

Plan for Public Involvement

For the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review
of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories



February 2003

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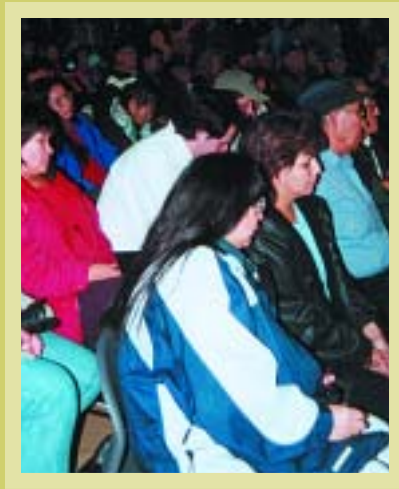
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A Plan for Public Involvement

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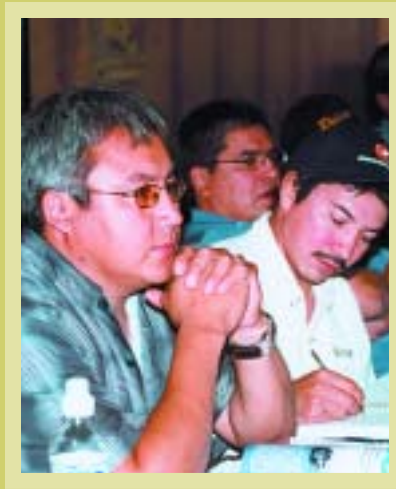
Susan Beaumont/INAC

A Plan for Public Involvement for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories

This document is intended to provide general information to the public about opportunities to participate in the environmental impact assessment and regulatory review of a northern gas pipeline project through the Northwest Territories. More specific details on the review process are available through the *Cooperation Plan for the Environmental Impact Assessment and Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Pipeline Project through the Northwest Territories* and such agreements as the *Memorandum of Understanding Between the Minister of the Environment and the Inuvialuit*, the *Draft Agreement for an Environmental Impact Review of a Northern Gas Project*, and the *Draft Agreement for Coordination of the Regulatory Review of a Northern Gas Development and Pipeline Project*.

purpose

Purpose for the Plan for Public Involvement



Courtesy of Sunny Mumroe

The Plan for Public Involvement

Why do we need a Plan?

Since the 1970s, there has been a lot of exploration for natural gas in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Exploration shows that there may be enough natural gas to make it practical to build a pipeline.

Before a pipeline can be built, the authorities with environmental impact assessment and regulatory mandates, called the Agencies, need to understand how this development will affect the people and the environment in the North. The Agencies will carry out what is called an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and regulatory review. This means that the Agencies and members of the public will talk about what effect the pipeline might have on our environment and the people, and how possible negative effects may be reduced or avoided.

The Agencies established a group called the Chairs' Committee. This committee is working to ensure interested people in the NWT and other parts of Canada have a say in the EIA and regulatory review processes. There are several review processes that will be conducted by several Agencies. The committee is working to limit duplication of the review processes, and where possible, combine efforts.

The *Plan for Public Involvement* is a document that describes how people will have the chance to talk about their knowledge, ideas and concerns about the proposed northern gas pipeline project.

The Agencies want to make it easy for people to participate.

Who has prepared the Plan for Public Involvement?

These Agencies helped develop the plan:

- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board;
- Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board;
- NWT Water Board;
- Environmental Impact Screening Committee for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region;
- Environmental Impact Review Board for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region;
- Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees;
- Inuvialuit Game Council;
- Sahtu Land and Water Board;
- Gwich'in Land and Water Board;
- Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development;
- Government of the Northwest Territories (Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development);
- National Energy Board;
- Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency;
- Environment Canada; and
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

What is the Plan for Public Involvement?

The *Plan for Public Involvement* describes when people will have the chance to tell the Agencies how the proposed development will affect them, their communities, and the environment. *The Plan for Public Involvement* works to ensure that the review will:

- Include people potentially affected by the pipeline;
- Provide ways that make it easy for people to participate; and
- Give people plenty of time to prepare and participate.

