

Preliminary Screening
Information Request

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program
Deh Cho Region

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Land Use Permit and Water Licence Applications
File: MV2003X0045 & MV2003L8-0012

Reference: Greg Smith Letter of 5 November 2003

Information Request Deh Cho IR 1: **The application does include a comprehensive consultation report. However, it is noted that with the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation has declined to meet with Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd. (IORVL) to discuss this application. The Board requires a complete list of attempts by IORVL to establish meetings or contact with the Pehdzeh Ki First Nation.**

Response

The following is a summary of attempts to hold consultation discussions with Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (PKFN) relating to the proposed 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region (the Program). It should be noted that the PKFN has often expressed the view that concluding negotiations regarding the benefits agreement for the proposed program is a pre-condition to further discussions on the program itself. The status of the benefits negotiations is discussed in the response to IR 3.

May 2003	IORVL representative Darrel Becker held a telephone conversation with Sharon Pellissey, PKFN Lands and Resource Officer, introducing the Program and requesting a meeting to discuss it further.
10 June 2003	IORVL staff met with a PKFN economic delegation (7 people, including Chief Lennie) in Calgary. IORVL provided PKFN delegates with copies of the proposed Program. IORVL made a request for a follow up meeting to discuss the Program.

27 June 2003	IORVL delivered a draft Memorandum of Understanding relating to benefits associated with the Program to Chief Lennie in Kakisa.
8 July 2003	IORVL representative Bob Norwegian delivered copies of the winter work operations plan to Sharon Pellissey in Wrigley.
14 July 2003	IORVL representative Darrell Becker called Sharon Pellissey to discuss the Program and to request a follow up meeting.
14 July 2003	Letter (attached) sent to Chief Tim Lennie proposing a meeting on 24 July 2003
16 July 2003	IORVL representative Darrel Becker called Sharon Pellissey and accepted an offer to meet with Chief Lennie on 26 August 2003.
16 July 2003	IORVL received a letter from Chief Lennie (attached) changing the date for the next meeting to 25 August and proposing the agenda.
1 August 2003	Letter (attached) sent to Chief Lennie responding to letter of 16 July 2003 concerning MOU discussions and confirming the requested meeting on 26 August 2003.
August 2003	IORVL informed by PKFN that meeting date had been changed to 3 Sept 2003
3 September 2003	Meeting was held in Wrigley (IORVL representatives and PKFN delegates), to discuss IORVL responses to PKFN on their issues and concerns relating to the benefits associated with the Program.
23 September 2003	IORVL received letter (attached) on 3 October 2003 that a new Pipeline Working Group (PWG) had been formed and that its mandate was being clarified. IORVL was informed that this new Pipeline Working Group would most likely be the group with which IORVL would negotiate winter work benefits for Deh Cho corridor communities, rather than with the individual communities themselves.
26 September 2003	Meeting between IORVL representatives and the newly formed PWG in Fort Simpson. The PWG presented its views regarding benefits and conditions required for the PWG to support the Program. PKFN representatives were present at the meeting.

7 October 2003	IORVL was invited to make a presentation at an Aboriginal Summit Workshop on Negotiation Preparedness in Fort Simpson. At this workshop IORVL was handed a statement (attached) endorsed by the PKFN and other First Nations indicating that "impacted communities and regions will not meet with proponents of the proposed pipeline, on any matter, until government and industry provide financial resources that (in the opinion of the impacted communities) enables them to consult...".
8 October 2003	IORVL provided a letter (attached) to Don Morin at the Negotiation Preparation Workshop offering "to pay all reasonable costs of completing the necessary agreements for the upcoming winter work"
5 November 2003	IORVL representatives met with PWG representatives on issues related to the Program. PKFN was represented at this meeting.
November 2003	Communications continue between IORVL and the PWG to advance the Program.

Information Request

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program Deh Cho Region

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Reference: Greg Smith Letter of 5 November 2003

Information Request Deh Cho IR 2: In a September 12, 2003 position paper, the Sambaa K'e Dene Band (SKDB) identified the boundaries of its traditional land use area.... Twelve of the proposed access and investigation sites applied for in the land use permit application and 3 of the proposed water sources (DCS 12,13 & 14) fall within this area. SKDB states that direct consultation is required with it prior to the application for any resource development. Please confirm if the above noted locations were specifically discussed in direct consultation with the SKD Band Council.

Response

The following is a summary of the consultations held with the Sambaa K'e Dene Band Council.

11 June 2003	Materials (work scope, plans and detailed site maps) for all winter work sites in the Deh Cho Territory were delivered by IORVL to the Sambaa K'e. The 12 sites referenced were included in the materials provided.
June 2003	IORVL awarded to Sambaa K'e Development Corporation a contract to conduct a Traditional Knowledge study on SKDB traditional use lands which might be impacted by the activities of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The scope of this contract included the sites for proposed development which were the subject of the 2004

Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region (the Program).

- 24 July 2003 IORVL representatives met with SKDB representatives in Trout Lake. IORVL discussed the entire Program proposed for the Deh Cho Region, including the sites proposed in the area characterized by the SKDB as their traditional use area. IORVL requested that the SKDB inform IORVL of any concerns or issues on any of the proposed sites including the 12 sites referenced above.
- 18 August 2003 Letter sent to Chief Deneron (attached) requesting meeting with the SKDB for further review of the proposed Program and to hear any concerns from the SKDB.
- 18 August 2003 IORVL received a telephone call from SKDB setting the proposed meeting for 29 September 2003.
- 19 September 2003 IORVL received a telephone call from the SKDB canceling the meeting previously scheduled for 29 September 2003.
- 14 - 16 October 2003 Sambaa K'e Development Corporation conducted a three day workshop on Traditional Knowledge in Trout Lake to which IORVL was invited. The workshop had as its overall focus the Mackenzie Gas Project. While the workshop was not designed exclusively for the Program, some aspects of the land use sites in the Program were discussed. While not a formal 'consultation' meeting, the SKDB had 15 members attend the workshop. IORVL representatives were in attendance to hear first hand any concerns that the SKDB members might have regarding the land use sites in the Program. The SKDB attendees made a number of suggestions relating to the Program, which are currently being considered by IORVL. Should consideration of these suggestions impact the scope of the Applications, IORVL will apply for the appropriate amendments.
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Information Request

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program Deh Cho Region

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Reference: Greg Smith Letter of 5 November 2003

Information Request Deh Cho IR 3: In a letter dated October 31, 2003 the Deh Cho First Nations (DCFN) indicated that they do not consider the consultation process complete with regards to these applications and have requested that the MVLWB declare them incomplete. Further, the Consultation Report Summary does not include issues related to requests to negotiate benefits. This is a key issue in the DCFN letter noted above. Please clarify the current status of any such negotiations.

Response

The following is a summary of the status of discussions between IORVL and the DCFN regarding the benefits associated with the program. A number of the events listed here also relate to the response to IR 1. This response should be considered in concert with the response to IR 1.

24 June 2003

IORVL sent a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to the DCFN Pipeline Working Group (PWG). This MOU covered all aspects of the Mackenzie Gas Project during the project definition

phase of the work, including the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region (the Program). Note, the PWG includes representatives from the corridor communities of Wrigley, Fort Simpson (both LKFN and Metis groups), Jean Marie River, Trout Lake and Kakisa. The PWG was formed by the DCFN and to negotiate benefits and access agreements with IORVL on behalf of all of the DCFN communities.

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| June 2003 | IORVL received a number of telephone calls from communities requesting that IORVL negotiate MOUs with their individual communities. |
| 11 July 2003 | Meeting with IORVL and Liidli Kue First Nation (LKFN) and Kaa Dule United Corporation in Fort Simpson. Kaa Dule offered, if they could secure the support of the corridor communities, to provide a centralized coordination and equitable allocation of all work for the program in the Deh Cho Region. |
| July and Aug. 2003 | IORVL and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (PKFN) continued discussions relating to a draft MOU. |
| 3 September 2003 | Meeting between IORVL and PKFN in Wrigley to negotiate terms of a draft MOU followed by continuing exchanges of correspondence. |
| 25-26 Sept 2003 | Meeting between IORVL and PWG in Fort Simpson to discuss the Program. |
| 26 September 2003 | IORVL received letter from PWG informing IORVL that PWG was now fully operational and that all issues in the Deh Cho Region, including a benefits agreement relating to the Program should be negotiated with the PWG. |
| 4 October 2003 | IORVL issued letter to PWG attaching a proposed benefits agreement for the Program. |
| 7 October 2003 | IORVL accepts invitation (attached) to make presentation at Aboriginal Summit Workshop on Negotiation Preparedness in Fort Simpson. |
| 7 October 2003 | At this workshop IORVL was handed a statement (attached) endorsed by the PKFN and other First Nations indicating that "impacted communities and regions will not meet with proponents |

of the proposed pipeline, on any matter, until government and industry provide financial resources that (in the opinion of the impacted communities) enables them to consult...".

