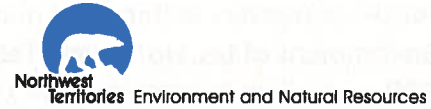




Canadian Northern Economic
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de développement
économique du Nord



MAR 24 2014

VIA EMAIL

Robert Alexie, President
Gwich'in Tribal Council
PO Box 1509
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

Dear Mr. Alexie:

RE: Participation in Environmental Impact Review Board Process – Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program Environmental Impact Assessment and Review

As you are aware, on December 11, 2013, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee ("EISC") referred Imperial Oil Resources Ventures Limited's (the "Developer") proposed Beaufort Sea Exploration Joint Venture Drilling Program (the "Development") to the Environment Impact Review Board ("EIRB") because it determined the Development could have significant negative environmental impacts. As a result, the EIRB will subject the Development to environmental impact assessment and review (the "Review"), as set out in the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage the Gwich'in Tribal Council to participate in the processes of the EIRB, as well as in the engagement efforts of the Developer.

During the Review, a variety of opportunities are available for potentially affected Aboriginal groups to communicate any concerns to the EIRB, including during the technical and public hearing phases. When providing such input, the Gwich'in Tribal Council is encouraged to:

- clearly indicate, in as much detail as possible, whether any adverse impacts on Gwich'in rights are anticipated as a result of the Development; and, if so,
- clearly indicate the specific right(s) that may be affected, the specific impact(s) on those right(s), how those impacts can be mitigated, as well as any evidence that will help in understanding those impacts; and,
- support the EIRB in understanding the evidence, including traditional knowledge, with respect to both potential impacts and mitigations.

Canada

For those matters within their mandates, the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories will rely on the consultative processes of the EIRB, as well as the engagement conducted by the Developer, as the primary means for consulting potentially-affected Aboriginal groups.

The Northern Projects Management Office of the Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency will act as the Crown consultation coordinator on behalf of federal ministers with statutory and/or regulatory decisions in relation to the Development. The Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories look forward to the Gwich'in Tribal Council actively participating in the Review and related engagement opportunities.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact David Alexander, Project Manager (867-766-8436; david.alexander@cannor.gc.ca).

Sincerely,



Matthew Spence
Director General
Northern Projects Management Office,
Canadian Northern Economic Development
Agency



Ray Case
Assistant Deputy Minister
Corporate & Strategic Planning,
Department of Environment and Natural
Resources, Government of the Northwest
Territories

cc: Kathryn Bruce, Regional Director General, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Paula Isaak, Natural Resources and Environment Branch, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
Robert Steedman, Professional Leader Environment, National Energy Board
Carey Ogilvie, Head, Environmental Assessment North, Environment Canada
Stuart Niven, Senior Fisheries Protection Biologist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mark Pearson, Director General, External Relations, Natural Resources Canada
Michele Taylor, Regional Director General, Prairie and Northern Region, Transport Canada
Jim Lothrop, A/Director General, Stewardship and Sustainable Transportation Programs, Transport Canada
Jon Pierce, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board
Heather Marreck, Vice President, Imperial Oil Resources Upstream