



December 5, 2023

# Notice of Proceeding

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

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## Re: Comments requested on the draft Workplan

### 1.1 Overview

This Notice of Proceeding describes how participants can submit comments on the draft Workplan for the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

### 1.2 Background

On November 21, 2023, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) released a [Notice of Proceeding and draft Workplan](#) describing the initial steps in the analysis phase of the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment.

On December 4, 2023, Review Board staff hosted an online meeting with interested participants to present the draft Workplan and explain process steps during the analytical phase. During this meeting, Review Board staff advised that it would seek comments and recommendations on the process steps and timelines described in the latest draft Workplan (attached). The Review Board will post a meeting summary to the public registry shortly.

### 1.3 How to submit comments on the draft Workplan

Any participant in this environmental assessment process who wishes to submit comments and recommendations on the draft Workplan should do so in writing to the contact listed below by **December 19, 2023**.

The Review Board will post all comments on the draft Workplan to the public registry. The Review Board will then consider the comments and recommendations and will release an updated draft Workplan in January 2024 with a rationale for how comments or recommendations were addressed.

## 1.4 Contact Information

Our primary contact for this environmental assessment is Catherine Fairbairn, Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor.

### **Contact info:**

Catherine Fairbairn  
Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor  
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board  
Box 938, 5102-50th Avenue  
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7  
Ph: (867) 766-7054  
[cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca](mailto:cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca)

EA1213-02 – Mackenzie Valley Highway Project  
Government of the Northwest Territories

Current Draft Workplan – December 5, 2023

This draft workplan describes the process steps for EA1213-02. Process steps that are complete include the total days (Review Board or developer) and the end date is shaded. Note that this environmental assessment started before legislated timelines came into force on March 25, 2014. Since March 25, 2014, the Review Board has spent 78 days of its time on comments and revisions to a draft Terms of Reference (in response to significant changes to the project by the developer) and 40 days on a conformity determination of the *Developer’s Assessment Report*.

Future process steps include approximate deadlines or end dates that are subject to change.

EA Phase	Process Step	Board Time (days)	Developer Time (days)	End Date	
Scoping	Referral to environmental assessment	0	0	Feb 8, 2013	
	Deadline for party status applications	70	-	Apr 19, 2013	
	Review Board Reasons for Decision on party status	42	-	May 31, 2013	
	Party comment on issues scoping	28	-	Jun 28, 2013	
	In-person scoping meetings	Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley)	73	-	Sep 9, 2013
		Tulita			Sep 10, 2013
		Fort Good Hope			Sep 11, 2013
		Inuvik			Sep 17, 2013
		Norman Wells			Sep 18, 2013
	Developer submits draft <i>Terms of Reference</i> (TOR)	-	12	Sep 30, 2013	
	Review Board issues draft TOR	56	-	Nov 25, 2013	
	Comments from parties and developer on draft TOR	-	15	Dec 10, 2013	
	Review Board issues final TOR	13	-	Dec 23, 2013	
	Developer prepares a revised project description	-	250	Aug 29, 2014	
	Developer prepares a draft TOR	-	90	Nov 27, 2014	
Parties comment on the draft TOR	57	-	Jan 23, 2015		
<b>Review Board issues final TOR</b>	21	-	<b>Feb 13, 2015</b>		
Analytical	<b>Developer submits the <i>Developer’s Assessment Report</i> (DAR)</b>	-	3,163	<b>Oct 12, 2023</b>	
	Review Board conformity determination	40	-	Nov 21, 2023	
	<b>Public review of the DAR begins</b>				
	<b>Information requests (IRs) from Review Board (round 1)</b>			<b>Feb 29, 2024</b>	
	Developer’s responses to Review Board IRs (round 1)			Mar 29, 2024	
	<b>Information requests from parties (round 1)</b>			<b>Apr 30, 2024</b>	
Developer’s responses to parties’ IRs (round 1)			May 31, 2024		

	<b>Technical sessions</b>			Summer 2024
	<b>Community sessions</b>			Summer 2024
	<b>If required: Information requests</b> from Review Board and parties (round 2)			Fall 2024
	If required: Developer's responses to information requests (round 2)			Fall 2024
	<b>Developer submits revised <i>Developer's Assessment Report</i></b>			Fall 2024
<b>Hearing</b>	<b>Pre-hearing conference</b>			Late 2024
	Deadline to apply for intervenor status			
	<b>Interventions</b>			
	<b>Developer response to intervention</b>			
	Public hearing preparation (Review Board, parties)			
	All interveners submit hearing presentations			
	<b>Public hearings</b>			
	Hearing undertakings (developer, parties)			
	<b>Closing Arguments from parties</b>			
	<b>Closing Argument from developer</b>			
Closure of the public record				
<b>Decision</b>	Evidence analysis by the Review Board			Early 2025
	Board deliberation and initial report drafting			
	Board, legal, and editorial reviews			
	<b>Review Board issues Report of Environmental Assessment</b>			
	Minister responses to Report of EA			
<b>Recommence Land and Water Board process</b>				