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| 7 October 2003 | IORVL provided a letter (attached) to Don Morin at the Negotiation Preparation Workshop offering "to pay all reasonable costs of completing the necessary agreements for the upcoming winter work" |
| 10 October 2003 | IORVL received a letter from Aboriginal Summit (attached) acknowledging funding offer from IORVL. |
| October 2003 | IORVL and PWG continued discussions regarding benefits associated with the Program. |
| 5 November 2003 | PWG invited IORVL to meet in Fort Simpson to discuss the proposed Program. |
| 6 November 2003 | IORVL received letter (attached) from PWG (DCFN Grand Chief Herb Norwegian) regarding benefits negotiations for the Program. |
| 10 November 2003 | IORVL issued letter (attached) to PWG (DCFN Grand Chief Herb Norwegian) addressing inaccuracies in PWG letter of 6 November 2003. |
| November 2003 | Communications between IORVL and PWG continue to advance the Program. |
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Information Request

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Reference: Greg Smith Letter of 5 November 2003

Information Request Deh Cho IR 4: **The water licence application states that approximately 75 - 100 m³ of water would be needed for every km of constructed ice road. Please clarify how this volume of water was determined.**

Response

Water might be required for the program during access road construction to supplement the compacted snow surfaces with ice. This water would only be needed where snow depths at the time of field operations are insufficient to provide adequate protection to the underlying ground surface for the movement of tracked vehicles. Where the snow cover is initially too thin or is being reduced as a result of the passage of equipment and vehicles, a layer of ice would be built to provide additional protection for the ground cover. Typically, ice road construction may be required at minor creek crossings, slopes exposed to the wind and steeper slopes.

From our previous experiences during the 2003 program in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, a reasonable guideline for estimation purposes is that approximately 10 – 15% of the total access distance might need supplemental ice road construction.

For the proposed program, application of this 15 % guideline to the 406 km of total road requirements in the Deh Cho Region would indicate that approximately 60 km of access road might require supplemental ice cover. IORVL has applied for 29,000 m³ of water for this requirement. Using these numbers, this volume would provide ice cover greater than 80 mm (3 inches) thick over a road width of 6 metres.

The range specified in the water licence application recognizes that the numbers used for this estimation are empirical and that there may be some sections of access road that require greater or lesser volumes of water to provide appropriate protection.

Information Requests and Comments
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Letter dated December 22, 2003

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Information Request DFO IR #1: **DFO still requires detailed locations on winter water crossings as per the DFO Protocol for Temporary Winter Access Water Crossings for Oil & Gas Activities in the Northwest Territories. This information can be submitted at the time of construction.**

Response

Agreed. Temporary water course crossing locations will be provided to DFO at the time of construction of such crossings.

Information Request DFO IR #2: **DFO is unable to comment on the use of these 8 watercourses as water sources until information on intake rates is provided. Water should not be withdrawn from these sites until DFO has reviewed the required information (forthcoming via ColtKBR).**

Response

Water will be pumped from the river water sources using a three (3) inch hydraulic pump located on the back of a Delta water truck. The pump has a maximum power rating of 25 hp at 800 rpm and generates a maximum intake rate of 1200 litres per minute at a psi of 125.

Information Request DFO IR #3:

In the report Bathymetric Survey of Potential Water Bodies to Supply the 2004 Winter Geotechnical Program, Mackenzie Gas Project (bathymetric report) some lakes that were under 1 km in length had only one transect run on them. This is contrary to the methodology outlined in the DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal for Oil & Gas Activities in the NWT and what is outlined in Section 2.0- Methods (pg. 4) of the bathymetric report. For future bathymetric surveys please ensure that the surveys are conducted, at a minimum, using the methodologies recommended by DFO. Also, please ensure that the location information in the surveys corresponds to the accompanying maps. In the bathymetric report, the location detail is expressed as UTM whereas the lake identification maps are in latitude and longitude, making it difficult to correlate the two. The photos in the report were extremely helpful and appreciated.

Response

An error was made in conducting the bathymetric surveys on the three lakes that are less than one km long which were transected only once. Future bathymetric surveys will follow the methodology.

DFO Recommendation:

DFO recommendations regarding lakes DCN4, DCN6, DCS11: Should not use as a water source.

Response

These lakes will not be used as water sources. This should not affect our ability to execute the program.

Information Requests and Comments
Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
Letter dated December 22, 2003

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Information Request RWED IR #1: **In discussions with RWED staff and KBR staff indicated that non-plastics (cardboard) will be burned in incinerators. There is no detail in the application as to the types of incinerators to be used.**

Response

The Camp and Catering contractor will provide the incinerators to be used for burning material. In discussions with the potential Camp and Catering contractor, the incinerator to be used at the camp was identified as a diesel-fired industrial incinerator.

Information Request RWED IR #2: **Trainor Lake Frost Heave #FH22 (Tab 50) shows access from the Preliminary Pipeline Routing. Is the proponent planning on accessing all sites by clearing the complete pipeline Rights-of-Way? All access routes should be finalized before the application can be reviewed.**

Response

Site #FH22 (Tab 65) is accessed via the Enbridge Pipeline right-of-way. For this part of the route, the proposed Mackenzie Gas Pipeline follows the Enbridge right-of-way. There is no plan to clear the proposed pipeline right-of-way to access all sites. Clearing is being minimized by using existing trails and rights-of-way. Other than minor route deviations to address local topography, which will be addressed in the field, the proposed access routes are considered to be final.

Information Request RWED IR #3: **Access to borrow Site #20.015P in Imperial's current application shows the access along the pipeline Rights-of-Way. Why doesn't Imperial access this borrow site from the Mackenzie Highway located 1 km away.**

Response

As per the maps attached under Tab 38, access to borrow Site #20.015P is off the Mackenzie Highway as the primary access (marked in green) near the confluence of the Willowlake and Mackenzie rivers.

Information Request RWED IR #4: **Borrow Sites #9.038PA, 9.038PB – There are contradictory comments regarding wildlife habitat. The Traditional Knowledge sections indicate good areas for moose and active hunting for moose. Contrastingly, in the "Wildlife" section which I presume is based upon the over flights or ground work by the proponents or their contractors the areas are indicated as being of poor moose habitat. Whatever the case may be the contradiction needs to be rectified.**

Response

The Mackenzie Gas Project environmental contractor visited the sites in the summer of 2003 and provided their report which was used in the Site Environmental Description. This information was used in the preparation of a desk top study for each site. A reconnaissance program was also undertaken in the summer of 2003 to verify the accuracy of the desk top study. Community representatives were invited to join the summer reconnaissance team to provide local knowledge. In this case, the local knowledge is considered to be more recent than the information provided by the Mackenzie Gas Project environmental contractor and accordingly, the "Wildlife" section of the Site Environmental Description should be considered as amended to reflect the local input.

Information Request RWED IR #5: **Willowlake River Crossing – Given that there are permanent residences close to the proposed river crossing, and comments RWED staff have heard from the residents of Wrigley, it surprising that nowhere in the Traditional Knowledge discussion for this site this is mentioned. In other sites the proponents has included a statement like “Extensive consultation will be required to minimize the impacts of operations on the local economy”. RWED staff feels that there should be some sort of qualifier here indicating the acknowledgement that this site may require more extensive discussions.**

Response

Comments from the community representative participating in the summer reconnaissance were summarized under the heading “Traditional Knowledge”. Consultation will continue with local communities including discussions with regard to permanent residences near this site.

Information Request RWED IR #6: **Borrow Site #11.204PA – This section did not have the appropriate 2 maps with it. The maps were duplicates from the Trainor Lake 20.004PA. There is no wildlife section but by the description this site is not far from #11.204PB and there would be the same concern that this is an area where boreal caribou are seen during winter.**

Response

Maps from Site #20.004PA in the Site Description for Site #11.204PA were provided in error. Site maps for Site #11.204PA will follow in due course under separate cover.

Site #11.204PA and Site#11.204PB were originally considered to represent a single potential granular source with a common environmental description. Concerns relating to boreal caribou are recognized and appropriate mitigative measures to address adverse impacts will be developed.

Information Request RWED IR #7: **Borrow Sites #20.004PB, 20.004PA – RWED staff are under the impression that Trout Lake was not in favour of borrow sites to the west of the proposed pipeline in the vicinity of Trainor Lake due to the number of cabins and importance of the area for a traditional lifestyle. This is borne out later on in the report in the section titled “Community reactions and information requests”. RWED staff would suggest that, as in previous sites in this report, the proponent adds the statement to the Traditional Knowledge section that “Extensive consultation will be required to minimize the impacts of operations on the local economy”.**

Response

Agreed. Consultation with local communities will continue, including discussions with regard to these sites.

Information Request RWED IR #8: **How will consumable items: spent oil, filters, batteries or broken equipment be disposed of? The Environmental Protection Plan: page 6 – point 49 states that items will be removed from the area. Where to?**

Response

Consumable items will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility in Fort Simpson or alternatively, Hay River. ColtKBR is discussing the matter of disposing of hazardous and contaminated products and materials with its General Contractor and communities with potential disposal sites. An appropriate disposal site will be used.

Information Request RWED IR #9: **The proponent describes sending a lot of wastes like the drilling brine to an approved facility, where are those approved facilities?**

Response

See response to RWED IR #8. No drilling brine is expected to be used.

Information Request RWED IR #10 **Where will contaminated soils/material be disposed of? There is no detail to the statement of "approved facility". As discussed in Emergency Response Plan; Page 4 – Section 3.3.**

Response

See response to RWED IR #8.

Information Request RWED IR #11 **Site 11.204PA (Tab 54) shows pictures from the previous site (Tab 53). The coordinates listed don't match the maps depicted in Tab 54.**

Response

Sites in the Jean Marie River area were not included in the summer 2003 reconnaissance program due to the absence of a local representative to join the reconnaissance team. The Mackenzie Gas Project environmental contractor visited the sites in summer 2002 when sites 11.204PA and 11.204PB were considered to be one site. The pictures submitted are the only ones available.

