



January 20, 2012

Mr. Eli Nasogaluak  
Environmental Assessment Coordinator  
Environmental Impact Review Board  
PO BOX 2120  
INUVIK NT X0E 0T0

Dear Mr. Nasogaluak:

**Questions and Comments Regarding Round 1 Information Requests for the Construction of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway [02/10-05]**

The Developers are pleased to confirm receipt of the Environmental Impact Review Board's Round 1 Information Requests on January 16, 2012, and would ask for clarification regarding Information Request 67.

Information Request 67's preamble discusses multiple types of plans and policies, but Request 1 asks the Developer to list the plans that will be developed to specifically deal with Accidents and Malfunctions. Do the following Requests (Requests #2 to #5) relate to those plans stated in Request 1, or to all plans discussed in the Environmental Impact Statement?

Furthermore, in regards to the Information Requests that require further assessment of the alternative route options. The Developer would like to confirm that these additional assessments and discussion do not require inclusion of Alternative 2 (Upland Route), as this route has been eliminated from further consideration.

Due to the very short timeframe for responding to the Round 1 Information Requests, the Developer requests a response as soon as possible.

The Developer would like to note that the number of Information Requests and the level of detail and complexity of each request will make it a challenge to respond by February 6, 2012. However, the Developer will attempt to meet the deadline, as requested.

The Developer would like to state for the record that the level of detail requested in a number of the Information Requests appears to extend well beyond the level of detail typically requested for other public infrastructure or even resource development projects

proposed in Canada, and in some instances, requires even more detail than the very large, complex and cross-boundary Mackenzie Gas Project. The Developer is concerned that the EIRB is setting new precedents that will deter future possible developments due to the extraordinary level of information requested, that one could argue does not correspond to the limited potential impacts that a project of this size and nature could cause.

The challenges that the Developer continues to have is that this is a publicly funded project. The Developer cannot guarantee access to the funding for this project should the project continue to be delayed by the permitting process or due to the high cost of bringing the project through an extraordinarily rigorous environmental review process.

The Developer, being representative of two communities in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Government of the Northwest Territories, has a vested interest in protecting and benefitting the people and environment of the region. The Developer encourages the EIRB to continue to maintain its high standards for project review, but also respectfully requests that the EIRB follow more closely its own *Environmental Impact Review Guidelines*, particularly Section 8.1 "Goal Oriented Approach to Environmental Impact Review". The section states:

*The EIRB encourages a Developer to use a goal oriented approach to achieve sustainable human and biophysical environmental protection in the design, construction, operation and decommissioning of proposed developments. The Review Board has adopted a goal oriented approach to environmental impact review to encourage a more sustainable approach to development, by:*

- Establishing performance goals for sustainable human environment and environmental protection.*
- Allowing flexibility for a Developer to apply their own knowledge and experience to achieve these human environment and environmental protection goals and to demonstrate how their proposed development contributes to sustainable development.*
- Encouraging innovation and performance beyond a prescriptive minimum.*
- Assigning responsibility to a Developer for demonstrating sustainable human environment and environmental protection for all phases of a proposed development.*

*The Review Board will use the human environment and environmental protection goals as a measure against which the Developer's Final EIS will be evaluated.*

On behalf of the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik and the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Transportation, the Developers would like to thank the EIRB for considering the response provided.

Yours truly,



Jim Stevens  
On Behalf of the Developers

c. Mayor Merven Gruben  
Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk

Mayor Denny Rodgers  
Town of Inuvik