



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW BOARD

By Email

March 8, 2012

Gerry Roy
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Inuvik, NT

Dear Mr. Gerry Roy

Re: Information Requests related to the Proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project

Please find attached Information Requests (IRs) that have been directed to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation from the Environmental Impact Review Board and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT seeking information related to the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway project. These IRs have been generated as part of the environmental impact review of the proposed development being undertaken by the Environmental Impact Review Board (EIRB) to fulfill the requirements of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act*.

Please complete a separate response to each IR, and clearly reference the IR number, topic and the Party that generated the IR (i.e., the source). Please complete your responses and submit them to the EIRB by March 30, 2012.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

Eli Nasogaluak
EIR Coordinator
Environmental Impact Review Board
Phone: (867) 777-2828 Fax: (867) 777-2610
eirb@jointsec.nt.ca



INFORMATION REQUESTS

(Round 2)

DATE OF RELEASE: March 8, 2012

DISTRIBUTION: IRC and the Electronic On-line Registry (EOR).

PURPOSE: Information Requests (IRs) issued by the EIRB and other Parties to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) related to the Review of the proposed Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION
OF RESPONSES:** March 30, 2012

Information Request (IR) Numbers: 81, 83, 86,125

IR Number: *Number is assigned by EIRB*

Source: EIRB

81

To: Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)
GNWT Bureau of Statistics
GNWT Industry, Tourism, and Investment
GNWT Public Works and Services
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Inuvialuit Development Corporation

Subject: Tourism (Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 9.0, pp. 83-86)

Preamble

The Developer estimates that “the total number of tourists to visit the Inuvik-Beaufort-Delta region would increase by about 10% to 5,500 tourists per year with the completion of the Highway. These additional visitors are anticipated to spend an additional \$1,467,500 in the region.” (Developer Response to 2b and 2c, p. 84).

In Table 4 of the Developer Response to 2b and 2c (p. 85), the Developer provides information on monitoring change in tourism, commercial and recreational business and revenues, and lists the following measurement parameters:

- Number of tourists
- Amount spent by tourists
- Number and types of businesses operating in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk
- Household consumption expenditure for commercial and recreational use
- Land used for recreation
- Highway traffic trends
- Number of complaints from local co-management agencies

The Developer identifies several agencies and organizations with existing responsibilities “related to administering related legislation, providing funds or public services, and/or conducting monitoring” (p. 85), but does not provide details regarding how project-related effects will be monitored and by whom.

Request

1. Please describe the specific activities that your agency or organization will undertake with regard to monitoring project-related tourism (and any effects of this tourism), including the frequency of monitoring. Please indicate which of the measurement parameters listed above your agency or organization will monitor. Please describe any additional indicators or measurement parameters that your agency or organization will monitor. Please explain how the results of monitoring will be reported (both by your agency/organization and to your agency/organization) such that mitigation can be adapted, if necessary.
2. Please describe whether, and how your agency or organization will be involved in mitigating adverse effects of project-related tourism, as well as enhancing positive effects of tourism.

IR Number: *Number is assigned by EIRB*

Source: | EIRB

To: GNWT Bureau of Statistics
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
NWT Housing Corporation
GNWT Public Works and Services

83

Subject: **Demographic Trends and Housing** (IR Responses Round 1, IR #28; Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 8.0, p. 81; Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 12.0, p. 112)

Preamble

In the Developer Response to 2b and 2c (Section 8.0, p. 81), the Developer states that while the project is not expected to affect Inuvik's projected growth rate, "...the completed Highway will increase accessibility to the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk. Although the population of Tuktoyaktuk has been slowly decreasing since 1996, it is possible that once the Highway is established, Tuktoyaktuk could maintain or increase its population."

In the response to Round 1 IR #28, the Developer provided information on current monthly housing costs, as well as the amount of occupied and unoccupied dwellings², and stated that "The creation of new demand for housing from a Project is a function of demographic changes and increased affluence from employment income." The Developer further stated that the project is unlikely to create new demand for housing, as it is anticipated that the majority of workers will be from Inuvik or Tuktoyaktuk, and that the relatively short economic increase during construction is not expected to increase demand of existing community residents for new housing.