Tab 54 shows the maps from Site #20.004PA in error. See response to RWED IR#6.

Information Request RWED IR #12 **Borrow Sites # 9.044PA, 9.044PB – There seems to be a discrepancy here in that the site descriptions indicate the area was burnt in 1921 but the vegetation descriptions indicate this to be a recently burned area. A burn occurring over 80 years ago would not be considered a recent burn. Was there recent burning within the area that was burned in 1921? Was the date of the burn indicated incorrect?**

Response

The local assistants to the Mackenzie Gas Project environmental consultant advised that the area was burned in 1921. The "Vegetation" section should be considered as amended as it is not a recently burned area.

Information Request RWED IR #13 **Access to site 20.068 and Water Source #14 use two different access routes; but end up beside each other.**

Response

Borrow site 20.068P will be accessed from the route proposed to access Water Source #14.

Information Request RWED IR #14 **Borrow Site #10.001P – Why is there the discussion of white-tailed deer observations near the Wrigley airstrip included here? This site is miles north of the Wrigley airstrip. I take it that fresh deer tracks were seen at this site and deer have been seen at the Wrigley airstrip.**

Response

Confirmed. Deer tracks were seen in both locations and the local assistants to the Mackenzie Gas Project environmental consultant felt it significant that deer tracks were found at such a northerly latitude.

Comments

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region

RWED Comment #1:

Permission is required from the community for the disposal of sewage at their sewage disposal facility. Municipal sewage disposal facilities were set up to meet the needs for the residents of the community. The facilities may not be large enough to handle additional solid waste from industrial undertakings.

Agreed. It is proposed to use sumps for sewage disposal at the camp locations. Solid waste will be disposed of at an approved facility in Fort Simpson, or alternatively in Hay River.

RWED Comment #2

For emergency contacts a listing of cell phone numbers is not applicable in this region as there is no cellular service over the majority of the region. Satellite phone contact numbers should be distributed prior to the project's start.

Agreed.

RWED Comment #3

Equipment to be used should be cleaned of mud and potential invasive weed species prior to field operation, also a pre-inspection of equipment is required should be done to confirm equipment is cleaned and not leaking any fluids.

Agreed. See also Environmental Protection Plan Section 51.

RWED Comment #4

The proponents should replace the indicated contact numbers, which are for the Inuvik Region, with the appropriate ones from the Deh Cho. Last year there was a 1-800 bear line. The Regional Wildlife Officer numbers are 695-7470/7471/7472.

Acknowledged.

RWED Comment #5

Given there is a mention of rabies transmission by arctic or red fox there should also be some mention to the effect that corvids (ravens, jays) have the potential to transmit West Nile Virus and that in the case of finding dead corvids the Regional RWED office would need to be contacted as the bird would need to be shipped out for testing.

Agreed, the RWED Regional Office will be contacted in the event dead corvids are found.

RWED Comment #6

Attachment 1, 2.4 Wildlife – An abundance of otter sign was seen amongst the abundant small lakes to the west of Jean Marie River during a recent aerial survey for moose. The proponent should contact the RWED regional office when doing work in this area.

Acknowledged. The RWED Regional Office should be contacted when the Program moves into this area.

RWED Comment #7

Borrow Site # 20.015P – This borrow site falls within the boundaries of the Edehzhie Protected Area, which has been provided interim protection.

Acknowledged.

RWED Comment #8

Willowlake River Camp – This site falls within the boundaries of the Edehzhie Protected Area, which has been provided interim protection.

Acknowledged.

RWED Comment #9

Borrow Site #11.204PA – There is no wildlife description for this site. During winter boreal caribou are seen along this section of highway both east and west of the Enbridge pipeline crossing.

Acknowledged.

Comment
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre
Letter dated December 19, 2003

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Comment #1: The PWNHC has recommended that no ground disturbance on the site located on the south side of the Mackenzie River Crossing (KP 1137 Tab (49)) should occur until a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment has been conducted. (Letter from Tom Andrews dated December 19, 2003)

Response

Work on this site will not be undertaken until the PWNHC condition is satisfied. This will result in work at this site at a later date.



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P.D. (Peter) Grout
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Mackenzie Gas Project

Tel. 403 237 3984
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February 5, 2004

(via fax: 867-873-6610)

**Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board**

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
7th Floor, 4910 - 50th Avenue
P.O. Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

File

FEB - 5 2004

Application # MV2003X0045
Copied To PUMIGSIReg

Attention: Mr. Bob Wooley, Executive Director

Dear Mr. Wooley:

**RE: Deh Cho First Nations Information Requests on the 2004 Winter Field
Geotechnical Investigation Program**

Dear Mr. Wooley,

I have received a copy of the letter dated 14 January 2004 regarding comments from the Deh Cho First Nations relating to the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Program in the K'asho Got'ine District area (the program). This letter is our response to each of the items mentioned in their letter.

For your information, a brief response to each comment is below and a more detailed response is attached to this letter.

Deh Cho IR # 1: Preliminary discussions on this subject were held with the previous municipal council. In addition, the current municipal council will be contacted in advance to coordinate the movements so as to minimize any disruption.

Deh Cho IR # 2: Any road limits will be complied with and any accidental damages attributed to program activities will be promptly repaired.

Deh Cho IR # 3: Mitigation measures are outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP),

Deh Cho IR # 4: Activities associated with the program are not expected to put any additional pressure on existing community services.

Deh Cho IR # 5: Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group have included capacity building opportunities within the Deh Cho communities.

Deh Cho IR # 6: The response to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Information Request dated December 19, 2003 is attached.

Deh Cho IR # 7: Section 2.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan addresses this concern.

Deh Cho IR # 8: A manual describing how to recognize heritage resources will be provided to all project supervisors and environmental monitors as part of an environmental orientation meeting prior to commencing work on the program.

Deh Cho IR # 9: The Field Superintendent in consultation with the Environmental Inspector will have authority to stop project activities should a heritage resource be encountered.

Deh Cho IR # 10: Communities will be represented by local residents employed as Environmental Monitors and by other community members working on clearing and drilling crews.

Deh Cho IR # 11: The Environmental Monitor, hired through a local community organization, has a number of specific responsibilities to help safe guard the land.

Deh Cho IR # 12: The recommendations of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Center (PWNHC) will be used.

Deh Cho IR # 13: A copy of the report will be provided to the DCFN without appendices which provide confidential site-specific information. The PWNHC will be notified of the distribution.

Deh Cho IR # 14: The recommendations of Environment Canada regarding sumps will be complied with.

Deh Cho IR # 15: A Spill Contingency Plan is filed as part of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Both the EPP and ERP have been filed in support of the land use permit application.

Deh Cho IR # 16: Training will be provided in accordance with Section 2.1 of the EPP.

Deh Cho IR # 17: The responses to all the Information Requests listed in the December 22, 2003 letter from Department of Fisheries and Oceans is attached.

Deh Cho IR # 18: Consumable items will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility. The General Contractor will be expected to review options for disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material with communities.

Deh Cho IR # 19: See Response to Deh Cho IR #18.

Deh Cho IR # 20: No use of drilling brine is planned. Also, please refer to response to Deh Cho IR #18.

Deh Cho IR # 21: See Response to Deh Cho IR #18. Refer also to Environmental Protection Plan, Section 2.5, sub-section 67.

Deh Cho IR # 22: The response to INAC Information Request dated December 19, 2003 is attached in response to Deh Cho IR #6.

Deh Cho IR # 23: Sourcing water from the communities was considered. Owing to the remoteness of three of the five camp locations from a community, safety, economic and logistic concerns indicated, that water for the entire program must be located in close proximity to the camps.

Deh Cho IR # 24: Information meetings and offers of meetings were provided in Deh Cho corridor communities between June 2003 and November 2003 as indicated in the community consultation section of the Land Use Permit application. Suggestions regarding ways to improve the operation of the program continue to be welcomed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Greg Giesbrecht at (403) 301-7081, facsimile (403) 258-1948, or Jim Hawkins (403) 237-2806, facsimile (403) 237-2102.

Yours truly,
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited



Peter D. Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Chief Keyna Norwegian, Liidli Kue First Nation

Information Requests and Comments

Deh Cho First Nations

Letter dated January 14, 2004

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region

Information Request Deh Cho IR #1: **Access to the Enbridge ice road is through the municipality of Fort Simpson. The applicant has not carried out any analysis or conducted community discussions on alternate island access roads. Imperial has had no discussion with the municipality. What does Imperial intend to do to address this situation?**

Response

Movement of equipment for the program through the municipality of Ft. Simpson would be a one time event, and similar to or smaller than many other previous projects requiring movement of construction equipment. Return of the equipment will be via the Mackenzie Highway. Preliminary discussions on this subject were held with the previous municipal council. In addition, the current municipal council will be contacted in advance to coordinate the movements so as to minimize any disruption.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #2: **There is very little, if any, analysis of social impacts with the anticipated increased activity. For example, the access through town would put extra wear and tear on recently completed paving on Main Street. How will the community be compensated for this damage?**

Response

Any road limits would not be exceeded and any damages caused by the program activities will be promptly repaired.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #3: Without further analysis, we can anticipate that noise and air quality could increase. What measures does the applicant have in place to measure and mitigate these potential impacts?

