

Update on Guidance for Inuvik and Yellowknife Topic-Specific General Hearing – Topic 14, Environmental (Biophysical, Socio-cultural and Economic) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-up Programs – March 15-16 and March 19-20, 2007

The purpose of this document is to provide further information about the subject matter and approach concerning the conduct of the Joint Review Panel's Topic-Specific General Hearing on *Environmental (Biophysical, Socio-cultural and Economic) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-up Programs* scheduled for March 15-16, 2007 in Inuvik and March 19-20, 2007 in Yellowknife. It is intended to assist participants in preparing for the hearing. It updates and revises the *Guidance Document for Hearings: Topics and Locations of Community, General and Technical Hearings* (revised December 11, 2006).

Please give special attention to changes affecting the approach and organization of this hearing session.

This topic will focus on how the Project will be managed to minimize adverse impacts of the Project, how Project impacts will be monitored, and on how any follow-up programs that may be required will be designed and implemented.

This topic will be divided into two sessions for organizational purposes:

Topic 14a will consider, but not be limited to, the following types of plans and programs:

- Environmental management plans
- Environmental protection plans
- Contingency plans and preparations for accidents and malfunctions (including emergency response plans)
- Environmental compliance
- Decommissioning and abandonment plans and proposals

Topic 14b will consider, but not be limited to, the following types of plans and programs:

- Socio-economic agreements and related ancillary agreements, and the socio-economic management plan and socio-economic impact management arrangements
- Effects monitoring
- Follow-up

For the purposes of discussion, these plans and programs will be discussed as appropriate in two Project contexts: (a) those that apply across all components of the Mackenzie Gas Project, **with**

the exception of the Connecting Facilities or the territory in which the Dene Tha' First Nation have or have asserted aboriginal or treaty rights; (b) those that apply to the Project anchor fields. They will also be considered in the context of each of the Project phases to which they apply: construction, operations and abandonment.

For each type of plan and program referred to above, the hearing should address the following:

- (a) a list of the proposed plans and programs that they include
- (b) the key issues and questions to be addressed
- (c) a profile of the select plans or programs that address (b), including:
 - the plan objective
 - the project phase to which it applies
 - the area to which it applies (national, territorial, provincial, regional, local or site specific)
 - a list of plan or program mitigation measures
 - criteria (or decision tree) for triggering and implementing mitigation measures
 - the proven effectiveness and established standard of the measures including standards ("best practices", ISO designation, etc.)
 - the timing of plan approval
 - the parties contributing to plan/program development
 - the parties responsible for plan/program approval
 - the parties responsible for oversight of plan/program implementation
 - how implementation results are reported and to whom

Matters for discussion should also include:

- Review of current commitments to biophysical environmental management and protection
- Review of current commitments to socio-economic and socio-cultural management and protection
- Consideration of liability and financial security, with respect to all phases of the project including decommissioning and abandonment
- Consideration of reclamation, rehabilitation and restoration plans and programs
- Compliance with commitments pertaining to decommissioning and abandonment, including transfers
- Consideration of the effectiveness of existing socio-economic and biophysical environmental monitoring and follow-up regimes in the Northwest Territories, including the NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program, the NWT Cumulative Effects Assessment and Management Strategy and Framework, and of lessons learned from existing independent monitoring agencies in the NWT as they may apply to the MGP
- Evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of management plans, monitoring programs, and follow-up programs

With regard to the scope and matters of discussion as listed above, hearing presentations and discussion by the Proponent and Interveners should include consideration of the following questions:

- How will the Proponent, governments and regulators work with one another and with other parties in the development, approval, implementation and monitoring of each of the different types of plans and programs? What options exist and what approach is favoured?
- What are the requirements of adaptive management? How will adaptive management regimes be developed and by whom? In what areas should they apply? Which regulators or other institutional arrangements will be responsible or should be responsible for oversight of implementation of adaptive management provisions?
- How will project-specific monitoring programs be coordinated with existing or proposed regional monitoring programs?
- How will project-specific effects be isolated in biophysical and socio-economic monitoring programs?
- Within a multiparty effects monitoring program, how will the following be conducted in a coordinated manner:
 - hypotheses development and testing
 - data protocol development and data collection and compilation
 - preparation and approval of monitoring reports?
- What biophysical and socioeconomic databases and data collection programs currently exist that may have application to monitoring programs associated with the MGP, what could they contribute, and how could they be improved?
- When should effects monitoring programs commence relative to MGP construction start-up?
- Should there be an independent effects monitoring agency (or more than one) involving all parties, and, if so, which parties? How should it be funded and governed? On what principles would it operate and what expertise and resources might it require?

The Panel will not consider evidence on matters related to the Connecting Facilities or the territory in which the Dene Tha' First Nation have or have asserted aboriginal or treaty rights.

Locations: Inuvik Topic-Specific General Hearing:
Topic 14a – March 15 - 16, 2007

Yellowknife Topic-Specific General Hearing:
Topic 14b – March 19 - 20, 2007

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Further Information

For further information about the Joint Review Panel's hearing topics, hearing locations or to register to present at the public hearings, please contact:

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