



Environment Canada    Environnement Canada

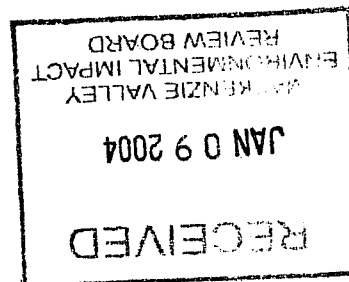
Fisheries and Oceans    Pêches et Océans

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January 09, 2004

Mr. Todd Burlingame  
Chair  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
200 Scotia Centre  
5102, 50th Avenue  
P.O. Box 938  
Yellowknife, NT  
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**RE: Draft Work Plan for the Environmental Assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Gas Pipeline Project. (Dec 18, 2003).**

Environment Canada (EC) and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) have reviewed the above noted draft Work Plan and offer the following comments for your consideration.

EC and DFO concur with the Board's decision that the proposed barge landing and staging area are an integral part of the Mackenzie Gas Project and that an Environmental Assessment (EA) should be conducted for the Mackenzie Gas Project as a whole. We also support the approach that this EA will be guided by the process and timelines that are outlined in the "Cooperation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories".

EC and DFO believe that the combination of the Preliminary Information Package, the Camsell Bend applications, and the issues identified at the community meetings held by the Proponent will meet the minimum information requirements set out in s.117 of the MVRMA.

EC and DFO support the 2 phased approach for this EA as proposed in the draft Work Plan. We further support the position that the Board can put forward its opinion of impacts, and make a determination pursuant to s.128 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* at the conclusion of Phase 1.

EC and DFO appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Work Plan. If you have any questions please contact Stephen Harbicht, EPB Yellowknife, 669-4733 or Julie Dahl, DFO Yellowknife, 669-4911.

Sincerely

Stephen Harbicht  
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Environmental Protection Branch  
Yellowknife, NT

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