

Topics and Locations of Community, General and Technical Hearings

The purpose of this document is to provide updated information about the range and scope of the topics that the Joint Review Panel (JRP or the Panel) expects to hear during the public hearings phase of its review of the environmental impacts of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP or the proposed Project). This information is intended to assist participants in preparing for the hearings. It is supplementary to the *revised Schedule for the Hearings Phase of the Environmental Review of the Proposed Mackenzie Gas Project* (the Schedule) issued by the Panel on January 26, 2006.

This information is informed by the comments the Panel has received from participants in regard to the notice to comment on proposed topics and locations of public hearings that was issued by the Panel on October 7, 2005 and updated to respond to queries from the Parties raised during the Pre-Hearing teleconference on January 20, 2006. The Panel may make further adjustments to the topics, locations and schedule of public hearings as it deems necessary.

The public hearings phase of the environmental impact review will begin with opening statements, in Inuvik, Northwest Territories on February 14, 2006. The purpose of the opening session is to provide interested parties with the opportunity to introduce themselves and to outline the purpose and nature of their intended participation in the hearings. There will also be an opportunity for closing statements after all community, general, and technical hearings are completed.

The Joint Review Panel's public hearings will address six general themes:

- Theme 1: Setting the Scene – Project Description and Assessment Methodology
- Theme 2: Physical Environment – Land, Water and Air
- Theme 3: Biological Environment – Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitats;
Conservation Measures
- Theme 4: Human Environment – Economic Impacts
- Theme 5: Human Environment – Socio-cultural Impacts
- Theme 6: Project Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts, and Project Net Effects and Trade-offs after Enhancement, Mitigation and Follow-up

These themes include several topics, each of which contains many specific matters for discussion. The manner in which each topic is treated in any particular hearing will vary, depending on whether that hearing is a General Hearing, a Technical Hearing, or a Community Hearing.

This document also describes the three different types of public hearings, and the different approach and opportunity that each offers for the presentation of information and comments, and

the discussion of topics. The Panel's *Direction on Procedures for Hearings* details how it will conduct each type of hearing.

Types of Public Hearings and Related Topics

The public hearings are an important element of the Panel's environmental impact review of the proposed MGP. They are *public* hearings and as such they present an essential opportunity for public participation in the Panel's review. The public hearings will provide a unique forum for Northerners to express their views about the proposed MGP, and to present their knowledge and understanding directly to the Panel about how people and the environment could be affected by the proposed Project.

The objectives of the public hearings are to provide opportunities for:

- the proponent of the MGP (the Proponent) to explain the project and to respond to comments, questions and concerns raised by other Parties and the general public during the hearings;
- individuals, organizations and government representatives to provide their views on all aspects of the MGP within the mandate of the Panel, including the implications of the MGP for the people and natural environment in those regions in which the proposed Project would be located; and
- the Panel to receive information that will help in thoroughly examining the matters relevant to its mandate.

The public hearings will generally follow a format that begins with opening comments from the Panel chairperson, a presentation by the Proponent describing the project in general or a specific project-related topic to be addressed at the session, followed by presentations by registered participants. Questions may be asked of any presentation by the Panel, the Proponent, and registered Interveners, in accordance with the Panel's *Direction on Procedures for Hearings*.

The requirements for participant registration during the public hearings and for the filing of submissions are set out in the Panel's *Direction on Procedures for Hearings*.

The Joint Review Panel will hold three types of public hearings:

1. Community Hearings

The Panel will hold Community Hearings in the Mackenzie Gas Project Area as defined in the Environmental Impact Statement. Community Hearings will be held to promote the full and open participation of people living near the location of the proposed Project. Community Hearings are intended to provide a more informal setting than the Technical or General Hearings.

Community Hearings will begin with a short presentation by the Proponent, describing the MGP and how it will affect the community in which the Community Hearing is being held. Participants may then speak to any matter of interest and concern within the mandate of the Panel, relating, for example, to any of the six general themes noted above. At the Community Hearings, priority will be given to people and organizations from the community in which the hearing is being held. In Community Hearings, residents will have the opportunity to participate directly and make presentations in their own languages and in their own ways.

