



Terms of Reference and Work Plan
for the
Environmental Assessment
of the
Paramount Cameron Hills Extension

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Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

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1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this Document

This document outlines the process of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed extension of Paramount Resources Ltd.'s Cameron Hills operation in the Northwest Territories. Section 2 defines the scope of the development that is being assessed. Section 3 defines the scope of the assessment, i.e. the issues that will be addressed in this assessment. Section 4 provides the developer with terms of reference for the Developer's Assessment Report (DAR). Finally, section 5 defines the responsibilities of those involved in the assessment and provides an overview of the process and a schedule.

1.2 Referral to Environmental Assessment

Paramount Resources Ltd. applied to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB) for an amendment to Land Use Permit MV2002A0046 and Water Licence MV2002L1-0007 in April 2003. Paramount proposed 5 wells and 22 km of pipeline in addition to the development already existing, or already permitted to be carried out. The MVLWB carried out a Preliminary Screening of the proposed development according to Section 124 of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act (MVRMA). As per Section 124(3), the MVLWB acted as lead screener. The MVLWB consulted 22 organizations during the Preliminary Screening Process.

On May 28, 2003 the MVLWB referred the proposed development to Environmental Assessment, according to Section 125 of the MVRMA, citing concern over possible cumulative impacts and a potential for public concern. The Preliminary Screening Report concluded that the environmental impacts from the 5 wells and 22 km pipeline can be mitigated with known technology. The MVEIRB notified the developer on May 29, 2003 that the Environmental Assessment had been started.

1.3 Legal Context

This Environmental Assessment is subject to the requirements of Part 5 of the MVRMA. It is also subject to the MVEIRB's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (revised in April 2001) and the MVEIRB's Rules of Procedure. These documents can be accessed on the MVEIRB's web site (www.mveirb.nt.ca). (Please contact the MVEIRB for further information).

2 Scope of Development

In scoping this development, the Review Board is aware of the benefits of considering reasonably foreseeable future developments in cumulative effects assessment. Although less detail is typically available for future developments, good cumulative effects assessment demands their consideration, based on best reasonable estimates. This has been considered in scoping this development.

The scope of the development for this Environmental Assessment includes all reasonably foreseeable activities by Paramount Resources to extract oil and gas from the Cameron Hills Significant Discovery Licence Area (see map 1). The information presented in this section is based on the Development Description submitted by Paramount (Public Registry Item #7).

2.1 Development Components

2.1.1 Principal Development Components

The drilling of new wells involves the following principal tasks:

- Where access does not yet exist, an access route will be cleared and a winter road constructed.
- One or more drilling rigs will be moved on location and set up.
- The well will be drilled.
- The drilling equipment will be moved out or moved to another well site.
- A service rig will be moved in if the well is successful.
- The well may be completed.
- The service rig will be moved out or to another well site.
- The well may be flow tested to determine its economic viability by evaluating reservoir parameters including permeability, need for, or effectiveness of wellbore stimulation, well deliverability, potential reservoir size.

If a well proves to be economically viable it will be tied into the gathering system, which involves:

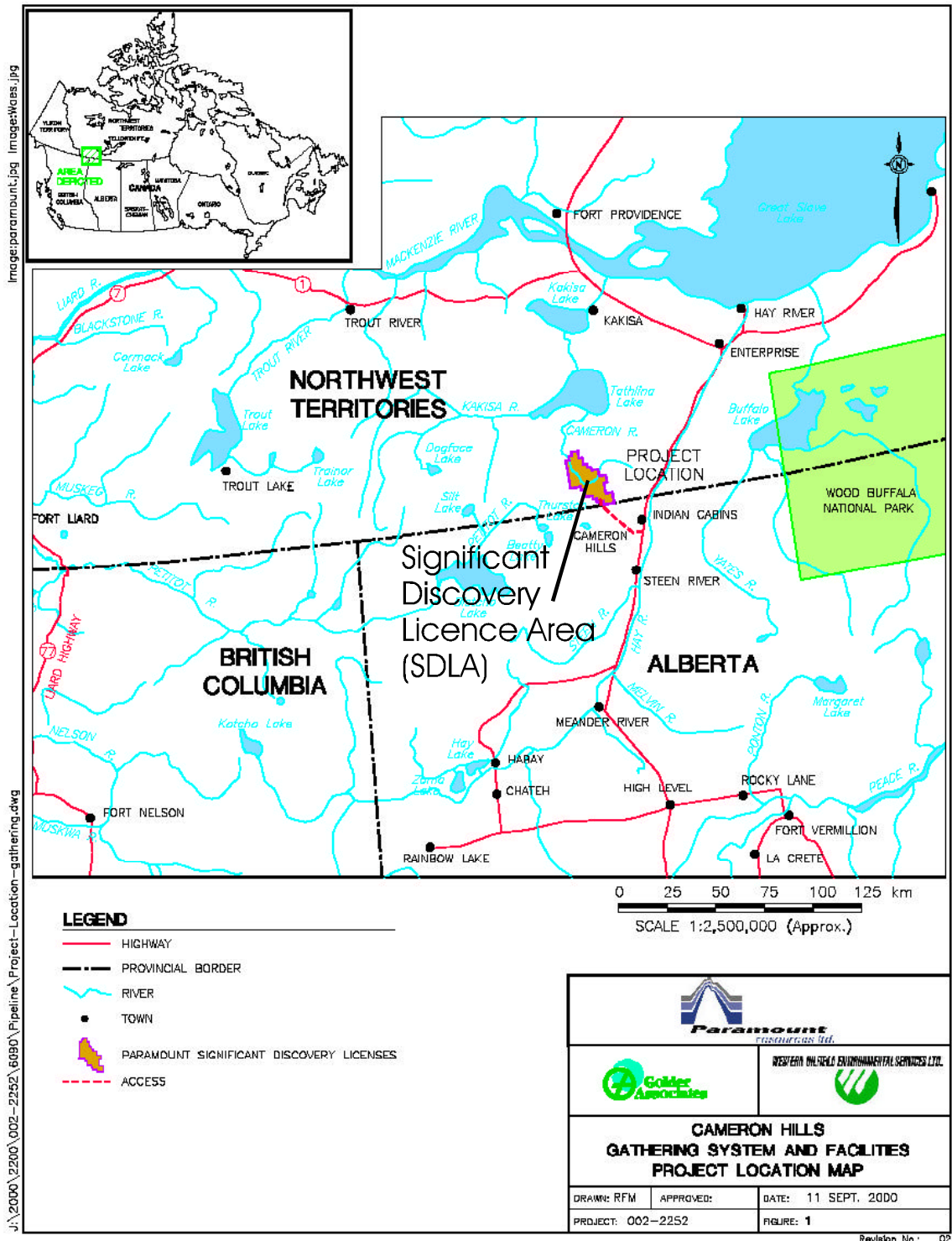
- A right-of-way will be cleared for flow lines if existing corridors cannot be used.
- Oil, gas and water gathering & injection systems and well site facilities will be constructed and operated at each of the selected wells.
- The existing central battery located in H-03 117⁰ 30', 60⁰ 10' may be modified (already permitted).
- A water disposal pipeline may be constructed.

- A fuel gas pipeline distribution system and/or electrical distribution system may be constructed to the oil well.
- Test satellite facilities (location to be determined based on future drilling) will be constructed, including a test separator, flare knockout drum, flare stack, chemical tanks and pumps, and antenna.

2.1.2 Additional Development Components

Above activities require the following additional developments:

