



EA 0506-003

May 26, 2005

EA0506-003  
Distribution List

via e-mail/fax

Dear interested parties:

**Re: Pre-Hearing Conference for Ur Energy Screech Lake Environmental Assessment**

In preparation for a public hearing to be held on June 29, 2005 in Lutsel K'e, the MVEIRB is hosting a Pre-Hearing Conference (PHC). The purpose of the PHC is essentially to set the agenda for the public hearing and to clarify the process for preparing for the hearing. The PHC will take place on June 17 at 9 a.m. Mountain Time in the MVEIRB board room in the Scotia Centre, Yellowknife. Parties outside of Yellowknife will participate via teleconference. A guide to pre-hearing conferences, a draft agenda, and a summary of issues are attached. Please let us know if you are planning to attend no later than June 14, 2005. If you wish to participate in the PHC, please also fill out the party identification form attached, if you have not done so already.

Also attached is a work sheet to identify issues and expert witnesses. The public hearing will be conducted as a community hearing under the MVEIRB's Rules of Procedure. Nonetheless, we ask parties who wish to use expert witnesses to identify them prior to the hearing. Given the tight timelines we do not expect detailed information at the PHC. However, we encourage parties to submit sufficient information prior to the PHC, or bring it to the table on June 17, to allow setting an agenda for the hearing, including time allotments for presentations. The work sheet is mainly meant to guide the discussion at the PHC.

More detailed information, including how to participate in the teleconference and a draft hearing agenda will be circulated closer to the PHC.

If you have any questions regarding any aspects of the EA process, please do not hesitate to contact me at (867) 766-7053 or [mhaefe@mvairb.nt.ca](mailto:mhaefe@mvairb.nt.ca).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Haefe".

Martin Haefe  
Environmental Assessment Officer

*Attachments:*

- *Pre-Hearing Conference Guide*
- *Draft PHC Agenda*
- *Party Status Request Form*
- *Summary of Issues*
- *PHC Work Sheet*

## **What is a Pre-Hearing Conference?**

The pre-hearing conference offers you an important opportunity to get involved in the planning for the public hearing of Paramount Resources Ltd. Cameron Hills Extension project in the Cameron Hills area. By participating, you can help to focus discussions on the most important issues and to shape the decision processes for considering the most beneficial outcomes for all parties.

A pre-hearing conference is a meeting of all the parties in an environmental assessment with the Review Board staff and counsel. This pre-hearing conference will prepare for a public hearing, currently scheduled for February 18-19, 2004. The pre-hearing conference will:

- define the purpose for the public hearing;
- set the agenda for the public hearing by verifying unresolved issues raised during participant comment periods;
- discuss and seek agreement on the process to prepare for a public hearing (i.e., preparation and exchange of documents), and,
- clarify the process, procedures and technical requirements for the hearing.

The pre-hearing conference will be more efficient if parties are familiar with the Review Board's procedures, and are aware of any outstanding issues not resolved during the participant comment period. This process further ensures that no new documents are introduced for the first time at the hearing. This approach ensures the process is fair and that each party can properly prepare a thoughtful response to the issues and questions highlighted for the public hearing.

Each participant should ensure that at least one of its representatives attending has full knowledge of the environmental assessment. This will ensure that those present are aware of the issues and questions outstanding and are fully capable of making an informed decision about the most important issues to be discussed at the pre-hearing conference.

## **Notice of a Pre-Hearing Conference**

The Review Board will publish a notice of the pre-hearing conference in local and regional newspapers and if appropriate, on local or regional radio. Directly affected parties and intervenors are automatically invited to attend the pre-hearing conference. Others may participate if they notify the Review Board of their intention to do so as soon as possible after the public notice of the pre-hearing conference is published. The notice announcing the date time and location of a pre-hearing conference may contain a listing of the topics to be addressed.

## **What to Expect at a Pre-Hearing Conference**

The pre-hearing conference will be informal. In all cases, however, the actual format will reflect the style of the Chair and the objectives of the pre-hearing conference. For the pre-hearing conference to be successful, the participants must speak freely.

At the pre-hearing conference,

- The process and procedures related to the public hearing will be discussed;
- The hearing topics will be presented and discussed;
- Parties to the environmental assessment will briefly state or clarify their unresolved issues, and the issues will then be slotted under the appropriate topics<sup>1</sup>;
- Based on the number of issues under each topic, time allotments will be assigned for the presentation of issues by the parties to be given at the public hearing; and
- Date, time and location of the hearing will be finalized.

## **How to Prepare for the Pre-Hearing Conference**

Reading the Rules of Procedure issued by the Review Board is important. It will be useful for participants to ask themselves the following questions as they prepare for the pre-hearing:

- Exactly what are the issues of the environmental assessment?
- Why are these issues being raised?
- Is there any chance of resolving or addressing a particular issue or series of issues?
- What are the relevant facts in the environmental assessment?
- Do we agree with the facts?
- Will we be calling expert witnesses?
- On what documents will we be relying?
- What documents should we provide to the other participants?
- Can we provide these documents before or at the pre-hearing?
- What documents do we need from other parties and why do we need them?
- How many days of hearing do we expect our matters to take?
- How many days of hearing in total do we need?

After the pre-hearing conference, the parties will have time to shape and prepare their presentations/interventions, which are to be submitted to the Review Board and circulated to all parties prior to the hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> Where topics have already been defined in an issues summary table, the organization of topics will be reviewed for acceptability to the participants.

## **What to Bring to the Pre-Hearing Conference**

Please come to the pre-hearing conference with the following material:

- A list of issues to be addressed in the hearing;
- A list of documents you require from other parties and the reasons why you require the documents;
- A list of expert witnesses you intend to use, if any and why; and
- Description of issues about which there is disagreement; description of efforts made to reach agreement, description of why agreement was not reached and, resolution requested of the MVEIRB.

## **Need for Legal Counsel and Experts**

It is not necessary that you retain the services of a lawyer to represent your interests at a pre-hearing conference or public hearing. However, you may wish to retain the services of a lawyer if there will be issues that involve legal complexities.

## **Overview of the Pre-Hearing Conference Process**

The Review Board's pre-hearing conference provides a structured format for the presentation of information and discussion. Typically, the pre-hearing conference begins with opening remarks of the Chair. These may include a statement of purpose of the pre-hearing conference, and introduction of the parties with standing participating in the pre-hearing conference. Preliminary matters such as procedural or legal issues are usually considered next. This includes information needs of participants, timing, location, and issues to be considered at the public hearing. Each participant is asked to present his or her concerns and suggestions for the upcoming hearing session, starting with the developer. The developer also has an opportunity to respond after all participants have presented their views.

# Ur Energy Screech Lake Environmental Assessment

Pre Hearing Conference  
Friday, June 17, 2005 – 09:00  
MVEIRB Boardroom/Teleconference

## Agenda

- 09:00** Introductions
- 09:10** Overview of Pre Hearing Conference
- 09:15** Review of EA Process and Hearing Purpose
- 09:25** Identification of Issues
- to be managed between parties prior to Hearing
  - to be addressed at Hearing
- 10:15** Break
- 10:30** Confirmation of Parties at Hearing (Presentation time requirements)
- 10:50** Review of Draft Hearing Agenda
- 11:10** Upcoming deadlines
- 11:15** Questions – Concerns
- 11:45** Adjournment



# Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

## FORM 1

## Request for Party Status

Name of Organization:

Name of Proceeding:

Reasons for requesting Party Status in these proceedings.

**Participation:**

Please describe how you or your organization intends to participate in this proceeding, such as what information, witnesses, or presentations you plan to submit.

If you represent a Responsible Minister or Responsible Authority please state which one.  
List the licences, permits or authorizations issued by your organization relevant to this proceeding.

**Contact Information:**

Please confirm the organization's contact information and the name of the primary contact person for Board correspondence purposes.

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_, Northwest Territories, on (MM/DD/YY) \_\_\_\_\_.

(Signature of Party's Representative)

The following table is a working summary of outstanding issues with respect to the Ur Energy Screech Lake EA. This table is intended to assist the parties in their preparations for the Pre Hearing Conference, to be held Friday, June 17, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

Use this table as a starting point, in conjunction with the Pre Hearing Conference Worksheets, for identifying the issues you may have.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Party of Concern</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Concern over the nature of the material (uranium) explored for	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Corp		Developer has been asked to provide information on uranium exploration
Impacts on harvesting (hunting and fishing)	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Corp		LKDFN has been asked to provide information.
Cultural significance of the project area	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Corp		LKDFN has been asked to provide more information.
Impacts Beverly-Quamanirjuak caribou herd migration	Beverly-Quamanirjuak Caribou Management Board (GNWT)		
Possible conflict with future plans for Thelon Game Sanctuary and proposed East Arm National Park	Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation, WWF		LKDFN has been asked to provide documentation, if available.
Potential for Cumulative Effects	North Slave Metis Alliance		
Possible expansion of activities to property bordering Thelon Game Sanctuary	North Slave Metis Alliance		
Wildlife impacts and impact on traditional land use	Athabasca Denesuline Negotiation Team		

## Pre-Hearing Conference Worksheet

Proposed Ur Energy Screech Lake Uranium Exploration (EA0506-003)

*i. Party:*

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*ii. Name(s) of Representatives:*

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*iii. Issues to be Addressed at the Public Hearing:*

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iv. Disputed Issues:

<i>Issues over which there is disagreement</i>	<i>Efforts made to reach agreement</i>	<i>Describe Why Issue Was Not Resolved</i>	<i>Resolution Requested by MVEIRB</i>

v. Documents Required of Other Parties:

<i>Document</i>	<i>Reason for Request</i>

*vi. Expert Witness(es) to be Used, if any:*

A resume should be included for all individuals listed. This resume should include educational background and relevant project history.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Reason for Using Expert Witness</i>

*vii. Technical Requirements for the Public Hearing:*

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*viii. Other Requirements at the Public Hearing (i.e., translation, etc.):*

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