



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

2014 - 2015

For the period April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015

Printed in Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Canada

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MAP OF THE INUVIALUIT SETTLEMENT REGION

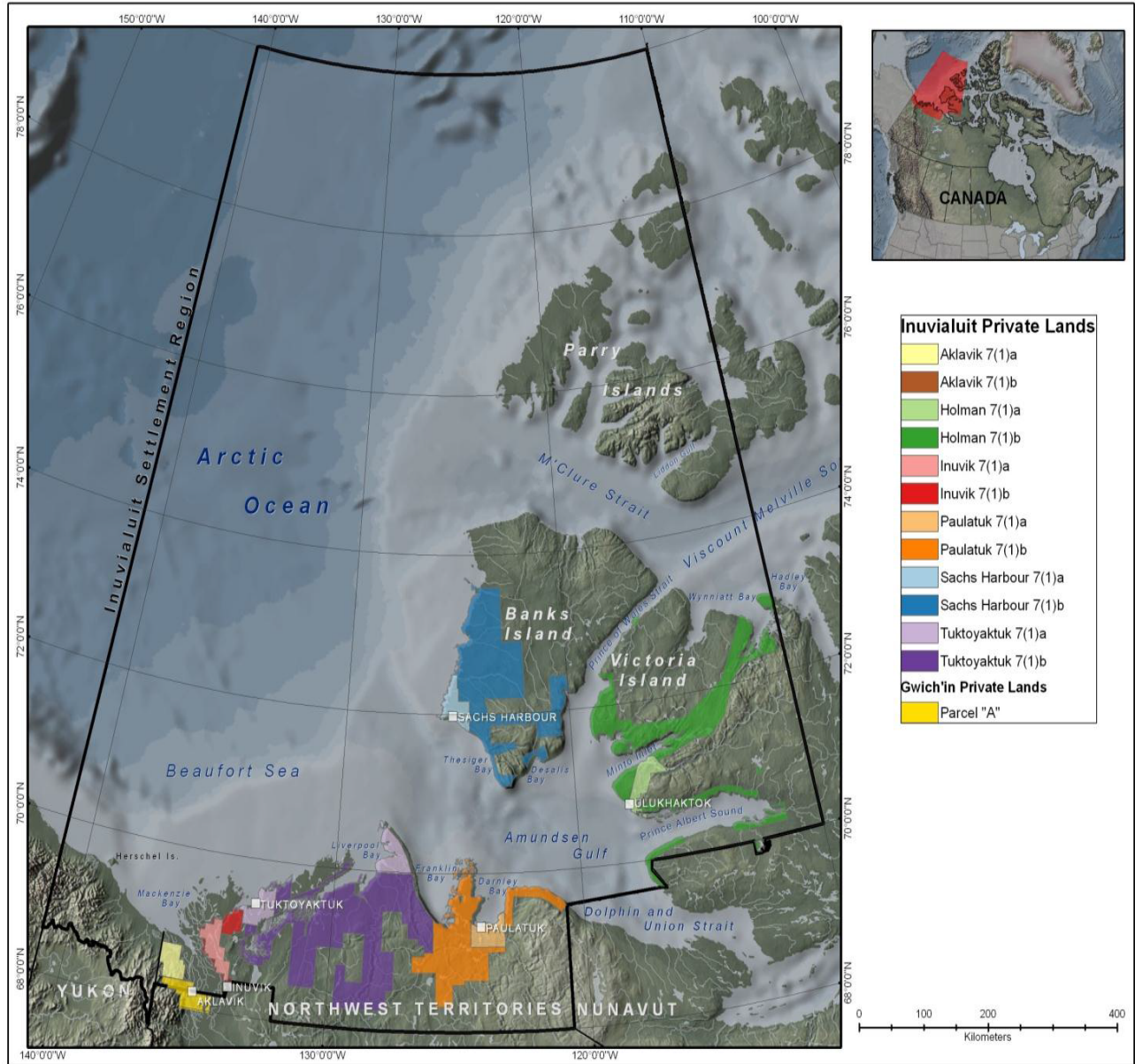


Figure 1. Private Inuvialuit Lands and Crown Lands within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

CHAIR'S COMMENT

During the reporting period, the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) continued to focus on preparing for and initiating the public review of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program proposed by Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited (Developer) on behalf of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture¹.

