



## Sahtu Land and Water Board

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February 6, 2014

File: S13L1-007

# Work Plan for Water Licence Renewal Application Imperial Oil Resources – Norman Wells Operation

## Purpose of the Work Plan

To outline the processes and timelines to be followed for the Water Licence Renewal Application S13L1-007 (Renewal of S03L1-001) for Imperial Oil Resources Norman Wells Operation.

## Background

Water Licence S03L1-001 expires on August 29, 2014. Imperial Oil Resources submitted their renewal application on August 30, 2013, which gives 12 months to complete the renewal process prior to licence expiration.

## Scope of the Project

The scope of this project includes water use, bank alterations, and deposit of wastes in association with oil and gas production at the Norman Wells Operation as described in Part A:1 of Water Licence S03L1-001.

## Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide the Work Plan of the SLWB throughout this Water Licence Renewal process:

- The licensing process shall be carried out in a timely and expeditious manner and shall have regard to the protection of the environment in consideration of the impacts of proposed undertaking and the importance of conservation to the well being and way of life of the aboriginal peoples of Canada (Section 35 of the *Constitution Act*, 1982);
- The Board will consider changes to the Water Licence based on evidence and rationale submitted by the company or any other party;
- The Board may also consider changes it considers appropriate to meet its mandate, applicable policies, and to ensure consistency in decision-making throughout the Mackenzie Valley; and,
- The Board will actively continue to ensure compliance with existing Water Licence requirements.

## **Work Plan Objectives**

The Work Plan is to achieve the following objectives:

- Evaluate the adequacy of the current Water Licence terms and conditions;
- Gather a broad range of input through the review process;
- Ensure adequate information is gathered to complete the Water Licensing process; and,
- Facilitate a thorough, inclusive, and timely Water Licence Renewal process.

## **Opportunities for Community Engagement**

- The Board requires proponents to engage with communities on their Water Licence Application prior to its submission. Imperial Oil's Engagement Record and Plan is Section 10 of their Renewal Application;
- The Board will distribute the Water Licence Renewal Application to all reviewers – including Aboriginal organizations, government agencies, and communities – for review using the LWB Online Review System;
- The Board will include a notification(s) regarding the review process in the newspaper;
- The Board will coordinate a technical session(s) to address specific issues that require a more focused review and discussion;
- The Board will hold a public hearing; and,
- Any other consultation or engagement activity that the Board considers appropriate.

**Work Plan for Water Licence Renewal Application  
Imperial Oil Resources – Norman Wells Operation**

<b>Task</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Due/Complete</b>
Public review of Renewal Application and Work Plan	Reviewers	7 weeks	November 18, 2013 (Monday)
Proponent Response to Reviewer Comments	Proponent	4 weeks	December 13, 2013 (Friday)
Circulate Agenda for Technical Sessions	SLWB		January 10, 2014 (Friday)
Technical Session	All Parties	2 days	January 16-17, 2014 (Thursday-Friday)
Circulate Technical Session Information Requests (IRs) to Reviewers and Proponent	SLWB		January 20, 2014 (Monday)
Deadline for all Parties Responses to IRs	All Parties	2 weeks	February 3, 2014 (Monday)
Draft Water Licence V.1 Sent Out For Review (Comments as Part of Interventions)	SLWB		February 6, 2014 (Thursday)
Deadline for Interventions	Interveners	4 weeks	March 7, 2014 (Friday)
<b>Pre-Hearing Conference</b>	All Parties		March 10, 2014 (Monday)
Deadline for Reviewers Public Hearing Presentations	Reviewers	1 week	March 17, 2014 (Monday)
Deadline for Proponent Response to Interventions	Proponent		March 17, 2014 (Monday)
Deadline for Proponent Public Hearing Presentations	Proponent	5 days	March 21, 2014 (Friday)
<b>Public Hearing</b>	All Parties		April 2-3, 2014 (Wednesday-Thursday)
Public Hearing Undertakings Due	All Parties	1 week	April 11, 2014 (Friday)
Draft Water Licence v.2 Sent Out for Review	SLWB	1 week	April 21, 2014 (Monday)
Reviewer Comments Due on Draft Water Licence v.2	Reviewers	2 weeks	May 5, 2014 (Monday)
Proponent Comments Due on Draft Water Licence v.2	Proponent	1 week	May 12, 2014 (Monday)

Deadline for Closing Arguments from Interveners	Interveners	1 week	May 19, 2014 (Monday)
Deadline for Closing Arguments from Proponent	Proponent	1 week	May 26, 2014 (Monday)
Draft Water Licence and Reasons for Decision sent to AANDC Minister	SLWB	2 weeks	June 9, 2014 (Monday)
Final Decision from AANDC Minister and Issuance of Water Licence	AANDC Minister		S03L1-001 expires: August 29, 2014 (Friday)
***SLWB – Sahtu Land and Water Board; AANDC – Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada.			