



August 20, 2026

Notice of Proceeding

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

RE: Re-scoping of the environmental assessment

The GNWT proposes to expand the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Inuvik and requests an extension to revise its Developer's Assessment Report

On August 14, 2026, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT, the developer) submitted a [letter regarding the expansion of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway](#) (PR 418) from the existing Wrigley-to-Norman Wells corridor to one extending from Wrigley to the Dempster Highway (Highway No. 8), near Inuvik.

To complete the necessary studies for the expanded corridor, the GNWT requested an extension to prepare a revised Developer's Assessment Report (DAR) (rather than a DAR Addendum) by March 31, 2027. The revised DAR would provide reviewers and parties with a single assessment document that considers the entire route. The GNWT states that it "will work with the Review Board to establish an appropriate process for revising the TOR [Terms of Reference] and the environmental assessment work plan."

The Review Board will work with communities, governments and the developer to re-scope the assessment

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) will re-scope the environmental assessment to reflect changes in the project scope. Consultation with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities is a legal requirement under section 127.1 of the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*. As part of meeting these consultation requirements, the Review Board plans to:

- host **community meetings** to engage with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities along the proposed road corridor
- host a **technical scoping session** in Yellowknife to engage with technical experts and territorial and federal governments





- open a **public review** on the Online Review System for all parties to submit written comments about the scope of assessment and requirements in the Terms of Reference

Review Board staff are reaching out to communities and parties about possible dates for the community meetings (in September) and the technical scoping meeting (in October). The online review will close after the meetings.

The Review Board will provide an updated workplan

In the next weeks, the Review Board will release an updated workplan describing future process steps, including the revised DAR submission.

Work will build on the existing information on the public record

The GNWT initially proposed the full corridor from Wrigley to Inuvik in 2013, and the Review Board published a [Terms of Reference](#) for the full corridor that same year. In 2014, GNWT re-scoped the project, and the Review Board issued a [Revised Terms of Reference](#) in 2015. All work completed to date will be validated through the assessment process and will be used in the environmental assessment.

For questions or more information, please contact Senior Environmental Assessment Advisor Catherine Fairbairn at cfairbairn@reviewboard.ca or 867-766-7054, and Environmental Assessment Advisor Clémentine Bouche at cbouche@reviewboard.ca or 867-766-7051.