Response

The 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program is a relatively small program of short duration and potential impacts are expected to be minor. Mitigation measures are outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan (EPP) and Emergency Response Plan (ERP), included as part of the land use permit application to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) as Attachments 2 and 3 respectively.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #4: Given the increase in numbers of workers from other areas, there is a potential risk for increase in social problems. Current social programming does not meet current needs let alone any added pressures. How will the applicant ensure that this influx of workers will not increase social problems?

Response

Socio-economic impacts are expected to be negligible. The camps will accommodate 65 persons and they will be located outside municipalities. The camps are self-contained in terms of providing the basics for human habitation. It is expected that field workers will be working 12 hour days, 7 days a week on a 24 day-in 4 day-out rotation schedule. It is not expected that the Program will put any additional pressure on existing community services.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #5: The applicant has had no substantial discussions on capacity building with the community authorities, let alone mitigative measures on impacts. The short review period does not allow for informed decision-making. It appears that the applicant is not willing to look at mitigating the impacts of development, such as through capacity building or improving infrastructure.

Response

Discussions have been held with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group that have addressed many issues including capacity building opportunities in the Deh Cho territory, business opportunities, training, employment, community direction setting, harvester compensation and an advisory committee. These discussions demonstrate our recognition of the importance of building capacity in the communities. The program needs do not require any improvements to the current infrastructure.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #6: The applicant appears to require large volumes of water for ice bridges and ice roads. The potential impacts of this activity are not fully explored. We support the Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (Water Resources Division) letter of December 19, 2003 seeking more information on this issue.

Response

The response to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) Information Request dated December 19, 2003 is below. Water for access road construction will only be needed in the event that snow cover is insufficient to protect the underlying land.

"A bathymetric survey of potential water sources was completed during the summer of 2003. The final bathymetric report was filed with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and DFO in November 2003 following submission of the Water License application with the MVLWB on October 27, 2003."

Information Request Deh Cho IR #7: The applications do not appear to address how the risk of impact at these sites can be reduced. What specific pre-drilling/excavation steps will be taken?

Response

Section 2.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan discusses the steps that will be undertaken to reduce the impacts.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #8: What training will be provided to workers so that they know how to recognize a heritage resource?

Response

A manual describing how to recognize heritage resources will be provided to all project supervisors and environmental monitors as part of an environmental orientation meeting prior to commencing work on the program.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #9: Who will have the authority to stop work when a potential heritage site is discovered?

Response

The Field Superintendent in consultation with the Environmental Inspector will have authority to stop project activities should a heritage resource be found. The Field Superintendent and the Environmental Inspector will have access to the Heritage Resources Protection Plan that will identify how to contact the archaeologists associated with the program as well as the Territorial Archaeologist at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) for further directions.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #10: How will community representatives be involved in the identification and protection of heritage sites?

Response

Deh Cho communities will be represented by residents of their community who are employed as Environmental Monitors and are hired as part of the clearing and drilling crews. All workers involved in the geotechnical program will be responsible for the identification and protection of heritage sites. All workers will be encouraged to alert the Environmental Monitor, Environmental Inspector or Field Superintendent of any heritage sites at risk. If heritage resources are discovered during project activities, the occurrence will be reported to the archaeologist for the program and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). Excavation will not be allowed to proceed unless approval is obtained from the program archaeologist and PWNHC (refer to Sub-section 82 of the EPP). As the precise location of heritage resources is a confidential and sensitive issue, there will be no attempts to involve community members unless directed to do so by the program archaeologist and the PWNHC. It should be noted however, that community members have been involved in the archaeological field work that has been completed previously and continuing community involvement in future field work is expected.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #11: Will Imperial have community representatives on site for all groundbreaking activities?

Response

The Environmental Monitor, hired through a local community organization, has a number of responsibilities. The Environmental Monitor "shall inspect the proposed access routes and investigation sites and provide local knowledge and advice to mitigate any damage to environmentally sensitive areas" (EPP Section 3.0, sub-section 21). The Environmental Monitor will be part of the access route selection process and once access has been gained to the proposed investigation site, the Environmental Monitor will assist in the selection of the location of the drill sites and test pit location. The Environmental Monitor is expected to conduct a site inspection while performing these duties in order to minimize any possible impacts.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #12: While we have not had the opportunity to view the additional information referred to in his Dec.19th letter, we agree with the NWT Territorial Archaeologist that this project has the potential for causing significant damage to heritage resources in the region. We are also generally supportive of the mitigative measures recommended by him. Will the applicant adhere to his specific recommendations?

Response

The recommendations of the PWNHC will be adhered to as the principal means for protecting heritage sites.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #13: We would like to be provided with the additional information that was provided to the Territorial Archaeologist between Dec.9th and Dec.19th so that we can form our own opinions, and possibly recommend additional mitigative measures.

Response

The interim report that was filed with the PWNHC will be provided to DCFN without appendices which contain confidential site-specific information. The PWNHC will be notified of the distribution.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #14: We concur with Environment Canada (letter of December 19th, 2003) that the applications do not include special provisions for sump integrity and stability.

Response

In its letter of December 19, 2003 Environment Canada said that it "supports the mitigation measures proposed by Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd., and would like to add the following comments and recommendations". With respect to sumps, the letter said "Sump integrity and stability must be ensured and it is recommended that following closure of these sumps, monitoring of the site be conducted for several years to watch for such conditions as subsidence, erosion, or any frost boils or other conditions, which may involve migration of contaminants out of the sumps".

The sumps will be monitored as necessary.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #15: We concur with Environment Canada (letter of December 19th, 2003) that the applications do not include special provisions for fuels and hazardous fluid management.

Response

With reference to the handling of fuels and hazardous fluids, the Environment Canada December 19, 2003 letter said, "Operational practices for the handling of fuels and hazardous fluids should be available to personnel on site and include:

- An approved spill contingency plan outlining a clear path of response
- Contact list of persons to be contacted in the event of a spill and assigned responsibilities of company staff
- Location of equipment both on and off site to be used in the event of a spill
- State that "all spills" are to be documented and reported to the NWT/Nunavut - 24 Hour Spill Line Number (867) 920-8130
- An appropriate spill kit with absorbent material should be located at all fuel transfer and fuel storage sites
- Drip pans should be used when refuelling equipment".

Section 2.5 of the Environmental Protection Plan addresses Fuel, Hazardous Materials and Garbage. A Spill Contingency Plan is filed as part of the Emergency Response Plan (ERP). Both the EPP and ERP are filed with the MVLWB in support of the land use permit application. Environment Canada's comments are addressed in these documents.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #16: We concur with Environment Canada (letter of December 19th, 2003) that the applications do not include special provisions for training.

Response

The Environment Canada letter of December 19, 2003 does not address training. Section 2.1, sub-section 9 of the Environmental Protection Plan provides for environmental orientation prior to commencing work on the program. Section 3.0, sub-section 6 provides for a pre-job "kick-off" meeting and sub-section 15 provides for onsite training and "tailgate" environmental orientation sessions.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #17: We agree with all of the recommendations and requests for further information made in the letter from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans dated December 22, 2003. This letter identifies many information and mitigation deficiencies. Failure to remedy all of these deficiencies could, in our view, have serious adverse effects on fish and fish habitat relied upon by our communities. The applicant needs to describe how it will address these problems prior to being issued any authorizations.

Response

The response to the December 22, 2003 letter from Department of Fisheries and Oceans is attached.

Information Request DFO IR #1: DFO still requires detailed locations on winter water crossings as per the DFO Protocol for Temporary Winter Access Water Crossings for Oil & Gas Activities in the Northwest Territories. This information can be submitted at the time of construction.

Response

Agreed. Temporary water course crossing locations will be provided to DFO at the time of construction of such crossings.

Information Request DFO IR #2: DFO is unable to comment on the use of these 8 watercourses as water sources until information on intake rates is provided. Water should not be withdrawn from these sites until DFO has reviewed the required information (forthcoming via ColtKBR).

Response

Water will be pumped from the river water sources using a three (3) inch hydraulic pump located on the back of a Delta water truck. The pump has a maximum power rating of 25 hp at 800 rpm and generates a maximum intake rate of 1200 litres per minute at a psi of 125.

Information Request DFO IR #3: *In the report Bathymetric Survey of Potential Water Bodies to Supply the 2004 Winter Geotechnical Program, Mackenzie Gas Project (bathymetric report) some lakes that were under 1 km in length had only one transect run on them. This is contrary to the methodology outlined in the DFO Protocol for Water Withdrawal for Oil & Gas Activities in the NWT and what is outlined in Section 2.0- Methods (pg. 4) of the bathymetric report. For future bathymetric surveys please ensure that the surveys are conducted, at a minimum, using the methodologies recommended by DFO. Also, please ensure that the location information in the surveys corresponds to the accompanying maps. In the bathymetric report, the location detail is expressed as UTM whereas the lake identification maps are in latitude and longitude, making it difficult to correlate the two. The photos in the report were extremely helpful and appreciated.*

Response

An error was made in conducting the bathymetric surveys on the three lakes that are less than one km long which were transected only once. Future bathymetric surveys will follow the methodology.

DFO Recommendation:

DFO recommendations regarding lakes DCN4, DCN6, DCS11: Should not use as a water source.

Response

These lakes will not be used as water sources. This should not affect our ability to execute the program.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #18: How will consumable items: spent oil, filters, batteries or broken equipment be disposed of?

