

Notice of Referral of the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program to the Environmental Impact Review Board

On December 11, 2013, the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) received a decision letter from the Environmental Impact Screening Committee (EISC) referring the Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program for environmental impact assessment and review as set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement (IFA).

The developer, Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited (IORVL), is proposing a program and associated support activities that would result in the drilling of one or more exploration wells within EL 476 (Ajurak) and EL 477 (Pokak) in the Beaufort Sea.

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 EIRB will expeditiously review this development and on the basis of the evidence and information before it shall 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.

Draft Terms of Reference for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will be released by the EIRB in the near future. At that time, a sixty (60) day review period will commence during which time comments from Inuvialuit, Inuvialuit organizations, the developer, parties to the review and the general public will be solicited and considered by the EIRB before finalization of the Terms of Reference.

Information concerning the procedure to register as a party to this review will be forthcoming in early January 2014.

Contacts: Eli Nasogaluak (867) 777-2828 eirb@jointsec.nt.ca

Richard Binder (867) 777-2828 eirb@jointsec.nt.ca