

Ministre des Affaires indiennes et
du Nord canadien et interlocuteur fédéral
auprès des Métis et des Indiens non inscrits

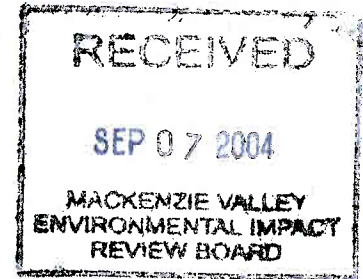


Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor
for Métis and Non-Status Indians

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

AUG 30 2004
AOUT

Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Burlingame:

This is in response to your letter of May 21, 2004, addressed to my predecessor, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, in which you provide the Reasons for the Decisions and the Scoping Report for the Environmental Assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project. It is understood that this Scoping Report provides further detail to the Board's Reasons for Decision which were released on April 19, 2004.

As outlined in Minister Mitchell's response to the Board, a copy of which is attached for your reference, approval has been granted for the Board to enter into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment for an Environmental Impact Review of the project through a Joint Review Panel.

I want to thank you and the other Board members for discharging your responsibilities under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, and look forward to supporting the Board's involvement in the Joint Review Panel process.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Andy Scott, PC, MP

c.c.: The Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, PC, MP
The Honourable Joe Handley, MLA

Encl.

May
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Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7

Dear Mr. Burlingame:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 19, 2004, where you provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) decision on the Environmental Assessment conducted on the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) applications for a land use permit and water licence in the Camsell Bend area of the Northwest Territories.

In your letter you have indicated that the Board has decided to issue an order for an environmental impact review under section 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (Act), on the basis of significant public concern expressed by the communities of the Mackenzie Valley. In addition, the Board has requested my approval pursuant to section 141(2)(a) of the Act, to enter into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment to establish a review panel to conduct a further assessment of the MGP. I note that this course of action is consistent with the process outlined in the Co-operation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline for a Joint Panel Review of the project.

I approve the request of the MVEIRB to enter into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment, in accordance with section 141(1)(2)(a) of the Act. This agreement will enable the project to be assessed with the full participation of the Inuvialuit, the MVEIRB (as representing the parties in the Mackenzie Valley), and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, as outlined in the Co-operation Plan for the assessment of this project.

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I want to thank the MVEIRB for issuing its decision in a timely manner and for its ongoing efforts to subject the MGP to the most comprehensive and responsible level of public review.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
a signé l'original

Andy Mitchell