

Timeline of Imperial Breach

IA and Approval

Growing Community Concern

Spill

Seep

Response

2007



Imperial Kearl Joint Review Panel identifies that the proposed tailings pond is set upon geological layers prone to seepage. They recommend improved analysis and mitigation

2007



AER approves project, but does not require recommended detailed analysis or updated mitigation plan.

2019



Indigenous technical consultants notify Imperial that groundwater data suggests that seepage was already occurring.

May 2022



Imperial reports to AER their observation of discoloured surface water on- and off-site.

May 2022 - present



AER confirmed the release via site inspections. AER and Imperial investigate.

Sept 2022,



AER issues a Notice of Noncompliance to Imperial.

Nov 2022



Still unaware of the seepage or ongoing investigation, community technical support again notifies Imperial that seepage of tailings water was evident in their 2020 groundwater monitoring.

Feb 4, 2023



Imperial reports an additional spill of 5,300 m³ of industrial wastewater due to an overflow of a wastewater pond. .

Feb 7, 2023



AER issues an Environmental Protection Order. ECCC learns of spill and seep.

Feb 27, 2023



Regional Municipality turns off Fort Chipewyan's water intake to test for water safety.

Mar 2, 2023



Release of news on reaction of ACFN to the spill

Mar 7, 2023



Alberta initiates its emergency response

Mar 10, 2023



ECCC issues Fisheries Act federal direction to Imperial

Mar 22, 2023



Alberta Information and Privacy Commissioner launches investigation

Mar 23, 2023



Municipality reopens water intake to ensure enough clean water before spring thaw sweeps potential contaminants downstream

Mar 27, 2023



AEP announces independent investigation into AER's response