



November 6, 2024

Note to File

Re: Mackenzie Valley Highway – Pre-technical session summary

This note to file summarizes the discussion held during the pre-technical session meeting hosted on November 1, 2024, by Mackenzie Valley Review Board (Review Board) staff.

The **presentation** from the pre-technical session meeting is attached below. It provides information on the purpose and agenda of the technical sessions.

Main points discussed:

- **Logistics**
 - The technical sessions are planned for November 19-21, 2024, at the Tree of Peace Friendship Centre, 5011 51st Street in Yellowknife. Please see the [Notice of Proceeding](#) for more information.
 - Lunch will not be provided, but there will be coffee, tea, and snacks.
- **Agenda**
 - The agenda will be adjusted to allow GNWT to present before each topic.
 - The topics will remain as planned for each day. The times in the draft agenda might change slightly each day to accommodate discussion needs.
 - The final agenda will be released this week.
- **Side meetings and resolutions**
 - There will not be separate rooms for side-bar discussions. If side discussions happen at the technical session, we invite those involved to share their conclusion with the room using the microphone. If side-bar meetings occur before or after the technical session, we ask parties to fill out the [Template meeting form](#) to share that information with the Review Board so it can be on the Public Registry.
 - Review Board staff will track undertakings and possibly commitments, but not resolutions between parties.
- **Reports**
 - The meeting will be recorded and transcribed. The transcription will be posted on the public registry.
 - Review Board staff are not certain if the report from the community sessions held in October in the Dehcho and Sahtu will be available before the technical sessions.
- **Next steps**
 - After the technical sessions, the Review Board will advise parties on next steps, including dates for a second round of information requests, if appropriate.

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



Participants

- Review Board staff:
 - Catherine Fairbairn
 - Clementine Bouche
 - Chuck Hubert
 - Simon Toogood

- In-person participants:
 - Todd McCauley (Sahtu Secretariat)
 - Seth Bohnet (GNWT INF)
 - Patricia Coyne (GNWT INF)
 - Alison Heslep (GNWT ECC)
 - Ash Varghese (GNWT ECC)
 - Shannon Allerston (NPMO)
 - Melissa Pinto (ECCC)

- Online participants:
 - Annie Young (Łı́ıdlı́ Kúę First Nation)
 - Alan Hanna (Pehdzéh Ki First Nation)
 - Sharon Pelissey (Pehdzéh Ki First Nation)
 - Jesse Tigner (Deline Renewable Resource Council)
 - Shannon Bower (PlanIt North - for Sahtu Renewable Resources Board)
 - CA for MLA McNeely - SAHTU
 - Tye Hand - (GNWT Housing)
 - Andrew Lirette (GNWT-INF)
 - Anita Ogaa (GNWT-INF)
 - Carolina Mora (GNWT INF)
 - Dave Hurley (GNWT ECE)
 - Chris Hewitt (GNWT MACA)
 - Melissa Pink (GNWT HSS)
 - Nancy Njerere (GNWT ECC)
 - Kelvin Igwe (GNWT ECC)
 - Timm Rochon (DPRA GNWT consultant)
 - Nikita Bhat (DPRA GNWT consultant)
 - Brian Budd (DPRA GNWT consultant)
 - Natalie Grishaber (DFO)
 - Tatiana Leclerc (DFO)
 - Clarisse Fiset (NRCan)
 - Jennifer Sabourin (ECCC)
 - Ayesha Sohail (HC)
 - Nicholas Wawryk (HC)
 - Julie Anderson (HC)
 - Chris Rose (CIRNAC)
 - Megan Larose - (CIRNAC)
 - Chantal Grey (NPMO)
 - John Nishi (Ecoborealis Review Board consultant)

Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Assessment

Pre-Tech Session Meeting

November 1, 2024



Agenda

- Overview of the purpose of technical sessions
- Tips on preparing questions
- Review of the draft agenda
- Discussion on amount of time needed for questions



Purpose of Technical Sessions

Purpose: to discuss technical issues with the developer in a face-to-face setting to understand issues, including:

- Encouraging open discussion between parties and developer on scientific information
- Having focused discussions on project effects that could lead to significant adverse impacts
- Seeking clarification on responses to information requests or other evidence
- Identifying the outstanding issues to focus on during the remainder of the environmental assessment



About Technical Sessions

- Informal
- Facilitated by Review Board staff
- Review Board members might be present as observers
- Hybrid meeting (in-person and online)
 - Each party should try to have one individual there in person
- The meeting will be recorded and transcribed
- Interpreters typically not present



Tips on preparing for a technical session

- Prepare your questions ahead of time and keep them concise
- Reference relevant public registry documents and page numbers
- Focus discussion on the issues that matter most to you
- Concentrate questioning on what could lead to **significant impacts**



Tips on preparing for a technical session

- Ask questions that will provide you with information on **how these impacts could occur** (that is, the causal mechanism) and **how they can be mitigated**
- Think about **what kind or how much change** you think **would be acceptable** or unacceptable
- **examine any relationships between** different impacts on **valued components** that are connected



Review of Draft Agenda

- Are there any topics that you want to ask questions about that are not on the agenda?
- Which topics do you have questions on?
- Do you think each topic has enough time set aside? Where might we not have enough time?



Day 1 – Tuesday, November 19

Project Description and Wildlife Tree of Peace, Yellowknife



Time	Topics	Organization
8:30-9:00	Coffee and Tea	
9:00-9:30	Opening Remarks and Introductions	Review Board staff
9:30-10:00	Overview of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project description • Impacts on caribou, moose, and wildlife 	GNWT
10:00-10:15	Break	
10:15-11:45	Questions/discussion on the project	All parties
11:45-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Questions/discussion on Caribou and Moose	All parties
14:30-14:45	Break	
14:45-15:45	Continued: questions/discussion on caribou and moose Questions/discussion on other Wildlife and Species at risk	All parties
15:45-16:00	Wrap-up	Review Board staff

Day 2 – Wednesday, November 20

Socio-economics, Culture, Traditional Land Use Tree of Peace, Yellowknife



Time	Topics	Organization
8:30-9:00	Coffee and Tea	
9:00-9:15	Overview of the project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on communities • Impacts on culture and traditional harvesting 	GNWT
9:15-10:15	Questions/discussion on impacts on communities	All parties
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:45	Continued: Questions/discussion on impacts on communities	All parties
11:45-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Questions/discussion on culture, traditional land use, harvesting	All parties
14:30-14:45	Break	
14:45-15:45	Continued: Questions/discussion on culture, traditional land use, harvesting	All parties
15:45-16:00	Wrap-up	Review Board staff

Day 3 – Thursday, November 21

Water, Fish, Terrain, Air, and other topics

Tree of Peace, Yellowknife



Time	Topics	Organization
8:30-9:00	Coffee and Tea	
9:00-9:15	Overview of project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on water and fish • Impacts on terrain and permafrost • Impacts on air quality, noise, vegetation 	GNWT
9:15-10:15	Questions/discussion on water quality and quantity Questions/discussion on fish and fish habitat	All parties
10:15-10:30	Break	
10:30-11:45	Questions/discussion on terrain and permafrost and climate change	All parties
11:45-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Questions/discussion on air quality, noise, vegetation	All parties
14:30-14:45	Break	
14:45-16:00	Review of undertakings and Wrap up	Review Board staff

Questions?

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