



EA0506-008 Distribution List

April 6, 2006

Dear Parties:

**Re: EA0506-008 Gahcho Kue – Changes to Approach for Community Scoping Sessions**

**Alterations to Community Scoping Approach**

During its meeting of April 5, 2006 the Review Board decided to alter the way it is conducting the scoping for this environmental assessment for communities. Rather than holding community scoping *hearings* in three communities the Review Board will now hold community scoping *workshops* in four communities, followed by one community scoping *hearing* in Yellowknife.

Board members will not be present at the community scoping workshops. Instead Review Board staff will facilitate discussions somewhat similar to the technical scoping workshop in Yellowknife March 21-23, 2006. In the Review Board's opinion this approach is more conducive to open discussion and an exchange of ideas than the more formal setting of a hearing.

Representatives from each workshop will then be invited to present the workshop results to the Review Board during a community scoping hearing in Yellowknife on April 28, 2006. The Review Board will cover travel and accommodation expenses for up to three representatives from each workshop.

The dates and times of the community scoping workshops and the community scoping hearing are listed below. Where a hearing had already been scheduled, the location, date, and time remain the same. Workshops will be held in Dettah, Lutsel K'e, Fort Resolution, and Behchoko. All events are to be open to the public and anybody is welcome to attend.

The technical scoping hearing scheduled for April 10 in Yellowknife will not be affected by these changes.

## Reasons for Changes

The cancellation of the community scoping hearing scheduled for April 4 in Lutsel K'e, as well as requests by the Deninu Kue First Nation to add a scoping session in Fort Resolution caused the Review Board to review its community scoping hearing approach for this assessment. In this review the board considered its experience with previous staff lead scoping sessions, with previous community hearings, and with the technical scoping workshop for this assessment. As well, conversations between MVEIRB staff and community representatives indicated that a workshop format may be more suitable for the smaller communities than a hearing.

In the Review Board's view this new approach will result in:

- better inclusion of community members in the scoping process,
- a fair treatment of all communities involved,
- comparable approaches to scoping with communities and technical experts, and
- as consequence, a better environmental assessment.

The Review Board recognizes that these changes are on short notice but has concluded that the advantages of altering the approach outweigh this disadvantage. Nonetheless, the Review Board would like to apologize for any inconvenience this late change may have caused.

## New Schedule

Below is the new schedule for community scoping workshops and the community scoping hearing.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Details</i>
Yellowknife	Technical Scoping Hearing	April 10, 2006	9 am to 4:30 pm
Dettah	community scoping workshop	April 11, 2006	1:30 pm until evening, supper provided
Lutsel K'el	community scoping workshop	April 19, 2006	1:30 pm until evening, supper provided
Fort Resolution	community scoping workshop	April 24, 2006	1:30 pm until evening, supper provided
Behchoko	community scoping workshop	April 25, 2006	1:30 pm until evening, supper provided
Yellowknife	community scoping hearing	April 28, 2006	To be determined



If you have any questions regarding this new approach or require information about a specific event, please do not hesitate to contact the lead environmental assessment officer for this file, Mr. Martin Haefele at (867) 766-7053 or [mhaefele@mveirb.nt.ca](mailto:mhaefele@mveirb.nt.ca).

Sincerely



Gabrielle Mackenzie Scott, Chair,

Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