The Panel will hold Community Hearings in Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Holman, Paulatuk, Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope, Colville Lake, Deline, Tulita, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Trout Lake, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Fort Providence, Hay River, Hay River Reserve and High Level.

Please consult the Schedule for a listing of locations, dates and times for all JRP Community Hearings.

2. General Hearings: Open and Topic-Specific

There will be two types of General Hearings: Open and Topic-Specific.

Open General Hearings will provide the opportunity for organizations, businesses or individuals to make presentations to the Joint Review Panel on any of the topics outlined in this document or any other matter within the scope of the Panel's environmental impact review.

Open General Hearings will begin with a presentation by the Proponent describing the Mackenzie Gas Project and how it may affect the community or region in which the hearing is held. General Hearings are not limited to registered Interveners and do not require the presentation of expert opinion and knowledge.

General Hearings are a means for participants to formally convey to the Panel their ideas, interests, positions and concerns regarding the proposed Project. Presentations in both the Open and Topic-Specific General Hearings are generally limited to a maximum of 15 minutes and may be followed by a question and answer period. Registration with the Joint Review Panel Manager is requested at least 30 days before the scheduled General Hearing session and written submissions should be filed with the Panel Manager 10 days in advance of their scheduled presentation.

The Panel will hold Open General Hearings in Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Yellowknife, Hay River, High Level, Edmonton, Calgary and Whitehorse. Please consult the Schedule for locations, dates and times for all JRP Open General Hearings.

The Panel recognizes that formal presentations on some topics, especially those relating to the biological and human environment, will be made by individuals, organizations or

institutions with a special interest in, and responsibility for, matters associated with public expenditures, public policies, programs and services, rather than by technical experts as such. Consequently, the Panel will devote certain General Hearings (or portions of them) to specific topics identified below. Such hearings will be designated as Topic-Specific General Hearings.

The rules for Topic-Specific General Hearings will differ from those for Technical Hearings chiefly in that people knowledgeable of and responsible for matters relating to the designated topic will be able to make presentations without necessarily having the same technical qualifications as those making presentations at Technical Hearings will require. However, participants in Topic-Specific General Hearings will have to present their written evidence in advance, and be subject to questioning by the Panel and by other participants.

Topic-Specific General Hearings and their locations and date are identified in this document and will be held in Inuvik, Norman Wells, Fort Simpson, Hay River, and Yellowknife. Please consult the Schedule for locations, dates and times for all JRP Topic-Specific General Hearings.

3. Technical Hearings

The Panel will hold Technical Hearings in some of the larger centres. The purpose of a Technical Hearing is twofold: a) to bring together individual experts to provide their opinion on a particular topic based on their knowledge and expertise; and b) to provide a forum where technical experts on select topics may exchange opinions and have their opinions subject to rigorous and technical questioning by the Panel, other experts, the Proponent and Interveners.

Technical Hearings will begin with a presentation by the Proponent's technical expert panel, and be followed by other panels of experts, or individual experts, that other Parties may wish to call. Each presentation may be subject to detailed questioning by the Panel and other Parties.

Registration with the Joint Review Panel Manager is required 30 days prior to any Technical Hearing. Presenters at Technical Hearings must also file their submissions in writing 15 days in advance of the hearing, along with a statement of their qualifications to provide expert opinion on the particular topic.

Technical and Topic-Specific General Hearings have been organized to focus discussion on select topics. The distinction between Topic-Specific and Technical Hearings is based chiefly on the qualifications of the persons giving evidence, and this will depend on whether the Proponent, registered Interveners, or the Panel itself, choose to select persons with the appropriate technical qualifications to provide expert opinion on the topic in question. Consequently, it is not possible at this time for the Panel to specify whether certain topics will be entirely a Technical Hearing, entirely a Topic-Specific General Hearing, or some combination of the two. The Panel is requesting that the Parties

indicate to the Panel **by May 1, 2006**, their preferred designation of the following hearings and, accordingly, whether they intend to utilize technical or non-technical presenters in those hearings:

