

Update on Guidance for Norman Wells Topic-Specific General and Technical Hearings: August 21 - 24, 2006

***Topics: Harvesting and Other Land Uses
Conservation Areas and Measures
Water Quality and Quantity, and Fish and Aquatic Habitat***

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 hearings **rescheduled for Norman Wells from July 10 - 13, 2006 to August 21 - 24, 2006**. It is intended to assist participants in preparing for the hearing. It is supplementary to the *Topics and Locations of Community, General and Technical Hearings* issued by the Panel on February 2, 2006.

The hearing sessions on *Harvesting and Other Land Uses* (Topic 12) and *Conservation Areas and Measures* (Topic 8) are scheduled consecutively in that order for August 21 - 22, 2006.

The hearing on *Water Quality and Quantity, and Fish and Aquatic Habitat* (Topic 6) is a two-day session scheduled for August 23 - 24, 2006.

The hearing session on *Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat* (Topic 7) originally scheduled for July 12 - 13, 2006 is postponed to a future date that will be announced as part of a revised schedule for the remainder of public hearings.

Further information on each of the Norman Wells hearing sessions is listed below.

Topic-Specific General Hearing: Harvesting and Other Land Uses (Topic 12) – August 21 - 22, 2006

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

Matters for discussion at this session should include:

- Project and cumulative impacts on plants, wildlife and fisheries abundance, distribution, productivity, quality, and accessibility as these impacts may affect harvesters
- Direct impacts on harvesters and harvester access, including traditional trails
- Potential impacts on land use, including land use patterns and specific sites or features
- Provisions for wildlife and harvesting compensation

Topic – Specific General Hearing: Conservation Areas and Measures (Topic 8) – August 21 - 22, 2006

Matters for discussion at this session 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* (also addressed under Topic 7)
- Relevant policies, regulations, land use and conservation management plans, or other measures, to protect or enhance fish and wildlife and habitat, and cultural and heritage resources
- Visual or auditory disturbances as they affect human use and appreciation of the environment

Note: The Norman Wells hearing session excludes effects of gas field subsidence and any consideration of the Kendall Island Bird Sanctuary (see Topic 7 - Inuvik Topic-Specific General Hearing) and excludes marine protected areas (see Topic 5 - Tuktoyaktuk Topic-Specific General Hearing).

Technical Hearing: Water Quality and Quantity, and Fish and Aquatic Habitat (Topic 6) – August 23 - 24, 2006

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 at this session 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, other transportation activity and transportation infrastructure and access
- Possible changes in water levels and flows
- Possible changes in sedimentation, turbidity, and contamination
- Impacts on aquatic and riparian habitat
- Impacts on fish populations
- Implications for Department of Fisheries and Ocean's no net loss principle and habitat alteration disturbance or destruction (HADD) authorizations

Note: The Norman Wells hearing session excludes the effects of gas field subsidence (see Topic 6 – Inuvik hearing) and focuses on effects of pipeline infrastructure and activities)

15 copies of written submissions must be filed with the Panel Manager 10 days in advance of the session of the Topic-Specific General Hearings on Conservation Areas and Measures, and Harvesting and Other Land Uses, and 15 days in advance of the Technical Hearing on Water Quality and Quantity, and Fish and Aquatic Habitat. Presenters are strongly encouraged to file slide presentations that are summaries of their written submission at the same time.

Location: Dennis Drolet Memorial Hall, Norman Wells, NT

Time(s): 9:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm (August 21 - 24, 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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