRB, Notice of Environmental Assessment (4 October 2024) [https://new.reviewboard.ca/sites/default/files/project\\_document/Notice%20of%20EA2425-02%2C%20NWO.pdf](https://new.reviewboard.ca/sites/default/files/project_document/Notice%20of%20EA2425-02%2C%20NWO.pdf).

2. Imperial's OA application with the CER and Water Licence renewal with the SLWB were suspended pending completion of the NWO EA.<sup>5</sup>
3. After a public hearing, the SLWB recently recommended, and the Minister granted, a 3-year renewal of Imperial's Water Licence S13L1-007 (which will now expire in May of 2028).<sup>6</sup>
4. By letter dated April 10, 2025, Imperial requested a similar 3-year term extension from the CER in respect of the OA.<sup>7</sup> By letter dated April 30, 2025, the CER extended the OA to align with the Water Licence (which will now expire in May 2028).<sup>8</sup>

Each of these processes, involving several regulatory agencies and decision makers, need to be coordinated and all have varying timelines toward completion. In this context, completion of the NWO EA process is now the most critical regulatory step for Imperial to plan for future operations and to facilitate final decisions from both the SLWB and the CER. Imperial anticipates that adjourning the Line 490 EA will allow all parties to shift focus from the Line 490 EA to the priority NWO EA.

### *Closing*

Imperial appreciates that the Board and the parties are in the process of preparing for hearings concerning the Line 490 EA in late May and regrets having to make this request. However, uncertainty in attempting to align critical decision making with timelines for regulatory authorizations has made it extremely difficult to plan future operations in a coordinated and most efficient manner.

Based on the foregoing, Imperial respectfully requests that the Board adjourn the Line 490 EA to Q4 2025. This timing would allow for a greater focus on advancing the NWO EA and will align decision-making associated with Line 490 to potentially meet a construction window in 2027.

Sincerely,



Josh Hutchings  
Conventional Oil & Gas Assets Manager  
Imperial



Benjamin Fraser  
Environment and Regulatory Technical Lead  
Imperial

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<sup>5</sup> Commission of the CER, Procedural Update No. 11 (10 October 2024), [C31697-1](#).

<sup>6</sup> Ministerial Approval Letter (28 March 2025) [https://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/S13L1-007/S13L1-007%20-%20Board-Initiated%20Three-Year%20Renewal%20-%20Minister%20Approval%20-%20Mar28\\_25.pdf](https://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/S13L1-007/S13L1-007%20-%20Board-Initiated%20Three-Year%20Renewal%20-%20Minister%20Approval%20-%20Mar28_25.pdf);  
Water Licence S13L1-007 [https://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/S13L1-007/S13L1-007%20-%20Board-Initiated%20Three-Year%20Renewal%20-%20Type%20A%20Licence%20-%20Mar28\\_25.pdf](https://registry.mvlwb.ca/Documents/S13L1-007/S13L1-007%20-%20Board-Initiated%20Three-Year%20Renewal%20-%20Type%20A%20Licence%20-%20Mar28_25.pdf).

<sup>7</sup> Application for Variance of Operations Authorization OA-1210-001 (the "OA") OA Extension, [C34116-1](#).

<sup>8</sup> Commission of the CER, Letter to Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited – Second Interim Extension (30 April 2025), [C34442](#).