

Environmental Impact Statement Conference

Planning Meeting (Inuvik, May 24-26, 2005)

Facilitator's Summary Notes

In a letter dated May 9, 2005, the JRP proposed that a small group of interested Interveners and the Proponent meet with the facilitator and Panel staff to advise on the structure and content of the Environmental Impact Statement Conference scheduled for the end of June.

The EIS Conference will bring together Interveners and the Proponent in a public forum to identify outstanding information gaps/deficiencies. The Panel will use the information gathered at this conference, and other information received from interveners, in conjunction with information obtained from its own technical analyses, to determine if there is sufficient information on the public record to proceed to the public hearings stage of the review process. The invitation to work collaboratively on conference planning was extended to all Registered Interveners.

On May 24 -26, eleven Interveners and four representatives of the Proponent (see Appendix 1) met with Panel and Northern Gas Secretariat staff and the conference facilitator in Inuvik to address the following questions:

- How might we best deal with conference time constraints, the volume of material and the range of expertise among interveners to help ensure that the conference permits an informed review and meaningful assessment of 'key' sufficiency issues?
- In what subject areas and on what 'key' issues do you see a divergence of views (between Interveners or between Interveners and the Proponent) on the 'sufficiency of information' filed by the Proponent? Where do you see confusion or misperceptions about the sufficiency of information required for the assessment of project impacts?

Conference Format

In a discussion led by the conference facilitator, the group explored the advantages and disadvantages of a traditional consultation model for the conference and then considered the merits and challenges associated with a consensus-seeking structure. In summary, the group discussed the shortcomings of a traditional consultation approach, which would involve conference participants directly but limit the possibility of an informed review and meaningful assessment of sufficiency issues (due to the number of participants and volume of material).

The group also examined a consensus-seeking structure involving expert panels to assess sufficiency issues in an intervenor forum. This approach also posed process design problems, including only indirect participation by Interveners and the need to convene experts in a very short time frame.

Following the discussion, which revealed no clear preference, the conference facilitator suggested a hybrid approach designed to:

- provide the Interveners with an opportunity to comment on the sufficiency of information to proceed to hearings, and
- in a facilitated discussion among participants, seek to identify areas of agreement and disagreement, with a view to narrowing differences on the sufficiency of information to proceed to hearings.

This approach could include brief presentations by the Proponent, panel discussions or direct participation by the Interveners attending the session, or a mix of all three, as appropriate to the nature and scope of the issue, and the number of Interveners participating in the session. Several members of the planning group offered specific advice in support of this approach and the group referred the matter back to the facilitator and Panel staff, taking into account suggestions made by the group.

Conference Agenda

The group acknowledged that the constraints of a three-day event and the Panel's desire for an informed review and meaningful assessment made it difficult if not impossible to review every 'sufficiency of information' issue at the conference. With this in mind, the group began the process of narrowing the scope of issues for the conference agenda by delineating the following broad topic areas:

Biophysical Environment and Impacts

Geotechnical issues

River crossing issues

Wildlife, fish, marine mammals and related habitat issues

Human Environment

Traditional harvesting and land use issues

Community wellness, social programming and health service issues

Community infrastructure and municipal service issues

Northern, Aboriginal employment and procurement issues

Other Candidate Issues

Impacts on regional transportation infrastructure

Commitments table

Greenhouse gas emissions

Air quality

Project-related preparedness and emergency prevention, preparedness and response plans

The adequacy of these topic areas to accommodate a range of ‘sufficiency concerns’ concerns was explored by Panel staff (prior to the close of the planning meeting) by reviewing recent information requests and placing concerns about ‘sufficiency of information’ under the appropriate heading for illustrative purposes. The planning group received the ‘sample’ list but chose not to identify and prioritize specific sufficiency issues. The challenge of narrowing the list to perhaps six issues for conference working sessions was referred to Panel staff, acknowledging that interveners not present at the planning meeting might wish to help narrow the scope of the conference agenda by suggesting ‘candidate’ issues for consideration.

Craig Darling

Conference Facilitator

May 31, 2005

Appendices:

1. List of Participants at EIS Planning Meeting May 24 to May 26, 2005
2. Sample list of issues (**for illustrative purposes only**)

Appendix 1

List of Participants at EIS Planning Meeting May 24 to May 26, 2005

Name:	Organization:
Barbour, Shona	Nihtat Gwich'in Council
Baryluk, Steve	Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat
Bleaney, Bob	Conoco-Philips
Brumwell, Chuck	Environment Canada
Clarkson, Peter	NWT Association of Communities
Ewins, Pete	World Wildlife Fund
Hurst, Ricki	Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Kennedy, Al	Imperial Oil
Martin, Sandy	Imperial Oil
Mead, Doug	Shell Canada
More, Gavin	Government of the Northwest Territories
Perry, Nelson	Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat
Sumanik, Ron	Yukon Government
Thorbourne, James	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Walker-Larsen, Jennifer	Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
Anick-Elie, Marie	Northern Gas Project Secretariat
Bourgeois, Annette	Northern Gas Project Secretariat
Darling, Craig	Facilitator, Accord Canada
Pacholek, Paula	Joint Review Panel office
Staples, Lindsay	Joint Review Panel office
Kim Hawkins, Bobbie-Jo Greenland (May 26 morning)	Gwich'in Tribal Council

Appendix 2
Sample list of issues (for illustrative purposes only)

Theme	Sufficiency of Information Issue
Biophysical	
	Geotech
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seismic hazard (rupture of pipeline)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permafrost (catastrophic lake drainage, historic changes and conditions, frozen/unfrozen interfaces)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change (analytical methodology and cumulative effects)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subsidence (i.e.KIBS)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction effects (ground ice, floes, slumping – i.e., impact of project on ground)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical data
	River Crossing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on Little Kumak Channel
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aufeis accumulation and impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compressor stations, frost bulb formations, suspended sediments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC's
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watercourse classification
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River crossing designs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank failure and control
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground ice at slopes and stream crossings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ice jamming and scour
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	Wildlife/Fish/Marine Mammal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of cumulative effects scenario and supporting information
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish habitat – water quality
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bird habitat modelling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine mammal species and interaction with project activities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Human	
	Harvesting/Land use
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination of country foods
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VEC spatial mapping at eco-regional scale (protected areas)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cumulative impacts on protected areas and VC's
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

	Community Infrastructure/Municipal Services
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional/community –specific
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint initiative between municipal, territorial and other responsible authorities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology for assessment of impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-migration impacts
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	Northern, Aboriginal Employment and Procurement
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determining cumulative labour force demand and contracting services (estimate of number of jobs by category and ‘rolling up’ into cumulative effect)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicability of criteria for getting on procurement list
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment policies (training), workforce projections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting information for policies and commitments
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	Social Programming / Health Service Delivery / Community Wellness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators of community wellness
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care and facility impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spatial and temporal boundaries
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential cumulative effects and conclusions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring and follow-up plans
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Other	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on transportation infrastructure
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitments Table (completeness of information)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse Gas Emissions (calculation of project emissions, calculation for future project expansion)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of existing baseline social conditions in communities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air Quality (assessment and cumulative effects)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project related preparedness emergency prevention, preparedness and response plans
Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse Effects (downstream)