



September 5, 2026

Notice of Proceeding

Mackenzie Valley Highway, Government of the Northwest Territories

RE: Online Review on the scope of the Mackenzie Valley environmental assessment

The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (the Review Board) is re-scoping the environmental assessment to reflect changes in the project scope proposed by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT, the developer) in its [letter about the expansion of the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway](#). GNWT subsequently submitted an [updated project description](#) and a [proposed revised Terms of Reference](#) to reflect the request to expand the route from Norman Wells to Inuvik.

What is the Online Review for?

The Review Board is seeking **comments to inform the re-scoping of the Mackenzie Valley Highway environmental assessment (EA)**.

What the Review Board hears from parties in this online review will help identify and prioritize the issues that the EA should focus on. Special consideration will be given to information that has become available since the 2015 Terms of Reference was published, or is relevant to the proposed extension to the Dempster Highway near Inuvik.

To inform their views on scope, parties should review the following documents:

- the revised **project description** submitted by the GNWT
- the GNWT's **proposed 2026 draft Revised Terms of Reference**

To assist in that review, you may refer to:

- the contents of the previous [2013](#) and [2015 Terms of Reference](#) documents
- [Gwich'in Settlement Area](#), [K'asho G'otine District](#), [Tulita District](#), [Pehdzeh Ki Ndeh](#) Project Description Reports
- [Developer's Assessment Report](#)

The Review Board will also host [community and technical re-scoping sessions](#), which can inform written comments.





The **deadline** for comments on the Online Review System is **October 16, 2026**. This date may change depending on the final date of the technical re-scoping meeting, to allow parties sufficient time after that meeting to prepare their written comments.

What is the scope in an environmental assessment?

The scope of an environmental assessment defines the boundaries of the topics to be examined in determining a project's potential impacts. **The scope identifies the most important issues that the assessment should focus on.** It also identifies:

- the components of the development to be assessed,
- the environmental, social, cultural, economic, and health issues that require analysis,
- the geographic area over which effects may occur, and
- the time period during which impacts may be experienced.

It also establishes the valued components, cumulative effects, and alternatives that must be considered. By setting these boundaries, the scope ensures that the assessment focuses on the potentially significant impacts of the project for both the biophysical and human environments.

What is a Terms of Reference?

A Terms of Reference is a **document that lists the information and questions that the developer must answer** in its Developer's Assessment Report. The Terms of Reference is issued by the Review Board and outlines all the information, studies, analyses, consultation activities, and reporting methods that the developer must complete to support the assessment.

It describes the scope of the assessment, identifies key lines of inquiry and subjects of note, describes the Review Board's expectations for the use of Traditional Knowledge and community engagement, and specifies how the developer will evaluate and present project effects, mitigation measures, cumulative effects, and follow-up programs. The Terms of Reference ensures that all participants have a clear understanding of the issues to be addressed and the information required from the developer for decision-making.

What happens after the re-scoping sessions and the online review?

The Review Board will consider all information from the online review, community and technical re-scoping sessions, and other evidence available on the public registry when preparing its draft revised Terms of Reference. This will be released for public review and comment before the Review Board issues a final revised Terms of Reference.

Contacts

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