

November 9, 2012

EIR0607-001

Gahcho Kué Project

Hearing Directive

Re: Procedures for community and public hearings, dates for the filing of materials and other hearing matters

To Parties and members of the public:

This hearing directive provides guidance and information to Parties and members of the public on upcoming dates and expectations of the Panel.

1. Community Hearings

The Panel holds community hearings in order to hear directly from members of the public about their views of the Project. These hearings are informal.

Please note that Parties to the Environmental Impact Review (EIR) may be present and if so, are available to answer questions from community members. There will be no questions and answers between the Developer and Parties.

The final agenda for the Community Hearings is provided separately. An overview of the process during the hearings is as follows:

1.1. November 30, 2012 Dettah Community Hearing (informal)

- Opening welcome from Chief of community
- The Developer to briefly describe the Project
- Community members are encouraged to make statements to the Panel and have the opportunity to ask questions of the Developer

1.2. December 3, 2012 Lutsel K'e Community Hearing (informal)

- Opening welcome from Chief of the community
- The Developer to briefly describe the Project
- Community members are encouraged make statements to the Panel and have the opportunity to ask questions of the Developer

2. Public Hearings

The Panel holds public hearings in order to hear Parties arguments concerning the Project. These hearings are more formal and technical in nature than Community Hearings. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may submit comments in writing to the Panel up until the public record is closed. The date of closure of the public record is approximately 2 weeks after the hearings. Parties and the public will be advised of the date or closure of the public record after the hearings are completed.

The final agenda for the Public Hearing is provided under separate cover. An overview of the process during the hearings is as follows:

2.1. December 5-8 Yellowknife Public Hearing (formal)

- Opening welcome from Chief of the community
- Parties make a 3 minute opening statement to the Panel
- The Developer will introduce themselves and their representatives and briefly describe its view on impacts of the project on the environment, including cultural, social and economic values
- Presentations by Parties are a summary of technical reports
- The opportunity for questioning after presentations is granted to all Parties, the Developer, Panel Staff and Panel members
- Questioning after presentations occurs within the timelines described on the agenda

2.2. Public Hearing opening statements

- The Panel requests that all Parties provide an opening statement at the beginning of the Public Hearing. Each Party is provided a three minute time slot for this. Parties that are not presenting should still introduce themselves so that the Panel knows they are present at the hearing. The intent of the opening statement is for each Party to give the Panel a brief verbal (no power point) introduction including:
 - an introduction of representatives participating on behalf of the Party
 - a short description of the mandate of the Party

The Parties are (in the order they will be asked to present their opening statement):

- Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office
- Dene Nation
- Deninu Kue First Nation

- Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation
- NWT Metis Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Tlicho Government
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Natural Resources Canada
- Parks Canada
- Transport Canada

2.3. Presentations

Parties that will be presenting at the hearing are:

- Akaitcho IMA Implementation Office
- Deninu Kue First Nation
- Lutsel K'e First Nation
- North Slave Metis Alliance
- Tlicho Government
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Environment Canada
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Natural Resources Canada
- Transport Canada

Presentations from Parties are due on Nov 20, 2012. Presentations are a summary of material already submitted to the Panel in their technical reports. Presentations should identify only the points and recommendations that Parties feel will assist the Panel in making decisions on the Project. The Panel strongly encourages Party presentations to be brief and focused in order to allow sufficient time for questioning of each Party.

For Parties with outstanding Traditional Knowledge (TK) reports, they may include a summary of preliminary findings from their TK studies in their presentations. However, the TK material that will be presented must be provided with the presentations that are due on Nov 20, 2012.

3. Other Matters

3.1. Filing of material and due dates

November 13, 2012 –Due date for response by the Developer to Technical Reports

November 20, 2012 – Due date for Parties presentations for the Hearings

3.2. Closure of the Public Record

The public record will be temporarily closed between November 21st 2012 and December 8th 2012 to ensure that no new information is submitted prior the hearings.

The public record will be re-opened for post-hearing filings after the hearings are complete. Date of final closure of the Public Record will be determined after the Hearings and will be made public in a Note to File.

3.3. Translation, webcast and teleconference

The hearings will have simultaneous translation available and will be transcribed. The hearing dates in Yellowknife will have teleconference capability. Parties may request access to the teleconference. The Yellowknife hearings will also be webcast at <http://reviewboard.ca/webcast.php>.

3.4. Tips for Public Hearings

A document titled *Tips for Public Hearings* can be found on the Review Board website:
http://reviewboard.ca/upload/ref_library/Public_hearing_tipsguide_1240350117.pdf

If you have questions, please contact me by email or phone.

Chuck Hubert

(original signed by)
Panel Manager
867.766.7052
chubert@reviewboard.ca