July 12, 2006 – Wildlife and wildlife habitat: Topic-Specific or Technical Hearing
October 13, 2006 – Socio-cultural impacts: Topic-Specific or Technical Hearing
October 23, 2006 – Environmental (Socio-cultural, Economic and Biophysical) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-up Programs: Topic-Specific or Technical Hearing
October 25, 2006 – Project Need, Purpose and Alternative Cumulative Impacts: Topic-Specific or Technical Hearing
October 26, 2006 – Net Contribution of the Project (in comparison with alternatives): Topic-Specific or Technical Hearing

In the event the Panel designates some hearings as a combined Technical and Topic-Specific Hearing, for the purpose of hearing from both technical and non technical presenters in the same hearing, the Panel will designate deadlines by which Parties must register and file written submissions. Based on the input it receives from the Parties, the Panel will convene the proceedings accordingly.

The Panel will hold Technical Hearings in Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Norman Wells, and Yellowknife. Please consult the Schedule for locations, dates and times for all JRP Topic-Specific General Hearings.

4. Technical Experts

Technical experts are individuals who are experts in their field who are called on to provide their opinion based on their expertise. An expert can be used by a Party to assist in the evaluation of the facts presented by others and can draw a conclusion from those facts even if they did not observe them personally. However, it is up to the Panel to determine the truth of those facts and the weight to be attached to the evidence of the expert. In weighing the opinion of the expert, the Panel will take into consideration the status, qualifications, interests, experience, reputation, bearing and response of the expert.

Only the Proponent, registered Interveners and the Panel can put forward technical experts at Technical Hearings. All Parties with technical experts related to a Technical Hearing topic are expected to make their technical experts physically available at the Technical Hearing. If a technical expert is not physically present at a Technical Hearing the opportunity to present technical evidence at that Hearing will be foregone. Because the Panel will not be able to verify the qualifications of the experts or receive affirmation of the experts' opinions directly from them if they are not present at the hearing, the Panel may place less weight on any written submission that may have been filed as expert evidence. The expert will not be able to participate in the questioning of other Parties' technical experts or, if presented, the Panel's specialist advisors.

It may be possible for the Party to make arrangements for filing of similar information at a General Hearing. While individuals with technical expertise may choose to make a presentation to the Panel at a Community or General Hearing, the information they submit to the Panel may not be given the same weight as if it had been presented and tested at a Technical Hearing. Information presented at a Community or General Hearing will be treated as the personal views of the presenter or the views of their organization.

Outline of Topics for Technical and General Hearings

Theme 1 – Setting the Scene

Topic 1. Project Description

The purpose of this hearing session is to describe the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project and its features that may have impacts on the social, economic, cultural physical or biophysical environments, as a basis for further examination of those impacts at subsequent hearing sessions. Only the Proponent will present evidence. Questions of clarification relating to the nature, but not the impacts, of the proposed Project may be raised at this session.

The Joint Review Panel expects the representative from each of the Project proponent companies to provide introductory information on the scope, nature, and setting of the project, including its general requirements, facilities and installations, locations, associated infrastructure, footprint, normal and necessary environmental inputs and outputs (e.g. project-related emissions and effluents), logistics, transport, costs, and workforce, during each phase of the project (construction, operation, decommissioning and abandonment). The description should include basic information on employment and rotation schedules. It should identify design characteristics that allow for uncertainties and enable adjustments in the event of unforeseen conditions, accidents, malfunctions, or unforeseen impacts. It should identify plans for decommissioning and abandonment. It should also indicate alternative means of carrying out the project and why the proposed means are the preferred ones.

Locations: Inuvik General Hearing – February 15 - 16, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 2. Approaches to and Methods for Evaluating the Information in the EIS and Supplementary Submissions

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 several different perspectives and contemporary approaches to, and methods of, impact assessment. It is not the Panel's intention at this stage, however, to endorse, recommend or justify any particular approach.

The Proponent will explain the methods and approaches used in its EIS and supplementary information, including the application of traditional knowledge and the precautionary principle, for assessing the impacts of the Project, and in determining the significance of those impacts.