Response

Section 2.5, sub-sections 61 – 66 of the EPP addresses disposal of garbage and hazardous material. Consumable items will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility. With respect to disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material, the General Contractor will be expected to review options with communities regarding potential disposal sites. An appropriate disposal site will be used, likely in Hay River.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #19: The Environmental Protection Plan: page 6 - point 49 states that items will be removed from the area. Where to?

Response

See Response to Deh Cho IR #18.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #20: The proponent describes sending a lot of wastes like the drilling brine to an approved facility, where are those approved facilities?

Response

No use of drilling brine is planned for the program. Also, please refer to Response #18.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #21: Where will contaminated soil/material be disposed of? There is no detail to the statement of "approved facility". As discussed in Emergency Response Plan; Page 4 - Section 3.3. [p.3]

Response

See Response to Deh Cho IR #18. Refer also to Environmental Protection Plan, Section 2.5, sub-section 67.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #22: **We also support INAC (Water Resources Division) in their request for further information on waste disposal with their letter of December 19, 2003.**

Response

The response to INAC Information Request dated December 19, 2003 which is included as part of the response to Deh Cho IR #6.

"Only paper products and food waste will be incinerated and the ash disposed of in the camp sump. Other consumable items (i.e. plastics) will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility in Fort Simpson or alternatively, Hay River. With respect to disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material, ColtKBR is discussing the matter with its General Contractor and communities with potential disposal sites. An appropriate disposal site will be used, likely in Hay River."

Information Request Deh Cho IR #23: **We understand that potable water for winter work will be accessed from various water sources along the right-of-way. Unfortunately, the applicant did not consider obtaining water from local municipalities - this would have generated revenue for the municipality.**

Response

Sourcing water from the communities was considered. Owing to the remoteness of three of the five camp locations from any community, safety, economic and logistic considerations indicated that water for the entire program must be located in close proximity to the camps. As well, concerns have been expressed by communities and regulators with respect to the program stressing existing municipal services and infrastructure.

Information Request Deh Cho IR #24: **These illustrative comments suffice to demonstrate that further study is required. We confirm our earlier advice to the Land and Water Board in the letter from our lawyers dated December 22, 2003 that such a further study should be conducted, at least in part, by hearings in our local communities.**

Response

As noted in the consultation section of the Land Use Permit application, meetings specific to the proposed activities for the program have occurred or have been offered to all of the communities in the Deh Cho corridor during the period of June 2003 and November 2003. These meetings and proposed meetings provided opportunity for local residents to express any concerns they may have had. Comments that would help improve the program operations continue to be welcomed.

**Imperial Oil**

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited237 Fourth Avenue South West
P.O. Box 2480, Station "M"
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Canada, T2P 3M9P.D. (Peter) Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Mackenzie Gas ProjectTel. 403 237 3984
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Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: February 5, 2004

To Bob Wooley**From Peter Grout**

Company: Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited

City:**Telephone:**

237-3984

Fax: 867-873-6610

237-2102

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**Imperial Oil****Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited**

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P.D. (Peter) Grout
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Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: February 4, 2004

To Mr. Greg Smith

From Peter Grout

Company: Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited

City:

Telephone:

237-3984

Fax: 867-873-6610

237-2102

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Message:

Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

File

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Application # MU2003X0045

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February 4, 2004

(via fax: 867-873-6610)

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7th Floor, 4910 - 50th Avenue
P.O. Box 2130
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

Attention: Mr. Greg Smith, Regulatory Officer

Dear Mr. Smith:

**RE: Liidlii Kue First Nation Information Requests on the 2004 Winter Field
Geotechnical Investigation Program**

Dear Mr. Smith,

I have received your letter dated 14 January 2004 regarding comments from the Liidlii Kue First Nation relating to the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Program. This letter is our response to each of the items you mentioned.

For your information, a brief response to each comment is below and a more detailed response is attached to this letter.

Liidlii Kue IR # 1: Plans are in place to ensure environmental protection and mitigation of impacts for the program.

Liidlii Kue IR # 2: The role of the Environmental Monitor is outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan, Section 3, sub-sections 20 and 21.

Liidlii Kue IR # 3: The Environmental Monitor is responsible to assist in the access route selection process for the access routes, the locations of the drill sites and the test pit locations.

Liidlii Kue IR # 4: Agreed. It is desirable for the same Environmental Monitors to participate in the entire program.

Liidlii Kue IR # 5: The site is close to the proposed pipeline route, and has an existing access route, allowing for a minimum disturbance.

Liidlii Kue IR # 6: The camp is centrally located with respect to the rest of the investigation sites in that part of the Deh Cho Region.

Liidlil Kue IR # 7: A heritage resource protection plan for the program has been endorsed by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

Liidlil Kue IR # 8: The sub-surface impacts will be minimized. The Field Superintendent is responsible to ensure the avoidance of sensitive areas.

Liidlil Kue IR # 9: The most sensitive sites will be avoided (delineated and taped off), and no work will take place until a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment is performed.

Liidlil Kue IR # 10: Agreed. IORVL will provide a copy of the report (without appendices which provide site-specific confidential information) to LKFN and will notify the PWNHC of the distribution.

Liidlil Kue IR # 11: Correct. New access represents approximately 6% of the total while 94% of the access is along existing trails, rights-of-way and previously disturbed routes.

Liidlil Kue IR # 12: The Environmental Protection Plan section 2.4 sub-sections 40-44 discuss timber salvage.

Liidlil Kue IR # 13: Agreed. Equipment will be cleaned.

Liidlil Kue IR # 14: The daily operations report will be provided to the Environmental Monitor.

Liidlil Kue IR # 15: The environmental report will be provided to the Environmental Monitor.

Liidlil Kue IR # 16: LKFN will be invited to attend the program "kick-off" meeting.

Liidlil Kue IR # 17: LKFN will be added to the list of contacts as part of the Emergency Response Plan.

Liidlil Kue IR # 18: The Environmental Monitor will be included should it ever be necessary to form an action plan in response to a spill.

Liidlil Kue IR # 19: The program is of short duration and is not expected to create socio economic stresses on existing communities.

Liidlil Kue IR # 20: Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group includes wildlife and renewable resource harvester compensation.

Liidlil Kue IR # 21: Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group include appropriate costs for compensation.

Liidlil Kue IR # 22: Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group include provisions for negotiation and arbitration.

Liidlil Kue IR # 23: Clearing limits in the field will be 6 m x 10 m at borehole sites and 6 m x 15 m at test pit sites.

Liidlil Kue IR # 24: This particular application format was developed based on previous community input. We thank you for your latest suggestions which will be considered when developing future applications.

Liidlil Kue IR # 25: A final report which includes "as-built maps" will be filed with the MVLWB after the completion of the program. The final report will be a public document.

Liidlil Kue IR # 26: The report is filed in a digital format, including a GIS compatible shape file.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ColtKBR's Greg Giesbrecht at (403) 301-7081, facsimile (403) 258-1948, or Jim Hawkins (403) 237-2806, facsimile (403) 237-2102.

Yours truly,
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited



Peter D. Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: John Renaud, Liidlil Kue First Nation

Information Requests and Comments
Liidlíi Kue First Nation
Letter dated January 14, 2004

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Information Request Liidlíi Kue IR #1: **LKFN would expect that IORVL would employ all the currently available technologies and best practices in relation to protecting the environment and mitigating impacts to the lands and resources.**

Response

The Environmental Protection Plan (EPP), the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and the Heritage Resource Protection Plan (HRPP) were filed with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) as Attachments 2, 3 and 4 respectively to the Land Use Permit Application. These documents outline procedures and policies to be used to protect the environment and mitigate any impacts to lands and resources.

Information Request Liidlíi Kue IR #2: **The reference to utilizing "Environmental Monitors" (EM's) occurs in a number of areas. Some sections merely indicate the usage of EM's, with no job description per say.**

Response

The role of the Environmental Monitor is outlined in the EPP, Section 3, sub-sections 20 and 21.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #3: LKFN would request that this area be further strengthened by expanding section 20 to state something to the effect, "that no ground disturbance activity of any form is to occur until an EM has attended the site, had the chance to make a ground inspection to mitigate impacts to LKFN".

Response

The Environmental Monitor has a number of specific responsibilities. The Environmental Monitor "shall inspect the proposed access routes and investigation sites and provide local knowledge and advice to mitigate any damage to environmentally sensitive areas" (EPP Section 3.0, sub-section 21). The Environmental Monitor shall be part of the access route selection process and once access has been gained to the proposed investigation site, the Environmental Monitor will assist in the selection of the location of the drill sites and test pit location. The Environmental Monitor will be expected to conduct a ground inspection while performing these duties in order to mitigate any impacts.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #4: LKFN would also recommend the usage of these same EM's when the "2004 post construction..." assessment is conducted as per section 106 in the EPP.

Response

Agreed. Provided that the particular individuals are available, it is desirable for the same Environmental Monitor to participate in the entire program from operation through to post-construction assessment.

Information Request Liidlii Kue IR #5: LKFN recognizes the pipeline corridor will have to come through the interim protected area, but does not understand the other two infringements. Namely the identified borrow investigation site #20.015P.

Response

Site #20.015P was selected for the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program because of the strategic location of the potential granular source. This site might be a source of granular material that can be used for approximately 50 km of pipeline construction. The site might have a large inventory of dry gravel with the right sizes for pipeline bedding and padding. Since this site is close to the proposed pipeline route and already has an existing access route, this would allow for a minimum disturbance footprint in the area.

