

## ***Update on Guidance for Inuvik Topic-Specific General Hearing – Topic 13, Responding to Socio-cultural Impacts – February 12, 13 and 14, 2007***

[Yellow highlighting indicates new text effective January 19, 2007]

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 Topic-Specific General Hearing on *Responding to Socio-cultural Impacts* scheduled for February 12, 13 and 14, 2007 in Inuvik. It is intended to assist participants in preparing for the hearing. It is supplementary to the *Guidance Document for Hearings: Topics and Locations of Community, General and Technical Hearings* (revised December 11, 2006).

This hearing session will address the potential direct and indirect impacts of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) on human health, community and personal wellness, and the local and regional capacity of people and institutions to assess and respond to these impacts. Submissions on determinants and indicators of health and well-being, and on socio-cultural monitoring and follow-up programs, are best directed to Topic 14 – Environmental (Socio-cultural, Economic and Biophysical) Management Plans, Monitoring and Follow-up Programs.

Matters for discussion should include:

- Impacts of Project-related employment and income on community demographics, mobility, and family life, including child and elder care
- Impacts of Project-related employment and income on alcohol and drug use, family violence, gambling, incarceration, and related social problems
- Impacts on the household economy including the role of subsistence and non-wage activities.
- Impacts on social programs and health and protection 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

Particular attention will be given 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.

The Panel is aware that these are matters of wide-spread concern in the Project area. These concerns have been frequently expressed in community and general hearings to date, and the Panel expects that such concerns will continue to be expressed in the remaining community and general hearings. The purpose of this session is not to restate these concerns, but to provide evidence of their extent, nature, and causes; evidence of the extent to which the proposed Project might exacerbate or alleviate them; and evidence-based recommendations for dealing with these matters. The Panel is mindful that socio-economic impacts are largely unregulated and often difficult to monitor. The Panel is also mindful that discussions and negotiations are on-going with respect to socio-economic agreements, and access and impact benefits agreements, that are intended to deal with social and cultural impacts in whole or in part, and further that Canada has recently enacted legislation to provide funding to address potential social impacts of the MGP (the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund (MGPIF)).

The Panel is particularly interested in receiving submissions from the GNWT on those matters within its jurisdiction, and from the regional aboriginal organizations that will have primary responsibility for regional planning exercises to determine regional priorities and priority projects associated with the MGPIF.

With regard to existing social and cultural patterns and cohesion, and personal, community, and institutional capacity, presentations by the Proponent and Interveners should include consideration of the following questions:

- What are the current status and trends with respect to these matters in the NWT at regional and community levels in the absence the Project? What quantitative and qualitative evidence is there to support such assessments? How does the situation in the NWT compare with neighbouring or comparable jurisdictions?
- What are the key sources or causes of existing problems in the NWT? Will existing problems be exacerbated or alleviated by the proposed Project? What would be the basis for making such an assessment? How is it possible to distinguish between Project and non-Project effects?
- What is the capacity of the GNWT and of communities in the Project Area to address potential Project-related impacts? What are their current strengths and vulnerabilities? What needs to be put in place at the territorial government level, and at the community level? What is the proven effectiveness of existing policies and programs? What needs to be changed?

The Panel also seeks to understand the following with respect to the general terms of the Mackenzie Gas Project Impact Fund and its implementation:

- What are the terms and conditions of Canada's financial commitments and contributions?
- How do the agencies and organizations that will have primary responsibility for regional planning exercises associated with the MGPIF currently assess needs and priorities for action in each region?

- What needs and priorities have been identified to date in each region that the MGPIF could address and what types of measures could address them?
- Where eligibility criteria for project applications exist, how have they been determined? Where eligibility criteria do not exist, how will they be determined?
- How will proposed projects be assessed for their likely effectiveness, and how will the outcomes of those projects that receive funding from the MGPIF be evaluated?
- What is the status to date of any planning activities and work undertaken for the development and implementation of the MGPIF in each region?
- What is the status to date of funding arrangements and the anticipated schedule of planning activities to be undertaken in 2007 for the development and implementation of the MGPIF in each region? When will funds from the MGPIF begin to flow?
- How will the planning activities and projects undertaken by the MGPIF be coordinated with the activities and programs of federal and territorial government departments and agencies operating in the same or overlapping areas?

**The Panel will not consider evidence on matters related to the Connecting Facilities or the territory in which the Dene Tha' First Nation have or have asserted aboriginal or treaty rights.**

Written submissions must be filed 20 days in advance or by January 23, 2007.

*Location* Inuvik Topic-Specific General Hearing – February 12, 13, 14, 2007  
(9:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm)

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:

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