



# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

## OUTLINE OF PROCESS FOR EIRB TECHNICAL SESSIONS

### **Introduction:**

The Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) has organized technical sessions to be held in Inuvik on August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. The technical sessions will provide an opportunity for the developer, the parties and board staff to explore environmental, socioeconomic, engineering and other technical issues arising from the evidence filed to date on the record of the environmental review of the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project. Such technical sessions are regularly held by environmental assessment tribunals in order to improve understanding of the issues and, where possible, to reduce the number of issues raised before these boards in a public hearing.

### **Approach:**

The technical sessions will run over two days. Members of the hearing panel will not be present. The intent is to foster direct discussion among representatives of the parties and the developer in order to eliminate misunderstandings, and where possible resolve differences in the understanding of the evidence on the record. These technical sessions will be run on a “without prejudice” basis. However, a transcript will be made and filed on the record for reference by participants. Any commitments made by parties will be recorded as will undertakings to provide additional information, explanation or assistance. These undertakings will have to be filed before the hearings.

As you are aware, the EIRB has instructed parties to provide a list of issues in advance of the technical sessions. Once these filings are received by the Board they will be reviewed, organized and the issues list will be provided to the parties a short while in advance of the technical sessions. It is our goal to explore all the issues raised by the parties.

### **The Organization of the Technical Sessions:**

The technical sessions will run from 9 AM to 5 PM on each of August 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012. They will take place at Ingamo Hall. Coffee and refreshments will be provided but parties are responsible for their own lunches. The EIRB has not arranged translation for the technical sessions.

Board staff and counsel will chair and direct the discussions over the two days and will be responsible for cataloging any commitments and undertakings which result from these discussions.

We intend to have a thorough, respectful and informal exchange in order to enhance the understanding of the project by all parties. Where the discussion leads to a better understanding of an issue it will be up to the parties to decide whether or not it is resolved and whether that issue still warrants being brought to the attention of the Board in a final technical submission. These submissions are scheduled to be provided to the EIRB in early September after completion of the technical sessions, filing of the transcripts, and of the list of commitments and undertakings. If parties at the technical sessions continue to disagree about an issue after a reasonable period for discussion, board staff will simply move on to the next item on the agenda.

As indicated above, these technical sessions are being held as a ***without prejudice*** discussion. Attendees should openly and thoroughly explore and work through any issues that require resolution.

### **Conclusion:**

The technical sessions represent an important opportunity for the developer and parties to explore areas of disagreement or where the record simply needs to be clarified in a non-confrontational setting in advance of the date set for the filing of final technical submissions. If there are any questions about the way that these technical sessions will run please contact Eli Nasogaluak as set out below.

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