



May 28, 2026

EA2526-01

Environmental Assessment Closure and Reclamation – Imperial’s Norman Wells Facilities

Meeting with Délı̄nę Leadership and Elders



This report provides a summary of a meeting between staff of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board), and leadership of Délįnę and the Elders Council. The Review Board held this meeting on May 12, 2026, in Délįnę to share information about the proposed environmental assessment process for the closure and reclamation of Imperial Oil Resources Ltd Norman Wells Facilities (Imperial) and introduce parties to the [Guidelines for the Closure and Reclamation of Advanced Mineral Exploration and Mine Sites in the Northwest Territories \(Closure Guidelines\)](#) that will be used to help guide the environmental assessment and Imperial in updating its draft Closure Plan. A full list attendees can be found in Appendix A.

The Review Board made a presentation (Appendix B) explaining how closure planning works. Board staff talked about the main parts of closure planning - such as goals, principles, objectives and actions - and explained the environmental assessment process. Elders supported the Board's proposed process including workshops to hear from people and their history. Translation was provided.

Elders spoke about the long history of Imperial at the site and legacy of impacts and lack of trust this has left. Elders talked about what the site looked like before Imperial, how beautiful the area was. Elders spoke about long family histories in the Norman Wells area, how families lived there and the importance of berries and hunting in the area. Elders talked about what needs to be cleaned up, from buried pipes to contamination. Elders spoke about how some of the impacts can never be fully restored because the land can't be returned to the way it was before Imperial came.

Elders also talked about the legacy of employment in Norman Wells and the effects this has on Délįnę. Elders also emphasized the importance of youth, and they must benefit from the clean up of the site, but also the importance of remembering the legacy and history of Imperial Oil so the youth can understand.

Elders emphasized the need for a strong closure plan to deal with legacy of impacts. And the need to restore the site to how it was before Imperial started operations so that it can be used again by community members. Elders talked about the need to employ community members in the clean up of the site.

Elders talked about the long legacy of district with Imperial and other developments in the area including Port Radium and the Canol Pipeline.

Participants raised concerns with the language used to describe closure and the preference for reclamation over remediation. Participants discussed what the site was like before Imperial started its operations and raised concerns over how this would be considered in the EA.



Appendix A – List of attendees

Review Board:

- Simon Toogood
- Donna Schear
- Mark Cliffe-Phillips
- Alan Erlich
- Malorey Nirlungayuk
- Melissa Pink

Tulita Leadership:

- Hughie Ferdinand
- Dolphus Baton
- Theresa Tutcho
- Betty Takazo
- Merine Mackenizo
- Bernadette Yukon
- Paul Modeste



Appendix B - Review Board's presentation



Closure of Imperial's Norman Wells Facilities - Environmental Assessment Process Discussion

Meeting, Tulít'a, May 11

Meeting, Déljñę, May 12



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Meeting overview

- **Why we are here and why this environmental assessment matters**
- **Walk through the environmental assessment process**
 - Phase 1: Development of the Closure Plan
 - Phase 2: Assessing the Closure Plan
- Talk about the **language of closure**

Why we are here

Build a shared understanding of the closure planning process

- the closure planning process decides what will happen to land, water, and remaining infrastructure when operations end

We'll clarify the step-by-step process and key terms, so everyone can participate confidently



Understanding land administration, jurisdiction, and regulation

- Many governments have roles and responsibilities within the Norman Wells Proven Area
 - Indigenous
 - Municipal
 - Territorial
 - Federal
- Regulators include Sahtu Land and Water Board and Canadian Energy Regulator
- Information requests and workshops to help everyone understand



