

December 11, 2006

To: All Parties to the Environmental Impact Review being conducted by the Joint Review Panel for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project

Re: Joint Review Panel's Hearings Update – February and March 2007

On November 10, 2006 Justice Phelan of the Federal Court of Canada issued his Judgment in a court challenge initiated by the Dene Tha' First Nation concerning the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. This Judgment has implications for the environmental impact review process being conducted by the Joint Review Panel (the Panel). While complying with Justice Phelan's Judgment, the Panel has a responsibility to continue to fulfill its mandate, within the constraints of the Judgment. As a result, the Panel has made the following decisions in relation to public hearings during the months of February and March 2007.

With respect to all the following hearings, **the Panel will not consider evidence on matters involving the Connecting Facilities or the territory in which the Dene Tha' First Nation have or have asserted aboriginal or treaty rights.** The Panel anticipates that it may need to revisit these topics in the context of the Connecting Facilities or the territory in which the Dene Tha' First Nation have or have asserted aboriginal or treaty rights.

▪ **February 6 to 8, 2007 – Topic-Specific General Hearing on Education, Training, Employment, and Procurement (Topic 9)**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Yellowknife as follows:

Tuesday, February 6, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 7, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday, February 8, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for December 7 and 8, 2006

Location: Tree of Peace Friendship Centre, 5009 51st Street

The registration period for this hearing has **closed** and submissions have been received.

▪ **February 10, 2007 – Community Hearing in Tuktoyaktuk**

The Panel will conduct a community hearing session in Tuktoyaktuk as follows:

Saturday, February 10, 2007	1:00 to 4:30 p.m. & 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
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N.B.: This is a continuation of the hearing held on September 11 & 15, 2006

Location: Kitty Hall

- **February 12 to 14, 2007 – Topic-Specific General Hearing on Responding to Socio-Cultural Impacts (Topic 13)**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Inuvik as follows:

Monday, February 12, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 13, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, February 14, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for January 15 and 16, 2007

Location: Midnight Sun Recreational Complex

Deadline for Registration	January 12, 2007
Deadline for Written Submissions	January 23, 2007

- **February 26, 2007 – Open General Hearing in Edmonton**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Edmonton as follows:

Monday, February 26, 2007	1:30 to 4:30 p.m. & 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
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N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for December 11, 2006

Location: Shaw Conference Centre, 9797 Jasper Avenue

Deadline for Registration	January 26, 2007
Deadline for Written Submissions	February 9, 2007

- **March 13, 2007 – Topic-Specific General Hearing on Harvesting and Other Land Use (Topic 12)**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Inuvik as follows:

Tuesday, March 13, 2007	9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
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N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for November 17, 2006

Location: Midnight Sun Recreational Complex

The registration period for this hearing has **closed** and submissions have been received.

Please note that this hearing is intended to address harvesting and other land uses in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (please consult the *Guidance Document for Hearings – Revised July 19, 2006*). **Harvesting of timber resources will be addressed at a future hearing**, the details for which will be released at a later date.

- **March 15 and 16, 2007 – Topic-Specific General Hearing on Environmental (Biophysical, Socio-Cultural and Economic) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-Up Programs (Topic 14a – Biophysical Environment)**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Inuvik as follows:

Thursday, March 15, 2007 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Friday, March 16, 2007 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for February 6 and 7, 2007

Location: Midnight Sun Recreational Complex

Deadline for **Registration** February 13, 2007
Deadline for **Written Submissions** February 23, 2007

- **March 19 and 20, 2007 – Topic-Specific General Hearing on Environmental (Biophysical, Socio-Cultural and Economic) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-Up Programs (Topic 14b – Socio-Cultural and Economic Environment)**

The Panel will proceed with this hearing in Yellowknife as follows:

Monday, March 19, 2007 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 20, 2007 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. & 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.
N.B.: This hearing was initially scheduled for February 9, 2007

Location: Tree of Peace Friendship Centre, 5009 51st Street

Deadline for **Registration** February 16, 2007
Deadline for **Written Submissions** February 27, 2007

Regarding the remainder of the topics, the *Guidance Document for Hearings* (see attached) has been revised. Re-scheduling details for these topics will be forthcoming in due course.

Sincerely,



Robert Hornal
Joint Review Panel Chair

Attachments: *Guidance Document for Hearings* (Revised December 11, 2006)
Schedule for the Public Hearings Phase of the Environmental Review of the Proposed Mackenzie Gas Project
Summary of Deadlines for Joint Review Panel Hearings