Information Request Liidlii Kue IR #6: LKFN recognizes the pipeline corridor will have to come through the interim protected area, but does not understand the other two infringements. Namely the proposed campsite.

Response

The campsite proposed to be located at the Willowlake River is the preferred site for the Deh Cho 2004 winter program due to its close proximity to the proposed Willowlake River pipeline crossing site. Geotechnical drilling at the crossing site may require up to twenty-one days and the camp's proximity to this site is important in order to reduce travel time. The camp is centrally located with respect to the rest of the investigation sites in that part of the Deh Cho Region.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #7: **LKFN strongly values the importance of protecting and preserving its archeological artifacts on the land. The proposed plan seems to have been more of a paper exercise than an effective mitigation tool.**

Response

Golder Associates has conducted archaeological examinations of the sites proposed for the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program. This examination was comprised of mapping known heritage resource sites based on information held by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) as well as field work in the fall of 2003 under Archaeological Permit No. 2003-933 issued by the PWNHC. A Heritage Resource Protection Plan was prepared and submitted to the PWNHC. The scale of the archaeological work proposed to be done on the sites was reviewed and accepted by the PWNHC. Subsequent to completion of the field work, an interim report was filed with the PWNHC in December 2003. Based on the HRPP and the interim report, the PWNHC provided its recommendations to the MVLWB on December 19, 2003. These recommendations have been incorporated into the operations plans for the winter program so that effective protection of heritage sites will be ensured. A post-impact assessment will be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of the protection plan.

As well, Section 82 of the EPP provides mitigation measures in the event that heritage resources are uncovered during operations. The Field Superintendent and Environmental Inspector will ensure compliance with the provisions of the EPP.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #8: **The use of the word "assumption" in the 2nd paragraph of the opening introduction support's LKFN lack of confidence in the plan. The proposed "Pre-Program Reconnaissance", specifically by air, seems unlikely to be of benefit with the current snow cover.**

Response

The assumptions are outlined in the remainder of Paragraph 2 of the Heritage Resource Protection Plan. It is unlikely that Priority 2 sites will be part of the 2004 winter program. Sufficient snow cover will be present to offer protection from vehicular impacts. Sub-surface impacts will be kept to a minimum while conducting the program and that the Field Superintendent will enforce the avoidance of sensitive areas.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #9: LKFN would then again draw attention to linkage to the employment of EM's, to obtain the desired LKFN protection of heritage resources.

Response

Under Section 3.0, sub-section 21 of the EPP, the Environmental Monitor is responsible to inspect the access to proposed investigation sites and provide advice to mitigate any damage "to environmentally sensitive areas such as: trap lines, archaeological and heritage sites, watercourses and conservation areas" (emphasis added) (EPP Section 3.0, sub-section 21). The PWNHC provided a series of recommendations pertaining to each investigation site in the Deh Cho Region in its letter to the MVLWB dated December 19, 2003. These recommendations for the most sensitive sites, provide guidance on how the sites will be avoided and protected (delineated and taped off), no work allowed to take place until a Heritage Resource Impact Assessment is performed or a licenced archaeologist will be in attendance as the drilling/excavation is being performed. The Environmental Monitor will have access to this information.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #10: LKFN would also request a copy of the "Interim Report" referenced in Attachment 1, section 4.0, P.11.

Response

The interim report was prepared and filed by Golder Associates with the PWNHC. IORVL will provide a copy of the report (without appendices which provide site-specific confidential information) to LKFN and will notify the PWNHC of the distribution.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #11: Clearing and Access - recognizing that the total new cut area is approximately 13.5 Ha, representing about 6% of the overall project land disturbance.

Response

Correct. New access is estimated to be 22.4 km of the total access required of 383.2 km. New access represents approximately 6% of the total while 94% of the access is along existing trails, rights-of-way and previously disturbed routes. Final land use will be calculated following a post-program inspection by INAC.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #12: **Would it not be more prudent to actually develop salvage plans that have timber specifications and appropriate decking sites.**

Response

Timber salvage and decking are matters that have been discussed during the Access and Benefits negotiations. The Environmental Protection Plan Section 2.4, sub-sections 40 – 44 discusses timber salvage.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #13: **Nowhere in the application submission is the prevention of noxious weed contamination discussed? LKFN requires a stipulation in the equipment contracts that prior to bringing equipment from other areas, a thorough washing be carried out to prevent the transfer of noxious weed and non-native plant species.**

Response

Agreed. Equipment brought in from other areas will be cleaned before work starts.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #14: **LKFN requires further commitments within the various plans for communications. Specifically LKFN requests receipt of the daily report on construction.**

Response

The operations reports will be provided to the Environmental Monitor who is expected to distribute them as requested by local communities.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #15: **LKFN requires further commitments within the various plans for communications. Specifically LKFN requests receipt of the daily report on environmental activities and/or non-compliance incidents.**

Response

The environmental reports will be provided to the Environmental Monitor who is expected to distribute them as requested by local communities.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #16: **LKFN also requests an invitation to the "kick-off" meeting as noted in "Attachment 2, section 2.1 [8], P.2".**

Response

LKFN will be invited to attend the program "kick-off" meeting.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #17: **There are also a number of contact procedures noted within the "Emergency Response Plan" under Attachment 3 that should include LKFN.**

Response

LKFN will be added to the list of contacts as part of the Emergency Response Plan.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #18: **Spill notification is especially important, followed by the inclusion of the LKFN Environmental Monitor in the action plan. Including cleanup activities.**

Response

The Environmental Monitor will be included should it ever be necessary to form an action plan in response to a spill.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #19: **Socio-Economic Impacts - There is only one page paid to this topic, located under "Attachment 1, section 6.0, P.24". The focus of the discussion is on the up-side of the project, in relation to employment opportunities and local spending. It is unfortunate the application does not tackle the potential downside, with the corresponding mitigative measures.**

Response

Socio-economic impacts are expected to be negligible since this is a very short term project. The camps will accommodate 65 persons and they will be located outside municipalities. The camps are self-contained in terms of providing the basics for human habitation. It is expected that field workers will be working 12 hour days, 7 days a week on a 24 day-in 4 day-out rotation schedule. It is not expected that the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program will put any additional pressure on existing community services.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #20: **There is no offer of trapper compensation as a mitigative measure.**

Response

Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group, of which Liidlil Kue is a member, have included wildlife and renewable resource harvester compensation.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #21: **The value of trapper compensation, doesn't consider overhead.**

Response

Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group have included appropriate costs for compensation. If compensation for reasonable overhead costs is part of a damage claim from a harvester, consideration of those costs would be appropriate.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #22: If this is an order of magnitude number to begin compensation discussions from, LKFN would propose a "without prejudice" discussion among the parties.

Response

Discussions with the Deh Cho Pipeline Working Group have included processes for dispute resolution. The proposed compensation process would consider a discussion, negotiation and arbitration process, if required.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #23: LKFN has noted in the application review a possible area discrepancy for borehole sites and the test pit locations. Under "Attachment 1, section 5.4, P.22" and "Attachment 4, section 2, P.2.1" the borehole area not to exceed 6m X 10m and the test pit not to exceed 6m X 15m. This in contrast to "Attachment 2, section 76-79, P.9" and "Tab B, section "Site Activity Plan" where the borehole area are to not exceed 10m X 10m and the test pit to not exceed 25m X 25m. Please provide clarification to LKFN on which proposed clearing limits will be utilized when in the field.

Response

Clearing limits in the field will be 6 m x 10 m at borehole sites and 6 m x 15 m at test pit sites. The area set aside in the Site Activity Plan is a rounded number to be used for estimating total land use requirements and the land use fee. Actual land used will be calculated following the INAC post-program inspection. The area outlined in the Environmental Protection Plan provides for a maximum disturbed area in the event that unexpected environmental mitigation measures require some additional space.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #24: It should be noted that determining the area (Ha) relationship of new cut to existing re-use of lands, was not found until a review of some 90 pages in the application binder. Surely this information could have been placed closer to the front of the binder, or had references made to "Tab B". The individual site tab descriptions, numbered 1 through 69, could also have benefited from including the site specific breakdowns of new cut to existing re-use of lands. These linkages could then be made to the LKFN suggested "salvage plan".

Response

The Land Use Summary is a compilation of information provided in the Site Access Plan and Site Activity Plan for each site. Since the site-specific information is contained under Tab B, it was felt that it was logical to include the Land Use Summary at the beginning of that section. This particular application style was developed based on previous community input and regulator suggestions. Your comments will be considered when developing future applications.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #25: LKFN requests to be provided with the final footprint on the land, as represented by the "as-built maps" referenced in "Attachment 1, section 5.3.1, P.20".

Response

A final report which includes "as-built maps" will be filed with the MVLWB after the completion of the program. The final report will be a public document.

Information Request Liidlil Kue IR #26: IORVL as the applicant, is creating the disturbance, therefore IORVL should be responsible to provide directly to LKFN a final plan. LKFN would request that in supplement to a paper copy, that we receive a digital copy, in a GIS compatible shape file format as well.

Response

The report will be filed with the MVLWB in a digital format, including a GIS compatible shape file.



