

Update on Guidance for Inuvik General Hearing on EIS Methods – February 21 – 22, 2006

The purpose of this document is to provide further information about the subject matter and approach concerning the conduct of the Joint Review Panel's General Hearing on *Approaches to and Methods for Evaluating the Information in the EIS and Supplementary Submissions* scheduled for February 21 – 22, 2006. It is intended to assist participants in preparing for the hearings. It is supplementary to the *Topics and Locations of Community, General and Technical Hearings* issued by the Panel on December 20, 2005.

These hearing sessions are intended to identify general approaches and specific methods for evaluating and assessing information about project impacts (positive and negative) and their significance. The objective is to ensure that the Joint Review Panel and Parties to the review are aware of different perspectives and contemporary approaches to, and methods of, impact assessment. It is not the Panel's intention at this stage to endorse, recommend or justify any particular approach.

The Panel encourages the Parties to approach this hearing session as an early opportunity to identify specific areas of interest and concern with respect to approaches and methods associated with any particular subject matter addressed by the EIS and supplementary submissions provided by the Proponent. This is not intended to preclude participants from raising issues of impact assessment methodology and providing detailed comments in the particular context of their presentations on particular subject matters at a later stage in the hearings.

The hearing session will commence with the Proponent explaining the methods and approaches used in its EIS and supplementary information for assessing the impacts of the Project, and in determining the significance of those impacts. It will be followed by an opportunity for the Panel and Interveners to ask questions of the presenters.

This will be followed by presentations from a panel of specialist advisors to the Joint Review Panel who have prepared expert reviews of the following areas in impact assessment:

- Indicators of Social, Economic, and Cultural Cumulative Effects Resulting from Petroleum Development in Alaska: A Review by Jack Kruse
- Sustainability-based Assessment Criteria and Associated Frameworks for Evaluations and Decisions: Theory, Practice and Implications for the Mackenzie Gas Project Review by Robert Gibson
- Significance Criteria and Determination in Sustainability-Based Environmental Impact Assessment by David Lawrence

Oral presentations by the Panel's specialist advisors will be followed by an opportunity for the Panel, the Proponent and Interveners to ask questions. Reports by these specialist advisors to the Panel will be available on the Public Registry prior to the commencement of public hearings.

A report concerning approaches to the determination and assessment of cumulative impacts associated with future development scenarios will be prepared by a specialist advisor to the Panel. It will be released when ready at a later date and discussed at a later hearing.

Presentations by Interveners on any area of interest and concern with respect to approaches and methods for evaluating the information in the EIS and supplementary submissions will follow the presentations of the Panel's specialist advisors. Each will be followed by an opportunity for the Panel, the Proponent and other Interveners to ask questions of the presenter.

Written submissions must be filed 10 days in advance or by February 10, 2006

Location: Midnight Sun Complex, Inuvik NT

Time(s): 10:30 am – 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm (February 21, 2006)

9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm- 4:30 pm (February 22, 2006)

Further Information

For further information about the Joint Review Panel's hearing topics, hearing locations and to register to present at the public hearings, please contact:

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