



News Release

PHASE 2 PARTICIPANT FUNDING AWARDED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE MACKENZIE GAS PROJECT

YELLOWKNIFE – December 6, 2004 – The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (the Agency) and the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Board) awarded \$380,000 to 19 groups to review the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project in the Northwest Territories.

Phase 2 funding will help the public provide technical analysis to the joint review panel on the adequacy of the EIS which the Mackenzie Gas Producers filed in October 2004. The EIS is a report that describes the potential impacts of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The companies proposing the project were required to prepare the EIS and submit it to the joint review panel.

The recipients of participant funding are: Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, Deh Cho Business Development Centre, Deh Cho First Nations, Dene Nation, Dene Tha' First Nation, Dene Youth Alliance, Ecology North, Ernie MacDonald Land Corporation, Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tulita Yamouria Community Secretariat, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Joint Secretariat (Inuvialuit), Kahsho Got'ine Dene Community Council, Nature Canada, NWT Literacy Council & Alternatives North, Randal Boogie Pokiak, Status of Women Council of the NWT, Town of Hay River.

A funding review committee, independent of the joint review panel and the proponents, was established to review all of the applications received under the Participant Funding Program. The Committee members were: Mr. Andrew Applejohn, Director, Aurora Research Institute – Aurora College; Mr. Jeffrey G. Gilmour, Research Associate, University of Calgary; Mr. Gordon Lennie, former chair, Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board; and Mr. Paul Scott, Director, Regional Office for the Pacific and Yukon Region, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. All of the committee's recommendations were unanimous and are contained in the Report of the Funding Review Committee posted on the Agency's, the Board's and the Northern Gas Project Secretariat's Web sites.

The Government of Canada is providing up to \$1.5 million for individuals and organizations to take part in the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project

by a joint review panel. The funding is being released in three Phases. Phase 1 funding in the amount of \$116,515 was awarded to 16 applicants in June 2004 to help them review the draft Terms of Reference for the EIS, which were released for formal public comment on June 3, 2004.

The funding balance will be allocated for Phase 3 of the federal Participant Funding Program. This sum will assist the public to prepare for, and participate in, the public hearings on the project. Although details on Phase 3 will be released at a later date, potential applicants are encouraged to register as interveners in the joint review panel process in order to meet eligibility requirements. Details on registering can be obtained from the Northern Gas Project Secretariat.

More information is available on the Agency's Web site at: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, the Board's Web site at: www.mveirb.nt.ca or the Northern Gas Project Secretariat's Web site at: www.ngps.nt.ca .

This news release is also available on the Agency's Web site at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca .

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