



## Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

January 7, 2004

Chief Dennis Deneron  
Sambaa K'e Dene Band  
Box 10  
Trout Lake, NT X0E 1Z0

Dear Chief Deneron:

**Re: Your Letter of January 5, 2004 – Mackenzie Gas Project Environmental Assessment**

Thank you very much for providing us with your contact information and with comments on the draft work plan for this environmental assessment. Both contacts have been added to the distribution list.

The Review Board included all activities associated with building the pipeline in the scope of development. Your letter to the Land and Water Board on January 2<sup>nd</sup> correctly points out that this includes pre-construction activities, such as the creation of staging sites. The proposed geotechnical field investigation, however, is viewed by the Board not as part of *building* the pipeline, but of *designing* it. As such it is not included in the scope of the development for this assessment. The draft Work Plan is admittedly not clear on the status of the proposed geotechnical field investigation. Please accept my apologies for the confusion.

Excluding the geotechnical field investigation from the environmental assessment does by no means exempt it from the requirements of the MVRMA. It is currently undergoing a Preliminary Screening by the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. If you have any questions about the preliminary screening process please contact the Land and Water Board directly.

When the Review Board drafted the work plan for the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project it decided to hold hearings in nine communities, three in each affected region. Specific locations were chosen as the three communities closest to the proposed pipeline right of way. Hearings in Yellowknife and Hay River were added to avoid having government and other groups take away time from the community meetings. Trout Lake was not overlooked or considered not affected by the pipeline. Please bear in mind that the process outlined in the work plan is only the first phase of the assessment, and that there will be other opportunities and venues to share information.

The Review Board will consider all comments submitted on the draft work plan, including your request to hold a hearing in Trout Lake. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to discuss the environmental impact assessment process.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Haefele". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martin Haefele  
Environmental Assessment Officer