However, as noted in the Developer Response to 2b and 2c (Section 8.0, p. 81), year-round access to Tuktoyaktuk could attract residents, or otherwise affect mobility between communities in the ISR, which, in turn, could affect the demand for housing and housing costs.

The Developer has noted that demographics are monitored at the territorial level by the GNWT Bureau of Statistics and the regional level by the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. The Developer has also identified the NWT Housing Corporation and GNWT Public Works and Services as "agencies that have responsibilities related to administering and monitoring housing" (p.112) but does not provide details regarding how project-related effects will be monitored and by whom.

Request

1. Please describe the role of your agency, department, or organization in monitoring in-migration and out-migration for the communities of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk, as well as mobility between

² The Developer did not provide information regarding the current conditions of housing (i.e. those in need of minor or major repairs). It is noted that this was not requested of the Developer, but that it should be taken into consideration.

- the communities of the ISR. Please include the frequency of monitoring and reporting, and indicate which other departments, agencies, and organizations the information will be made available to.
2. Please describe the role of your agency, department, or organization in monitoring housing, including demand for housing, housing costs, availability, and conditions, in both the communities of Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Please include the frequency of monitoring and reporting, and indicate which other departments, agencies, and organizations the information will be made available to.
 3. Please describe the expected length of time that would be required to respond to increased housing demand, including upgrading available housing as well as building new housing.

IR Number: *Number is assigned by EIRB*

Source: 1 EIRB

To: Health Canada
Dept. of Justice & NWT
**GNWT Health and Social Services
Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**

8/0

Subject: Medical and Health Care Infrastructure, Human Health and Community Wellness
(Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 11.3, pp.100-102; Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 13.0, pp.112-116)

Preamble

With regard to Medical and Health Care Infrastructure, the Developer states that “The opening of the Highway may cause an initial rise in health care demand in Inuvik, with Tuktoyaktuk residents accessing health care services on a regular basis, but since it is already a regional medical care hub, it is unlikely to require a significant increase in permanent staff to meet the demand,” (Developer Response to 2b and 2c, pp.100).

In terms of Human Health and Community Wellness, the Developer notes that benefits of the project include increased and year-round access to medical and dental facilities, which are likely to improve the health conditions for Tuktoyaktuk residents, with the potential risk being increased access to alcohol (p.113).

The Developer has identified several agencies and organizations with existing responsibilities “related to administering related legislation, providing funds or public services, and/or conducting monitoring” (Developer Response to 2b and 2c, Section 13.4, p.114-116), but does not provide details on how project-related effects will be monitored and by whom.

Request

1. Please describe the role of your department, agency, or organization with regard to monitoring health conditions and various aspects of community wellness in general, and any efforts or activities that your department, agency, or organization will be involved in to mitigate and monitor *project-related* effects.
2. Please provide information regarding what your department monitors, including the indicators and measurement parameters, the frequency of monitoring and reporting, and to whom the information is reported and made available.

IR Number: 125

To: Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Subject: Adequacy of Commitments

References: IR Round 1 Response 55.1 Table F. Summary of Developer Commitments

Preamble

The EIRB requested a complete list of all general and specific mitigation measures and commitments which the Developer provided in its Response to IR 55.1. The GNWT agrees that mitigation measures are a crucial aspect of ensuring adverse effects are avoided or minimized. However, to be fully applicable in regulatory processes, environmental and topic specific management plans, these commitments should be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and trackable. To ensure the most appropriate wording is on record for discussion in technical sessions or public hearings, it is important for expert departments to provide feedback on the adequacy of the wording of mitigations and commitments to improve and to identify missing mitigations or commitments early in the environmental assessment process.

Request

- 1. Please review the relevant general and specific mitigation measures provided by the Developer in IR Response 55.1 Table F and identify and confirm the adequacy of the wording of the mitigation measures or provide editorial suggestions to improve the wording to ensure the commitments are specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and trackable.*
- 2. Please identify and provide wording for additional mitigation measures required to ensure the avoidance or minimization of Project impacts.*