The Panel has commissioned expert reviews of the following issues in impact assessment:

- Identification and use of socio-economic and socio-cultural indicators in the assessment and monitoring of cumulative impacts resulting from oil and gas development in Alaskan communities
- Approaches to the application of sustainability-based assessment criteria, and evaluations of project contributions to sustainability
- Approaches to and methods for significance determination
- Approaches to the determination and cumulative impacts assessment of future development scenarios.

Reports from the Panel's expert advisors will be made available on the Public Registry prior to the commencement of public hearings.

Participants may wish to raise such issues of impact assessment methodology in the particular context of their presentations on particular subject matters at a later stage in the hearings.

Locations: Inuvik General Hearing – February 21 - 22, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Themes 2 and 3 – Physical and Biological Environments

While the Joint Review Panel will for the most part treat the physical and biological environments as separate hearing topics, in some cases they are combined in the same session for reasons of scheduling or logistics.

Theme 2 – Physical Environment - Land, Water, and Air

These hearing sessions will focus on how the proposed Project design, pipeline and access road routing, and facility and materials storage site selection are intended to avoid or minimize terrain degradation and hydrological disruption under both present conditions and their possible variability, and possible future conditions as these might be altered by the Project itself or by such exogenous factors as climate change. To the extent that adverse impacts on terrain, the marine environment, water, and air may nonetheless occur as a result of construction or operation, each session will also address the nature and certainty of these impacts, how and whether these impacts can be mitigated, and the likely effectiveness of such mitigation.

Sessions will be organized according to four main topic areas:

- routing and siting in relation to terrain and hydrology
- the marine environment
- the aquatic environment
- atmospheric emissions and noise

The Panel expects presentations to address the inter-relations of environmental systems and among Valued Components (VCs) and Key Indicators (KIs), as well as impacts on individual VCs and KIs.

Topic 3. Project Routing and Design in Relation to the Physical Environment

This hearing session will focus on the relation between the design, routing and siting of the proposed MGP and the physical environment, with particular emphasis on permafrost conditions.

The topic will be divided into two parts reflecting the distinct, but related major components of the Project (pipelines and anchor field facilities):

(a) Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and Mackenzie Gathering System Routing and Design

Matters for discussion should include:

- Project construction and operating impacts on the permafrost regime (including pipe-laying and stream crossing methods, and operating temperatures) that may affect terrain, slope stability, and erosion
- Project construction and operation impacts on the permafrost regime that may affect water crossings and hydrology: stream and groundwater flow, surface runoff, ponding, and pipeline ditch subsidence
- Geological instability and hazards
- Gravel, water and timber extractions
- Effects of climate change on pipeline design and operation

Locations: Inuvik Technical Hearings – March 14 - 17, 2006 (includes discussion of pipeline gathering system)

Yellowknife Technical Hearings – August 15 – 16, 2006 (excludes discussion of pipeline gathering system)

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

(b) Anchor Field Design

Matters for discussion should include:

- Project construction and operating impacts on the permafrost regime (including drilling effects and production operating temperatures)
- Gas field subsidence
- Sea level change, storm surges, shoreline erosion/submergence
- Geological instability and hazards
- Gravel and water extractions
- Waste disposal (drilling mud and process water)

Locations: Inuvik Technical Hearings – March 20 – 22, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 4. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Air Quality

This hearing session will focus on how the proposed MGP might interact with the atmospheric environment, and the measures proposed to mitigate any adverse impacts on that environment. Consideration will be given to how the proposed Project might contribute by virtue of its construction and normal operation to greenhouse gases and air quality.

Location: Inuvik Technical Hearing – October 17, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 5. Marine Environment, Marine Habitat and Marine Mammals and Birds

This hearing session will focus on how the MGP might interact with the marine environment, marine habitat, marine mammals, fish and birds and how these may have affected the design of the proposed MGP and associated mitigation measures.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Dredging, spoil disposal and sedimentation
- Marine transport
- Noise and spills in the marine environment
- Impacts on marine mammals
- Impacts on marine fishes
- Impacts on marine birds

Locations: Tuktoyaktuk Technical Hearing – September 14, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Theme 3 – Biological Environment – Fish and Wildlife and Their Habitat; Conservation Measures

These hearing sessions will address the potential effects of the proposed Project on the biological environment (separately in the aquatic and terrestrial environments, but also with attention to any overlapping and interactive impacts). These sessions will consider the temporary and lasting impacts of the Project on the biological environment as it now exists and as it may evolve during the life of the proposed Project, the certainty of those impacts, the anticipated effectiveness of proposed mitigation of adverse impacts in design, construction, or operation in the northern environment, and the potential for enhancements (e.g. through rehabilitation or replacement). As well, these sessions will consider the potential impacts of the proposed Project on the maintenance and development of the tools for promoting environmental conservation and rehabilitation.

