



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

Mr. Peter Sylvester  
President  
Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Place Bell  
160 Elgin Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0H3

June 4, 2010

Dear Mr. Sylvester,

**RE: Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and GNWT – Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, Northwest Territories - Development Proposal**

The *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* establishes the environmental impact screening and review process in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, consisting of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) and the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB). On April 19, 2010 the EISC referred the above referenced development proposal to the EIRB for environmental impact review. The EISC was not convinced from the information provided by the developer that the longer term cumulative impacts had been adequately considered and could be mitigated. Specifically, the EISC determined, “that there was a potential for cumulative impacts to the proposed development area due to increased tourism, local use and further development within the road corridor or associated with improved access to the area.”

In accordance with the provisions of the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* and on the basis of the referral by the EISC, the EIRB is required to complete an environmental impact review of the development proposal and to fulfill its roles and responsibilities in a reasonable and expeditious manner. The EIRB understands that due to federal money being provided for a part of this development proposal, and that federal authorizations are also needed in order for the development to proceed, the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act* (CEAA) will apply; and, that because the development proposal involves,

*29 The proposed construction of  
(b) an all-season public highway that will be more than 50 km in length and either will be located on a new right-of-way or will lead to a community that lacks all-season public highway access;*

a comprehensive study level of assessment under CEAA will be required.

The EIRB also recognizes that the CEAA is predicated on certain principles and objectives and that the purposes of CEAA reflect some of these provisions, including the following:

- that projects are considered in a careful and precautionary manner ... in order to ensure that such projects do not cause significant adverse environmental effects;
- to encourage ... actions that promote sustainable development and thereby achieve or maintain a healthy environment and a healthy economy;
- to ensure that responsible authorities carry out their responsibilities in a coordinated manner with a view to eliminating unnecessary duplication in the environmental assessment process; and
- to ensure that there be opportunities for timely and meaningful public participation throughout the environmental assessment process.

During the week of May 17, 2010 the EIRB met in Calgary to, among other things, consider the referred development proposal and how best to proceed with its environmental impact review in a reasonable and expeditious manner. The EIRB was also given a brief introduction to CEAA and the comprehensive study process by a representative of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (Agency).

The EIRB has decided it would like to proceed with a complete and thorough environmental impact review of the development proposal and not limit its review to the key issues raised by the EISC in the referral letter. As one of the first steps in this process, the EIRB would like to meet with you and other senior Agency representatives (and any other key federal representatives that may be a responsible or federal authority for this development) to discuss and agree upon how best we can work together to complete our respective environmental assessment and environmental impact review responsibilities with respect to this development proposal.

In the interests of achieving the goal of *one project, one assessment*, of being reasonable and expeditious in this process, and of not subjecting the developer/proponent and general public to lengthy time delays before they are engaged in the assessment process, I would like to suggest that we meet sometime during the week of June 21, 2010. We are willing to travel to Ottawa to meet in order to be sure that we are meeting with those Agency and federal representatives that are able to make decisions regarding the assessment of this development proposal.

I look forward to receiving your reply and to meeting with you.

Sincerely,  
Environmental Impact Review Board



Elizabeth Snider  
Chair, EIRB