



January 13, 2025

Note to File

To all parties:

Re: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Responses to outstanding questions from the technical sessions

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (Review Board) held technical sessions for the Mackenzie Valley Highway (the project) from November 19-21, 2024. During the technical sessions, there were several questions that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT or developer) indicated it needed more time to answer. The GNWT was able to answer some of these questions on the last day of the technical sessions. There were thirteen questions that it indicated it would need time (generally 1-2 weeks) to respond to.

After the technical sessions, on Nov. 22, 2024, Review Board staff emailed the three parties (Délıne Got'ıne Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation) which had unanswered questions at the technical sessions, to confirm their outstanding questions. Review Board staff shared the final wording of the questions with the GNWT at the end of November and early December, and posted them to the Online Review System between December 2-5, 2024 as they became available. Review Board staff emphasized the importance of timely responses from the GNWT to maintain the current schedule. In the technical session, the developer said it would need 1-2 weeks to respond to individual outstanding questions, so the Review Board anticipated responses by mid-December.

Review Board staff spoke with GNWT staff on January 6th and asked about the outstanding questions from the technical sessions, which parties need answered in sufficient time when developing their round 2 information requests (currently due January 17th). The GNWT added responses to three of the outstanding questions on January 7th. On Friday January 10th, the Review Board requested that the GNWT provide a written update on when the GNWT will submit the rest of its answers. The GNWT indicated on January 13th that it is in the process of uploading two additional responses and will respond in writing with an update about the remaining responses.

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