



**Mackenzie Valley** Environmental Impact Review Board

**Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire**

**For EA0607-002:**

**Tamerlane Ventures Inc.'s Pine Point Pilot Project**

May 15, 2007

Dear interested parties,

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board invites you to reply to the attached *Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire* as part of the environmental assessment of Tamerlane Ventures' Pine Point Pilot Project [EA0607-002]. The Review Board believes this new approach to identify technical topics up front with assistance from the parties will assist in refining the scope of any required Technical Meetings for this EA.

It is important to note that Technical Meetings are not the forum for discussing every topic that comes up in an EA. Technical Meetings should focus on topics that have each of the following characteristics:

- They are important to the determination of potential impacts likely to occur as a result of the development;
- There are outstanding information gaps that need to be better defined, or there are questions about the accuracy of current impact predictions or proposed mitigation;
- Enough information is available at the time of the Technical Meeting to make good use of the participants' time in discussing the topic; and
- They are best suited to face-to-face discussions in a relatively non-formal setting.

Please refer to the attached list of questions on page two and provide the Review Board with your feedback. We welcome comments from all interested organizations and individuals. Please contact Alistair MacDonald if you have any questions that are not answered by the *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)* sheet (see attached), or if you have any feedback on using this approach.

**Responses to the *Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire* are due Wednesday, June 13, 2007.** Please send your replies "Attention: Alistair MacDonald".

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alistair MacDonald".

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**EA0607-002:  
Tamerlane Ventures Inc.'s Pine Point Pilot Project**

**Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire**

**Instructions (additional information is provided in the FAQ Sheet, if necessary):**

Using your analysis of the Developer's Assessment Report as a guide, and in light of your perspective of key remaining issues related to the Environmental Assessment of the Pine Point Pilot Project, please provide the Review Board with answers to the following questions:

1. *What topics would your organization like to see discussed in a Technical Meeting?*

NOTE: If you have no topics you want to examine further in a Technical Meeting, please let the Review Board know that fact.

For each topic you identify, please also provide answers to the following in as much detail as you consider necessary:

2. *What specific questions do you feel remain unanswered in relation to this topic?*
3. *What specific additional information does your organization require to address this topic in a Technical Meeting (if any)?*
4. *Can your organization contribute expertise on this topic area, or can you identify or suggest which party might possess such required expertise?*

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet*

### *What is a Technical Meetings Topics Questionnaire?*

This is an exercise that invites public comment to the Review Board on which topics (if any) merit further examination in Technical Meetings. Your comments will assist the Review Board in determining whether Technical Meetings should occur, what issues should be discussed and by whom, and what format will work best for those meetings. Please consider the evidence presented in the *Developer's Assessment Report (DAR)* before making a recommendation of what topics still require discussion in Technical Meetings.

### *What are Technical Meetings?*

Technical Meetings (sometimes also called Technical Sessions) are held during the Technical Review stage of an EA, which starts upon receipt of the DAR from the developer. Technical Meetings are designed to be face-to-face venues that facilitate discussion between parties regarding technical issues. They are intended to help parties reach consensus on specific topics, where possible, and to identify and prioritize the topics on which there is remaining disagreement. They are run by the Review Board, and all Parties to the EA are invited to attend and contribute.

In the case of this EA, the potential need for Technical Meetings was identified in the Work Plan, and any required Technical Meetings will occur between the 1<sup>st</sup> Round Information Request and 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Information Request phases of the Work Plan. The Review Board will provide a month's notice prior to the holding of any Technical Meetings. A Pre-Technical Meeting Teleconference will also be held with all Parties well in advance, to focus the agenda and discuss logistical concerns.

### *When are responses to this Questionnaire due, and how will the information be used?*

This Questionnaire has been distributed to all organizations on the distribution list for this EA. **The Review Board will accept Questionnaire responses up until Wednesday, June 13, 2007.** This corresponds to the estimated time allotted for the Developer and other parties to respond to the Review Board's 1<sup>st</sup> Round Information Requests (IRs), which were also issued on May 15, 2007. The Review Board will then place all of the responses on the Public Record and use them to help make an informed decision on the need for, and focus of, any subsequent Technical Meetings. The Review Board will also consider the adequacy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round IR responses in its decision-making.

### *Does this Questionnaire "replace" other steps in the EA Work Plan?*

No. It is simply a tool that allows parties greater input toward deciding what topics merit Technical Meetings. The formal Work Plan has not changed.

## *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet (cont'd)*

### *Will this Questionnaire slow down the EA?*

No. The purpose of this questionnaire is to make the EA process more effective, but not at the cost of extra time. This questionnaire has been sent to all parties on the EA distribution list at the same time that 1<sup>st</sup> Round IRs have been distributed, so that it will not interfere with the EA timeline.

### *Will the EA now be limited to looking only at topics identified by the Questionnaire?*

No. The Review Board has identified here for your consideration five topics that *might* merit further analysis in Technical Meetings (see list below), based on items the *Terms of Reference* stated require “special consideration” during this EA.

The *Terms of Reference* issued in October, 2006 identified the following five topics that should be given special consideration by Tamerlane in the Developers Assessment Report.

1. *All water quality and quantity issues related to the Development, particularly in relation to the use of the infiltration basin;*
2. *Impacts on transportation infrastructure and public safety of increasing truck traffic;*
3. *Factors affecting the successful establishment and maintenance of the “freezeway curtain”;*
4. *Impacts on Species at Risk Act (SARA) – listed species frequenting the area; and*
5. *Employment, training and business opportunities for local residents and aboriginal groups.”*

**NOTE: The Review Board has made no judgment at this time that these are the only topics that merit further consideration. Parties are not required to address all or any of the five listed topics; use your own discretion in determining which ones merit special attention. If you feel there are other key topics that should be addressed in a Technical Meeting, please include them in your response.**

Outstanding topics not covered by Technical Meetings may still be considered when developing 2<sup>nd</sup> Round IRs, and Parties can provide evidence on any issues within the Scope of Assessment for the EA in their Technical Reviews, which occur later in the EA process.

### *Will this Questionnaire make our job more difficult?*

We hope this Questionnaire makes your job easier! We want parties examining the DAR to channel concerns about key outstanding issues into their Questionnaire responses so we can set up the most appropriate and effective Technical Meeting(s) for this EA.