

November 21, 2023

Notice of Proceeding

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

Re: Review and Information Requests

1.1 Introduction

The Government of the Northwest Territories (the developer) submitted its *Developer's Assessment Report* on October 12, 2023. The Review Board determined that this document [is in conformity](#) with the [Terms of Reference](#) for this environmental assessment and provides enough information to proceed to the next steps of the Analysis phase. These steps will include 1) a review of the DAR and 2) information requests (IRs) from the Review Board. Details on the DAR review and IRs are provided below. This notice includes a draft workplan describing important dates and deadlines for the upcoming process steps.

1.2 Review of the Developer's Assessment Report

The next step of the analysis phase will begin with a review of the DAR on the Online Review System (ORS). During this review, parties and the Review Board can comment on the project description, potential impacts, and proposed mitigations described in the DAR.

During this DAR review, comments and recommendations can only be directed to the developer. The Review Board encourages the GNWT to respond to comments as soon as possible, to support parties' reviews of the DAR and to allow for any follow-up where feasible.

Details about the DAR review will be provided on the ORS. Review Board staff will be providing training on how to use the ORS in the next few weeks.

1.3 Review Board Information Requests

For this environmental assessment, the Review Board will ask IRs and allow the developer to respond before parties ask additional IRs. This staggered approach is intended to provide parties with a reasonable review period and allow them to consider questions by the Review Board and responses from the GNWT when preparing their own IRs.

The following deadlines for IRs are proposed in the draft workplan:

- February 29, 2024: Review Board submits IRs on the ORS
- March 29, 2024: GNWT responds to Review Board IRs

1.4 Next Steps

After the Review Board asks its IRs and the developer responds, parties will have the opportunity to ask additional IRs. After the IR phase, the proceeding will move to community and technical sessions. This may be followed by an additional round of information requests. A future notice of proceeding will provide more information on these steps.

When the Review Board determines there is adequate information to enter the hearing phase, it will request an updated DAR from the developer. This will provide parties with one main document to consider when preparing their interventions for the public hearing. A future notice of proceeding will describe details about this process.

1.5 Contact Information

The primary contact on behalf of the Review Board is Catherine Fairbairn, Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor.

Contact info:

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

Current Draft Workplan – November 21, 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	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		
Review Board issues final TOR	21	-	Feb 13, 2015		
Analytical	Developer submits the <i>Developer’s Assessment Report</i> (DAR)	-	3893	Oct 12, 2023	
	Review Board conformity determination	40	-	Nov 21, 2023	
	Public review of the DAR begins				
	Information requests (IRs) from Review Board (round 1)			Feb 29, 2024	
	Developer’s responses to Review Board IRs (round 1)			Mar 29, 2024	
	Information requests from parties (round 1)			Apr 30, 2024	
Developer’s responses to parties’ IRs (round 1)			May 31, 2024		

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