The EIRB is working with the National Energy Board (NEB) to design an efficient and timely overall review process that meets the requirements of both agencies with the objective of avoiding duplication and overlap. The review process of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program will most likely unfold in a sequential fashion.

The EIRB is established and operates exclusively within the authority assigned to it by the IFA. One of its key obligations is to expeditiously review all projects referred to it. I am confident in saying that the EIRB is committed to expeditiously review the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program, but the review timing is pending on the filing of key documents by the Developer.

The EIRB commenced the review of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program on December 23, 2013. The EIRB started its review by initiating work on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Terms of Reference (ToR). In May of 2014, taking into consideration the comments received during a 60-day comment period, the EIRB released a revised draft ToR. The EIRB plans to complete and finalize the ToR following the filing of an updated Project Description that would include all outstanding details identified earlier to the Developer.

The NEB will examine whether an alternative, proposed by the Developer, will meet its' same season relief well (SSRW) policy through a Technical Proceeding including how the tools and techniques proposed by Developer would meet the criteria and address risks in the circumstances of a worst-case scenario. A determination of the Worst Case Scenario (WCS) is required by the EIRB to fulfill its responsibilities as set out in the IFA. To support the effective development and use of a WCS, in November 2014, the EIRB released the Process Directive and Terms of Reference for the Determination of the WCS. Shortly after the Developer makes public its WCS description, the EIRB will undertake its Worst Case Scenario Proceeding.

In the anticipation of imminent key document filings from the Developer, the EIRB conducted a community tour in April 2015 where it hosted public information sessions relating to the review of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program and how communities and individuals can participate in the process.

Because of the complexity of the proposed Development, the Board has developed a tailored program for board training and development pertaining to topics that are critical to the evaluation of the proposed Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program. The training and development

¹ The Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture partners are BP Exploration Operating Company Limited (50%), ExxonMobil (25%) and Imperial (25%).

program ensures that the Board is familiar with the technology of offshore exploration drilling and the lessons learned from the BP Macondo disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to its work on the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program review in this fiscal year, the EIRB worked on the re-design of its website. The site, launched in April 2015, offers a more user-friendly experience to visitors. It also features a robust e-registry that can sustain the large interest expected in the review of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program. Since its launch, I am proud to mention that the EIRB has received great feedback on the new site. The Board also revised its Rules of Procedure with the intent to meet the objectives of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and procedural fairness.

During this reporting period, the EIRB has operated with a full Board with four of its seven EIRB Board members freshly reappointed for three years. Herbert Felix and Roland Kikoak (Inuvialuit Members) were reappointed in September 2014, and Bruce Chambers (Yukon Member) and Jim Umpherson (Canada Member) were reappointed in December 2014.

I would also like to thank the Board members and staff for their hard work in undertaking the review and their devotion in actively participating in the development program. I also want to thank the Board members, staff and legal council in undertaking the giant task of redesigning the website and redrafting the rules of procedure. As always, the assistance of the staff of the Joint Secretariat over this period was essential for the smooth running of the EIRB business. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Jon Pierce
Chair

PERIOD OF REPORT

This report describes the affairs of the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) for the fiscal period of April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2015.

AUTHORITY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

The EIRB was established under the terms of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA) between Canada and the Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement, representing the Inuvialuit. The IFA was approved, given effect, and declared valid by the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act* [S.C. 32 - 33 Elizabeth II, C.24.], on June 28, 1984.

The IFA provides the groundwork for a two-stage Environmental Screening and Review Process that is carried out by the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) and the EIRB [IFA Section 11.0]. The EISC conducts environmental screenings of development activities proposed for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The EIRB carries out detailed environmental impact assessments and public reviews of development projects referred to it by the EISC pursuant to the IFA.

