

October 13, 2023

By Email Only

Natalie Jeanneault
Clerk of the Standing Committee
on the Environment and Sustainable Development
House of Commons
131 Queen Street, Room 4-37
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Email: ENVI@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ms. Jeanneault:

Re: Invitation to Appear Before the Standing Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development on October 19, 2023

Thank you for your invitation to appear before Committee. As this invitation was just received on Friday, October 6th, and given your request for attendance next Thursday, I will be unable to amend existing commitments and schedule and I am unable to consider the request at this time.

As stated during my April appearance before Committee, the Alberta Energy Regulator continues to ensure diligent oversight of Imperial's actions to meet the expectations of the Kearl Environmental Protection Order (EPO). This includes ensuring Imperial is providing regular updates to local Indigenous communities which are also posted publicly [here](#).

Under the EPO, Imperial is required to provide a variety of submissions to the AER, which are also shared with communities, as well as with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC).

In April, I raised the fact that the AER Board of Directors had hired Deloitte to provide a third-party review of AER actions, performance, standards, and procedures of the regulator in attending to the two incidents at Kearl. This review included Deloitte meeting independently with local Indigenous communities to understand concerns. Deloitte has completed its work and the AER Board has accepted the report and all the recommendations. The AER Board has instructed management to prepare an action plan to attend to all the recommendations laid out in the report. On September 27th the AER Board provided the Deloitte Report to the communities, ECCC, and this report has been made publicly available [here](#).


Regional river water quality monitoring is done in collaboration with Alberta Environment and Protected area, ECCC and local communities. All those results are readily available via a collaborative web site and are in the hands of officials at ECCC.

Given the transparent and extensive public sharing of information surrounding these incidents, and the AER's commitment to improve its communications with communities it is unclear what specific information the committee might not have available. We continue our positive and collaborative work with ECCC staff at the field level and we would have been prepared to respond to any specific written information requests the committee might have at present.

The mandate of the Alberta Energy Regulator is to ensure the safe, efficient, orderly, and environmentally responsible development of oil, oil sands, natural gas, coal resources, geothermal, and brine-hosted mineral resources over their entire life cycle. To do so, we are focused on this duty in Alberta.

The AER continues to oversee an investigation into the two separate incidents that occurred at Imperial's Kearl Oil Sands Project site. It is critical that we ensure diligence in the investigations process to protect the legal process and our ability to pursue any / all potential enforcement options.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurie Pushor".

Laurie Pushor
President & CEO