

December 18, 2023

Note to File

RE: Mackenzie Valley Highway, meeting with Government of the Northwest Territories

On December 8, 2023, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) met with Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) staff to discuss the [draft Workplan](#) for the Mackenzie Valley Highway project.

Participants

GNWT: Patricia Coyne, Seth Bohnet, Nathen Richea, Robert Jenkins, Lorraine Seale

Review Board staff: Mark Cliffe-Phillips, Alan Ehrlich, Chuck Hubert

Overview of discussion

The developer and Board staff discussed specific and general timelines in the draft Workplan. The GNWT noted that the timelines for responses to information requests were tight given its whole-of-government approach and requirements for departmental review prior to finalizing its responses. Review Board staff suggested that the GNWT may propose a longer period for its information request responses in its comments on the draft Workplan, and it could also request more time once it has seen the number and type of information requests. The Review is prepared to be flexible on timelines.

The Review Board noted that the purpose of the review of the Developer's Assessment Report on the Online Review System is to address many of the smaller issues and clarifications to further inform parties, and possibly to reduce the number of formal information requests. Review Board staff have met with several communities along the route of the project, for general engagement and training on how to participate in environmental assessment process steps.

The developer and Board staff discussed the draft Workplan step of revising the Developer's Assessment Report before the hearing. Review Board staff explained that this revised document was to compile any project changes and developer commitments up to that point, to assist parties in preparing interventions before public hearings. This document would not

require additional review. The Review Board will release a Notice of Proceeding describing the purpose and requirements of this revised document.

The developer and Board staff discussed community engagement in 2024 to familiarize communities with the Developer's Assessment Report. Board staff agreed that it could initiate and facilitate these community meetings with participation from the developer.

The GNWT stated that it would be providing comments on the draft Workplan.

If you have questions or require more information, please contact Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn (867-766-7054, cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca).