

The Review

June 2004, Issue 1

Your link to the review of the Mackenzie Gas Project

The monthly [Northern Gas Project Secretariat](#) newsletter is designed to update the public on the various developments related to the environmental assessment and regulatory review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

What is the Northern Gas Project Secretariat?

Welcome to the first edition of the Northern Gas Project Secretariat's newsletter, *The Review*. We hope this monthly publication will answer some of your questions and keep you up to date on the latest developments related to the environmental assessment and regulatory review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

The Secretariat was established in December, 2003 to help people understand the review process of the proposed project. It was created by boards and agencies involved in assessing and reviewing the project under various territorial and federal legislation.

What is our job?

Secretariat staff, based in Inuvik and in Yellowknife, provides information to the public about how they can participate during the project review period. We have visited communities along the project route, attended conferences and trade shows and will continue to be available to assist people in understanding the review process.

Continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 What is the Northern Gas Project Secretariat?
- 2 What is the review process?
- 3 In the community
- 4 Phase 1 of the Participant Funding Program
- 4 How to contact us

Inuvik office opens

(April 22, 2004) – The Northern Gas Project Secretariat opened its office in Inuvik, Northwest Territories to further assist the public in understanding the review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

“An office located in Inuvik allows the public another avenue to seek information and get answers to their questions,” Northern Gas Project Secretariat Executive Director Brian Chambers said.

The Inuvik office, located at 125 Mackenzie Road, complements the Secretariat's existing office at Suite 208, Scotia Centre in Yellowknife. ■



Regulators were in Inuvik to sign an agreement to coordinate efforts and reduce duplication. (Centre: Ken Vollman, National Energy Board. From left are: Larry Wallace, Sahtu Land and Water Board; Bob Lambe, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans; Melody McLeod, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board; Gordon Wray, Northwest Territories Water Board; Celina Stroeder, Government of the Northwest Territories; Albert Elias, Inuvialuit Land Administration. (See Agreement, page 3)

Our job is to make sure that people who are interested learn how to express their opinions during the review, as well as having the information they need to participate. The Secretariat has held, and will continue to hold, meetings with the public in communities that could be affected by the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project. Staff will also be available to visit communities upon request to provide information about how people can be part of the review process. If you, or your group, would like to learn more by having a presentation, please feel free to contact our office.

The Secretariat also maintains a website (www.ngps.nt.ca) and produces and distributes easy-to-understand publications to communities on a regular basis. **Contact us if you are interested in being on our email or fax distribution list.** ☐

What is an environmental assessment and regulatory review?

The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project is comprehensive and it is important to understand the effects it may have on people and the environment. It is also important to find ways to avoid or reduce any negative effects. An environmental assessment and regulatory review helps determine these effects. This review complies with land claim agreements and laws and will respect cultures and traditional and local knowledge.

The proposed Mackenzie Gas Project is subject to the environmental assessment requirements of the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act* and the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*.

Who will conduct the environmental assessment and regulatory review?

The environmental assessment will be carried out by a seven-member Joint Review Panel, with members selected by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB), the Inuvialuit (Game Council) and the federal Minister of the Environment. The Minister and MVEIRB will jointly appoint all the panel members.

The regulatory review will, in part, involve hearings conducted by the National Energy Board, the NWT Water Board and the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. The environmental assessment and regulatory review, though separate, will be coordinated to reduce confusion and enhance public participation. ☐

There will be two review processes:

Environmental Assessment

Considers issues related to environmental, social and cultural impacts.

Joint Review Panel (selected by)

- Inuvialuit
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
- Minister of Environment

The Northern Gas Project Secretariat will have information about all public hearings on its web site.

Regulatory Review

Considers issues related to licensing and permitting of the project.

National Energy Board

Has responsibility along the pipeline route.

NWT Water Board

Has responsibility in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR).

Mackenzie Valley Land & Water Board

Has responsibility outside the ISR in the Mackenzie Valley.

The Northern Gas Project Secretariat in the community



Aklavik residents attended a public meeting hosted by the Northern Gas Project Secretariat, the Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat (Community Support Unit) and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency to hear more about the environmental review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project.

Residents Donald Aviugana (far left) and Joe Arey (red shirt), along with Brian Chambers, executive director of the Northern Gas Project Secretariat, and Frank Pokiak, chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council, look over maps of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project in the Delta region.



Input from residents was sought on the draft Environmental Impact Statement Terms of Reference, which will be given to the proponents to describe environmental, social and cultural impacts of the proposed project.

A final draft of the EIS Terms of Reference is currently available for formal public comment. This formal public comment period will end July 15, 2004. The document will then be finalized and provided to the proponents. Copies of the draft document are available from the Secretariat's website: [Draft EIS Terms of Reference](#)

Continued from page 1

Regulators' Agreement

The [Regulators' Agreement](#) establishes an understanding among 11 regulatory bodies with statutory responsibilities related to the regulatory review of the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project, and fulfills a provision identified within the [Cooperation Plan](#) (for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories) for coordinated approaches to the review of the project.

The purpose of the Agreement, in part, is to avoid unnecessary duplication, while contributing to the timely review of the project. The Agreement does not diminish the statutory responsibilities of each regulatory body, and is consistent with land claims implementation legislation.

The regulators also agree to enhance public participation during the review by coordinating their hearings. As well, they will avoid duplication of environmental assessment evidence by using the report of the Joint Review Panel and other evidence filed under that process. ■



WHO WE ARE

[BRIAN CHAMBERS](#)

Executive Director

[ANNETTE BOURGEOIS](#)

Manager, Communications

[BOB TURNER](#)

Manager, Community Relations and Logistics (Yellowknife)

[SUZANE WATKINS](#)

Assistant to the Executive Director

[MARIE-ANIK ELIE](#)

Manager, Community Relations and Logistics (Inuvik)

[CAROLYN BLAKE](#)

Administrative Assistant (Inuvik)

HOW TO CONTACT US

IN INUVIK

SUITE 302, 125 MACKENZIE ROAD

P.O. Box 2412

INUVIK, NT

X0E 0T0

PHONE: (867) 678-2893

FAX: (867) 678-2896

IN YELLOWKNIFE

SUITE 208, SCOTIA CENTRE

5102-50TH AVENUE

YELLOWKNIFE, NT

X1A 3S8

PHONE: (867) 766-8600

FAX: (867) 766-8624

TOLL-FREE:

1-866-372-8600

BY EMAIL:

INFO@NGPS.NT.CA

ON THE INTERNET:

WWW.NGPS.NT.CA

Funding recipients announced

OTTAWA - The Government of Canada announced in April that it will provide up to \$1.5 million for individuals and organizations to take part in the environmental assessment of the Mackenzie Gas Project. The funding will be released in three phases.

May 19 was the deadline for Phase 1 of the program, which will assist in the review and comment period of the draft terms of reference for the Environmental Impact Statement. Twenty-two applications were received and \$113,515 in funding was awarded to 16 recipients representing a broad range of interests.

A funding review committee evaluated all the applications and recommended allocations of funds according to criteria set out in the *Participant Funding Guidelines for the Mackenzie Gas Project*. These guidelines, as well as the application form, will remain the same for Phases 2 and 3. Separate applications must be made for each phase of the Program.

The committee's [report](#), with a list of approved Phase 1 funding recipients, can be found on the Northern Gas Project Secretariat website and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency [website](#).

Up to \$1.38 million will be made available for Phases 2 and 3. Details on deadlines will be announced at a later date. Phase 2 of the Participant Funding Program will focus on the technical conferences part of the review, following the filing of an application expected this summer. Phase 3 of the Program will focus on the public hearing phase of the environmental assessment. ☐

Drafts docs ready for formal public comment period

The draft *Agreement for an Environmental Impact Review of the Mackenzie Gas Project* (Joint Review Panel Agreement) and the draft *Terms of Reference for the Environmental Impact Statement for the Mackenzie Gas Project* are available for formal public comment until July 15, 2004. For more details, visit the Secretariat's website. ☐

