

# **Guidance on Provision of a Preliminary Information Package for Gas Development in the NWT**

## **1. Background and Purpose**

Since November 2000, the environmental assessment and regulatory boards and agencies (Parties) with responsibilities in the Beaufort - Mackenzie Delta - Mackenzie Valley have been involved in discussions of possible approaches for a streamlined or coordinated review and regulatory process for potential NWT gas development and pipeline projects. These discussions have been based on assumed generic project concepts which have allowed the various agencies to explore their ability and willingness to participate in a coordinated process. The result of these discussions to date is agreement that coordination should be based on four principles:

- thorough consideration of the environmental and socio-economic effects
- efficiency and effectiveness
- improved certainty and clarity, and
- public participation.

Parties have agreed that proponents will be offered an opportunity to provide information in the form of a project information package to advance the discussions. The preliminary information package should allow the Parties to identify clearly the project components, their scale, location, and potential environmental issues. This approach is based on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's Operational Policy Statement "*Preparing Project Descriptions*", but has been altered to meet the specific information needs of the parties involved.

For clarity, the submission of a preliminary information package is an optional step for proponents and will assist Parties to continue discussions on a timely schedule. It does not constitute a formal regulatory filing.

## **2. Content of the Preliminary Information Package**

This information is requested to ensure that the Parties understand the scope of the proposed project and can clearly identify their roles and obligations in the assessment and regulatory processes. The level of detail provided in the project description should be appropriate to the scale and complexity of the project and to the sensitivity of its location. Anticipated size of the submission is 50-100 pages.

### **General**

- the name of the proponent and the project
- the nature, purpose, and proposed location of the project
- the name and coordinates (address, telephone, fax, e-mail) of one or two contact persons representing the project
- anticipated schedule for regulatory filings

### **Description of the Project Components/Structures**

- the main components of the project - field developments, gathering systems, transmission pipelines, compressor stations and other facilities, roads, infrastructure (temporary and permanent), major river crossings, construction camps, staging areas
- design information - production capacity, pipeline design and pipe specifications (buried, above-ground, wall thickness) transmission capacity and throughput, number of compressor stations, and the scale of the main components of the project (initial and final); in some circumstances, this may be presented as a range of values if project design is still evolving
- local gas service laterals
- anticipated width of right-of-way during construction and operation
- anticipated temporary and permanent land requirements

### **Project Location and Activities**

- maps (approx. scale of 1:250,000) showing the location of the proposed project components (above)
- description of the construction phase and anticipated construction schedule, including pre-construction logistics, requirements for access, staging
- proposed in-service date
- estimates of human and material requirements (workforce, equipment, granular material, water)

### **Environmental Features**

- a summary of the physical and biological components in the areas likely to be affected by the project, such as terrain, water, air, vegetation, fish, fish habitat, and wildlife (including migratory birds), including any unique or special resources
- description of study programs proposed or currently underway to address data gaps

### **Social, Economic and Cultural Features**

- a summary of social, cultural and economic components in the areas likely to be affected by the project, including:
  - communities affected by the project
  - current land tenure (private land, crown land, leases, etc)
  - current and past land use(s) (e.g., agricultural, traditional (fishing, hunting, trapping), recreational, industrial) at the project site and in the adjacent area
  - proximity to important or designated environmental or cultural sites, such as national parks, heritage sites, sensitive sites and other protected areas
  - proximity to and brief description of residential and other urban areas
  - description of study programs proposed or currently underway to address data gaps

### **Key Environmental and Socio-economic Issues**

- based on preliminary investigations and consultations, description of the key issues affecting the design, construction and operation of the proposed project
- the anticipated role of traditional ecological knowledge in the project assessment
- based on the information provided above in Environmental Features, approaches to mitigation that your experts believe may be effective in reducing or eliminating adverse impacts
- the anticipated approach to cumulative effects assessment
- anticipated benefits of the project

- description of meetings, information sessions, and consultations held on the project with federal authorities, territorial governments, Aboriginal groups, communities, the public with a focus on the results of those meetings.

**Scope of the Environmental Assessment**

The preliminary information package also gives a proponent the opportunity to facilitate the environmental assessment scoping process by presenting the environmental issues it has identified through its own analysis and through its initial public consultation process. This may be presented in the form of a draft scope of the environmental assessment which suggests a scope of the project, outlines the factors to be included in the environmental assessment, and indicates the scope of those factors, in accordance with *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and other guidance material issued by the Parties. Specific issues of concern to the public may also be listed.

Questions regarding this guidance note may be addressed to any of the Parties listed in below. Five copies of the Preliminary Information Package should be sent to each of the addresses listed on the following page for distribution.

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List of Parties

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c/o Joint Secretariat - Renewable Resource  
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