



News Release

For Immediate Release

Joint Review Panel Report on proposed Mackenzie Gas Project to be released in December 2009

December 5, 2008 (INUVIK, Northwest Territories) – The Joint Review Panel for the proposed Mackenzie Gas Project (MGP) will release its report in December 2009, chairman Robert Hornal said today.

“The Panel members are working full-time with our staff to complete the report in an efficient, yet comprehensive and responsible manner, considering the enormous amount of information submitted to the Panel” said Mr. Hornal. “In determining the release date of its report, the Panel has carefully reviewed its workplan and its considerable progress so far. We understand that there is tremendous interest in the Panel’s findings, but we are required and committed to base our findings on a full and fair review of the evidence.”

The Panel’s mandate requires it to have regard to the protection of the environment from any significant adverse impacts of the proposed developments and to the protection of the existing and future social, cultural and economic well-being of residents and communities.

The Panel concluded its public hearings in Inuvik on November 29, 2007. It held a total of 115 hearing days, collected more than 5,000 written submissions and received thousands of recommendations. The Panel held 40 days of informal hearings to listen to northerners in 27 communities that would be affected by the route of the proposed 1,220-kilometre Mackenzie Valley Pipeline. Another 75 days of technical hearings were held in the five largest communities from Inuvik to Hay River.

The proposed \$17 billion dollar Mackenzie Gas Project and its associated Nova Gas Transmission Ltd project would be the largest construction project ever undertaken in Canada by private corporations. The MGP consortium consists of Imperial Oil Resources Ltd., Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Ltd., Shell Canada Ltd., ConocoPhillips, Exxon Mobil Canada Properties and the Mackenzie Valley Aboriginal Pipeline Limited Partnership.

The Panel’s report constitutes the environmental and socio-economic impact assessment, which is a necessary first step in the review of the project.

The report will be made public in English and French and distributed across Canada. Oral summaries of key findings will be translated into the aboriginal languages of the region.

For more information, please contact:

Brian Chambers, Executive Director
Northern Gas Project Secretariat
Phone: (867) 766-8600
Fax: (867) 766-8624

Visit www.ngps.nt.ca for more information on the proposed project review, submissions to the Panel and transcripts of the public hearings.

Background on the Joint Review Panel:

The Joint Review Panel was appointed in August 2004 in anticipation of an environmental assessment and regulatory review of a proposed project to extract and transport natural gas from the Mackenzie Delta to existing natural gas pipelines in northern Alberta. Proponents of the Mackenzie Gas Project filed applications to the National Energy Board along with an environmental impact statement in October 2004.

The Panel was established as an independent body with a mandate to evaluate the potential impacts of the project on the environment and lives of the people in the project area.

The Panel was created and appointed by way of a Joint Review Panel Agreement between the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, the Inuvialuit and the Minister of the Environment. The Panel is required by the agreement to “prepare and provide the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, responsible Ministers, the National Energy Board, the MVEIRB (Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board), the Inuvialuit and the responsible authorities, a report including, but not limited to, the following:

- a description of the public review process,
- a summary of any comments and recommendations received from the public,
- a rationale, conclusions and recommendations regarding the nature and significance of impacts on the environment including any mitigation measures and follow-up program, and
- any other matter as required under the CEAA (Canadian Environmental Assessment Act), the MVRMA (Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act) and the IFA (Inuvialuit Final Agreement).