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P.D. (Peter) Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Mackenzie Gas Project

Tel. 403 237 3984
Fax. 403 237 2102

January 15, 2004

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2P6

**Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board**

File

JAN 16 2004

Application # MV2003-0012

Copied To PM/GS/Reg

Attention: Mr. Greg Smith
Regulatory Officer

Dear Mr. Smith:

RE: Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Information Requests relating to Type B Water Licence Application and Type A Land Use Permit Application for the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program in the Deh Cho Settlement Area.

I have received your letter dated 19 December 2003 regarding the information requests from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) relating to the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Program in the Deh Cho Settlement Area (the Program). This letter is our response to each of the IRs. A brief response to each IR is provided below and a more detailed response is attached to this letter.

INAC IR# 1: A detailed bathymetric report was filed with the MVLWB and DFO.

INAC IR# 2: The DFO water withdrawal protocols will be utilized.

INAC IR# 3: All approved lakes might be used for ice road construction.

INAC IR# 4: The DFO water withdrawal protocols will be utilized.

INAC IR# 5: Stream crossings will be constructed with clean ice or snow and if necessary, removed prior to breakup.

INAC IR# 6: Waste water will not be pre-treated before disposal in sumps.

INAC IR# 7: Sumps will be sized appropriately.

INAC IR# 8: Any hazardous waste generated will be disposed in an approved facility.

INAC IR# 9: Sumps will be back filled to prevent ponding and subsidence.

INAC IR# 10: Spill reporting contacts are noted.

INAC IR# 11: The INAC spill reporting protocols will be utilized.

INAC IR# 12: If any contaminated materials are generated, they will be disposed in an approved facility.

INAC IR# 13: Appropriate steps will be taken to avoid releasing sediments into water bodies.

INAC IR# 14: Thermistor installation will be customized for each location.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ColtKBR's Greg Giesbrecht at (403) 301-7081, facsimile (403) 258-1948, or Jim Hawkins (403) 237-2806, facsimile (403) 237-2102.

Yours truly,
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited



Peter D. Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: David Milburn, INAC - Water Resources Division

Information Requests and Comments
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Letter dated December 19, 2003

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Information Request INAC IR #1: IORVL is requesting to use approximately 31,000 m³ of water for their geotechnical investigation program in the Deh Cho Region, of which 29,000 m³ is a contingency for ice road construction. Since the length of the program is from December 2003 until April 2004, this would be approximately 270 m³ of water usage per day. IORVL has identified 15 lakes as potential water sources for this program.

- How much water is IORVL anticipating to withdraw from each proposed water source?
- How was the area of each lake calculated?
- Has any bathymetry work been performed on these proposed water sources, especially depth measurements?
- Has IORVL made any estimates of the volume of the Lakes? DFO protocols only allow 5% of the volume of a lake to be withdrawn.

Response

A bathymetric survey of potential water sources was completed during the summer of 2003. The final bathymetric report was filed with the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) and DFO in November 2003 following submission of the Water License application with the MVLWB on October 27, 2003.

Information Request INAC IR #2: Are there any other users of the proposed water sources in the area (other developments, GNWT DoT? It should be recognized that DFO water withdrawal protocols allow for a maximum of 5% of the free available water to be used if the water body meets certain criteria. The 5% maximum does not increase if more than one project is using the same water source.

Response

IORVL is not aware of any other potential users of the proposed water sources. The DFO protocols will be utilized unless specific authorization to do otherwise is obtained.

Information Request INAC IR #3: Which lakes are for use as a contingency for ice road construction.

Response

All of the proposed water sources could potentially be used for ice road construction. Specification of individual water sources for particular use has not been done.

Information Request INAC IR #4: How can IORVL assure the MVLWB that the DFO protocols for water withdrawal and temporary winter road access for oil and gas activities will be adhered to when this basic information has not been provided to assess the requested water sources?

Response

IORVL has provided a bathymetric report and summarizing tables to the MVLWB and DFO in November 2003 in support of the Water License application dated October 27, 2003. DFO protocols will be utilized unless specific authorization to do otherwise is obtained.

Information Request INAC IR #5: Every effort should be made to ensure that no disturbance takes place to stream banks and that riparian vegetation is retained where stream crossings take place. As IORVL has committed to in the project description, all stream crossings should be constructed using clean ice and snow and be removed prior to spring break-up.

Response

Agreed.

Information Request INAC IR #6: IORVL states that project personnel will be accommodated in five rig camps, each camp capable of housing a maximum of 65 people. Wastewater from these camps will be disposed of in a sump located adjacent to each of the rig camps. Will there be any sort of pre-treatment to the wastewater prior to entering the sumps? Modern wastewater treatment systems exist that are capable of treating sewage and producing effluent that is acceptable for discharge to the environment.

Response

Two 65-person side-by side rig camps will be used; one in each of the Deh Cho North and Deh Cho South work areas. The Deh Cho South rig camp will be established in three locations (Trout Lake Road, Fort Simpson and Willowlake River). The Deh Cho North rig camp will be established in two locations (Wrigley and Blackwater River). No pre-treatment of wastewater is planned prior to disposal in sumps.

Information Request INAC IR #7: Sewage sumps must be initially constructed of sufficient volume to ensure that the needs of the camp can be met. Proper planning will ensure the least amount of disturbance to the environment, and avoid the need to construct an additional sump.

Response

Agreed.

Information Request INAC IR #8: **IORVL states that non hazardous waste (garbage) will be incinerated and disposed of in the camp sump. What is IORVL planning on incinerating? Only paper products and food waste? Or other materials, such as plastics or cleaners? If IORVL is committed to segregating their wastes to ensure that only paper and food wastes are incinerated, it is acceptable to dispose the ash in their sewage sump. If the waste is not segregated, the ash should be disposed of in an approved waste disposal facility.**

Response

Only paper products and food waste will be incinerated and the ash disposed of in the camp sump. Other consumable items (i.e. plastics) will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility in Fort Simpson or alternatively, Hay River. With respect to disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material, ColtKBR is discussing the matter with its General Contractor and communities with potential disposal sites. An appropriate disposal site will be used, likely in Hay River.

Information Request INAC IR #9: **IORVL states in their Environmental Protection Plan that drilling fluids required for the investigation of subsurface conditions will be transported to high ground at least 100 meters from a watercourse and disposed of in a sump. IORVL should ensure that sumps are constructed in impermeable materials (i.e. clays) to prevent the migration of waste and backfilled in a manner to prevent ponding of water and subsidence.**

Response

If drilling mud is used at investigation sites, the quantity of mud shall be less than 10 m³. The only additive will be bentonite. No use or drilling brine is planned. All spoil from the initial sump excavation will be placed over the sump area to ensure ponding does not occur as described in the Environmental Protection Plan, Section 96.

Information Request INAC IR #10

In the Emergency Response Plan, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is not listed as a NWT Regulatory Agency under the Spill Contingency Plan. However, for spills in the Deh Cho region, this agency may be the lead for spills associated with this project. INAC would be required to investigate should a serious spill occur and for all spills INAC could provide technical advice to the proponent and identify areas of risk that might be affected by a spill. The following contacts should be added to the NWT Regulatory Agencies list:

- INAC South Mackenzie District (867-669-2761)
- INAC Fort Simpson Sub-District (867-695-2627).

Response

Agreed.

Information Request INAC IR #11

In the Emergency Response Plan, IORVL states that any fuel or hydraulic spill which is greater than 0.100 m³ (100 litres) in size must be reported. This is incorrect. Reporting requirements vary and are dependent upon the lead agency for the spill. All spill of fuel and hydraulic oil are immediately reportable to the NWT/Nunavut 24 hour spill line (867) 920-8130 unless the proponent falls under a spill reporting protocol specific to a lead agency/agencies. If this is the case, then the proponent may report spills as per that specific protocol. All spills, regardless of size, in or with the potential to enter surfaced water, must be reported immediately to the NWT 24 hour spill line.

Response

Agreed. IORVL and ColtKBR staff understand that INAC would probably be the lead agency for spill reporting on the Program. The spill contingency plan, part of the Emergency Response Plan, submitted as Attachment 3 to the Land Use Permit application, specifies that spill reporting would fall under the relevant INAC/NEB protocol. This protocol identifies threshold levels for immediate reporting to the NT 24 hour spill hotline and, in addition, requires logging and reporting of sub-threshold quantities to the INAC land use inspector on a monthly basis. This protocol also details situations where a spill, regardless of size, will be immediately reported to the spill hotline. Further discussions will take place with the ColtKBR staff and the local INAC land use inspector to clarify any details required for the monthly reporting.

Information Request INAC IR #12 In the Emergency Response Plan, IORVL states that heavily contaminated soil and vegetation and/or contaminated materials will be incinerated, if safe to do so or disposed of at an approved waste facility. What is the criteria for the incineration of contaminated materials?

Response

Any contaminated soil or snow will be stockpiled and then hauled to a hazardous disposal facility, likely in Hay River. Other contaminated materials will not be incinerated, but will be hauled to a hazardous disposal facility, likely in Hay River.

Information Request INAC IR #13 IORVL must ensure that any drilling performed using hollow stem augers to investigate below stream channels does not result in the release of sediments, drill cutting or fluids into the receiving water body.

Response

Agreed.

Information Request INAC IR #14 IORVL will be using thermistors to monitor ground temperatures. This data will be invaluable in the future assessment and construction of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. At what depths and at what frequency will ground temperature measurements be taken? To obtain a comparable data set, ground temperature data should be obtained in the same manner at each site.