Sessions will be organized according to three main topics: fish and aquatic (freshwater) habitat; wildlife and birds and their habitat; and conservation areas and measures (the tools for maintaining habitat integrity and wildlife populations).

The Joint Review Panel expects presentations to address issues of ecosystem structure, function, integrity, and viability, as well as issues related to particular Valued Components. The Panel expects that the sessions will also identify indirect as well as direct impacts, and identify changes in the environment that are not caused by the Project, but that may combine with any Project-induced impacts. Consideration of the biological environment must address Project impacts on the capacity of renewable resources to meet existing and future needs, and any changes that the Project may cause to any species (including its critical habitat), listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Topic 6. Water Quality and Quantity, and Fish and Aquatic Habitat

This hearing session will focus on how the proposed MGP might interact with the aquatic environment and how that environment may have affected the design of the proposed Project and associated mitigation measures. This topic also links physical and biological environments and includes aquatic habitat and fish.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Effects of Project-induced changes in stream, groundwater, and surface flow
- Extent and effects of Project water withdrawals, effluents, and in-stream activities
- Effects of Project-induced Mackenzie River barge traffic
- Possible changes in water levels and flows
- Possible changes in sedimentation, turbidity, and contamination

- Effects of anchor field subsidence
- Impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat
- Impacts on fish populations

Locations: Norman Wells Technical Hearing – July 11 - 12, 2006 (excludes effects of gas field subsidence)

Inuvik Technical Hearing – October 18, 2006 (includes effects of gas field subsidence)

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 7. Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat, including Birds and Bird Habitat

Matters for discussion should include:

- Impacts on vegetation
- Direct and indirect impacts on wildlife and bird species and their habitat
- Visual or auditory disturbances (atmospheric noise)
- Impacts on birds and bird habitat (with particular emphasis on the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary area) from Project-induced subsidence
- Impacts of increased access

Locations: Norman Wells Technical Hearing – July 12 - 13, 2006 (excludes effects of gas field subsidence, and any consideration of the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary)

Inuvik Technical Hearing – October 19, 2006 (includes effects of gas field subsidence and related impacts on the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary)

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 8. Conservation Areas and Measures

In some hearing sessions, conservation areas and measures will be discussed in combination with Topic 12 – Harvesting and Other Land Uses.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Habitat fragmentation and connectivity
- Heritage and cultural resources, sites and trails
- Existing and proposed protected areas and networks and special management areas
- Systems and methods for designating and protecting conservation areas (federal, territorial, and claims-based), resources required, and potential effectiveness
- Species listed under the federal *Species at Risk Act*

- Relevant policies, regulations, management plans, or other measures, to protect or enhance fish and wildlife and habitat, and cultural and heritage resources

Locations: Fort Simpson General Hearing – May 17 - 18, 2006

Norman Wells General Hearing – July 10, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Themes 4 and 5 – Human Environment: Economic and Socio-cultural Impacts

The Joint Review Panel recognizes that these two themes are often interconnected, although for the purpose of hearing sessions they have been separated. The Panel anticipates that many presentations at General Hearing sessions will address economic impacts, and that many people at Community Hearings will speak to both themes. It is not the Panel's intention to limit discussion to these themes to Technical Hearings.

Presentations on topics in either theme should address issues such as the distribution of positive and negative impacts, and the sustainability of benefits related to the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. Presentations should address not only specific impacts on individual Valued Components, but also the interrelations of key indicators at the community, regional, and territorial levels, and potential trade-offs among them. The Panel expects that the hearing sessions will also identify and explain indirect as well as direct impacts, and institutional as well as community or culturally-specific vulnerabilities and opportunities for enhancements.