Through the *Plan for Public Involvement*, the Chairs' Committee wants to ensure that:

1. The EIA and regulatory review will comply with the requirements of land claim agreements, interim measures agreements and laws.
2. The EIA and regulatory review will be sensitive to the way that people of different cultures communicate. Local and regional facilities and organizations such as land and water boards will be used during public consultations.
3. The EIA and regulatory review will include opportunities to provide and consider traditional and local knowledge.

Why do an environmental impact assessment and regulatory review?

It is important to understand the effects a proposed pipeline may have on people and the environment and to find ways to reduce or avoid those possible negative effects by setting certain conditions in the licences and permits given to a company. An environmental impact assessment and regulatory review are required by a number of different laws including:

- *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act;*
- *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act;*
- *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act: The Inuvialuit Final Agreement;*
- *Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Act;*
- *Sahtu Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement Act;*
- *National Energy Board Act;*
- *Territorial Lands Act;*
- *NWT Waters Act;*
- *Fisheries Act; and*
- *Canada Wildlife Act.*



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The EIA and regulatory review processes will comply with land claim agreements and laws, and will respect and value cultures and traditional and local knowledge.

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Northern Gas Pipeline Project



Tessa Macintosh/GNWT Archives

A northern gas pipeline project

What is a northern gas pipeline project?

It is a development that proposes to bring natural gas from fields in the north through a pipeline to the south.

Where is the natural gas?

Fields of natural gas exist in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region on the Mackenzie Delta near the Beaufort Sea. The natural gas could be taken from natural gas fields developed at Taglu, Niglintgak and Parsons Lake in the Mackenzie Delta.

Natural gas fields are also found in Alaska. Gas could be taken from fields near Prudhoe Bay.

Where would the pipeline go?

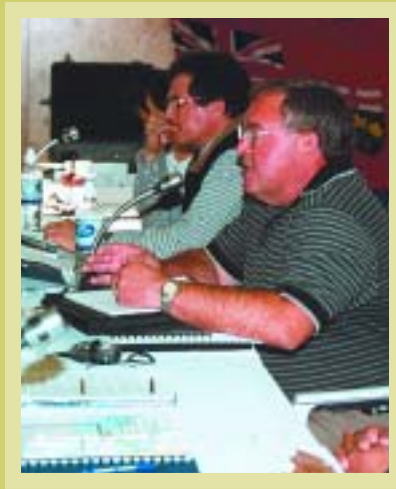
The exact route of the pipeline is not known at this time. The Mackenzie Delta natural gas would likely be sent to Inuvik where it would be processed. Then the natural gas would be sent through a pipeline south to connect with an existing pipeline system in Alberta.

Alaska gas could be carried by a large diameter pipeline from Prudhoe Bay across to the Mackenzie Delta and south along the Mackenzie River through southern Canada to the U.S. There would likely be provisions to connect with Canadian gas from the Mackenzie Delta.

A northern gas pipeline project will bring natural gas from the north to markets throughout North America.

the review

The Review Process



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The Review Processes

There are several steps that must be completed before a pipeline can proceed. Each of these steps includes opportunities for people to be involved in the decisions about the proposed pipeline.

These steps include:

1. Preparation;
2. Preliminary Information Package and Applications;
3. Joint EIA Panel Hearings Coordinated with Regulatory Hearings; and
4. Completion of the Regulatory Processes.

The Agencies will hold information sessions, community meetings and public hearings in various communities throughout each of these phases. You will be able to find out where and when those meetings will be by watching newspapers and television, and by listening to the radio for local announcements for dates and times of meetings.

A Step-by-Step Guide to the Review Processes

Step 1 – PREPARATION

During this step, the Agencies made preparations to look at applications to build a pipeline. The coordinated review is based on agreements developed between:

- The Inuvialuit and the Minister of the Environment (final);
- The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Inuvialuit and the Minister of the Environment (draft); and
- The Regulatory Agencies (draft).

The purpose of these agreements is to make sure the Agencies who regulate development reduce any possible duplication and have a common understanding and approach for reviewing applications to build a pipeline.

How to get involved:

Get information about how the EIA and regulatory review processes will be co-ordinated among the Agencies. A good place to start is by looking at the *Cooperation Plan* which is available online at www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca, www.neb-one.gc.ca, or www.mveirb.nt.ca.

There are four steps in the environmental and regulatory review processes. Each offers a chance for people to give their views.

**Step 1:
During the preparation step, the Agencies develop a common understanding and approach to evaluating proposals to build a pipeline.**

Step 2 – PRELIMINARY INFORMATION PACKAGE (PIP) AND APPLICATIONS

**Step 2:
Companies proposing to
build the pipeline (called
proponents) prepare a
Preliminary Information
Package (PIP). This
package outlines the
proponents' plans.**

Preliminary Information Package

The EIA and regulatory review processes begin when companies proposing to build the pipeline (called proponents) prepare a PIP. The PIP outlines the proponents' plans. Proponents are encouraged to send in licence and permit applications for the northern gas pipeline project soon after submitting the PIP.

Once the proponents submit the PIP, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region will determine if the proposed pipeline may impact the people and the environment in their region. If they decide that it could affect people or the environment in a negative way, they will send the development proposal to a panel for further examination.

About the same time, federal agencies (for example, National Energy Board (NEB), Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment Canada) will also review the PIP. If they believe that there are important issues to be considered, they will ask the Minister of Environment to form a panel for the project.

Based on agreements already in place, the Inuvialuit and the Minister of the Environment will work together to form the review panel.

How to get involved:

Pick-up a copy of the PIP from your local agency (see Appendix A) or the Northern Gas Project Secretariat.

Send your comments or concerns about the PIP to the EISC. You can do this through groups such as your Hunters or Trappers Committee or Elders Committee, or by contacting the EISC (Appendix A). Once the EISC has the PIP, you will have about 30 days to comment.

Mackenzie Valley Applications

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* states that a preliminary screening of information needs to be done for certain proposed developments. This process starts when the licence and permit applications are submitted. A preliminary screening is an initial evaluation that is used to find out if there might be public concern or if there might be environmental impacts because of the proposed development.

The proponents must apply for land use permits and water licences from the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board (MVLWB). These applications will not be accepted until the proponent has done public consultation, especially with First Nations.

How to get involved:

Read the applications and send your comments to the MVLWB. There will be about 30 days for you to comment once the applications are sent out.

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Assessment

Based in part on public input, the MVLWB may decide to send the applications to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) to be further evaluated.

Environmental assessment is the second evaluation a proposed development can go through. The MVEIRB will look at whether the proposed northern gas pipeline project may impact the environment or cause public concern. If the MVEIRB finds that it will, the Board will order a full environmental impact review, which will be done jointly through a Joint Review Panel established by the Inuvialuit, MVEIRB and the Minister of the Environment.

How to get involved:

Tell the MVEIRB about your concerns;

Look at and comment on the Joint Review Panel agreement that talks about how panel members will be chosen and what the panel will do. This draft agreement is available from the MVEIRB, the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, and the Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committees; and

Look at and comment on the draft environmental impact statement terms of reference.

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board will look at whether the proposed northern gas pipeline project will impact the environment or cause public concern.

Step 3 – JOINT EIA PANEL HEARING COORDINATED WITH REGULATORY HEARINGS

**Step 3:
Public hearings will be held to listen to the views of the public about the possible environmental impacts of the project.**

Before the Joint Review Panel begins its work, the proponents must send in a number of applications such as NEB applications and other land and water board applications. These other applications will be reviewed by the NEB, the NWT Water Board and the MVLWB.

The proponent will develop an *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) according to the terms of reference. The document will be available for public review. Also, if any applications are not complete, the proponents will be asked to provide more information. This is called the information request process.

Once the Joint Review Panel and the regulatory boards have all the information they need, formal meetings (called public hearings) will be held to listen to the views of the people and make recommendations concerning the northern gas pipeline project. The public hearings will be very thorough.

The public will be given information at an early stage about when and where the hearings will be held as well as how to register to become a participant. People or groups that put their names on the participant list will receive up-to-date information during the hearing process and may speak at the public hearings.

After its public hearings, the Joint Review Panel will write a report that makes recommendations about what effects the project might have and what should be done to reduce possible negative effects. The report will be sent to the federal government which will decide how to respond to the recommendations.

How to get involved:

Comment on documents like the Environmental Impact Statement.

Register as a participant in the public hearings.

Go to the public hearings and talk about your ideas and concerns.

Step 4 – COMPLETION OF THE REGULATORY PROCESSES

Following completion of the EIA, regulators such as the NEB and the land and water boards will make their decisions concerning the proposed development. If approved, the regulators will issue several documents explaining their reasons. They would also issue the necessary permits and licences, and include any conditions that have to be met.

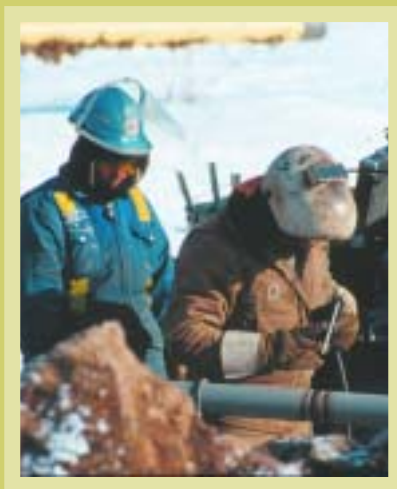
How to get involved:

Attend final public hearings for land use permits and water licences.

Attend the final round of public hearings held by the NEB to give your concerns and views before they make a decision about whether to approve the pipeline project. If the project is approved, the NEB will issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. It will also outline certain conditions that must be met.

Step 4:

If the pipeline project is approved, licences and permits would be issued, which would outline the conditions that need to be met.



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Get Involved

particip



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How You Can Participate

A Northern Gas Project Secretariat will be set up to help people participate effectively in the environmental impact assessment and regulatory review processes. In particular, the Secretariat will inform the public about how and when to get involved. A combination of the following ways will be used to get information out to the public:

- Notices in local newspapers;
- Notices on television and radio;
- Mail-outs and newsletters;
- Website(s);
- Toll-free hotline;
- Regional public registries or information centres; and
- Local information sessions and workshops.

The Northern Gas Project Secretariat will also keep a list of information sessions, community meetings and public hearings that will be held in various communities.

There are many ways and chances to get involved as the possible environmental impacts of a proposed northern gas pipeline project are evaluated. Listed below are just some of the options you have.

Become informed

Reading this document and some of the other documents, such as the *Cooperation Plan*, are important steps in becoming informed.

Some other ways to become informed include:

- Attending information sessions;
- Attending public meetings;
- Contacting the Northern Gas Project Secretariat;
- Asking to be put on distribution lists for information;
- Checking the Northern Gas Project Secretariat website;
- Going to one of the public information centres;
- Monitoring the public registries of the regulators; and
- Contacting the Agencies for information.

The Northern Gas Project Secretariat will use many different ways to ensure everyone knows about opportunities to participate in the environmental impact assessment and regulatory review processes.

There are many ways to get your views heard during the environmental impact review and regulatory processes.

Information on funding support will be available from the Northern Gas Project Secretariat.

Provide your opinion

Become involved in some or all of the four steps of the environmental review process, as described on pages 11–15.

This includes:

- Commenting on licence applications and the Preliminary Information Package put forward by the proponents at the beginning of the process;
- Participating in the MVEIRB environmental assessment process;
- Identifying issues in the environmental impact statement;
- Registering as a participant; and
- Participating in hearings and meetings planned for communities.

