



Canadian Northern Economic  
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement  
économique du Nord



Northwest  
Territories Environment and Natural Resources

MAR 24 2014

VIA EMAIL

Nellie Cournoyea, Chair/CEO  
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation  
Bag Service #21  
Inuvik, NT XOE OT0

Frank Pokiak, Chair  
Inuvialuit Game Council  
Box 2120  
Inuvik, NT XOE OT0

Dear Ms. Cournoyea and Mr. Pokiak:

**RE: Participation in Environmental Impact Review Board Process – Beaufort Sea Exploration  
Joint Venture Drilling Program Environmental Impact Assessment and Review**

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As you are aware, on December 11, 2013, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee ("EISC") referred Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited's (the "Developer") proposed Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program (the "Development") to the Environment Impact Review Board ("EIRB") because it determined the Development could have significant negative environmental impacts. As a result, the EIRB will subject the Development to environmental impact assessment and review (the "Review"), as set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation ("IRC") and the Inuvialuit Game Council ("IGC") to participate in the processes of the EIRB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

During the Review, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the EIRB, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the IRC and IGC are encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on Inuvialuit rights are anticipated as a result of the Development; and, if so,

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- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the EIRB in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the EIRB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially-affected Aboriginal groups.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory and/or regulatory decisions in relation to the Development. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the IRC and IGC actively participating in the Review and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence  
Director General  
Northern Projects Management Office,  
Canadian Northern Economic Development  
Agency



Ray Case  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Corporate & Strategic Planning,  
Department of Environment and Natural  
Resources, Government of the Northwest  
Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Paula Isaak, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada  
Robert Steedman, Professional Leader Environment, National Energy Board  
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada  
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Mark Pearson, Director General, External Relations, Natural Resources Canada

**Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada**

**Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs, Transport Canada**

**Jon Pierce, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board**

**Heather Marreck, Vice President, Imperial Oil Resources Upstream**

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