

Minister of Indian Affairs
and Northern Development



Ministre des Affaires
indiennes et du Nord canadien

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4

MAY 13 2004

Mr. Todd Burlingame
Chair
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
PO Box 938
YELLOWKNIFE NT X1A 2N7



Dear Mr. Burlingame:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 19, 2004, where you provide the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's (MVEIRB) decision on the Environmental Assessment conducted on the Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) applications for a land use permit and water licence in the Camsell Bend area of the Northwest Territories.

In your letter you have indicated that the Board has decided to issue an order for an environmental impact review under section 128(1)(c) of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (Act), on the basis of significant public concern expressed by the communities of the Mackenzie Valley. In addition, the Board has requested my approval pursuant to section 141(2)(a) of the Act, to enter into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment to establish a review panel to conduct a further assessment of the MGP. I note that this course of action is consistent with the process outlined in the Co-operation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline for a Joint Panel Review of the project.

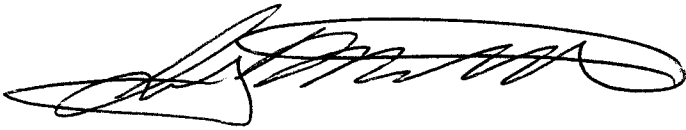
I approve the request of the MVEIRB to enter into an agreement with the Minister of the Environment, in accordance with section 141(1)(2)(a) of the Act. This agreement will enable the project to be assessed with the full participation of the Inuvialuit, the MVEIRB (as representing the parties in the Mackenzie Valley), and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, as outlined in the Co-operation Plan for the assessment of this project.

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I want to thank the MVEIRB for issuing its decision in a timely manner and for its ongoing efforts to subject the MGP to the most comprehensive and responsible level of public review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Mitchell', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Andy Mitchell