Developing the closure plan (Phase 1) - your role in closure

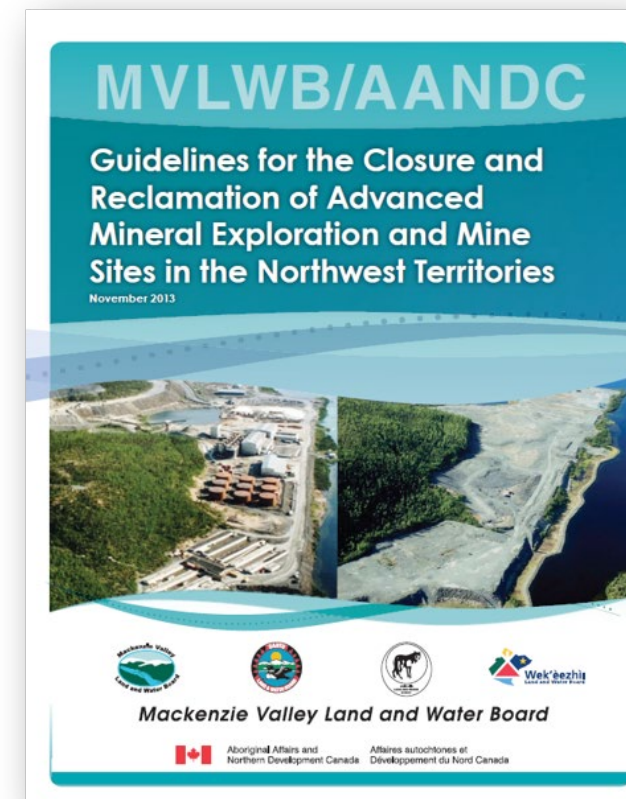


- community members, Elders, and land users bring traditional and local knowledge
- Indigenous Governments help bring community input
- **your input** helps define what must be protected or restored, what “safe” means in real terms, and what future land use should look like
- participate through workshops, plain-language reviews, stories, observations, and questions—then stay involved in monitoring and follow-up



Closure planning in this EA

- define what successful closure looks like
- set clear closure goals and measurable criteria to track progress
- use community knowledge and technical expertise to shape closure objectives
- Imperial to develop an updated closure plan that is practical, respectful of culture, and grounded in local knowledge
- assess the updated closure plan



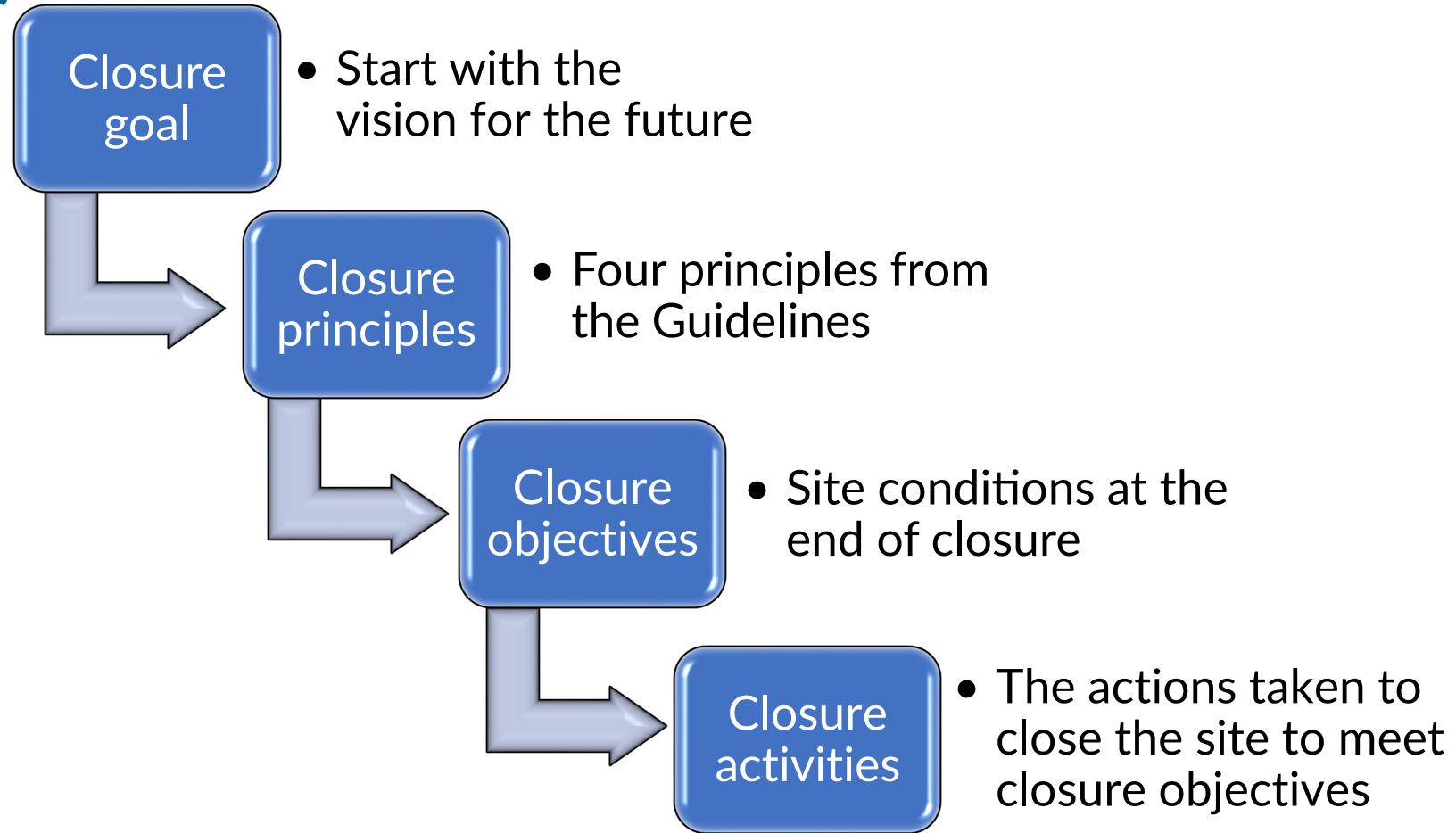
What is in a closure plan?