How to access funding:

Funding will be available to help organizations and communities organize, participate and provide their input into the EIA process. Once the Joint Review Panel is established, information about participant funding will be available through the Northern Gas Project Secretariat.

How to access support:

Other resources and services that will help you participate in the process include:

- Public information centres to be established;
- Public registries maintained by Agencies and the Northern Gas Project Secretariat;
- “One-stop” comment drop off with the Northern Gas Project Secretariat;
- “One-stop” shop for information on the participant registry with the Northern Gas Project Secretariat; and
- Information officers in each of the Agencies listed in Appendix A.

Contact Information:

To make sure you can obtain more information, a Northern Gas Project Secretariat is being set up. Look for a notice of announcement in your local paper that will provide the location of the Northern Gas Project Secretariat. In the meantime, if you need more information or have questions, contact the Agency nearest to you (Appendix A).



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Appendix A - Agencies to contact:

Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Renewable Resources Committee

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Telephone: (867) 777-2828
Facsimile: (867) 777-2610
Website: www.bmmda.nt.ca

Environmental Impact Screening Committee for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

P.O. Box 2120, 107 Mackenzie Road
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Telephone: (867) 777-2828
Facsimile: (867) 777-2610
Website: www.bmmda.nt.ca

Gwich'in Land and Water Board

1 – 3 Council Crescent., P.O. Box 2018
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Telephone: (867) 777-4954
Facsimile: (867) 777-2616
Website: www.glwb.com

Sahtu Land and Water Board

P.O. Box 1,
Fort Good Hope, NT X0E 0H0
Telephone: (867) 598-2413
Facsimile: (867) 598-2325
Website: www.slwb.com

NWT Water Board

P.O. Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3
Telephone: (867) 669-2772
Facsimile: (867) 669-2719

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board

P.O. Box 2130, 7th Floor, YK Centre
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2P6
Telephone: (867) 669-0506
Facsimile: (867) 873-6610
Website: www.mvlwb.com

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

P.O. Box 938, 200 Scotia Centre,
5102 – 50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2N7
Telephone: (867) 766-7051
Facsimile: (867) 766-7074
Email: cooperation@mveirb.nt.ca
Website: www.mveirb.nt.ca

Government of the Northwest Territories

Resources, Wildlife, and Economic Development
600, 5102-50th Avenue
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3S8
Telephone: (867) 873-7379
Facsimile: (867) 873-0114
Website: www.rwed.gov.nt.ca

Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development

4914 – 50th Avenue, 9th Floor, P.O. Box 1500,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3
Telephone: (867) 669-2855
Facsimile: (867) 669-2406
Website: www.inac.gc.ca

National Energy Board

444 Seventh Avenue SW
Calgary, AB T2P 0X8
Telephone: (403) 292-4800 or toll-free 1-800-899-1265
Facsimile: (403) 292-5503
Website: www.neb-one.gc.ca

Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency

200 Sacré-Coeur Blvd., Fontaine Building
Gatineau (Quebec) K1A 0H3
Telephone: (819) 953-4054
Facsimile: (819) 953-2891
Website: www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca

Environment Canada

Environmental Protection Branch

Suite 301, 5204 50th Avenue,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 1E2
Telephone: (867) 669-4733
Facsimile: (867) 873-8185
Website: www.ec.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Western Arctic Area
Inuvik Office
Box 1871
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Telephone: (867) 777-7500
Facsimile: (867) 777-7501
Website: www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Contributing Partners

AGENCIES WITH MANDATORY PUBLIC HEARING PROCESSES

Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
Gwich'in Land and Water Board
Sahtu Land and Water Board
Northwest Territories Water Board
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency
National Energy Board
Environmental Impact Review Board for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region

OTHER AGENCIES WITH A DIRECT INTEREST IN EIA AND REGULATORY MATTERS

Joint Secretariat for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Environmental Impact Steering Committee for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region
Inuvialuit Game Council
Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Department of Environment
Government of the Northwest Territories

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