- use of an existing winter access road, approximately 33 km in length from Indian Cabins, Alberta on Highway 35, to a point approximately 10 km into the NWT.
- Air access via helicopter and fixed wing aircraft, likely to sites already permitted.
- Construction of snow fills and/or ice bridges.
- Temporary 20 to 50 person camps for drilling and 100 to 200 person camps for pipeline construction and well tie in. The camp locations will take advantage of previous camp or airstrip locations already permitted. New wells for potable water may have to be drilled. Alternatively potable water can be hauled in.
- Withdrawal of drilling water from a lake near the well site and, if required, from the shallow water source wells.
- Disposal of drill waste in remote sumps. Some clearing and leveling will be required for the sumps.
- Construction and use of borrow pits as required. Soil excavated from the borrow pit will be used during the closure of the drilling fluid and sewage sumps using the mix/bury/cover method.
- During production operations access to the wells via all-terrain vehicles (ATV) or helicopter in summer and regular vehicles and/or snowmobiles in winter.
- Installation of ATV bridges, potentially with flowlines suspended from them.
- The liquids pipeline from the central battery to the Bistcho plant in Alberta may require upgrading.
- Other undertakings in support of or in conjunction with the principle developments or accessory developments and activities.



Map 1: Project Location

2.2 Development Schedule

- 2003/04 Drill, tie-in and produce five wells. Potentially acquire additional seismic already approved.
- 2003/04 Drill, tie-in and produce up to three additional wells.
- 2004/13 On an annual basis, drill, tie-in and produce approximately three to eight wells each year to an approximate total additional maximum of 50 wells (not including the five wells planned in 2003/04 under existing permits). The exact number of wells drilled in any year will depend on the prior years drilling success and economic viability of wells. Acquire the balance of the approved 533-kilometer 3D program and potentially acquire an additional 200 kilometers of 3D.

In any given year the following timetable for activities will apply:

- Seismic* This is not projected to be an annual activity. Leading with reconnaissance 2D seismic where practical, the balance of the approved 533-kilometer 3D and approximately 200 kilometers of an additional 3D could be acquired over the next 5 years.
- The timeline of seismic field activity is dependent on the amount to be acquired and the availability of a primary contractor. Assuming the projected 200 kilometer 3D program were to be acquired in one season, the developer anticipates the field activity would commence approximately mid January with recording completed by the end of February.
- Drilling* To drill, complete and evaluate 3 to 8 wells, road and well site construction would occur one well after the other and the rigs would move from one well to the next. Usually one drilling rig would drill three or four wells. Therefore, if 8 wells were planned, 2 or 3 drilling rigs would be required.
- Freeze up anticipated to be complete by Dec 1
 - Open Alberta and NWT access routes into area – Dec 2 - Dec 17
 - Construct first new well site - Dec 18 – 23
 - Move in drilling rig and drill well – Jan 2 - Jan 17
 - Move out drilling rig, move in service rig, complete and test well Jan 18 - Feb 2
 - This process would be repeated with up to three drilling rigs and commence from one well to the next as required.
 - Drilling rig activity would normally be completed by mid March.
- Service rigs* Assuming one service rig can likely service four wells per winter, if there are eight new wells per year (the maximum predicted), there would be two

service rigs required. They would start up in early January and finish in early April, weather and ground conditions permitting.

Pipeline

Tying-in successful wells commences once the well has been drilled and evaluated to ensure pipe is required. On an annual basis, it is anticipated starting mid January and finishing in early April, weather and ground conditions permitting. The number of wells to tie-in will influence the timing as well.

Production

Currently there are at least two production operators in the Cameron Hills field at all times, checking wells and maintaining production all year. As the number of wells increases the number of operators may have to increase as well.

3 Scope of Assessment

The scope of this Assessment includes all activities, and their direct, indirect and cumulative impacts, within the Cameron Hills Significant Discovery Licence Area (SDLA) (see map 1). That is, within all Significant Discovery Licences and all Production Licences held by Paramount Resources, or one of its partners, in the Cameron Hills, NWT area. The impacts of past developments, existing developments and reasonably foreseeable developments will be cumulatively assessed. While there may be potential for further oil and gas development outside the SDLA, these developments and their impacts cannot be reasonably foreseen at this point. Existing authorizations will not be altered as a result of this EA. However, impacts of authorized but not yet constructed developments will be considered.

Throughout this Environmental Assessment, the Review Board defines cumulative effects as the effects of the proposed development in combination with effects from past, present or reasonably foreseeable developments. The MVRMA defines “impact on the environment” to include effects on wildlife harvesting and any effect on social and cultural environment or heritage resources. In addition to bio physical parameters this assessment will examine the potential impacts of the development on the economic, social and cultural well being of affected communities.