The goals of the IFA, directly relevant to EIRB operations, are:

- *to preserve Inuvialuit cultural identity and values within a changing northern society;*
- *to enable Inuvialuit to be equal and meaningful participants in the northern and national economy and society; and*
- *to protect and preserve the Arctic wildlife, environment, and biological productivity.*

MEMBERSHIP

The EIRB is composed of seven people. Three members are appointed by the Government of Canada; three members are appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC); and a Chair is selected by the Government of Canada with the consent of the IGC. Of the three members appointed by Canada, one is nominated by the Government of Yukon, one is nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories, and one is selected by the Government of Canada.

MEMBERS FOR 2014–2015

CHAIR

Jon Pierce, Bowman, QC

Appointed by the Government of Canada (2013)

Present Term: October 11, 2013 to October 11, 2016

MEMBERS

Crystal Lennie, Inuvik, NT

Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (2013)

Present Term: November 20, 2013 to September 30, 2016

Herbert Felix, Inuvik, NT

Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (1995)

Present Term: October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017

Previous Terms: Member since September 1995

Roland Kikoak, Tuktoyaktuk, NT

Appointed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (2008)

Present Term: October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2017

Previous Terms: Member since September 2008

Bruce Chambers, Whitehorse, YT

Nominated by the Government of Yukon.

Appointed by the Government of Canada (2008)

Present Term: December 22, 2014 to December 22, 2017

Previous Terms: Member since September 2008

Catherine Cockney, Inuvik, NT

Nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories

Appointed by the Government of Canada (2006)

Present Term: August 8, 2013 to August 8, 2016

Previous Terms: Member since December 2006

Jim Umpherson, Yellowknife, NT

Appointed by the Government of Canada (2011)

Present Term: December 28, 2014 to December 28, 2017

Previous Term: Member since December 2011

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The EIRB receives administrative, technical, and clerical support from the Joint Secretariat (JS) in Inuvik. Richard Binder assumed the responsibility of the environmental coordinator in December 2013. In addition, the staff of the Joint Secretariat (JS) included the following individuals:

JOINT SECRETARIAT BOARD MEMBERS

Chair	Frank Pokiak – IGC
Vice-Chair	John Ondrack – EISC
Director	Vic Gillman – FJMC
Director	Jon Pierce – EIRB
Director	Larry Carpenter – WMAC (NWT)
Director	Lindsay Staples – WMAC (NS)
Secretary	Norm Snow -- Executive Director (JS)

JS ADMIN STAFF

Secretary/Receptionist	Bernice Joe
Travel/Accommodation	Patricia Rogers
Finance Officer	Eunice Thrasher
Senior Finance Officer	Jerry Reitman
Office Manager	Linda McDonald
HTC Admin Support	Shawna Kaglik

CO-MANAGEMENT BOARDS RESOURCE PERSONNEL

Organization	Staff
CBM	Kendra Tingmiak and Jennie Knopp
CSU	Vacant
EIRB	Richard Binder, Bharat Dixit, Marie-Anick Elie, and Dez Loreen
EISC	Darrell Christie
FJMC	Kristin Hynes, Danny Swainson
IGC	Steven Baryluk and Jennifer Lam
WMAC (NS)	Jennifer Smith and Christine Clegghorn
WMAC (NWT)	James Malone

REVIEWS

The EIRB continues to conduct the review of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture drilling Program. The Development involves drilling one or more wells within Exploration Licence (EL) 476 or 477 located in the Beaufort Sea in the offshore of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (ISR). These ELs are in water depths that range from 60 m to 1500 m, and lie about 175 km north-northwest of Tuktoyaktuk. The well(s) would be drilled in water depths of 80 to 850 m.

The baseline case set out by the Developer would have the first well drilled in EL 477 commencing in the 2020 open water season, before the expiry of EL 477 (on 30 September 2020). The well(s) are assumed to require at least two years to complete and IORVL's proposed drill program schedule indicates that it may take three seasons to complete.

On December 11, 2013, the EIRB received a decision letter from the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) referring the Development for environmental impact assessment and review as set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA). The EISC determined that the proposed development could have significant negative environmental impacts and referred the development to the EIRB for a public review under subsection 11(20) of the IFA.

The IFA requires the EIRB to expeditiously review this proposed development and, on the basis of the evidence and information submitted to it, recommend whether or not the development should proceed and, if it should, on what terms and conditions, including mitigation and remedial measures. The Review Board may also recommend that the development should be subject to further assessment and review and, if so, the data or information required.

The EIRB commenced the review on December 23, 2013 and has so far engaged in the preparation of the Terms of Reference and initiated work on the determination of a for worst case scenario for the proposed Development.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

In late February 2014 the EIRB released draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a sixty-day comment period. To enable input from Inuvialuit organizations and individuals, the Board conducted a tour of all of the communities in the ISR in March 2014. The Board received a number of submissions from governments, organizations and individuals and, after carefully considering those submissions, released a revised draft EIS ToR on May 30, 2013. The ToR will be finalized following the filing of the supplemental information from the Developer to correct deficiencies in the Project Description.

WORST CASE SCENARIO

The determination of a worst case scenario (WCS) for the proposed Development by the EIRB is required under the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement*. To support the effective development and use of a WCS, the EIRB initiated work on November 12, 2014 by releasing the Process Directive and Terms of Reference for the Determination of the Worst Case Scenario for the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program.

The WCS Proceeding will be an opportunity for stakeholders and the public to provide technical evidence and comments to the EIRB on the Developer's WCS Description. The Report by the EIRB resulting from the WCS Proceeding will include the EIRB's decision and conclusions regarding the determination of a Worst Case Scenario pursuant to the IFA. The Report may also include information on how the conclusions and recommendations by the EIRB resulting from this Proceeding may be included in any future Environmental Impact Assessment by the EIRB and other regulators.

REGISTRY

The Environmental Impact Review Board Registry (Registry) is a public record of all evidence pertaining to the environmental impact reviews conducted by the EIRB. The information on the Registry is listed by project.

Information pertaining to the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture drilling Program review can be found on the EIRB Public Registry at <http://eirb.ca/projects/iorvl-bsejvdp/>. The public is also welcome to consult the hard copy Registry at the EIRB office.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

WEBSITE AND E-REGISTRY

On April 1st, the EIRB launched the re-designed version of its website at www.eirb.ca. Along with a more contemporary design, changes have been made site-wide to provide visitors with a more user-friendly experience that will help them find the information they need faster.

In addition to its cleaner and more attractive design, the site offers a more engaging user experience with enhanced navigation and multi-platform compatibility.

Furthermore, the site showcases a quick and easy access to essential information and documents and a robust and improved e-registry cataloging files pertaining to environmental reviews done by the Board. The registry hosts a strong search engine capability for ease of document access.

RULES OF PROCEDURES

The Environmental Impact Review Board has revised its Rules of Procedure. The new Rules, issued in April 2015, are intended to meet the objectives of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement by establishing a procedural framework that ensures that Environmental Impact Reviews meet the requirements of procedural fairness.

The EIRB Rules of Procedures (revised April 2015) can be found at <http://eirb.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/April-2015-RULES-OF-PROCEDURE-FOR-THE-ENVIRONMENTAL-REVIEW-PROCESS-OF-THE-INVUALUIT-FINAL-AGREEMENT.pdf>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Persons who have questions about the EIRB should contact:

Environmental Impact Review Board
Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees
Inuvialuit Corporate Centre
PO Box 2120, Inuvik, NT,
CANADA X0E 0T0

phone: (867) 777-2828

fax: (867) 777-2610

email: eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

ROUTINE OPERATIONS, ACTIVITIES, MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, CONFERENCES

The EIRB takes part in other activities, as necessary, to maintain currency in the field of Environmental Assessment. The following is a list of activities, meetings, workshops, and conferences in which various members of the EIRB took part in over the past year:

EIRB BOARD MEETINGS

APRIL 15, 2014, EDMONTON, AB

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
John Donihee,	Legal Council	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Herbert Felix,	Member		
Crystal Lennie,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Bruce Chambers,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Catherine Cockney,	Member		
Jim Umpherson,	Member		

MAY 08 & 09, 2014, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Marie-Anick Elie,	Hearing Manager
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Herbert Felix,	Member	Norm Snow,	Executive Director - JS
Crystal Lennie,	Member	Phone:	
Bruce Chambers,	Member	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Catherine Cockney,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Jim Umpherson,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
		Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor

MAY 30, 2014, TELE-CONFERENCE. INUVIK, NT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	Support Staff
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Bruce Chambers,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor

JUNE 24, 2014, EDMONTON, AB

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Herbert Felix,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Crystal Lennie,	Member	Phone:	
Bruce Chambers,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie,	Hearing Manager
Catherine Cockney,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Jim Umpherson,	Member		

AUGUST 12, 2014, INUVIK, NT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal Lennie,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor

SEPTEMBER 17, 2014, WHITEHORSE, YT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal Lennie,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Jim Umpherson,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel

OCTOBER 16, 2014, KANANASKIS, AB

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal Lennie,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Observer
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Charles Birchall,	Legal Counsel

OCTOBER 29, 2014, TELE-CONFERENCE, INUVIK, NT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal lennie,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Charles Birchall,	Legal Counsel

NOVEMBER 21, 2014, YELLOWKNIFE, NT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Crystal lennie,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Charles Birchall,	Legal Counsel

DECEMBER 17 & 18, 2014, EDMONTON AB

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal lennie,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Vacant,	Member	Bruce Chambers,	Observer
Catherine Cockney,	Member	John Donihee,	Legal Counsel
Jim Umpherson,	Member	Charles Birchall,	Legal Counsel

FEBRUARY 16, 2015, HOUSTON TX

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Dez Loreen,	Communications
Crystal lennie,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Bruce Chambers	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Catherine Cockney,	Member		
Jim Umpherson,	Member		

MARCH 30, 2015, TELE-CONFERENCE, INUVIK, NT

PARTICIPANTS:

Jon Pierce,	Chair	Richard Binder,	EIRB Coordinator
Roland Kikoak,	Member	Marie-Anick Elie ,	Hearing Manager
Herbert Felix,	Member	Bharat Dixit,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Crystal Iennie,	Member	Bruce Young,	Sr. Technical Advisor
Bruce Chambers	Member	Charles Birchall	Legal Counsel
Catherine Cockney,	Member		
Jim Umpherson,	Member		

EIRB BOARD TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT/CONFERENCES

APRIL 15, 2014

COGOA 101, Regulation of Oil and Gas Activities in the North and Arctic Offshore Drilling Review

APRIL 16, 2014

EIRB/NEB – Coordinated approach to the review processes

MAY 5 - 8, 2014

International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC-2014)

MAY 13, 2014

Oil Spill Response – Logistics, Equipment & Methods

AUGUST 12 & 13, 2014

BP Macondo – Deepwater Horizon, Lessons Learned

SEPTEMBER 16, 2014

Financial Liability & Responsibility for Oil and Gas Developments

OCTOBER 15, 2014

Public Hearings and Administrative Law

NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Rules of Procedures

DECEMBER 15 & 16, 2014

EA Process – Strategic Session

DECEMBER 17, 2014

Presentations: BREA, Beaufort Sea Engineering Data Base and ASTIS

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2014

Oil Spill and Ecosystem Science Conference

FINANCES

Funding for the Chair, Canada Member, Yukon Member, NWT Member and the Secretary of the EIRB, and for project reviews conducted by the EIRB, is provided by way of Contribution Agreements with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada. Funding for the Inuvialuit members is provided by way of a Contribution Agreement with the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The EIRB audited financial statements is available upon request to the Joint Secretariat. For further information, contact:

Executive Director
Joint Secretariat - Inuvialuit Settlement Region
PO Box 2120/ Suite 204
Inuvik, Northwest Territories
CANADA X0E 0T0

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AANDC	Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
CBM	Community Based Monitoring
CSU	Community Support Unit
EIRB	Environmental Impact Review Board
EISC	Environmental Impact Screening Committee
FJMC	Fisheries Joint Management Committee
GIS	Geographic Information System
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
HTC	Hunters and Trappers Committee
IFA	Inuvialuit Final Agreement (The Western Arctic Claim)
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
IORVL	Imperial Oil Resources Venture Limited
ISR	Inuvialuit Settlement Region
ITI	Industry Tourism and Investment
JS	Joint Secretariat – Inuvialuit Renewable Resource Committees
NEB	National Energy Board
NPMO	Northern Projects Management Office
RP	Resource Person
WMAC (NS)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories)