



July 31, 2024

Note to File

To all parties:

Re: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Optional meeting with parties about information requests and the workplan

The Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) hosted two optional online meetings on July 25 and July 30, 2024, for parties to the environmental assessment (EA) and information request (IRs) recipients. During the meetings, Review Board staff provided a brief overview of the workplan and upcoming EA steps, and participants had the opportunity to ask questions. Topics for discussion included:

- the draft [workplan](#)
- asking [information requests](#) (including Online Review System (ORS) training)
- upcoming EA steps, including community/technical sessions and second round of IRs

The presentation is available on the public registry ([PR#239](#)). A summary of the questions and responses is included below. The list of participants can be found below.

Questions from parties

Can you elaborate on the differences between community and technical sessions?

When will the technical and community sessions be held?

Answers from the Review Board

Community sessions are for community members and Traditional Knowledge holders. They are held in communities, are open to everyone, and focus on the issues raised by communities and community members.

Technical sessions typically involve specialists from federal, territorial, and Indigenous Governments and organizations who discuss the details of how impacts were assessed. All parties are invited.. They have an agenda for when each topic will be discussed to help coordinate specialist participation. Technical sessions still cover a range of topics, from biophysical to social and cultural, depending on the project.

The dates of the sessions have not been determined. The earliest they could happen is in October, but it could be November. The dates depend on whether parties or the developer request



extensions for submitting or responding to IRs. Dates will be set based on the availability of the Review Board, developer, and parties.

Where will the technical and community sessions be held?

The locations of the sessions have not been determined. Technical sessions are usually held in large centers, likely Yellowknife for this project.

For the community sessions, the Review Board will prioritize communities on the route, including Tulita, Wrigley, and Norman Wells. Community sessions may be held in other communities based on interest.

Is the information from community sessions considered evidence?

Yes. Information from the community sessions will be put on the public registry (for example, in the form of a summary report or transcripts).

Will the Review Board members be present at the technical and community sessions?

The Review Board is considering holding community sessions with the Board members present for this EA. Board members will not be present at the technical sessions.

Can people attend community and technical sessions virtually?

Community sessions are intended to be in-person, but limited virtual attendance may be offered at the community's request.

Technical sessions are also primarily intended to be in-person, but there will be virtual attendance options if in-person attendance is impossible. The Review Board requests at least one individual from each organization in the room to help coordinate and communicate with their online counterparts.

When will the ORS training be?

In early August, before parties' IRs deadline of August 14.

How can parties deal with uncertainty in terms of impacts and the effectiveness of measures?

The whole EA process is about trying to understand impacts and mitigation. Parties can ask questions now about the topics they are most concerned about. The onus is on the developer to provide evidence about the impacts and mitigations. Parties will have the opportunity to submit interventions for the hearings, where they can weigh in on how effective they think mitigation will be.

Participants included:

- July 25
 - Review Board: Catherine F, Clémentine, Chuck, Mark, Simon, Malorey
 - Pehdzéh Kǰ First Nation: Alan Hanna
 - Health Canada: Nicolas Wawryk, Ayesha Sohail



- DPRA: Nikita Bhat
- Déłıne Renewable Resources Board: Stephanie Kearns
- CANNOR - NPMO: Alain Gagnon, Chantel Grey, Sharon Allerston
- Developer (GNWT): Kelly Bourassa

- July 30:
 - Review Board: Mark, Catherine F. Clémentine, Chuck, Malorey, Tanya, Donna
 - Déłıne Got'ıne Government: Todd Slack
 - Planit North (SRRB/SRRC): Shannon Bower
 - Łııdlı Kúę First Nation: Dieter Cazon
 - Tamarack Environmental (LKFN): Annie Young, Trieneke Gastmeier
 - GNWT INF- Anita Ogaa, Carolina Mora
 - DRPA: Melissa Heppner
 - Natural Resources Canada: Clarisse Fiset
 - Environment Climate Change Canada: Jennifer Sabourin
 - CIRNAC: Michael Staniewski, Jennifer Walsh
 - DFO: Natalie Grishaber, Tatiana Leclerc-Beaulieu

For questions or more information, please contact Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn at (867) 766-7054 or cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca.