Detailed description of:

- the condition of the site now
- the **vision for the site in the future**
- the **work required** to clean the site to achieve the vision
- how the work will be **carried out**
- how the work be **monitored**
- how we will know the work has been **successful**



Defining the closure plan (Phase 1)



Defining closure goals

- How do you want to see the land and water at the end of closure
- It's about the vision for the future
 - the closed site can be safely used in ways that fit with surrounding land use
 - **future land use is defined with input from communities**
 - example: reclaimed area support traditional land use such as hunting, travel, or cultural activities

Minimum goal:

“To return the mine site and affected areas to viable and, wherever practicable, self-sustaining ecosystems that are compatible with a healthy environment and with human activities.”

Defining closure goals

Projects can add to the minimum goal:

1. Land and water that is physically and chemically stable and safe for people, wildlife and aquatic life.
2. Land and water that allows for traditional use.
3. Final landscape guided by Traditional Knowledge.
4. Final landscape guided by pre-development conditions.
5. Final landscape that is neutral to wildlife – being neither a significant attractant nor significant deterrent relative to pre-development conditions.
6. Maximize northern business opportunities during operations and closure.

Establishing closure principles

- basic rules that guide how a development like the Norman Wells oilfield should be closed and reclaimed
- four closure principles that need to be considered in closure planning:
 - **Physical Stability**
 - **Chemical Stability**
 - **Future Use**
 - **No Long-term Active Care**



Creating closure objectives

- closure objectives are clear statements that describe what Imperial needs to achieve when it closes the Norman Wells oilfield to meet the overall closure goal and principles
- Imperial will propose site-wide and component-specific closure objectives
- as required, the Review Board will facilitate workshops to refine the closure objectives

Closure planning – waste rock example

Closure Goal

Closure Principles

Closure Objective

Closure Options

Selected Closure Activity

Project areas are physically stable and safe for use by people and wildlife.

Landscape (shape and appearance) that match aesthetics of the surrounding natural area.

Backfill into Pits

Surface runoff and seepage water quality that is safe for humans and wildlife

Areas in and around the site that are undisturbed during operation of the Mine should remain undisturbed during and after closure.

Cover with clean rock

Surface runoff and seepage water quality that will not cause adverse effects on aquatic life or water uses surrounding water bodies.

Safe passage and use for caribou and other wildlife.

Cover with Till

ENGAGEMENT

Cover with till and clean rock within footprint and reslope pile to resemble an esker

Defining the closure plan (Phase 1)

- a **series of workshops** to support Imperial's closure work
 - facilitated by the Review Board
- **Imperial gathers additional** site and baseline information
 - environmental site assessments
 - site inventory
- **information requests** to Imperial, federal and territorial governments, Indigenous governments

Phase 2 – environmental assessment of Imperial’s closure plan

- ‘standard’ environmental assessment of Imperial’s closure plan
 - assess the environmental, social, and cultural impacts of Imperial’s closure plan



Next steps

- summary reports from community meetings
- additional workshops:
 - closure vision and goals
- Imperial will continue to engage with communities to gather information and input on closure planning