Paramount Resources’ Cameron Hills Project has undergone two Environmental Assessments under the MVRMA in the past. The first, *EA00-004 Paramount Cameron Hills Drilling Project*¹, examined the drilling and testing of nine wells proposed by Paramount in 2000, but excluded another ten wells Paramount then anticipated drilling over a number of years at unknown locations in the area. The second, *EA01-005 Paramount Cameron Hills Gathering System and Pipeline*², examined an additional 8 wells, a central battery, and approximately 75 km of pipeline, as well as other components of the gathering system. Both Environmental Assessments concluded that the proposed developments were not likely to cause significant adverse environmental effects or public concern, provided a number of recommendations issued by the Review Board were followed.

Therefore, the Review Board has already established that the individual components of the development under assessment (i.e. drilling, testing and tie in of oil and gas wells) generally are not likely to have a significant adverse effect, if considered in isolation. This determination is contingent on the recommendations made by the Review Board and the commitments made by the developer during the past assessments being fulfilled. The Environmental Assessment will focus on the cumulative effects of drilling, testing and tie-in of up to 50 additional wells over a period of 10 years, production of oil and gas over 15 to 20 years, and abandonment and reclamation of the entire development.

1 MVEIRB (2001): Report of Environmental Assessment On the Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Drilling Project. October 16, 2001.

2 MVEIRB (2002): Report of Environmental Assessment On the Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Gathering System and Pipeline Development. December 3, 2001.

The effects of individual components are included in the scope in areas or locations that may be especially sensitive to disturbance and where the effects have not previously been assessed for these areas or locations. Moreover, the effects of individual components may be examined where recommended or committed to mitigation measures have not been fully implemented.

4 Developer's Assessment Report

Paramount is to provide the Review Board with a Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) that addresses all items specified in this section.

4.1 General Items

4.1.1 Spatial Boundaries

The spatial boundaries for this assessment should be set according to the environmental component being assessed, rather than using a common study area. The study area for impacts on terrain, for instance, may be limited to those watersheds or sub-watersheds in which the development takes places. The study area for air quality, on the other hand, will likely encompass a larger area and will be based on prevailing wind conditions rather than physical features in the landscape. Similarly, the study area for assessing impacts of spills or malfunctions may be rather narrow along water ways but extend downstream well beyond the SDLA. The spatial boundaries for the social, economic and cultural portion of the DAR should include those communities where a discernable impact may be expected. A rationale for each spatial boundary chosen is to be provided.

4.1.2 Temporal Boundaries

The baseline conditions for this assessment are the conditions prior to oil and gas development. The Review Board recognizes that it may be impossible to use quantitative methods to assess the impacts of developments or activities in the distant past. Old developments, for which insufficient data is available for inclusion into prediction models, may be treated in a qualitative fashion. The beginning of quantitative analysis should be set as close to pre-development conditions as feasible, but no later than the beginning of Paramount's activities in the Cameron Hills area.

The temporal boundaries for this assessment should be set according to existing and potential future impacts rather than the duration of the development. In assessing water quality, for instance, the DAR should take into account that certain development components, such as sumps, may be left in place and may pose a threat to ground water quality long after all activities have ceased. The DAR should assume that all proposed components will be developed, regardless of when they may be developed, as the development schedule is likely to changeover over time.

4.1.3 Impact Prediction

Paramount is expected to generally characterize each impact in terms of:

- direction (beneficial / adverse);
- geographical extent;
- frequency;
- reversibility;
- magnitude;
- duration;
- probability;
- significance.

For each impact prediction or proposed mitigation, all uncertainties (e.g. due to poor baseline data) should be stated explicitly. It will be up to the Review Board to ultimately determine whether or not an impact is significant. The developer, however, should present its views on the significance of each impact, in terms of the criteria listed above.

