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Staff Report

Applicant: Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited	
Location: Norman Wells, NT - Goose to Bear Island Flowline Replacement	File Number(s): S24A-005 S24L1-002
Date Prepared: June 24, 2024	Date of Board Meeting: June 25, 2024
Subject: Request for further study - 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations	

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to present to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB/Board) a request that further studies or investigations be made for the Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited, Goose to Bear Island Flowline Replacement Project in Norman Wells, NT Type A Land Use Permit (Permit) Application S24A-005 as per paragraph 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations.

The Board requires additional time to process the application due to extenuating circumstances related to the recent fire evacuation order issued on June 15, 2024 for the community of Fort Good Hope, NT and the Sahtu Land and Water Board office, located in Fort Good Hope, NT, temporarily ceasing operations.

2. Background

- May 1, 2024 – Application for Permit S24A-005 and Licence S24L1-002 (Application) received;
- May 9, 2024 – Application deemed incomplete and letter sent to Applicant;
- May 24, 2024 – Received additional information from Applicant;
- June 3, 2024 – Application deemed complete and distributed for public review;
- June 17, 2024 – Reviewer comment period extended for 2 weeks;
- **June 25, 2024 – Further Study Required request presented to the Board;**
- July 3, 2024 – Comments and recommendations due on Application;
- July 15, 2024 – End of 42-day timeline; and
- July 17, 2024 – Applicant responses due.

3. Discussion

Project Description

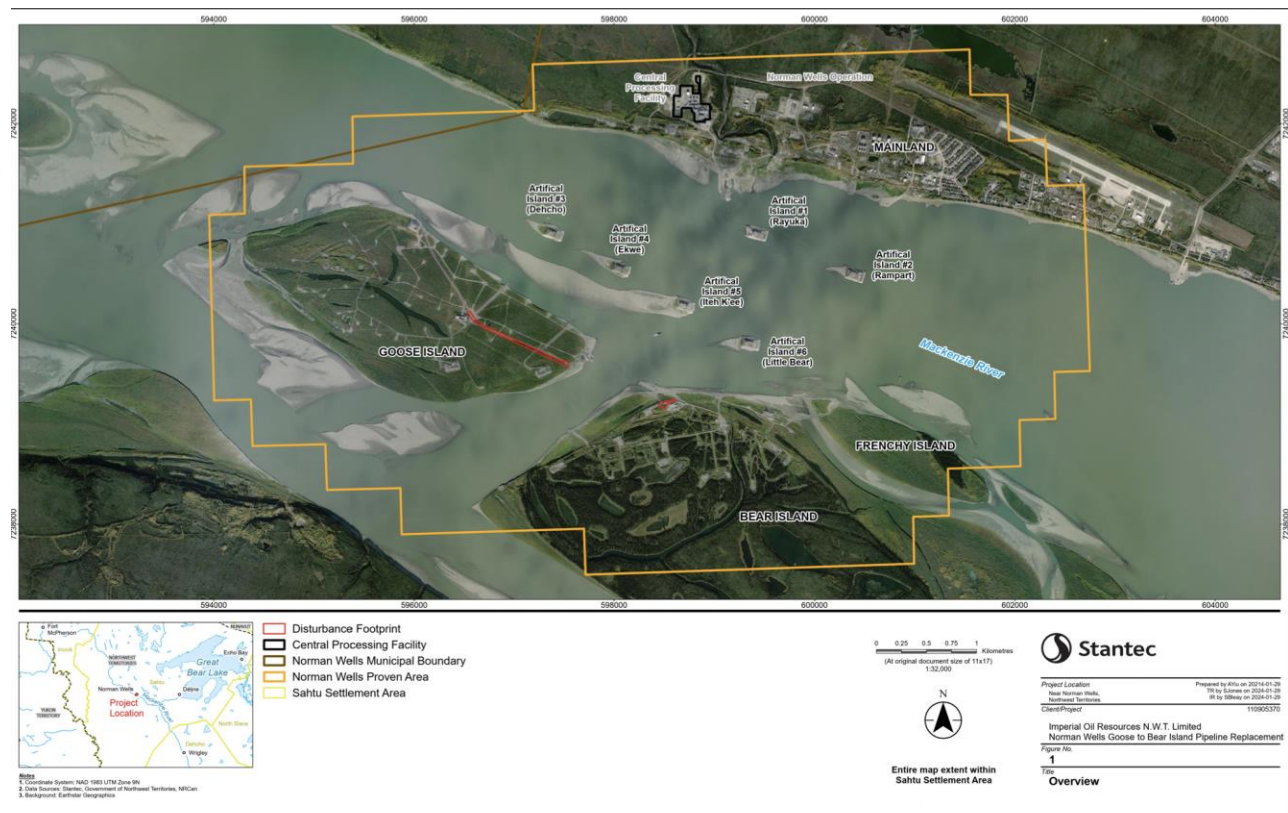
Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited (Imperial) has applied for a new Water Licence (S24L1-002) and Land Use Permit (S24A-005) to install flowlines using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) between Goose and Bear Islands, located in the Mackenzie River at Norman Wells, NT. The HDD equipment is expected

