

March 5, 2004

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Review Board
Box 938
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2N7

Attention: Mr. Martin Haefele
Environmental Assessment Officer

Dear Mr. Haefele:

Re: Norman Wells Public Hearing for Mackenzie Gas Project Environmental Assessment

Attached is a summary of the presentation that Council of the Town of Norman Wells will be giving to the Public Hearings scheduled for March 16, 17, & 18. Our Mayor, Ann Marie Tout, will be available to attend at the time that you may designate.

Do not hesitate to contact the undersigned for further discussion, if required.

Yours very truly,

H. Alec Simpson
Town Manager

**M.V.E.I.R.B. - PUBLIC HEARING WITH RESPECT TO MACKENZIE GAS PROJECT
NORMAN WELLS - MARCH 16-18, 2004**

The Town of Norman Wells submits there is sufficient public concern with the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project to warrant its referral to a joint panel review.

Specifically, the Town submits that the lack of specific information provided by the project proponents and the lack of meaningful consultation results in the inability of the affected communities to effectively determine the full range of impacts associated with the project.

However, the following preliminary impacts and concerns have been identified by the Town of Norman Wells:

- ❑ Social impacts resulting from an increase in transient workers. It is not unrealistic to anticipate increased alcohol/substance abuse, increased crime and increased rates of Sexually Transmitted diseases will occur. Increased family violence, sexual assault and abuse are also anticipated.
- ❑ Demands on local emergency services (Health, Social Services, RCMP and Fire Department) will increase. As demand from industry increases, the availability of services to community residents is expected to decline.
- ❑ Increased cost of living and a decrease in available consumer goods and services is expected as residents and "the project" compete for available goods, labour and services and freight carriers.
- ❑ Increased safety concerns due to heavy vehicle/equipment traffic within the community and on the winter roads.
- ❑ High potential for employable youth to forgo educational commitments for seasonal employment opportunities, thereby decreasing their ability to secure permanent jobs which require high school education.
- ❑ Increased demand for municipal services and infrastructure including landfill access, water/sewage services, granular material supply and road use. Higher operational and maintenance costs for municipal infrastructure are anticipated which, if not compensated for by the project, will result in increased taxes to residents.
- ❑ Increased potential for environmental concerns - fuel spills, higher noise levels, increased emissions, impact to wildlife.
- ❑ Potential disruption to trapping and hunting routes/lifestyles.
- ❑ Increased, "immediate" demand for land purchase and development within the community.
- ❑ Lack of identified long-term benefit to the community including the an identification of and commitment to permanent employment opportunities and new revenue streams.
- ❑ High potential for "post-construction" abandonment of infrastructure.
- ❑ Lack of identified training programs for northern residents to prepare for construction employment opportunities.
- ❑ A lack of clarity regarding jurisdictional/regulatory authorities related to pipeline construction/right of way access within municipal boundaries.

As further project details become available, the Town of Norman Wells will be able to more fully identify and assess the potential impacts to our community. It is our expectation that the joint panel hearings will be mandated to grant equal weight to “protection of the environment from the significant adverse impacts of proposed developments” and “the protection of the social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities in the Mackenzie Valley” as identified in Sections 115.a and 115.b of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act.