Paramount is expected to examine effects on ecosystem components from all development activities combined. Paramount will analyze and report on the cumulative impacts that might result from the development impacts in combination with those of other past, present or reasonably foreseeable developments or activities. Different kinds of cumulative impacts that may be considered include:

- incremental (additive) effects resulting from repeated additions of a similar nature;
- interactive processes that combine to cause an effect;
- sequential effects where one reversible impact is followed by another;
- complex causation where one impact may trigger changes in the environment that in turn impact other ecosystem components;
- synergistic impacts where impacts on different ecosystem components combine to cause an overall degradation of the environment;
- trigger effects resulting when a threshold is passed.

4.2 Specific Items

A Summary

A-1 Non Technical Summary: Please provide a plain-language, non-technical summary of the EA Report to enable the public to follow the proceedings.

A-2 Conformity Table: The DAR should include a table cross referencing the items in these Terms of Reference with relevant sections of the DAR.

If requested by the Review Board, the developer will have the summary translated into the appropriate Aboriginal language(s).

B Developer Information

B-1 Company Corporate History: Please summarize the company's corporate history in Canada and the Northwest Territories. Also include the corporate histories of any partners.

B-2 Development Ownership: List all current partners in the SDLA and the portion each owns.

³ Although the Review Board will make a final determination of significance, the developer should submit its views on significance for each impact.

- B-3 Organizational Structure:* Identify the current corporate and individual responsibilities for the proposed development and associated operations.
- B-4 Performance Record:* Provide a record, preferably in form of a concordance table, showing how and to what extent commitments made by Paramount, measures ordered by the Minister and recommendations made by the Review Board during EA00-004 and EA01-005 have been implemented. Where measures and recommendations have not been implemented, or where commitments have not been followed, explain why. Only those measures ordered by the Minister and recommendations by the Review Board that were directed at Paramount have to be included.

C Development Description

The Board requires a complete development description.

- C-1 Timing:* Provide the proposed long term schedule as well as generic seasonal schedules for the project, and identify any time constraints.
- C-2 Construction Methods:* Describe the methods used to build access roads, well pads, pipelines, and any other components.
- C-3 Operations:* Describe the operations in terms of normal activities and in terms of potential malfunctions and accidents.
- C-4 Waste Management:* Give a description of the existing and proposed waste management plans.
- C-5 Water Use:* Provide a water budget for access and lease construction as well as drilling operations. Identify potential water sources.
- C-6 Abandonment and Restoration:* Describe your plans for abandonment and restoration, including the well sites, sumps, and access roads, battery sites, etc.. Include any plans for long term monitoring.
- C-7 Other:* Include any other relevant proposed activities or development components.

D Alternatives

The DAR should discuss alternatives to the currently proposed development components, their environmental impacts, and their limitations. As a minimum the following alternatives should be considered:

- alternative waste management, such as sumpless drilling systems;
- directional drilling methods;
- alternative transport modes, such as the use of airships to move heavy equipment; and
- alternative scheduling, e.g. stretching the program over a longer period of time;

E Regulatory Regime:

E-1 Current Components Provide a table summarizing relevant licences, permits or other authorizations required for the proposed development.

E-2 Future Components: Provide a table summarizing relevant licences, permits or other authorizations you anticipate to require for the proposed development components.

F Public Consultation:

F-1 Records: Provide minutes and a summary of consultation undertaken with the public, Aboriginal organizations, land owners, federal, territorial and municipal governments, and others. Include dates and participants.

F-2 Issues: Identify the issues raised, how they were resolved and what issues remain unresolved.

G Effects on the Environment

The DAR should examine ecosystem components and analyze how they will be impacted by all development components combined in space and over time, rather than presenting individual components and their impacts. In assessing effects on the environment the DAR will take into account section 4.1, and it will:

- a) Identify the valued components that may be affected. Baseline as well as current conditions should be reported.
- b) Identify the other past, present and reasonably foreseeable human activities and developments that may affect the same valued components.
- c) Predict the combined impact of the proposed development in combination with the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities and developments in (b) on the valued components identified in (a).
- d) Describe ways to avoid, mitigate or manage those impacts.

G-1 Air: Include all emission sources. The DAR should address short and long term effects and also include any changes in the operations that have occurred since the last EA, e.g. the use of sour gas for compressors.

G-2 Terrain: This section should include impacts on permafrost.

G-3 Soil

G-4 Water: This section should include impacts on surface and ground water, in terms of quantity and quality.

G-5 Fish and Wildlife: This section should deal with direct impacts on fish and wildlife, e.g. through short term disturbance, interruptions of fish and wildlife movement, and changes to habitat. In particular, the DAR is to address changes in effective or critical habitat for boreal woodland caribou. Also, the DAR should identify any species protected by the Species At Risk Act and describe how potential impacts will be minimized.

- G-6 Vegetation:* In addition to the effects of vegetation removal this section should address potential effects of the introduction of foreign species, accidental or through re-seeding efforts.
- G-7 Cultural and heritage resources:* Identify archaeological and heritage resources as well as sites or areas of cultural significance in or near the project area. To protect these resources, their location should NOT be included in the DAR. The DAR should, however, demonstrate that the developer is aware of the locations of known archeological sites and has procedures in place to detect and protect yet unknown sites as the project progresses. The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre may be contacted for further information on archeological sites. The developer is further encouraged to consult the people of Kakisa about cultural and heritage resources in or near the project area.
- G-8 Traditional Harvesting:* Describe the direct and indirect impacts this development may have on hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- G-9 Health and Social Indicators:* Describe how the proposed development may affect indicators such as use of social services (strain on infrastructure), alcohol and drug use, and teen pregnancy. Information on trends of these and other indicators to describe health and social well being may be obtained from the GNWT Bureau of Statistics or from service providers in the affected communities.
- G-10 Economic Factors:* The DAR should describe how the proposed development will impact on the economy in the NWT in general and on the economy of the affected communities in particular. This section should also include information on hiring policies with respect to NWT residents and residents of the affected communities, including barriers to employment, minimal skill requirements, availability of employees, and any proposed training or education initiatives.

H Contingencies

This section pertains to potential changes to the development (e.g. changes to timing or alternative methods), caused by the environment (e.g. through extreme weather conditions, flooding, etc...), as well as malfunctions or accidents in the course of development activities.

- H-1 Effects of Environment:* List and describe all effects that the environment may have on your development, including effects of global warming. Describe how the proposed development can be modified to address these effects.
- H-2 Effects of Malfunctions:* List and describe foreseeable malfunctions and how you will be dealing with those.
- H-3 Kyoto Accord:* Describe how Canada's obligations under the Kyoto Accord may impact on the proposed development and how these obligations may be dealt with.

J Monitoring, Evaluation and Adaptive Management

Where the DAR identifies an impact and/or a mitigation measure it should also discuss how this will be monitored, if necessary, and how management practices may be adapted over time to ensure the long term effectiveness of mitigation measures.

5 Assessment Process

5.1 Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the Review Board and its staff, government bodies, the developer and other parties in the EA are explained in this section. Further information regarding the structure of the EA process is available in the Review Board's Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines and the Rules of Procedure. Both documents are available from the Review Board.

All submissions received from all sources will be considered during the Review Board's decision-making processes on the environmental assessment. Usually these submissions will be public documents and will be posted on the Public Registry. However, the Review Board can and will accept documents on a confidential basis if required. Submissions should be in a format that is easily available to all stakeholders and should follow any templates provided by the Review Board.

5.1.1 Review Board

The Review Board, assisted by its staff, is required to undertake the following in relation to this EA:

- conduct the EA in accordance with ss.126(1) of the *MVRMA*;
- take into account any previous screening or assessment report made in relation to the development, in accordance with s.127 of the *MVRMA*;
- determine the scope of the development, in accordance with ss.117(1) of the *MVRMA*;
- consider environmental assessment factors, in accordance with ss.117(2) of the *MVRMA*;
- make a determination regarding the environmental impacts and public concern of the development, in accordance with ss.128(1) of the *MVRMA*;
- identify areas and extent of impacts within or outside the Mackenzie Valley in which the development is likely to have a significant adverse impact or be a cause of significant public concern, in accordance with ss.128(4) of the *MVRMA*;
- report to the designated regulatory agency (the NEB) in accordance with ss.128(2) of the *MVRMA*; and
- report to the Federal Minister in accordance with ss.128(2) of the *MVRMA*.

