

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

April 19, 2004

The Honourable Andy Mitchell, P.C., M.P.
Minister, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
MINISTER'S OFFICE
10 Wellington St. North Tower
Hull, P.Q., K1A 0H4

Dear Minister Mitchell:

Re: MVEIRB Environmental Assessment Decision on the Mackenzie Gas Project

I am pleased, on behalf of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), to convey our decision in the Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. Mackenzie Gas Project.

The Review Board held hearings in Norman Wells, Inuvik and Fort Simpson in order to form its opinion in this matter. We heard the views of a wide spectrum of residents of the Mackenzie Valley including aboriginal leaders and elders, representatives of municipal governments and of the NWT business community. The Board heard a strong consensus of opinions at all three venues in favour of the need for a full and thorough environmental impact review of the Mackenzie Gas Project. This consensus also included a recommendation for such an outcome by representatives of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

On April 19th, 2004, the MVEIRB exercised its statutory authority under paragraph 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) and issued an order for an Environmental Impact Review of the Mackenzie Gas Project on the basis that significant public concern about the proposed development exists in the communities of the Mackenzie Valley. A copy of our Order to that effect is attached. The Review Board's reasons for decision will follow shortly under separate cover.


Although the nature of the concerns and issues raised in the EA varied from region to region, there are two matters of overarching importance to which the Review Board wishes to direct your attention in advance of our reasons for decision. First, it was clear to the MVEIRB from submissions made in all regions that government has not yet satisfied NWT communities' needs for support in order to understand, address and respond to this proposed development. Second, the unique situation in the Deh Cho region in relation to unsettled land ownership issues must be

addressed and will require additional effort and attention by all parties involved in the environmental impact review and regulatory approvals of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

In conclusion, the Review Board now seeks your approval, pursuant to paragraph 141(2)(a) of the MVRMA and consistent with the *Cooperation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline*, to enter in to an Agreement with the Minister of the Environment for the establishment of a Joint Review Panel to conduct the Environmental Impact Review of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

We look forward to your response to this request.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Burlingame". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "B" and "M".

Todd Burlingame
Chairperson

Encl.



MACKENZIE VALLEY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

In the Matter of:

An application for a land use permit and a water licence made by the Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. on behalf of the Mackenzie Gas Project for a barge landing site and staging area at Camsell Bend on the Mackenzie River and referred for Environmental Assessment by the MVLWB on December 10th, 2003

And In the Matter of:

An Environmental Assessment conducted on these applications and on the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project involving hearings in Norman Wells, Inuvik and Fort Simpson

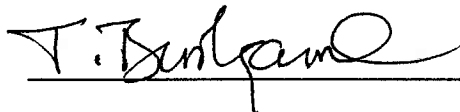
And in the Matter of:

A decision made under section 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*

ORDER

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board pursuant to its authority under section 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* having formed the opinion that the Mackenzie Gas Project is likely to be a cause of significant public concern in the Mackenzie Valley hereby orders that an environmental impact review be conducted of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

For the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board:



Todd Burlingame, Chairman

DATED: the 19 of April, 2004.