Response

Thermistors will be installed at frost heave/thaw settlement and river crossing sites. Ground temperature will be recorded when installing non-recoverable thermistors. These thermistors are then abandoned. Other thermistors will be attached to a data logger which will record ground temperature on a daily basis and the information will be downloaded every 6 – 12 months.

Thermistors at frost heave/thaw settlement sites will be installed at a standard depth to reflect the active layer and stratigraphy for this type of soil. Thermistors at river crossing locations will be installed at various depths determined by the distinct soil layers at the particular crossing.

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February 5, 2004

(via fax: 867-873-6610)

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Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

File

FEB - 2004

Application # M020034-002

Copied To PUM/GS/leg

Attention: Mr. Greg Smith, Regulatory Officer

Dear Mr. Smith:

RE: Village of Fort Simpson Information Requests on the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program

Dear Mr. Smith,

I have received your letter dated 20 January 2004 regarding comments from the Village of Fort Simpson relating to the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Program. This letter is our response to each of the items you mentioned.

For your information, a brief response to each comment is below and a more detailed response is attached to this letter.

Fort Simpson IR # 1: The General Contractor will be expected to review options for disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material with local communities.

Fort Simpson IR # 2: Owing to the remoteness of three of the five camp locations from any community, safety, economic and logistic considerations indicated that water for the entire program must be located in close proximity to the camps.

Fort Simpson IR # 3: The current municipal council will be contacted in advance to coordinate the equipment movements so as to minimize any disruption.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Greg Giesbrecht at (403) 301-7081, facsimile (403) 258-1948, or Jim Hawkins (403) 237-2806, facsimile (403) 237-2102.

Yours truly,
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited

Peter D. Grout
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Mayor Raymond Michaud, Village of Fort Simpson

Information Requests and Comments
Village of Fort Simpson
Letter dated January 20, 2004

2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region

Information Request Ft. Simpson IR #1: Making reference to the disposal of certain materials, no contact has been made with the Village inquiring as to what materials are accepted or refused. Presently, the Village landfill does not have a designated area for used equipment/vehicle batteries, hazardous waste materials or used oil. Consultation with communities having landfill and disposal sites should be continuous.

Response

Section 2.5, sub-sections 61 – 66 of the EPP addresses disposal of garbage and hazardous material. Consumable items will be sorted and stored in advance of being transferred to an approved disposal facility. With respect to disposal of hazardous waste and contaminated material, the General Contractor will be expected to review options with communities regarding potential disposal sites. An appropriate disposal site will be used, likely in Hay River.

Information Request Ft. Simpson IR #2: Potable water usage to camps should be purchased from the nearest community that sells potable bulk water.

Response

Sourcing water from the communities was considered. Owing to the remoteness of three of the five camp locations from any community, safety, economic and logistic considerations indicated that water for the entire program must be located in close proximity to the camps. As well, concerns have been expressed by communities and regulators with respect to the program stressing existing municipal services and infrastructure.

Information Request Ft. Simpson IR #3: In the municipality of the Village of Fort Simpson, an alternate Island access should be considered and discussed with the Village as heavy traffic related to the proposed pipeline has increased within the boundaries. Such an access would benefit not only the community but the incoming pipeline traffic and the local pipeline related industries.

Response

Movement of equipment for the program through the municipality of Ft. Simpson would be a one time event, and similar to or smaller than many other previous projects requiring movement of construction equipment. Return of the equipment will be via the Mackenzie Highway. Preliminary discussions on this subject were held with the previous municipal council. In addition, the current municipal council will be contacted in advance to coordinate the movements so as to minimize any disruption. Since this program is small, of short duration, and involves only one trip through Fort Simpson, the construction of a new alternative access to the Fort Simpson Island is not necessary.

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Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: February 5, 2004

To **Greg Smith**

From **Peter Grout**

Company: **MVLWB**

City:

Telephone:

Fax: **867-873-6610**

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited

237-3984

237-2102

Number of pages sent including this one: **4**

Message:

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P.D. (Peter) Grout
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February 4, 2004

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Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
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Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6

Attention: Mr. Greg Smith
Regulatory Officer

Mackenzie Valley Land
& Water Board

File

FEB - 4 2004

Application # MV2003X0045

Copied To PUMIGSIReg

Dear Mr. Smith,

RE: Sambaa K'e Development Corporation information requests on the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program - Deh Cho Region

I have received the letter dated 23 January 2004 from the Sambaa K'e Development Corporation regarding concerns relating to the 2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Program in the Deh Cho Region (the program). This letter is our response to each of the items mentioned.

For your information, a brief response to each comment is below and a more detailed response is attached to this letter.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 1: Activities on the Trout Lake Winter road will continue for about 14 days.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 2.1: The Trout Lake Winter Road will be reinforced with ice as needed to support the program activities.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 2.2: The Trout Lake Winter Road is managed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Transportation and any upgrades and maintenance will be coordinated through the GNWT and their contractors.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 3: All traffic supporting the program is expected to comply with the GNWT traffic specifications.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 4.1: The program has a very short duration so the impact on caribou and fur bearers is expected to be minimal.

Sambaa K'e Development IR # 4.2: Staff from the GNWT Resources Wildlife and Economic Development will be consulted prior to the start up of the program activities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact ColtKBR's Greg Giesbrecht at (403) 301-7081, facsimile (403) 258-1948, or Jim Hawkins (403) 237-2806, facsimile (403) 237-2102.

Yours truly,
Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited



Peter D. Groul
Manager, Regulatory Affairs

Enclosures

cc: Sambaa K'e Development Corporation

**Information Requests
Sambaa K'e Development Corporation
Letter dated January 23rd, 2004**

**2004 Winter Field Geotechnical Investigation Program -
Deh Cho Region**

Sambaa K'e Development IR #1:

To what extent will the winter road be used? What heavy equipment will be hauled over what time frame and what ongoing operational uses are required?

Response

The Trout Lake Winter Road will be prepared and maintained to withstand the movement of heavy equipment to two investigation sites; Site #20.002P and Site #20.064P. A geotechnical coring rig, excavator, bulldozer, tracked personnel carriers and other small pieces of equipment will be hauled to these locations. A side-by-side portable rig camp will be established adjacent to the Trout Lake Winter Road at its intersection with the Enbridge pipeline right-of-way. Supplies will be hauled to this camp site from the Mackenzie Highway. These activities will continue for about 14 days.

Sambaa K'e Development IR #2.1:

What upgrading does ColtKBR plan to do on the Trout Lake winter road and creek crossings prior to using it for industrial hauling?

Response

The Trout Lake Winter Road will be reinforced with ice to handle the loads required for hauling equipment along the winter road to the investigation sites and for supplying the Trout Lake Road camp site. The winter road will be regularly maintained for the duration of the program to provide for local vehicle traffic.

Sambaa K'e Development IR #2.2:

What point will the Sambaa K'e Development Corporation be engaged to provide necessary upgrading and maintenance services?

Response

The Trout Lake Winter Road is a road managed under the jurisdiction of the Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Transportation. All upgrade and maintenance work on this road will be coordinated through the GNWT Department of Transportation and their contractors.

Sambaa K'e Development IR #3:

What measures will ColtKBR take to ensure public safety on the road during the winter program? Will public vehicles be able to safely pass large trucks when required and how will trucks navigate tight corners to reduce the risk of accidents?

Response

All traffic supporting the program will comply with the Government of Northwest Territories traffic specifications for speed, signage and axle loadings. All contractors and suppliers for the program are expected to comply with the Access to a Public Highway Permit issued by Government of Northwest Territories – Department of Transportation on January 6, 2004. Additional signage will be used to inform the general public and other users of program activities and turning points.

Sambaa K'e Development IR #4.1:

To what extent has ColtKBR assessed the impact of heavy truck traffic on woodland caribou and fur bearers within the corridor?

Response

The proposed program is a research program examining soil conditions along a potential pipeline right-of-way. The program has a short duration and the equipment will remain at any one location for only a few days. Truck traffic associated with the program will be relatively light. The Mackenzie Highway and the Enbridge pipeline right-of-way are the primary access routes for the program in the Deh Cho Region. In the Trout Lake area, only two borrow sites and one portable rig camp will be accessed off the Trout Lake Winter Road. Truck traffic along this route will be minimal.

Sambaa K'e Development IR #4.2:

What measures will be taken to reduce disturbances to wildlife and therefore minimize disruptions to community hunting and trapping?

Response

Prior to the start of the program activities, existing trap lines and possible bear denning sites will be identified in consultation with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED), local RRCs, hunter and trapper associations and local elders (Environmental Protection Plan, Section 2.1, sub-sections 4 & 5). During the program measures described in the Environmental Protection Plan, Section 2.8, sub-sections 83-87 shall be implemented to minimize wildlife disturbance at all drill and test pit sites, camps, access routes and storage areas, (Environmental Protection Plan, Section 2.8, sub-sections 83-87. A local representative acting as Environmental Monitor shall be part of the program personnel. In the Environmental Protection Plan, (Section 3.0, sub-section 21) the responsibilities of the Environmental Monitor are described and include "shall inspect the proposed access routes and investigation sites and provide local knowledge and advice to mitigate any damage to environmentally sensitive areas such as: trap lines..."

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Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Mackenzie Gas Project

Tel. 403 237 3984
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Facsimile Transmission Cover Sheet

Date: February 4, 2004

To **Greg Smith**

From **Peter Grout**

Company: Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited

City:

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237-2102

Number of pages sent including this one: 6

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