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From: jim taggart [<mailto:jbtaggart@hotmail.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 21, 2007 10:07 AM

To: pacholekp@jointreviewpanel.ca

Subject: MV pipeline submission

I wholeheartedly agree with MP Wally Firth and the many others, that the proposed Mackenzie Valley Pipeline (MVP, ironic really) would be a social disaster for Inuvialuit beneficiaries. However, his and similar comments barely scratch the surface of the irreversible impacts the pipeline could have on Inuvialuit society, the traditional way of life and on the ecology of the Delta.

The potential financial benefits are far outweighed by the social costs. To allow the mistakes of the past to be repeated would be unforgivable, and the impacts of the MVP stretch far beyond simply attracting southern workers, and an influx of drugs and alcohol. Camp living is a way of life for oil and gas development, and having a parent, and sometimes both parents, away from home for two-week periods each month has already lead to family distress during the exploration phase in the Mackenzie Delta. Children are often left unsupervised or under the supervision of a totally unsuitable friend or relative. The impact of the sudden increase in household and community incomes often can result in binge drinking and access to drugs. I don't intend to label Inuvialuit beneficiaries irresponsible, it's simply that the shock of sudden change is often too much to handle - and there is too little social support or education available.

Hunting, and indeed access, would be severely restricted within the oil fields. The MVP is a huge project and, if realised, would result in hundreds of hectares of tundra being off-limit to Inuvialuit hunters. The projected route takes the pipelines close to Husky Lakes, an important traditional hunting and fishing area. It will be difficult for many hunters to gain access to the lakes, especially during the multi-year construction phase. What price a traditional lifestyle?

Pipelines need to be continually assessed and surveyed 24 hours a day, even those built underground. Helicopters have a devastating effect on wildlife and these are the most common method of reconnaissance. The accompanying facilities are often large and noisy and will impact wildlife movements. The industry often argues that caribou "like" oil patches as they can provide respite from mosquitoes and the equipment exhausts help keep them warm in winter. It's surely obvious however that anything that upsets natural animal behaviour or movements should be avoided?

My biggest concern however is the lack of accurate information reaching the

public and Inuvialuit beneficiaries in particular. The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has been advocating the MVP development from the beginning without, in my opinion, telling beneficiaries the full story. It would be unrealistic to expect Industry to outline the possible social and environmental consequences however, it's surely the job of the IRC to keep their people informed. As a former Land Management Officer with the Inuvialuit Land Administration, I saw very little objective consultation from the IRC. Many residents of Tuk and Inuvik were not aware of the potential disturbance to their way of life. To date I have seen little in the way of meaningful and accurate reporting. If the Inuvialuit really want a pipeline then that is for them to decide. But please let their decision be an informed one. For all our sakes.

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