The Review Board's Environmental Assessment Officer (EAO) is the primary point of contact between the Review Board and the developer, government bodies (federal, territorial and municipal), non-government organizations (NGOs), First Nations, expert advisors (expert consultants contracted directly by the Review Board), the public and other interested parties. This does not limit or preclude the developer's contact with other parties during the EA process.

This Environmental Assessment will be coordinated and facilitated by Martin Haefele.

5.1.2 Government Bodies

Government bodies may be involved in the EA process as:

- a Regulatory Authority as defined in the *MVRMA*;
- a Responsible Minister as defined in the *MVRMA*;
- a Federal Minister as defined in the *MVRMA*; or,
- an advisor to the Review Board.

In addition to the expertise available from within government, the Review Board may choose to hire expert advisors to provide technical expertise on specific aspects of the EA.

5.1.3 Developer

The developer is expected to respond in a suitable and timely manner to directions and requests issued by the Review Board. Such requests include but are not necessarily limited to Information Requests, requests for translation of documents, and the request for the developer's presence at Public Hearings.

The developer may present additional information at any time to the Review Board beyond what was requested during the EA process. The Review Board encourages the developer to continue consulting all potentially affected communities and organizations during the EA process.

5.1.4 Other Directly Affected Parties and Interveners

Aboriginal groups, communities, or land owners that are potentially affected by the development can obtain standing as "directly affected party". Being granted status as directly affected party does not imply a determination by the Review Board that the party will necessarily be affected and does not constitute a legal right for compensation. It does give the party the right to fully participate in the EA. Directly affected parties may present information at any time during the EA and will be given opportunity to identify information requests. The Review Board may also direct information requests at any directly affected party.

Public interest groups, non-governmental organizations and other interested parties may participate in the EA as interveners. The rights and responsibilities of interveners are virtually identical to those of directly affected parties.

5.2 Milestones

Table 1 summarizes the milestones and responsibilities in the EA process.

Table 1 - Milestones and Responsibility Assignments for Phases in the EA Process

Milestone	Developer	Government Bodies	Other Parties	Review Board and Staff
EA start-up				✓
Prepare draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan				✓
Review and comment on draft ToR and WP	✓	✓	✓	
Revise and approve final ToR and WP				✓
Submit DAR	✓			
Conformity Check and Deficiency Statement (if required)				✓
Deficiency Statement Response	✓			
Information Requests		✓	✓	✓
Information Request Responses	✓	✓	✓	
Public Hearing	✓	✓	✓	✓
Technical Analysis		✓	✓	✓
Review Board Report of EA and Reasons for Decision				✓
Response from the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development (if required)		✓		
Consultation - throughout / as required	✓	✓	✓	✓

5.3 Deliverables

The following section lists and explains the various deliverables or milestones during the EA process. They are listed in the order they will be produced.

Public Registry, public notification, government notification, developer notification, expert advisor identification, identification of EA roles.

The Review Board has initiated the notification measures required by the *MVRMA*. The Review Board has opened the Public Registry on the EA. The Public Registry will be updated regularly. The Review Board will identify expert advisors as required.

Approved Terms of Reference and Work Plan.

This Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan for completing the EA was developed and approved by the Review Board. A final Terms of Reference and Work Plan will be developed incorporating comments on the draft document received from parties.

This document contains the scope of the development, the scope of the assessment, directions to the developer, a description of the EA process and an EA schedule.

Developer's Assessment Report.

Paramount Resources will use this document to guide the preparation of the DAR. Although the format of the DAR is largely left to the discretion of the developer, the developer should consider the use of appendices for providing some information, the use of a glossary for technical or uncommon terms and the clarity and accuracy of the information presented in the DAR. Diagram, charts and maps are useful for clarifying information presented in text.

Conformity Check, Review Board Deficiency Statement and developers' response.