to be mobilized in February 2025 on the Mackenzie Valley winter road. The Project is expected to begin in June and be completed by August 2025. This work is being conducted to replace the shut-in Line 490 which failed in July 2022, and to resume full production at the Norman Wells Operation.

The HDD will drill a single hole (diameter 24-30"; approximately 1.0-1.5 km length) between Goose and Bear Islands, at least 15 meters below the riverbed. This depth gives the flowlines vertical separation from the Mackenzie River to minimize the risk of future line exposure.

Imperial will use water from its existing water Licence (S13L1-007) and expected renewal Licence in March 2025, for the Project. The waste generated for this Project will consist of garbage (packaging, oily rags, etc.), drilling waste from the HDD, and hydrostatic test water.

The work proposed is to take place in the area shown in Figure 1 below.



4. Comments

Triggers

The activities as described trigger a type A permit in accordance with 4(b)(i) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations:

(4) No person shall, without a Type A permit, carry on any activity that involves

(b) on land within or outside the boundaries of a local government,

(i) the use of motorized earth-drilling machinery the operating weight of which, excluding the weight of drill rods, stems, bits, pumps and other ancillary equipment, equals or exceeds 2.5 t, for a purpose other than the drilling of holes for building piles or utility poles or the setting of explosives within the boundaries of the local government,

A Type B water licence S24L1-002 is associated with this project and also required because of the deposit of waste and to cross a watercourse.

5. Public Review

On June 3, 2024, the Application was circulated for public review on the Online Review System (ORS). On June 17, 2024 at request, the reviewer comment period was extended for 2 weeks. Comments and recommendations are due by July 3, 2024, with responses due by July 17, 2024.

6. Security

Under review by the Board.

7. Conclusion

The Board requires additional time to process the application due to extenuating circumstances related to the recent fire evacuation order issued on June 15, 2024 for the community of Fort Good Hope, NT and the Sahtu Land and Water Board office, located in Fort Good Hope, NT, temporarily ceasing operations.

As well, the Permit Application is directly associated with the Licence Application, and clear linkages can be seen between the Applications including potential environmental impacts and mitigation measures, and Board staff are of the opinion that they should be reviewed and processed together.

To finalize Permit and Licence conditions that will effectively mitigate impacts of the proposed Project on the lands which may be affected, Board staff recommend coordinating the proceeding for the Permit and Licence Applications. In order to accommodate the time required for the review and submission of comments on the Applications and drafts of the Permit and Licence, and to bring it to the Board for decision, the Board may wish to pause the timeline in accordance with paragraph 22(2)(b) of the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations, to allow further studies to be conducted for the Permit Application.

8. Recommendation

Board staff recommend the Board **make a motion to pause the timeline in accordance with the Mackenzie Valley Land Use Regulations specifically paragraph 22(2)(b) for Land Use Permit S24A-005 from Imperial Oil Resources N.W.T. Limited**, to allow additional procedural time to coordinate the Permit.

A draft decision letter is attached.

9. Attachments

- [Application](#)
- Draft Decision Letter from the Board

Respectfully submitted,



Natalie Lippa
Regulatory Specialist