



July 8, 2024

Notice of Proceeding

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

RE: Information requests and updated workplan

1. Background

The Government of the Northwest Territories (the developer) submitted its [Developer's Assessment Report \(DAR\)](#) (PR#90-112) on October 12, 2023. The Review Board determined that it conforms with the [Terms of Reference](#) (PR#66) for this environmental assessment and provides sufficient information to proceed to the next steps of the analysis phase. This phase began with a [public review of the DAR](#). The developer answered comments and questions about the DAR on April 19, 2024.

The assessment is currently in the information request (IR) stage. This Notice of Proceeding includes an updated draft workplan and details about information requests.

2. Workplan

The workplan (attached) provides the following upcoming deadlines:

Review Board issues its remaining IRs	July 2024
Parties issue their IRs	August 14, 2024
Developer responds to IRs	September 27, 2024
Technical and Community Sessions	October 2024

In mid-July, Review Board staff will canvass parties to identify a time to have an online meeting to discuss the workplan and upcoming process steps. During this time, parties and staff can discuss any need for training on how to use the online review system, and parties' interest and availability for community and technical sessions this fall.



Next Steps after IRs

After the IR phase, the Review Board will hold community and technical sessions. An additional round of information requests will follow if necessary

When the Review Board is ready to enter the hearing phase, it will request an updated DAR or addendum to the DAR from the developer. This will provide parties with one main document to consider when preparing their interventions for the public hearing. More information on these steps will be provided in a future notice of proceeding.

Comments on the draft workplan

Any participant in this environmental assessment process who wishes to submit comments and recommendations on the draft Workplan should do so in writing **by July 22, 2024** to the contact listed at the end of this notice.

The Review Board will post all comments on the draft Workplan to the public registry. The Review Board will then consider the comments and recommendations and will release an updated draft Workplan with its rationale for how comments or recommendations were addressed.

3. Information requests

The purpose of IRs is to give the Review Board and parties the opportunity to request additional information to better understand the project and its potential impacts. For further details on the content of information requests, see the Review Board's [Information Requests flat sheet](#).

The Review Board will submit its information requests in July, and **parties are asked to submit IRs by August 14**.¹ This staggered approach is intended to provide parties with a long enough review period and allow them to consider questions by the Review Board when preparing their IRs.

¹ The Review Board already submitted initial overarching information requests on March 13, to which the developer responded on June 19, 2024. Those focused on:

- 1) the construction schedule
- 2) climate change impacts
- 3) lessons learned from the Tłjchq Highway.



Preparing IRs

When preparing IRs, parties are encouraged to review:

- the Review Board's final [Terms of Reference](#) (PR#66),
- the [Developer's Assessment Report](#) (PR#90-112),
- additional information on the [public registry](#) for this EA,
- [comments on the DAR](#), and
- the [Review Board's overarching IRs](#).

IRs must be submitted using the online review system and can be directed to the developer or other parties.

All information requests are subject to the Review Board's [Late Submission Policy](#), and late submissions will not be accepted unless a written request for extension has been received and approved by the Board before August 14, 2024. Extensions may be granted by request or under special circumstances, such as in the case of wildfire evacuations.

Rules of Procedure for information requests

Rules 35-40 of the Review Board's [Rules of Procedure](#) describe the process for IRs during a Review Board proceeding. These rules can be summarized as follows:

- The Review Board may issue IRs to any party at any time.
- At a time set out by the Board, parties may seek information within the scope of development and assessment.
- All IR submissions and responses will follow the timelines set out by the Review Board.
- If there are disputes over the appropriateness of a request or a response, parties can submit a Request for Ruling to the Review Board.
- The Review Board may reject or modify any IR for reasons including relevance, offensiveness, or being outside the scope.

For this proceeding, and in accordance with Rule 8, the Review Board is modifying the IR approval process: For this EA, **parties are required to submit their IRs to the Review Board using the Online Review System**. This will make their IRs accessible to all parties and the public. If a party experiences technical or other difficulties, they can contact Review Board staff for assistance.

4. Contact information

The primary contact on behalf of the Review Board for the Mackenzie Valley Highway project is Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn (867-766-7054, cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca).

EA1213-02 – Mackenzie Valley Highway Project
Government of the Northwest Territories

Updated Draft Workplan – July 8, 2024

This draft workplan describes the process steps for EA1213-02. This environmental assessment started before legislated timelines came into force on March 25, 2014. Since March 25, 2014, the Review Board has spent 78 days of its time on comments and revisions to a draft Terms of Reference (in response to significant changes to the project by the developer) and 40 days on a conformity determination of the *Developer’s Assessment Report*.

In the table below:

- Process steps that are complete include the total days (Review Board or developer) and the end date is shaded in grey.
- Process steps that are on Review Board time are shaded in green.
- Process steps on developer time are shaded in orange.
- Future process steps include approximate deadlines or end dates that are subject to the timing of the developer’s responses.

EA Phase	Process Step	Date	
Scoping	Referral to environmental assessment	Feb 8, 2013	
	Deadline for party status applications	Apr 19, 2013	
	Review Board Reasons for Decision on party status	May 31, 2013	
	Party comment on issues scoping	Jun 28, 2013	
	In-person scoping meetings	Pehdzeh Ki (Wrigley)	Sep 9, 2013
		Tulita	Sep 10, 2013
		Fort Good Hope	Sep 11, 2013
		Inuvik	Sep 17, 2013
		Norman Wells	Sep 18, 2013
	Developer submits draft <i>Terms of Reference</i> (TOR)	Sep 30, 2013	
	Review Board issues draft TOR	Nov 25, 2013	
	Comments from parties and developer on draft TOR	Dec 10, 2013	
	Review Board issues final TOR	Dec 23, 2013	
	Developer prepares a revised project description	Aug 29, 2014	
	Developer prepares a draft TOR	Nov 27, 2014	
Parties comment on the draft TOR	Jan 23, 2015		
Review Board issues final TOR	Feb 13, 2015		

Analytical	Developer submits the <i>Developer's Assessment Report (DAR)</i>	Oct 12, 2023
	Review Board conformity determination	Nov 21, 2023
	Public review of the DAR begins	
	Review Board engagement meetings	Jan-Feb, 2024
	Public review of the DAR ends	Feb 29, 2024
	Overarching Information requests (IRs) from Review Board	Mar 13, 2024
	Developer's responses to public review comments (from ORS)	Apr 19, 2024
	Developer's responses to Review Board Overarching IRs	Jun 19, 2024
	Information requests from Review Board (round 1)	July 2024
	Information requests from parties (round 1)	Aug 14, 2024
	Developer's responses to Review Board and party IRs (round 1)	Sep 27, 2024
	Party responses to Review Board IRs (round 1)	Sep 27, 2024
	Technical sessions	Oct 2024
	Community sessions	Oct 2024
	Information requests from Review Board and parties (round 2)	Nov 2024
	Developer's responses to information requests (round 2)	Dec 2025
Developer submits revised DAR or DAR Addendums	Early 2025	
Hearing	Pre-hearing conference	Early 2025
	Deadline to apply for intervenor status	
	Interventions	
	Developer response to intervention	
	Public hearing preparation (Review Board, parties)	
	All interveners submit hearing presentations	
	Public hearings	
	Hearing undertakings (developer, parties)	
	Closing arguments from parties	
	Closing argument from developer	
	Closure of the public record	
Decision	Evidence analysis by the Review Board	Mid 2025
	Board deliberation and initial report drafting	
	Board, legal, and editorial reviews	
	Review Board issues Report of Environmental Assessment	
	Minister(s) responses to Report of Environmental Assessment	