The Review Board will review the Developer's Assessment Report to ensure that the developer has provided the information required. If needed, the Review Board will issue a deficiency statement identifying those areas in which the developer has not provided information to address an item listed in the scope of the assessment. The developer will be asked to submit information to the Review Board to fill the information gaps identified by the deficiency statement.

Information Requests and Responses to Information Requests

Information Requests are very specific and focused requests for clarification or additional information. They may be required for the Review Board to complete its analysis and reach a conclusion about the information provided by the developer. The first round of Information Requests that are issued will be developed by the Review Board. The second round will be open to all EA participants.

IRs can be issued by any party in the EA and can be directed to any other party. However, all IRs must be submitted to the Review Board for approval and they must also be submitted in the form required by the Review Board. If approved, the Review Board will then issue the Information Request under its authority to the intended Information

Requests recipient. The Information Requests and the responses will be included in the Public Registry and be used as evidence for the consideration of the Review Board.

Hearing

The Review Board may call a Hearing at any time during an EA. The conduct of Hearings is governed by the Review Board's *Rules of Procedure for Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Review Proceedings*. The Review Board has the option to conduct a formal Public Hearing or a less formal Community Hearing to obtain the views of the members of affected communities.

The Review Board intends to hold a community meeting for this EA in Kakisa, subject to budgetary constraints. The Community Hearing is anticipated to take place in September 2003 after the Developer's Assessment Report has become available, but before Information Requests are issued.

Technical reports from EA parties

The Review Board staff will undertake the analysis of the EA with the assistance of federal and territorial governments, first nations, the public, and other interested parties. A thorough analysis of the development is essential to assist the Review Board to make the best EA decision. This is a critical stage in the EA process where the key issues and impacts are identified and evaluated. The developer can formally provide and present its views on the information brought to the Review Board's attention including any proposed amendments, additions or refinements to the development or the environmental assessment documents. The technical reports from EA parties are to clearly state the reviewer's conclusions, recommendations and supporting rationales.

Review Board's Report of Environmental Assessment (EA Decision)

The Review Board will provide the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) with its Report of Environmental Assessment as per Section 128(2) of the MVRMA. The Minister of INAC will distribute the report to every responsible minister as per 128(2)(a) of the MVRMA. The developer and the other EA parties will also receive copies of the Review Board's Report of EA. The Review Board will also provide the National Energy Board as Designated Regulatory Agency under the MVRMA with its Report of Environmental Assessment as per Section 128(2).

5.4 Schedule

Table 2 provides estimated time lines for the completion of each milestone in the EA process. Days refer to working days. Please be aware that many of the milestones require Board approval and that some time is required for the Board to review submissions and to meet. The Review Board may amend the schedule at its discretion. The "early" completion dates assume that all tasks will be completed in the shorter time given under 'duration', while the "late" completion dates assume all tasks will require the maximum time. It is expected that the actual completion date of the EA will fall somewhere in between.

Table 2 - EA Schedule

Milestone	Duration		Anticipated Completion	
	Min	Max	Early	Late
Start Up of EA	1	1	24-Jun-03	24-Jun-03
Draft Terms of Reference and Work Plan	4	4	30-Jun-03	30-Jun-03
Comment Period on Draft ToR and WP	13	13	18-Jul-03	18-Jul-03
Terms of Reference and Work Plan	10	14	01-Aug-03	8-Aug-03
Developers Assessment Report	20	35	02-Sep-03	26-Sep-03
Public Hearing (may be scheduled any time during the proceedings)				
Conformity Check and Deficiency Statement (if required)	5	10	09-Sep-03	10-Oct-03
Developer's response to Deficiency Statement	5	10	16-Sep-03	27-Oct-03
Review Board's Information Requests	10	15	30-Sep-03	18-Nov-03
Open Information Requests	15	18	21-Oct-03	12-Dec-03
Developer's response to Information Requests	10	20	04-Nov-03	15-Jan-04
Technical Analysis Reports	15	20	26-Nov-03	12-Feb-04
Closure of Public Registry	1	1	27-Nov-03	13-Feb-04
Review Board Decision and Report of EA	24	34	06-Jan-04	01-Apr-04
Federal Minister's Response to Report of EA				