The description of the human environment should identify and explain important interrelationships, processes and systems, and changes in the human environment that are not caused by the proposed Project, but that may combine with those impacts related to the Project or cause a change to the Project.

Topics under the Human Environment themes are of widespread public interest to individuals, organizations and institutions with a special interest in, and responsibility for, matters associated with public expenditures and public policies, and programs and services. The Panel recognizes that expertise in these areas is not limited to technical experts as such. Consequently some of the matters listed below may be addressed in Topic-Specific General Hearings, in order to relax some of the rules that apply to Technical Hearings, and to facilitate presentations by interested participants.

Theme 4 – Human Environment: Economic Impacts

These hearing sessions will address the impact of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project on the formal and informal economic environment. The sessions will consider the temporary and lasting impacts of the proposed Project on the local, regional, territorial and national economic environment as it now exists and as it may evolve during the life of the proposed Project, the

certainty of those impacts, the anticipated effectiveness of proposed mitigation of adverse impacts, and the potential for enhancement of beneficial impacts (whether resulting directly from the proposed Project or from cumulative impacts).

These sessions will also consider the impacts of the Project on the maintenance and development of the institutional tools for promoting durable economic gains.

Topic 9. Education, Training, Employment, and Procurement

These hearing sessions will focus on specific MGP-related education, training, employment and procurement opportunities and constraints and comparative adverse and beneficial effects.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Education and training
- Employment, points of hire and conditions of work
- Labour force impacts
- Business opportunities and procurement

Locations: Yellowknife General Hearing – August 21, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 10. Project-related Expenditures and Economic Benefits

These hearing sessions will address the direct, indirect and induced economic inputs and benefits of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project on local, regional, territorial, provincial and national economies.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Expenditure and investment impacts, including local and regional spin-off economic activity from wages and purchases related to the proposed Project
- Employment income to persons, and its distribution
- Revenues to governments, and their distribution
- Constraints that could affect economic benefits or opportunities.

Locations: Yellowknife Technical Hearing – August 23, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 11. Project-related Economic Costs and Physical Infrastructure Impacts

These hearing sessions will address the direct and indirect economic costs and impacts of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project on local, regional and territorial economies, infrastructure and institutions.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Community income and household economics
- Local consumer prices, inflation and cost-of-living
- Foregone or precluded economic opportunities
- Impacts on local and regional physical infrastructure (including transportation and communications), municipal services, institutional capacity
- Quarries and quarry material availability
- Housing availability, accessibility, quality and affordability

Locations: Hay River General Hearing – June 12, 2006 (focus on impacts on transportation infrastructure)

Yellowknife Technical Hearing – August 24, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Theme 5 – Human Environment: Socio-cultural Impacts

These hearing sessions will address temporary and lasting impacts on the socio-cultural environments potentially influenced by the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. The sessions will consider impacts of the proposed Project on the socio-cultural environment as it now exists and as it may evolve during the life of the Project, the certainty of those impacts, the anticipated effectiveness of proposed mitigation of adverse impacts, and the potential for enhancements through effective responses to current socio-cultural problems. As well, these sessions will consider the impacts of the proposed Project on the maintenance and development of the institutional tools for socio-cultural protection and enhancement. The Joint Review Panel expects that the Parties will address the residual impacts (if any) of the proposed Project after the period of peak construction employment and after the Project is decommissioned.

The Panel expects that information on these matters will be presented at the Community, General, and Technical Hearings.

Topic 12. Harvesting and Other Land Use

These hearing sessions will address the potential impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project on subsistence, sport and commercial harvesting and other land uses.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Project and cumulative impacts on wildlife and fisheries abundance, distribution, productivity, quality, and accessibility as these impacts may affect harvesters
- Direct impacts on harvesters and harvester access
- Potential impacts on land use, including land use patterns and specific sites or features
- Provisions for wildlife compensation
- Worst Case Scenario (applicable in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region only)

Locations: Fort Simpson General Hearing – May 17 - 18, 2006

Norman Wells General Hearing – July 10, 2006

Inuvik General Hearing – October 20, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 13. Socio-cultural Impacts

