

June 20, 2005



To: Participants in the upcoming EIS Conference

On behalf of the Joint Review Panel, I would like to welcome all those Interveners who have registered for the upcoming EIS Conference and to offer further clarity on how the conference will unfold. To that end, please find attached a letter from Craig Darling, which sets out in more detail how the topic sessions will be conducted.

In reviewing the questionnaires that each of the registrants submitted, the Panel notes there are some topics that, for a variety of reasons, were not included in the topics for discussion in the EIS Conference Agenda that was circulated June 10, 2005. The criteria used by the Panel to select topics for discussion are set out in that letter. While the Panel realizes the importance to Interveners of suggested topics that were not selected, the Panel expects conference attendees to focus on the issues that have been selected for the conference agenda. The Panel is confident that participants will respect Mr. Darling's goal of keeping the discussions focussed on the topic at hand.

Please keep in mind that the EIS Conference is not the only means for bringing comments to the attention of the Panel or the only means by which the Panel will consider concerns about sufficiency. Letters on matters of deficiency received prior to June 29, 2005 will be reviewed by the Panel. While the EIS Conference is an important event for the Panel, when considering whether there is sufficient information on the public registry to go to public hearings, the Panel will also reflect on information exchanged through the Information Request process, all comments received by way of letters, and information on the Public Registry.

As has been stated in earlier correspondence, the EIS Conference is not a venue for debate of the technical aspects of the topics for discussion. Rather it is an opportunity to bring to the attention of the Panel, those areas where additional information is required to have a meaningful discussion at the proposed hearings on the predicted impacts from the Mackenzie Gas Project. The Public Hearing Phase will provide the opportunity to make submissions to the Panel on a broad range of concerns.

Sincerely,



Robert Hornal
Chair, Joint Review Panel



June 20, 2005

*Mediation & Facilitation
Training
Consultation*

EIS Conference:

Assessing the Sufficiency of Information to Proceed to Hearing

To those Interveners planning to participate in the EIS conference:

Re: EIS Conference Structure, Time Apportionment and Participation Guidelines

The following information is intended to assist you in preparing for the EIS conference.

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

Each 3-hour conference working session will comprise three segments, one for each discussion topic in the session (see Agenda). Each segment will include:

1. A BRIEF OVERVIEW of the discussion topic by the Proponent setting out the information provided in the Environmental Impact Statement;
2. COMMENTARIES on the sufficiency/deficiency of the information to proceed to public hearings from:
 - spokespersons identified by Interveners in the Conference Questionnaire as commentators (persons knowledgeable on the discussion topic);
 - spokespersons for other Interveners.

Where a commentary identifies an area of deficiency, the proponent may:

- identify where, in the documentation already filed, the information is located that addresses the deficiency; and,
- establish how that information addresses the concerns raised.

My role as the conference facilitator is to:

- focus discussion on the sufficiency questions (see item 1 under Participation Guidelines);
- facilitate dialogue between the Proponent and commenting Interveners; and
- record areas of agreement and disagreement on the sufficiency/deficiency of information to proceed to hearings.

TIME

Each working session is 3 hours in duration. This allows one hour for each discussion topic, although the actual time allotted may vary according to topic complexity and anticipated number of commentators.

Generally, the Proponent will have 15 minutes to provide its overview and each Intervener should anticipate approximately 5 minutes for responding to the sufficiency questions. The number of commentators will determine the available speaking time on each discussion topic. While every effort will be made to accommodate all Interveners wishing to comment, time constraints may limit discussion. Where time becomes a factor, I will try to identify opportunities to extend the session. However, given likely time constraints, Interveners may wish to prepare a written commentary for submission to the Public Registry.

PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

1. The purpose of each working session is to address the sufficiency of information to proceed to public hearings by responding to the following questions on each discussion topic:

- What is your assessment of the sufficiency/deficiency of information filed on the Public Registry regarding this issue? Why?
- What, if any, additional information is required? Is that information currently available? How could it be obtained? How should it be applied?

Commentators are encouraged to focus on these questions.

2. The working sessions will not be recorded, nor will there be a transcript. Following the conference, I will submit a report to the Joint Review Panel. The report will include the summary notes of the working sessions highlighting areas of discussion, a synopsis of comments, information referenced, and, where possible, areas of agreement and disagreement.
3. The facilitator's report will also include the Conference Questionnaires submitted by Interveners to ensure that the Joint Review Panel has reference to other sufficiency issues identified by Interveners but not included on the conference agenda. The facilitator's report will form part of the Public Registry.
4. Interveners may submit a written commentary on the sufficiency/deficiency of the information to proceed to public hearing. These submissions will form part of the Public Registry.

If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, you may contact me by email (darling@accordcanada.com) or phone (250 656 6427). I look forward to meeting and working with you all on June 26 – 29.

Craig Darling
EIS Conference Facilitator