

Sherri Evers
Vice President
Imperial Oil Limited
505 QUARRY PARK BLVD.
CALGARY AB T2C 5N1

October 20, 2021

Dear Sherri Evers:

Notice: Deferral of Decision for Operations Authorization (OA-2021-004-IMP)

On July 29, 2021, the Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (OROGO) received a complete application for an Operations Authorization (OA) from Imperial Oil Limited (Imperial) for the abandonment of the Jean Marie B-48 well (WID 0448).

Imperial has also responded to two Information Requests related to the application:

- Information Request No. 1 – response received on August 30, 2021; and
- Information Request No. 2 – response received on October 4, 2021.

The Regulator cannot issue an Operations Authorization (OA) unless it has undergone a preliminary screening under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA). As a regulatory authority under the MVRMA, the Regulator may conduct its own preliminary screening, adopt a preliminary screening conducted by another organization, participate in a joint preliminary screening, determine that the development is exempt from preliminary screening, or decide not to conduct a preliminary screening because a Land and Water Board established under the MVRMA has already conducted one.

In most cases, the Regulator adopts the preliminary screening conducted by the appropriate Land and Water Board, which in this case is the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). Once the Regulator has received confirmation that the MVLWB has completed its preliminary screening, the Regulator will review the screening and determine if the screening can be adopted.

The Regulator also cannot issue the OA until OROGO receives confirmation of approval or waiver of the Benefits Plan, as required under section 17(2) of the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.

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Therefore, OROGO is deferring further consideration of OA-2021-004-IMP until the MVLWB has completed its preliminary screening and Imperial has provided confirmation of the approval or waiver of its Benefits Plan.

Please contact OROGO at (867) 765-8160 or by email at orogo@gov.nt.ca if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pauline de Jong', with a stylized, cursive script.

Pauline de Jong
Executive Director