This hearing session will address the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project on human health and community wellness, with particular attention to Project-related impacts on social and cultural patterns and cohesion, and the capacity of people, communities and institutions to respond and adapt to Project-induced social, cultural and economic change. Consideration will be given to the potentially variable effects of the proposed Project on specific components of community and regional populations, particularly with respect to age, gender, status, occupation, and income.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Demographics, mobility
- Impacts of Project-related employment and income on community/family life, including child and Elder care
- Impacts on human health and social determinants of health
- Impacts on community and personal wellness
- Impacts on living conditions including the role of subsistence and other activities for traditional purposes
- Impacts on social programs and health services
- Impacts on community/family capacity, resilience and support systems (social capital)
- Government policies and commitments as they relate to project activities and direct and indirect impacts

Location: Inuvik Technical/General Hearing – October 13, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Theme 6 – Project Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts, and Net Effects and Trade-offs after Enhancement, Mitigation and Follow-up

The topics included under this theme are broad in scope. They are intended to consider the information presented in previous sessions and address project alternatives and project design options; future development scenarios as they relate to the assessment of cumulative impacts; environmental management plans, contingency plans, monitoring and follow-up programs; and the net contributions of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project to environmental sustainability.

These sessions will address the overall impacts of and justifications for the proposed Project in light of the general sustainability framework set out on the 18 July 2005 Joint Review Panel determination of sufficiency to proceed to the hearings. It will also consider the application of sustainability criteria in the evaluation of the net contribution of the proposed Project in comparison with alternatives, in light of the proposed design and implementation features, and expected success of mitigation and enhancement efforts and continuing uncertainties. Particular attention will be paid to the main lasting impacts (benefits, opportunities, adverse impacts, costs, risks, etc.), their nature, severity, certainty and distribution (over time, among places, and among interests). These sessions will also examine the justifications offered for the trade-offs involved.

Topic 14. Environmental (Socio-cultural, Economic and Biophysical) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-up Programs

Matters for discussion should include:

- How the proposed Project has been designed and would be constructed and operated to alleviate or minimize the effects of accidents, malfunctions, and unforeseen impacts
- Preparations for accidents and malfunctions, including emergency preparedness and emergency response plans
- Biophysical environment management and protection plans and agreements
- Socio-cultural and economic monitoring plans and response plans
- Follow-up plans – compliance, inspection, monitoring
- Proposals for environmental monitoring and follow-up regimes
- Effectiveness of existing environmental monitoring and follow-up regimes

Location: Inuvik Technical/General Hearing – October 25, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 15. Project Need, Purpose and Alternatives; Cumulative Impacts

The purpose of this hearing session is to address two matters for discussion:

- Need for, purposes of, and alternatives to the proposed Project, and alternative means of carrying out the Project
- Overall potential cumulative impacts of the proposed Project, with consideration to cumulative impacts previously identified, and future development scenarios

Location: Inuvik Technical/General Hearing – October 23, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

Topic 16. Net Contribution of the Project (in Comparison with Alternatives)

These presentations should address the question of whether Northerners will be better off as a result of the Mackenzie Gas Project, whether net benefits are sustainable, and what will be the distribution among individuals and communities of the costs and benefits of the proposed Project.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Summary and comparison of adverse impacts, costs, and risks, and of benefits and opportunities, and their distribution in short and long term and among different interests (governments, private sector companies, communities, individuals)
- Trade-offs among anticipated gains and losses
- Identification and justification of trade-offs within particular areas (e.g. economic gains from taxes and royalties versus added costs and expenditures, or immediate gains versus longer term sustainability), and among the Valued Components
- Contributions from socio-economic agreements and access and benefits agreements
- Judgment on overall sustainability questions.

Location: Inuvik Technical/General Hearing – October 26, 2006

Open General Hearings as listed in the Schedule

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:

Paula Pacholek, Joint Review Panel Manager
Phone: (867) 678-8604; Fax: (867) 777-3105
Email: pacholekp@jointreviewpanel.ca

Suite 302, 125 Mackenzie Road; P.O. Box 2412
Inuvik NT X0E 0T0